

Newsletter

April 2020 – www.mallacootagolfclub.com.au

Welcome to the April edition of the MGCC Newsletter. A lot of progress has been made since our last communication, and this newsletter provides a snapshot for members regarding where we are at with the bushfire insurance claim and, more recently, the unfortunate closure of the golf club and golf course, due to the government restrictions regarding the CORONA Virus.

Bushfire Update

In January 2020, Zurich Insurance (the MGCC Insurance Company) provided a progressive payment of \$50K to commence work on the golf course. Contractors worked on the back 9 holes to remove dangerous and dead trees, and the 18 holes were soon open for play. As part of this payment, contractors also cleared debris on the 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th fairways, and members may have noticed the heavy machinery working over a four-day period. This provided an excellent snapshot of what could be done in a short amount of time, and what decisions the Committee of Management will make regarding the clearing of debris in the very near future.

For three long months, the MGC's Insurance Broker, Mr Malcolm Hills (Austbrokers Countrywide), worked assiduously with the Committee of Management interpreting and negotiating the MGC's Insurance Policy, and negotiating with Zurich Insurance, specifically around the removal of debris and determining what constitutes debris. We are now pleased to announce that notice has been received from Zurich Insurance that the "Material Damage" claim has been accepted, that is, for the removal of *damaged trees* which is covered under the item *removal of debris cover* in the policy.

We cannot thank Malcolm Hills enough for his tireless efforts on behalf of the MGC.

Currently, we are awaiting the outcome of the "Business Interruption" claim associated with the recent bushfire, from Assessors Crawford Global Technical Services. Business Interruption claims are triggered when there is damage to insured property (as is this case following the bushfire). Unfortunately, Business Interruption Insurance does not cover business interruptions due to a Pandemic. Mallacoota Golf Club closed at the end of March and the clubs Business Interruption claim will be calculated for the January to March 2020 period.

THANKYOU - Bushfire Support and Donations

The Committee of Management would like to acknowledge the many clubs and individuals who organised fundraisers, and donated money to assist Mallacoota Golf Club in the recovery process. A total of \$64,000 has been received and we are very grateful to the following clubs and individuals:

Anglesea Golf Club	Ivanhoe ladies Golf Club	South East QLD District Golf Assn.
Bannockburn Golf Club	Keysborough Golf Club	Spring Valley Golf Club
Barwon Heads Golf Club	Kyneton Golf Club	Strathallan Golf Club (Postponed)
Hamilton Golf Club	Pambula Merimbula Golf Club	Veterans Golf Club
Hervey Bay Golf Club	Rich River Golf Club	Ineca and Jak Prowd
Horsham Golf Club	Queenscliff Golf Club (Postponed)	Bridget O'Reilly (Tathra)



*Dick Van Den Bosch
from Bannockburn Golf
Club presenting cheque
to Bruce Gaudion
President Mallacoota
Golf Club*

THANKYOU - Volunteers from Other Golf Clubs in Victoria

The Committee of Management would also like to thank volunteers who travelled to Mallacoota and provided assistance with labour and expertise, repairing and seeding greens and servicing golf machinery.

- Adam Lamb Barwon Heads Golf Club
- Shane Greenhill Sorrento Golf Club
- John Angliss and Ryland Tewes Kingston Heath Golf Club
- Ben Williams and Caleb Johnson Commonwealth Golf Club



*Volunteers from Barwon Heads, Commonwealth, Sorrento, and Kingston Golf Clubs
with Mallacoota Golf Club Volunteers*

We are also very grateful to the suppliers who generously donated products and equipment.

- Greg Sinclair - Rural and Turf (valve boxes, irrigation expertise and controller)
- Oasis Turf - Matt Steven (seed)
- K&B Adams - Mark Eardley (fungicide)
- GTS - Andrew Boyle (fertiliser and wetting agent)
- NuTurf - Chris Newman (seed and fertiliser)
- Bayer - Craig Burleigh (fungicide)
- Box Hill Golf Club - Josh Leyland - (chainsaw, blower, pruners, gloves, rakes, shovels, bent seed, fertilisers, two stroke oil and petrol cans)

*Right - Mallacoota Course
Superintendent John Bell receiving
donations from Josh Leyland, Course
Superintendent Box Hill Golf Club*



CORONA VIRUS

Further to directions from Victoria's Chief Health Officer, on 23 March 2020, the MGCC Committee of Management closed the clubhouse, bar and golf shop. Keith Allan followed suit and closed the kitchen. On Saturday 28th March 2020, at 5pm, the golf course was officially closed.

A Media Release on the 2nd April 2020 from the Victorian Chief Health Officer reiterated the necessity to take physical distancing seriously, and stated that "Unfortunately, this means no fishing, no hunting, no boating, no camping, and no golf. Hang up your rods, leave the tinnie in the driveway, and clean your clubs at home." Further, Professor Sutton said "We ask Victorians to stop looking for loopholes. Just do the right thing. The advice is clear; by staying at home you're saving lives. These restrictions are tough, but they are there for a reason. If we don't do this, Victorians will die. No round of golf or gym session with your mate is worth that cost".

Whilst the golf club and golf course are closed, basic work continues in order to maintain the fairways and greens. Since the Bushfires, we have come a long way getting the greens back to an acceptable standard, and John Bell and a few volunteers continue to work on the course to ensure the current standards are maintained. John and his small crew are practising safe distancing and regular handwashing practices, and we thank them for their work and dedication.

Club members should be aware that, with the closure of non-essential businesses, the Mallacoota Golf Club, like many other businesses, is not generating an income. Bar staff and kitchen staff are without work. The Committee of Management has applied for a grant of \$10,000 through the Victorian Government Business Support Fund, specifically to meet business costs, including utilities and loss of rent. Further, the club has registered with the Australian Taxation Office for Job Seeker funding.

Be assured the Committee of Management is working hard on your behalf.

Stay safe and keep your spirits up.



Clearing of Debris between 4th and 5th fairways