

## Presidents Report 2019-20

Oh, what a year! External factors such as bushfires and Covid – 19 severely impacted the lives of golfers and non-golfers alike, these events also had significant impacts and ramifications on businesses large and small, employees, members, and the social and everyday activities of society in general.

While the Covid – 19 pandemic is yet to fully play out I am pleased to report that Jamberoo Golf has thus far come through this significant period of disruption in pretty good shape thanks to the hard work and guidance from our Board of Directors.

A small group of Directors (Geoff Wilson, Dave Ransom, Chris Goodwin, Lyn Kuskey, Graham Ferris and myself) formed a Covid Management Team so that we were able to respond quickly to the constantly changing circumstances based on state and federal government advice, along with that from our peak bodies Golf NSW and Golf Australia. A stressful and onerous task, thank you all sincerely for your significant contribution to keeping our course open, safe and financially sound through this horror period.

Due to Covid we had a brief period of closure, less than 2 weeks, initially in response to instructions from NSW Golf which were reversed two days later. However, in that brief interlude our greens staff had commenced green renovation work and our shop volunteers were understandably reluctant to be at risk in the frontline service area. Rod Hodgkinson was asked to assist with setting up a Covid safe service window, we went cashless, and were back in business quickly while many other clubs remained closed for a prolonged period or re-opened to members only. Thanks Rod, and all our volunteers who placed themselves in the front line running the shop and keeping our club afloat.

It has been a very busy year for our Club, and I take this opportunity to formally thank all our Board of Directors for their commitment and hard work. In many respects it is a thankless task and the members don't see how much time and effort is contributed by many of our Board members. In particular the roles of Captain, Treasurer and Secretary are particularly onerous, and we are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated Directors filling those positions. Thank you, Dave, Graham, and Geoff, respectively.

At the time of writing this report our hard-working Secretary has indicated he will not be standing again this year. Thank you, Geoff, for your significant contribution to our club. I hope to see you return to the Board at some future date and that you will continue contributing from outside the Board.

To our small army of volunteers who run the shop, take care of the gardens, undertake various works projects on the course, assist greens staff, run the barbeque, sell alcohol, make and supply salads, cakes etc a very big thank you on behalf of the club and its members.

With sadness we farewelled three members with the passing of Marshall Blacka, Richard Kinkade, and a great stalwart of the Club Viv Boxsell. Viv was a wonderful contributor to our club right to the very end, she will be sadly missed. Our thoughts go to the families and loved ones of these three former members.

I also wish to thank our many sponsors for their support and especially our major sponsors Elders Real Estate Jamberoo, Just Bathrooms, Oaks Automotive, and Cleary Bros. I encourage our members to direct any business they may have towards our club sponsors.

Linda and Marie, thank you both for your efforts throughout this turbulent year.

Our Greens staff under the guidance of Head Greenkeeper Nick Goodger have transformed our course over the past year to something all our members can be proud of. Thanks Nick and team for a job well done.

As the auditor's report will detail it has been a successful year financially with an improvement of \$65,898 on the previous financial year. A loss of \$29,384 in 2018/19 has been turned around to a profit of \$36,514 in 2019/20.

Our membership numbers (472 in 2017, 464 in 2018, 428 in 2019) at 31 May were again down (398) but have since risen to 415 so they appear to have stabilised at worst, and with most competitor clubs significantly raising their membership fees Jamberoo can hopefully benefit in the months ahead as those clubs membership renewals fall due. We are comparatively a very reasonably priced club with a very much improved and improving course.

Due to Covid there was a prolonged period where our bar sales were closed. Work will be undertaken to further improve the shop and bar area in the months ahead and it is hoped that we will soon be able to provide a bar service 7 days a week. This is expected to become a more significant income stream to support the operation of the club in the years ahead. A special thanks to John Anthony (Just Bathrooms) for his whirlwind transformation of the golf shop and office area.

My congratulations to our men and ladies' champions and representative teams for their participation and manner in which they represent our club (details below in the Captains and Ladies Presidents report).

### **Major Highlights of the Year**

Financial Improvement \$65,898 on previous year loss of \$29,384.

8<sup>th</sup> bridge renovation completed

16<sup>th</sup> Bridge opened to carts

Upgraded 3 old electric carts to latest versions

Tomra Machine removed and car park restored

Club House Shop area and office relocation improvements

Greenkeepers shed roof raised and hoist installed

Aerial survey and geographic imagery received

New part time green keeper appointed (largely Bowling Club and Croquet Club funded)

Slab for donated shed laid, shed to be erected in coming weeks.

Two good condition course utility vehicles purchased from an anonymous member donation

Good condition Isuzu utility with tipper tray purchased.

Numerous course improvements to paths, greens, tees etc.

Suppression of couch greens infestations

Establishment of a loyalty membership discount for those members over 80 years of age who have been members for 10 or more years.

### **The Year Ahead**

Our focus needs to remain on continuous improvement of the course and revenue related aspects associated with the club house facility as we drive to attract new members and the return of former members to our club, which will improve revenues and underpin the future success of the Club.

Improved greens management has suppressed the couch infestations and will hopefully delay any need for major green restoration work?

