



RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB MEMBER' S NEWSLETTER

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T H E W H A C K E R



The General Committee would like to wish all members and staff a very happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous 2006

EDITOR'S NOTE: The President's Message in this special Christmas edition of the 'Whacker' is the report President Andrew delivered to the 2005 Annual General Meeting of the club held on Thursday 8th December.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year has been a year of challenge and change for Red Cliffs Golf Club.

While remaining mindful of the need for prudent financial management, the changing patterns of participation in golf activities and the changing dynamics of sponsorship and fund raising, this committee has worked hard to position this Club for the future.

An initiative started by the previous committee, in conjunction with a group of investors, was the establishment of the turf farm. This venture has been an outstanding success this year, generating funds to assist the operation of the Golf club. With the second stage of the turf farm coming on stream next year it is envisaged the whole operation will provide a significant source of income in the future.

The work put in by volunteers, particularly Lois and Brian behind the bar, has assisted greatly in enabling this club to reposition itself following the financial difficulties of the past. As they now step back from the huge role they have played, I thank them most sincerely for their efforts. I also thank Mick Hogan for organising the bar roster which now operates and to all members who have shared the load in this respect.

Thank you also to Beryl for her work in the kitchen and for her willingness to help out whenever required.

Bernie has continued to provide a presence around the club house and has assisted in maintaining the golf carts. Thank you Bernie.

Another significant change is that Marion has decided to retire, after many years of sterling service to RCGC. Thank you most sincerely Marion for everything you have done and we hope to see you enjoying your golf here for many years to come. We welcome Pam Toohey, who has been appointed to this position and comes to us with a wealth of experience and skills suited to the role. To support the administration of this club, a new computer and improved software has been installed in the office this year.

The golf link card handicapping and member management system has also been introduced.

During the course of this year it became apparent that some procedures regarding club employees required urgent attention. Due to a genuine oversight by a previous committee, this club had in fact accrued a significant debt due to a long running under payment of wages. Fortunately in this case, an arrangement acceptable to all parties was made which will enable us to meet our obligations, without causing financial hardship to the club. We also have identified a need to ensure that holidays are taken as they become due as a build up of holiday entitlements also has obvious similar financial ramifications. The employment of an apprentice will assist greatly in addressing this issue.

Thank you to Tom, our course superintendent for his magnificent contribution to this club which goes way above and beyond the call of duty. He has secured funding through work for the dole and other schemes, which has enabled most of the redevelopment of the course to be undertaken. Course development this year has seen the construction of a new 12th tee and the opening of the 12th green, redevelopment of the ladies second tee and the redevelopment of the practice fairway.

Thank you to Neville and James for all of their work on the course and also to that wonderful band of volunteers, Dad's Army, who continue to contribute so magnificently to the operation of this club. Major tasks completed this year by volunteers include the construction of a shed to house the golf carts, a new honour board in the club house and additional sand containers around the course. This is in addition to mowing, weed control and numerous other tasks which help keep this course running.

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Unfortunately the controllers for our irrigation system are reaching the end of the operational life and have caused considerable difficulty in regard to watering the course for some time now. The committee has made replacement of this control system a major priority for the future. We are hopeful that an application, which has been made for a Commonwealth Community Water Grant, will finance this upgrade.

An additional golf cart has been added to the fleet and a gator utility vehicle purchased for use on the course

It has been universally recognised that the dynamics of golf participation have undergone significant change over recent years and in light of this the committee has sought to match membership categories to the needs of the golfer market. In the future we need to remain aware and receptive to changing life styles and demands for course usage.

Similarly we have sought to establish flexible sponsorship arrangements, which provide greater benefits and incentive for the sponsor to be involved.

Thank you to Bob Mutton on the work he has put in to producing our monthly newsletter, 'The Whacker' through which we attempt to keep members informed of developments around the club. Bob has also gained excellent publicity for our club through articles appearing in the Sunraysia Daily and The Settler.

We have indeed been fortunate to have had such a hard working committee over the past twelve months and I thank all committee members for their commitment. Thank you to Graeme Tiller and Ron Baird who are not renominating for committee, for their assistance and support this year.

I would also particularly like to acknowledge the huge amount of work retiring vice president Graeme Bamford has done under very difficult circumstances this year. He has spent countless hours here and expended considerable resources to the benefit of this club. Thank you Graeme.

Also leaving the committee this year is Chris Healey who has done an extraordinary amount of work as treasurer. His contribution to the recovery of this club from the very serious position it found itself in some few years ago has been outstanding. Thank you Chris for all you have done.

Thank you also to Judy Dean and Shirley Case and to all the ladies who do so much to support our club. Shirley and Ray Pain are also to be commended on having represented the interests of Red Cliffs Golf Club on the Golf Week Committee for some time now. They will be looking for a rest from that next year and it is important that our club continues to be represented on this committee.

Justin McPhee in his first year as captain has also done a fantastic job and I commend him for his efforts.

As we head into the eightieth year of operation of the Red Cliffs Golf Club we face a vastly different world from when it began, or even as it operated a decade ago.

We now have to work hard for many of the things we once took for granted.

To be successful in the future we need to continue to be proactive, be prepared to think outside the box and be receptive to change. We need to continue to promote our course and club and remember that many visitors to our club have the potential to become members.

It is vital that we grow our membership base and do all we can to retain members who do join.

Above all, the incoming committee needs the continued support of all members as we work through the challenges of the future together.

Andrew Wood

President

The 'Whacker' in 2006'

I would like to thank all the contributors to the 'Whacker' throughout 2005 and look forward to the continued support of members in 2006. I am keen to ensure that the 'Whacker' contains the things that the membership want to know about as well as some of the interesting stories about the club and some of the personalities in our club. I hope all members and guests enjoy reading the 'Whacker' in 2006 and look forward to seeing you all out on our great course. Bob Mutton

Have you heard the one about ... ?

It was a Sunday morning and four good buddies were at the first tee. Number one said, "This golf game is costing me dinner for my wife tonight." Number two said, "That's nothing, I had to agree to my wife's parents spending the weekend with us." "Ha!" said number three, "I had to give my old lady the credit card to go shopping." Number four said "Boy are you guys ever screwed up. I woke up this morning and the wife asked what I was planning. I replied 'Golf course or intercourse?' She said, 'Take a sweater' and went back to sleep."

The golfers 'Thoughts for the Day': When you look up, causing an awful shot, you will always look down again at exactly the moment when you ought to start watching the ball if you ever want to see it again!!!

When your shot has to carry over a water hazard, you can either hit one more club or two more balls!!!