

MALLACOOTA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB INC
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 15TH NOVEMBER 2020
PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Through Bushfires and COVID-19 pandemic, Mallacoota Golf Club has managed to complete yet another year of growth and increasing financial stability, with a deficit of only \$5,057 in 2019 to a surplus of \$31,250 in 2020.

Treasurer Leigh Cockburn resigned earlier in the year and Celia Wallace took on the position as Acting Treasurer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Leigh for the work he has done as Treasurer over many years. Leigh has been a major influence in the club with his knowledge as a civil engineer and as an active member of the Committee of Management holding positions of Secretary, Treasurer and President, over many years, all of which has served to improve and strengthen the club. The club recognises and appreciates Leighs contribution.

I would like to thank Celia for taking on a massive task, in particular, the work associated with bushfire insurance recovery, which is getting close to completion. Once again, our bookkeeper, Jennifer Warren, has done a great job keeping accounts and wages up-to-date, and Celia and Jenny have both ensured high standards of disclosure in the accounts, which reflect another good financial year for MGCC.

Late last year (2019), Max Donovan and Jacquie Wilson (2019) resigned from the Committee of Management. In November 2019, John Bell was co-opted to the committee, and in February 2020, Greg Hopkins was co-opted to the committee.

As President, I sincerely thank each member of the Committee of Management for your commitment, support, and all the voluntary work you undertake in the management of the Club.

Thank you also to the Annual Tournament sub-committee for your contribution to the smooth running of our major golf tournaments. Much work goes on behind the scenes to run successful events and tournaments.

Bushfires and COVID-19

The 2020 year has been one of many ups and downs for everyone, with the bushfires earlier this year and more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the fires, the committee moved swiftly to undertake assessments of losses and damage to the course and greens. The MGCC Insurance company were particularly helpful through the damage assessment phase and provided progressive payments to the club to get the course up and running as quickly as possible.

A risk assessment was undertaken of the whole course, and contractors were engaged to remove dangerous and dead trees from the back 9 holes, and members and visitors were soon able to play golf on the back 9 holes. Work then commenced on the front 9 holes and the course was again open for play.

In March 2020, COVID-19 hit, and it wasn't long before the club, kitchen and course were closed for business. This was a difficult time for everyone, and the committee secured a small business bushfire grant, job keeper payments for two staff, and business interruption settlement from Zurich Insurance, all of which helped to maintain the smooth operations of the club. Further, due to the closures of the club during bushfire and pandemic events, the committee waived rental payments for the kitchen contractor until the 30th September 2020.

Newsletters and Communications

I would particularly like to thank Celia Wallace, who on behalf of the Committee of Management kept members and community up to date with regular newsletters and notices and maintaining the club's website. The Newsletters have proved invaluable when applying for grants, keeping other clubs and community informed and providing clubs and businesses with updates on the club's progress and recovery, particularly after the bushfires.

Donations

Mallacoota Golf Club received \$81,817.55 from clubs, businesses, and individuals. Volunteers from Barwon Heads Golf Club, Sorrento Golf Club, Kingston Heath Golf Club and Commonwealth Golf Club travelled to Mallacoota and assisted our Volunteers by providing their expertise and manual labour with the repair and seeding of greens and servicing the clubs golf machinery and equipment, such as chainsaws. We are incredibly grateful for their help.

Many golf suppliers generously donated products and equipment to the Club as follows:

- 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)
- David Golf – (Ball Washers, NTP and Longest Drives, Sand Bin and buckets)

Bar

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, many of our major events and tournaments have been cancelled this year, and as would be expected, the bar has not operated to full capacity. Some of these events include the Paul Kelly concert, the Annual Tournament (2020), and the Mallacoota Challenge, and the loss of trade was significant. However, Bar Manager Kerri Warren rolled with the punches and offered members the opportunity to purchase take-a-way alcohol thus generating some income for the club, which in turn moved bar stock.

Kerri ensured members and guests complied with COVID-19 restrictions, developed and implemented a COVID-Safe Management Plan in accordance with legislation, and during the period when limited numbers of people could access the club, Kerri and Ben undertook the cleaning of the clubhouse and toilets. Thanks Kerri and staff for your commitment to members and guests.

Grounds Volunteers

Volunteers play an integral role in the maintenance of the course and fairways and certainly the club would not be where it is without you all. Regular volunteers attend weekly working bees on Monday and many other people volunteer and help during the week. The hours of voluntary work that volunteers give is simply extraordinary, thank you each and every one of you.

