

## President's report 2019

2019 proved to be another successful year for the Club. Pleasingly, I can report the Board achieved the majority of the short-term objectives we set ourselves, and most importantly we had another excellent year from a financial perspective with an operating profit of almost \$40K. In 2019 we saw an increase in our income from our bar trading and green and competition fees compared to the previous year. The \$100K we now have in the futures fund is showing its true value, and whilst it reflects good cash management in better times, it will certainly stand us in good stead going forward. Marilyn will outline our year financially in more detail in her Treasurer's Report.

Disappointingly, our membership numbers declined in 2019 compared to the previous year. At the end of 2019 we had 498 playing members and 97 social members. This is something the Board regularly discusses, and we are looking at ways of avoiding this continuing in 2020.

Sadly, during 2019 we lost two stalwarts of the Club in Fred Leach and Ted Herring. Fred was a member of the original committee that was formed in 1981 and was the Club President from 1984 until 1987. Ted was largely responsible for overseeing the purchase of items needed by the Club and oversaw the running of the bar. May they rest in peace!

During the year we welcomed **Eric Boardman Bricklaying** and **Beau Solicitors** as sponsors. Like all our Club sponsors their financial support is very much appreciated.

The **NSW Mid-Amateur Golf Championships** we hosted at the end of April proved to be an outstanding success. With 192 competitors, including 37 female entries, it was the largest field in the history of the event, and from Golf NSW's perspective it was the most successful ever held.

Many of the competing golfers were impressed with the quality of our course and it certainly gave our Club great exposure. The course was certainly in fantastic condition and was a testament to the hard work done by our greens staff. They went above and beyond in terms of the time and effort they put into preparing the course. Pleasingly, the course continues to be in pristine condition as a consequence of the tireless and diligent work done by our Course Superintendent **Keenan Hobbs**, **Chad Casinelli**, **Garry Hoare** and **Damian Spelta**. Without doubt they are the primary reason we continue to be successful. I hope our members are as appreciative as the Board are of the tremendous work they continue to do.

It was extremely gratifying to have so many willing volunteers help both in the three months leading up to the event and during the actual event. On each of the three days of the event we had 30 volunteers undertaking a variety of tasks and I know the visiting golfers were very appreciative of their help and friendliness.

Our Pro shop team, as is always the case, proved to be friendly and obliging to our visiting golfers. Pleasingly, many of the competing golfers have already booked return visits to our Club. Our team of **Peta Griffin**, **Brett Lawson** and **Cec Montgomery** who are ably led by our Golf Professional **Greg Collins** are another important reason our Club is successful. They all possess excellent organisational skills and are adept at helping our members when needed.

In June we erected a new Club welcome sign that was kindly sponsored by member **George Shirato**. I thank him for his generosity and also acknowledge the work done by **Dan Toomey** who designed the sign, **Col Parrish** who constructed the metal framework and **Sam Price** from Bomaderry Printers who printed the sign. It certainly is a vast improvement on the old timber sign.

That month also saw the departure of **Lorraine** and **Kevin Franklin** (Heads Café) as the Club's caterers. They had been in that role for 4.5 years and did a marvellous job in that time. Prior to gaining another caterer the Club employed **Gail Bateman** and I must applaud her for conscientious efforts in helping us during the interim period. In September, the Club welcomed **Louise Collings** (Birdies by the Sea) as our new caterer and it is pleasing to see the Club open for Friday night meals once a month.

In August for the second year we hosted our local Public School golf day fundraiser. This proved to be another successful day with just over \$6 000 raised for the school.

In October we held our Shoalhaven Cancer Care Charity day. This was another fantastic and fun filled event that was well patronised and raised a record amount of \$13 045. This day would not have been successful without the detailed planning and hard work of **Connie Parrish** and **Gary Salway**.

In November we held our annual Corporate event with 26 teams competing on the day. This proved to be another successful fundraiser for the Club with \$3 795 being raised.

As you are aware the success of our Club is largely a consequence of our volunteer base and without that base, we would not have the financial success we have. Throughout 2019 there were 5362 recorded hours of work undertaken by our many volunteers with course improvements in abundance. The most obvious of these are the additional cart paths that were constructed during the year. Thanks once again to **Geoff Collins** and **Pat Herrick** and their team who continue to improve this aspect of our course.

Another member who goes above and beyond with respect to the amount of time he puts in for the Club is our Publicity Officer **Steve Franklin**. Steve is doing a fantastic job communicating information to our members. The quality of our newsletters continues to get better and better thanks to Steve. Additionally, he regularly updates our website, Facebook page and Instagram. Well done, Steve!

I must also applaud the tireless work of our Bush care group who are out on the course every Monday morning. **Noel Schneider** and his team conscientiously ensure we meet the stringent vegetation management requirements of Shoalhaven City Council.

Thanks to life member **Gordon Howes** who ensures the Club surrounds are always in pristine condition, **Terry Simister** and **Greg Wood** who regularly do the on-course garbage run, **Mick Collins**, **Phil Behan**, **Kevin Higgins** and **Brad Sharpe** who fill the sand boxes and repair divots on the tee boxes and other tasks most Mondays, **Beth Dick** who opens and locks the toilet out on the course daily and to **Jim** and **Sheelagh Preston** who have taken it upon themselves of looking after the gardens outside the Clubhouse.

In the Clubhouse we continue to be fortunate to have many volunteers who regularly undertake important and necessary tasks. **Col Parrish**, **Dan Rochford**, **Dave Billett** and **Cec Montgomery** ensure the beer lines are cleaned every Monday, whilst **David Wilson**, **Kaye McGuirk** and **Brian and Lorraine Rowe** organize the Club's banking every day. I want to also acknowledge the tireless work undertaken by our **Vice President Greg Montgomery** who regularly monitors and oversees the purchase of Clubhouse supplies and all the Club members who assist with bar duty each and every month. Your efforts are very much appreciated. I also want to thank **Jim Preston** who willingly continues the role of bar duty coordinator.

Also, of great importance is the role undertaken by the various committees who help ensure our Club runs smoothly and efficiently. Thanks to all the members of the Vets, Ladies, Match and Greens, Building and House and WHS committees for your involvement. It is very much appreciated!

Finally, I want to thank the Board for your vision for the Club's development and for the support you have given me. In particular, I want to acknowledge past Board Directors **Glenn Askew, Mark Henning** and **Cec Montgomery** for their commitment to this Club and also our retiring Club Captain **Geoff Collins** for his diligence in ensuring that golfers tee off punctually and that all Club events run smoothly.

Since last year's AGM this Club's success is largely due to the fantastic work that has been done by our Honorary Secretary **Alan Davies**, Treasurer **Marilyn Schott** and the other Board members **Greg Montgomery, Geoff Collins, Connie Parrish, Rob Willdig, Ian Asbury** and **Lee Maddinson**.

**Rob Russell**  
**President**