Key priorities for the year will be establishing a contingency plan for our aging irrigation system, it may have to be replaced at very short notice at major expense. Purchase or leasing of a replacement roughs mower is a similarly looming major expense.

Membership Fee Structure Review.

Establishment of a Spring/Summer Footgolf Competition.

Establishment of 7-day bar trading.

Phil Hahn

President

### **Captains Report**

2020 marks my eighth year as Captain of Jamberoo Golf Club and I would like to thank all members for their continued support. I continue to be extremely honoured & proud to be representing you as Captain.

With the intrusion of the pandemic it has been a trying time with many interruptions to our regular golfing operations, but we have managed to stay open, albeit with restrictions, and our competitions have continued to be played.

A big thank you goes to my Vice-Captain Larry Kent, Match Committee member Pat Paris and the Greens committee and the rest of the Board of Directors for their continued dedication to the club. The efforts of Lyn Kuskey, Judi O'Brien and the members of both the Ladies and Lady Veterans Committees should also be recognised as well.

The work of the shop volunteers in running the day to day business of the club is most appreciated. A special thanks goes to Judi O'Brien, Mike Harris, John Keeling and Rod Hodgkinson whose help is invaluable in starting the competitions and to Bruce Hammond for being the Pennant starter.

To the Office workers Linda and Marie, your amazing efforts are always outstanding. I could not fulfil my role without your support and assistance.

Greenkeeper Nick Goodger and his staff should be commended for the excellent condition of our course and their efforts in improving the pathways and surrounds. Visitors and members alike often complement me on the beauty and condition of our course.

The beauty of the gardens in the club show the dedication and commitment of this exceptional bunch of members. Those members who volunteer their time in helping in working bees are also sincerely thanked.

2020 saw Jamberoo Golf Club enter 3 teams in various Golf Illawarra pennant competitions.

The C Pennant continued their fine tradition of being a leading team in the pennant and this year they were winners of their division and big winners in their semi-final. Unfortunately, we went down in the final 3-2, with the final match being decided on the 18<sup>th</sup> green. Captain Chris Leckey led from the front and the 'never say die' attitude of the players almost got them home this year. Next year again promises great things for the C Pennant team.

In the White Horse Cup, we entered two teams in this year's campaign. The Red team, with the new moniker, the 'magpies', and the Green team, commonly known as the 'cowpats'. Both teams won their divisions but were both eliminated in the semi-finals before the onset of the Corona virus. Well led by Captains Don Thompson and Col Booth, both teams were a credit to the club.

A great bunch of gentlemen and true champions all.

The Ladies club also entered three teams into the Women's Golf Illawarra Pennants this year. The 'gold' 'silver' and for the first time 'bronze' pennants. All three teams had their seasons curtailed by the onset of the pandemic.

Congratulations and thanks to all those members who represented our club this year.

Our competitions continue to be well supported by members and I am pleased with the growth in competition players and the support of the new Monday Veterans competition.

The use of the club website and the 'Daily Cow' to communicate with members continues to gain support and I recommend members continue to keep up to date with what is happening around the club by accessing these resources.

Finally, congratulations go to all club champions and monthly and gold medalists.

Dave Ransom

Captain

## **Ladies President Report**

Well this has been a very challenging year.

There have been many obstacles in the way to slow down our normally smooth flowing golf at Jamberoo.

In October 2019 we had our charity day for Community Cancer and raised \$1,810.00.

And in March this year we snuck in the Ovarian Cancer Day just before shutdown and raised \$2,120.00. Both these days are well supported by other clubs in the area, all the money raised on these days is passed on to the charities to be used in the local Illawarra area. Our open day this year had to be cancelled.

These charity days encourage other players to come and play at Jamberoo and to experience playing golf at our unique course, at the same time helping others in need.

Unfortunately, due to Covid19 pennants was cancelled, much to the disappointment of our ladies. For the first time Jamberoo Ladies had entered teams in all 3 grades and were looking forward to being very competitive.

But there's always next year.

Congratulations to our Club Champions, contested this year in very trying circumstances.

Our ladies committee are a very hard-working group of ladies, who work endlessly to make golf enjoyable and competitive for all our lady members. We have seen an increase in the numbers playing in our weekly comps and monthly in our Vets days.

I must thank our ladies committee for their support during this past year.

Our thanks must go to the Board for their support and management, continuing to keep all golfers safe during this health crisis we are facing. At all times they have put the health of the golfers foremost and fought to keep our course open and viable.

The volunteer starters need special thanks for continuing to work under extreme conditions so that play could continue. Not only during the Covid19 crisis but during the changes to the pro shop.

The ground staff need to be commended on the condition of the course, they are doing a fantastic job, giving us a beautifully manicured, unique environment for playing golf.

The office ladies, Linda and Marie, are a constant support to the ladies, always ready to assist. They have continued to work in a continually changing environment with the changing of the office area to contend with.

We must look forward to a better 2020-21 year, continuing to play golf at our beautiful golf course, safe in the knowledge that Jamberoo Golf club is in good hands going forward.

Lyn Kuskey

[Ladies President]

\*\*\*\*\*