



# RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB Inc.

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## THE RED CLIFFS 'WHACKER'

ISSUE #3 – JULY 2003

### The President's Message

Hello and welcome to issue #3 of the Red Cliffs Golf Club's Members Newsletter, now called "The Red Cliffs 'Whacker'"!! I'm not sure about the title, maybe it has more significance than first thought, however, that's the new name and for now we are stuck with it, after all, what's in a name? Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of you, the members and committee, for the warmly received well wishes that I am still receiving whenever I enter the club. It is very much appreciated. Thank You! My health is improving daily and I hope to soon be back out on the course trying to destroy the magnificent job done by our Course Superintendent, Tom. The Club, as you are all well aware, has carried on under the leadership of our Senior Vice-President Andrew Wood and a great job he has done, Thank you Andrew! The 100 Membership drive is coming along extremely well with close to 75 new members already, Great! As well there have been two very successful events held with the Irish Christmas dinner and the Fairway 2000 back to front draw. Congratulations to the organisers on a job well done. It is good to see a renewed vigour and harmony within the club, something that is very noticeable when you have been away for a while. Congratulations and a big Thank you to you all. Good Golfing!

Rod Atkins. - President.

### Items from the Committee of Management

- RCGC to take control of the golf carts in order to maintain the service for members and visitors.
- 'Fairway 2000' returns a profit of \$2457.00.
- Some concerns expressed over water allocation for the coming year. The Greens Committee and Course Superintendent to keep this matter under close review.
- Concerns raised over the costs associated with maintaining the club's EFTPOS facilities. If the service is to be maintained members use of the facility would need to increase.
- Concerns raised about the number of members from last year that have not rejoined. A sub-committee was formed to look at this issue in more detail.
- There was agreement that the system of Course Marshals was important to maximise green fee collection and that more people are needed to assist.

### 'Golf Link – the way of the future or just another burden'

A number of readers may not even know what 'Golf Link' is. To help you understand this new and emerging system the following press release from the Australian Golf Union may be helpful.

*Golf Link is a world class central handicapping system for Australian golfers that allows them to have their official handicaps calculated immediately their scores are sent to a central computer by their club. The members also have the convenience of being able to view their handicap and score history on the Golf Link website the next day. "With the proposed introduction of an Internet solution, members will be able to view changes and updates as they occur. The benefits of a uniform, centrally calculated and updated handicapping system is significant to a sport that has member clubs situated across Australia," said Colin Phillips, Executive Director of the AGU.*

*The AGU and Women's Golf Australia are keen to see the remainder of the clubs have access to the system via an Internet solution, but the future of the project is in the balance. Funding is the key to its future and for as little as \$2.50 (+GST) per member p.a. Golf Link can be assured of a sound financial base from which to continue current operations and upgrade its technology to make the system available to the remaining member clubs. Currently the AGU and the States are providing their affiliated golf clubs with detailed information about the proposal - the decision they make will be critical to the future of Golf Link. The AGU will hold its Annual General Meeting on September 19th when the introduction of the fee will be formally determined.*

*"Support at club and state level will ensure that Golf Link is available to all clubs on a modern platform capable of taking advantage of advances in operating and communications technology", said Mr Phillips. "This will see the project deliver to golfers a sophisticated, reliable and truly national handicapping system".*

At its last meeting, the Committee of Management decided that the Red Cliffs Golf Club would not participate in 'Golf Link' at this stage. The Committee had received advice from the AGU that our members would not be disadvantaged by a decision not to participate. What do you think?

**Why not express your views to a committee member!**

### **This is the Captain Speaking!**

The club is pleased about the size of the Saturday fields, but we need to improve the number of players on Sundays and Wednesdays. It is particularly disappointing when trophy donors support Sunday competitions that attract small fields. Justin McPhee, Kevin Collihole and Craig Gursansky will represent the Sunraysia district at Bright on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> October as result of their good scores at this year's District Opening at Wentworth. Whilst on the subject of local representatives Marion Pengelly and myself will be playing at Merbein on August 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 'Foundation for Young Australians – Centenary of Golf'. The two winners [male & female] then go on to play in Melbourne.

Could **ALL** members please remember to **repair plug marks on the greens and divots on the fairways**. We are trying to maintain our course in top condition and we need your support. Also a request from the mower! If you break a tee whilst teeing off, please don't leave the broken pieces on the tee as they cause significant damage to the mower blades. Thanks for your support!

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### **The latest from the ladies.**

A big thank you to all those ladies that helped with making the marmalade that will be sold at Golf Week. Your support, as always, was tremendous. It is important to remember that we hold a produce cake stall at the club on the days when we have visitors here during Golf Week. All donations will be gladly accepted.

Some of our ladies are registering excellent scores of late. Jill Eyles had 48 points and Joan Ryan has had two excellent rounds recently scoring 43 and 42 points. Well done to those ladies.

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### **House News**

Due to an increase in government excise and brewery costs we will be forced to increase our beer prices by 10c per item effectively immediately. We trust that all members will continue to support the club by buying their packaged beer and other items over the bar. We need members to support the EFTPOS facility if we are to continue to provide the service.

We had a health inspection of the club's catering and food handling facilities and it is pleasing to inform members that it went very well. As a result of the inspection we have been required to purchase some items of equipment, totaling about \$230.00 to meet health regulations. We will be required to go through a further inspection in about two weeks time.

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### **The "Whackers Competition"**

There was no winner for the last competition as there were no entries. Obviously nobody knew who the Committee members are. To improve your knowledge I have included a Committee member profile in this issue.

### **Get to know your Committee Members**

Our Committee member profile for this month is **Chris Healey**.

Chris has been a member of the Red Cliffs Golf Club for 25 years. Due to other commitments he plays most of his golf on a Sunday and has been the one most responsible for the new Sunday golf initiatives introduced this year.

He is married to Jenny, herself a keen golfer and has three children, two of whom are married. He is a part time teacher and part time retiree and reckons he leads a pretty good life. He is the current Treasurer of the Committee of Management and is doing an excellent job with the club's finances in what is a fairly difficult period for the Red Cliffs Golf Club.

The thing he likes most about the Red Cliffs Golf Club is the companionship and the opportunity to maintain existing friendships and make new ones. The highlight of his time at the club was winning the knockout competition in 19 something. It was obviously that long ago he has forgotten the actual year. His favourite hole is the par 3 3<sup>rd</sup> as it is flat, open and just about the right distance for his three wood, provided the wind is blowing in the right direction.

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### **Upcoming events and Sponsors.**

#### **Club Social Events:**

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August there will be a tea and games night after golf. Tasty corn beef sandwiches, apple slice and cream plus a great night of carpet bowls, hookey and Bobs will be the order of the night. You never know, you might actually become a club champion. Bring along your wife, husband, girlfriend, boyfriend or whatever and join in the fun. To help with the catering arrangements, please put names on the sheet on the notice board.

#### **Competition sponsors for September:**

Julie Warne; Jill Eyles & Joan Ryan; Ian & Patsy McDonald; Rod Atkins; Lloyd Hale; Chris Barko & Rodney Begg; Tasco Inland Oil; and Justin McPhee. The club would like to thank these people and companies for their continued support. If you would like to become a trophy donor, speak to Neville Birch and he will organize it for you.

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### **It's Your Newsletter!!!**

This is the third issue of the newsletter and I am starting to wonder what you, the members think about it!

- Does it contain the things you want to see?
- If not, what should be included?

I would also welcome any contributions from members. It doesn't matter what the topic is as long as it is fit for publication and is not likely to upset anyone, I will include it. The newsletter is produced in the week following the Committee of Management meeting.

**My contact details are below!**