Revegetation Management Plan and Implementation Strategy

As members would have read in the July 2020 Newsletter, the Committee of Management awarded Ethos NRM Environmental Consultants the contract to develop a Revegetation Management Plan and Implementation Strategy for the Club's Insurance Policy requirements. The like for like revegetation management has been completed by ETHOS NRM and forwarded to Zurich Insurance for approval.

In the meantime, Mr Michael Henderson, a Golf Course Architect from 'Holes in the Ground', approached the Committee of Management offering to develop a *Concept Plan* regarding the re-routing of the Mallacoota Golf Course. The committee saw this as an opportunity to consider a new course layout. The Committee of management appointed a sub-committee to undertake this work.

This MGCC Sub-committee consists of Greg Hopkins, Graeme Dempster, John Bell, and Tim Cashmore. The Sub-committee's objective is to work with ETHOS NRM and Michael Henderson and report back to the main committee. The concept plan is located on the notice board in the club house and on the club's website. Members with concerns about the revegetation management plans should share these concerns with members of this Sub-committee.

Golf Shop

Carol Reinelt has once again done a sterling job in keeping the golf shop open, in accordance with legislation, to members and guests. The support the club has had from members and visitors coming and playing golf (when permitted), has once again been amazing. Thanks Carol.

Membership

Membership has increased from the previous year with social membership being the main driver. There are 44 social members, which is a 60% increase from the previous year. This increase is attributed to additional membership from Croquet and Tai Chi. Full members (81) and Junior members (9) is consistent with the previous year.

Membership fees will remain the same for the period 1st January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

New Membership Categories 2021

The committee have introduced two new membership categories effective January 2021.

- Restricted Playing Member – 6 months
 - Non-Handicap Member 6 or 12 months
- See attached Membership Renewal Form for information.

The Mallacoota Open Tournament November 2019

Once again, this was a successful tournament that goes from strength to strength each year. Golf numbers in 2019 (365) showed a slight increase of 4.20% from 2018 (350). Special thanks our many loyal sponsors, and to the Tournament sub-committee and volunteers who help out year after year. Whilst this years Tournament unfortunately was cancelled, we look forward to the Annual Tournament in November 2021.

Club Champions 2020

Congratulations to the Women's Golf Club Champion - Celia Wallace and to the Men's Golf Club Champion - Cameron Armstrong. These are very prestigious events. Well done to you both.

Croquet and Tai Chi

The committee of management was approached by some members in the community regarding the possibility of using the putting green as a surface to play croquet. The committee saw this as an opportunity to attract more people to the club, and it was not long before 16 people were playing croquet regularly.

Ringwood Croquet Club donated croquet equipment (mallets, hoops...), and croquet players have joined the club by way of paying a social membership. Similarly, Tai Chi participants pay a social membership to use the clubs function room for exercise when the weather outdoors is inclement.

Legal Compliance

The Committee of Management ensures compliance in the following areas:

Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation

MGCC complies with the Liquor Licensing regulations, and all bar staff training requirements are up to date.

Essential Safety Measures

MGCC contracts East Gippsland Building Surveyors to undertake quarterly audits on all buildings in accordance with the Building Act 1993 and Building Regulations 2006.

Fire Safety

CFA continues to undertake six-monthly audits of fire appliances and equipment. Two fire extinguishers were installed in the new shed and two fire extinguishers were installed in the cart shed.

Emergency Lighting

Dean Shaw Electrics continues to undertake annual emergency lighting checks.

Insurance

MGCC is insured for Personal Accident (voluntary workers), Vehicle Insurance (bus), Property Damage and Business Interruption, and General Liability.

Backflow Prevention

MGCC has engaged Christy's Waste as the accredited agent to undertake the pumping of the septic tanks and portable toilet and cleaning of the grease trap at the Club in accordance with EPA Victoria Environment Protections Regulations 1998.

Food Safety

East Gippsland Shire council conducted a food safety audit that resulted in 100% compliance. Whilst the kitchen and food safety is the responsibility of the kitchen contractor, the Committee of Management is legally responsible to ensure that compliance is up-to-date and relevant maintenance completed.

In closing

This year, after 20 years, I will be standing down as President of the Mallacoota Golf and Country Club. In all those years, I was elected unopposed, so it is pleasing to see Max Donovan step up to take my place.

I would like to thank golfing members, and committees past and present for supporting me over many years. It has been a privilege to serve the club for such a long time.

Collectively, we have achieved a lot as a club. I am extremely proud of the club's current financial position and success. Our membership has increased, facilities, equipment, greens and fairways have been improved and, we have all pulled together and supported each other as friends and golfers through an unprecedented difficult year for everyone.

I will now have time to concentrate more on my own golf game and hopefully improve my game. Thanks everyone.

Bruce Gaudion
President MGCC