



President's March Newsletter

Hello Members,

I note that it has only been about a month since my last epistle but there is so much going on around the club at the moment, we felt it necessary to keep members abreast of all the activity.

Summer was an excellent time for the club with both Revenue and Profitability up on last year and against our budget. The new summer course was well received by members and guests alike and will probably form the basis of the summer layout going forward.

Stop Press – New Website

The new Website is now up and operational and I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to Mark Watson and Russ Powell for their efforts in putting this website together. It looks great and will lift the club's profile for many years to come.

Membership Subscriptions

Membership of the Club at the end of February was stable. As a matter of good fiduciary duty we periodically remove from the membership base those members who have not paid their subscriptions in a respectable time, and at the end of February the balance was 740 members, of which there are 555 males and 185 females. There are now 566 playing members and 174 social members. The new category for women Introductory-Beginners for women who are "getting into golf" continues to grow with 41 new members joining in this fiscal year.

OGGC Strategic Plan

The Strategic Planning Sub-Committee have largely completed their first draft Strategic Plan and subject to meeting to finalise this plan it will be presented to members for consideration and comment in late March. There has been a considerable amount of work undertaken on this plan by the Sub-Committee, which we know will form the basis of the club's future direction.

Course Development Sub-Committee

This Sub-Committee have been very busy over the past month and with the full support of the General Committee have recently appointed an experienced golf course designer to assist with the future development of a Master Plan for the golf course. The new appointee is Ben Davis, and his recent work includes the design of the new St Leonard's golf course. Ben has had significant international golf course design experience mainly throughout Asia and comes to us with a fresh approach. He played much of his junior golf at Ocean Grove.

One of the prime considerations of this Committee is the need to minimise the cost of water and our manager has held a number of discussions with Barwon Water and consultants seeking to reduce our water usage. This is going to be an ongoing process, and a solution is likely to include

a layered approach to the problem. The consultant who is working with us is funded by Barwon Water, and there is likely to be a grant available to us for undertaking this process if savings are made.

Volunteers Appreciation Night

You are all aware that the success of this golf club is closely aligned to the contributions made by our Volunteers, and this year the Volunteer appreciation night is scheduled to be held on Monday March 24th at 5.00pm in the clubhouse. All volunteers are welcome to come along and enjoy some refreshments and nibbles and this will be a small way for the Club to say thank you for your continued support.



Friday Night Member's Draw

The Friday Night Member's is now back up to \$340 and can only be won by those members who are in attendance, so come along on Friday night if you want to be a winner.

Replacement of Irrigation Satellites

We have recently installed two new replacement Lynx satellite controllers that now manage the irrigation System. As a result of this, the satellites are now reporting a number of smaller issues with the system that were not previously identified. Over the coming weeks you may notice extensive work being undertaken on the very old irrigation system to try and bring it up to a functional level.

Stronger Communities Program Grant

In January we applied for a grant to replace the DDA ramp at the entrance to the property and we have been advised by the local members office that they have recommended us for this grant. Watch this space with interest.

Social

The Pinot & Picasso night of painting and enjoyment is planned for Wednesday April 9th at 6.30pm in the clubhouse. The cost is \$80 which includes all your art paraphernalia, a couple glasses of pinot (or your choice) and some pizza. Those who have experienced this before all rave about the night, so grab some friends and come along to be part of the activities at your club. Please book direct with Pinot & Picasso Geelong to secure your position.

Sandy Cresswell
President

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