

## 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**

## Treasurer's Report 2019

The final result for the year ended 31st December 2019 was a profit of \$38,803 compared to the prior year result of \$1,991. The 2019 result was higher due to increased bar trading, green and competition fees, subscriptions and donations that compensated for the higher course maintenance and wage expenses. This result continues to allow for a free cash flow and generate money to provide for capital works such as, course renovations (new flags, rakes, bunker re configurations, cart path upgrades), clubhouse upgrades (outdoor table settings, deep frying unit, and kiosk computers) along with funding allocation of \$50k for the upgrade of the green keepers/cart shed with work scheduled to commence in the next few months.

Listed below are comments associated with the years trading:

### **Income:**(comparison 2019 to 2018)

Bar Trading -profit of \$165k up by 23% -thanks to the volunteers who make this figure possible.

Green and Competition Fees -\$405k up by 8%

Membership subscriptions -\$231k up by 5.5%

Sponsorship and Donations -\$77.5k up by 23% due partly to donations received from both the ladies and veterans.

Government Grants -there were no government grants received in 2019.

The total income generated from normal trading was \$893K up 9% on 2018. Some of the significant factors pertaining to this result were the NSW Mid-Amateur staged in April 2019 which has seen a high percentage of return visits from many of the competitors and record green fees in October and November 2019 which in turn drives the bar sales.

### **Expenditure:**

Wages (inclusive of all costs associated) -\$261.3K up 15% on 2018 is a combination of wage increases, setting up course for Mid-Amateur, contending with drought conditions and increased playing numbers.

Repairs & Maintenance -\$109K up by 30% on 2018 -a contributing factor was major repairs to tractor and Toro utility vehicle.

Insurance -\$34K down by 27% although we had the same cover as 2018 there was a dramatic decrease in insurance rates.

The total expenditure (excluding depreciation) was \$756k up 7% on 2018. The majority of expense accounts, excluding the above mentioned, have either stayed about the same or have been reduced with Rob Russell renegotiating all contracts that were up for renewal.

### **Balance Sheet:**

The balance sheet is strong with the clubs only bank debt relating to borrowings for the leasing of course equipment which is funded out of the normal operating budget. Financial Assets exceed Financial Liabilities leaving a Total Equity (value) of \$1.31m. A cash amount of \$110K is now held in a futures fund which underwrites the Clubs financial security.

**Budget 2020:**

The 2020 budget forecasts a similar amount of cash generation as 2019. Funds have been allocated to course renovations (8th green and fairway), cart paths, course machinery and clubhouse equipment purchases to name a few. The greens shed has got the go ahead from the Crown Lands Department and Council with work expected to commence over the next few months. Keenan is in the process of leasing a Toro Sidewinder which will replace the lease that expired in November 2019.

**General:**

The Shoalhaven region has seen drought, fire, floods and now the coronavirus over the early part of 2020 which has and will continue to impact the club to some degree. These things are unknown quantities but will be monitored closely to minimise, as much as we can, the impact to the club and members.

I wish to thank the band of volunteers who process the daily takings, work behind the bar, participate in bush care and the members, ladies and veterans for their donations of time and money. Without these volunteers and donors the bottom line of the P&L would be significantly reduced.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge everyone associated with the club, especially Rob Russell, Greg Collins, Keenan Hobbs, Jessica Cassidy (Accounting), and Mark Henning (Ex Treasurer) for the time, guidance and experience they have given, it has been invaluable during my first year as Treasurer.

**Marilyn Schott****Treasurer**

## **Honorary Secretary's Report 2019**

This isn't so much a report but more of a thank you for all the support shown towards me personally during my first year. I'm sure when I was voted in many of you wondered 'who is Alan Davies'. Glenn Askew, when sponsoring me, felt my administrative background may well be useful to the club should I wish to accept the nomination. I've enjoyed every minute of being a member of yours and my golf club and more than happy to give back.

An addition I've done my best to keep an eye on the Health & Safety of the club together with my trusted and able bodied Keenan Hobbs. As a team I think we've done OK.

I'm writing this at the worst possible time for club and none of us could have envisaged what we face in the forthcoming months of 2020. As a Board we have done our best to embrace the government guidelines and also try and keep the club open. As our President says in his report, we have a great team in the Pro Shop and without them none of our decisions would have worked.

Having only lived in Australia since late 2013 I've loved my experience here and in particular at the end of 2019 with the Fires getting so close to us all and then followed by the Virus of 2020 I've seen what they mean by the Aussie Spirit.

Thank you from me.

**Alan Davies**  
**Hon Secretary Shoalhaven Heads Golf Club**

# Captain's Report 2019

I do need to say it again our course really is the 'Gem of The South Coast'.

Our green's staff headed by Keenan Hobbs can stand PROUD in their efforts in presenting our course week in week out in picture perfect condition.

## Volunteers

We are all aware the club would not be the success it is without the contribution of our volunteers. We all appreciate your generous donation of time and effort.

## Committee People

Always doing a thankless job putting up and putting out.

The combination of all the other groups -The Pro Shop, Bar Staff, Vets, Ladies and the Cafe Staff make our course and club great.

## Congratulations to our 2019 WINNERS

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| • A Grade           | Luke Taylor               |
| • B Grade           | Mark Rigney               |
| • C Grade           | Terry Moylan              |
| • 2 Ball Match play | Paul Manning & Col Murphy |
| • Single Match play | Andrew Housden            |
| • Mixed Foursomes   | Peter & Cheryl Grinlinton |

I take this opportunity to thank all the people who have supported me as Captain for the last 3 years. I feel new blood will enable our Club to improve and inspire pride in being a member of Shoalhaven Heads Golf Club.

Finally, my annual comment.

It is the responsibility of all players to rake the bunker as you leave it, repair your divot and make good your pitch mark on the green.

Take pride in your course and acknowledge your duty for those playing behind you.

Thank you.

**Geoff Collins**  
**Club Captain**

## **Women's Report 2019**

The women's golf enjoyed another successful year during 2019.

A Tuesday Medley summer competition was held during December and January and a big thank you to Gail Hughes for administering the event.

The Women's Presentation day was held on Tuesday 10th December. The day was a great success with 66 current and past members attending. There was a joyful hum and vibrant atmosphere throughout the lunch and presentation.

The presentation commenced with an announcement on Marj Bradd becoming the first Women's Golf Patron. Marj was greeted with a warm welcome from all in attendance.

Congratulations to our Women's Champion, Tara Mackie.

Our charity day was open to all Club members and visitors which worked well. Shoalhaven Parkinson's Nurses were very grateful for our donation.

We would like to thank all members who generously donated their "return and earn" bottles throughout the year. The money raised was used for various charities and the purchase of bunker rakes for the golf club. A big thanks to Rob and Felicity Percival for processing the return and earn bottles.

Many thanks go to the Pro shop, especially Peta Griffin for looking after the ladies each Tuesday.

Also a big thank you to Keenan Hobbs and the greens staff for maintaining the golf course in superb condition.

**Barbara Franklin**  
**Women's President**

## VETERAN GOLFERS' REPORT 2019

The Heads Vets have once again enjoyed a successful 2019 with our membership presently sitting around 110.

Our fields over the past months were impacted slightly by the recent bushfires and then floods, however a fair average for the year was maintained, supported by visitors from nearby clubs as well as our club's women golfers.

Interclub events were also impacted by the need for rescheduling due to wet weather. 2020 Shoalhaven Week of Golf was unfortunately cancelled by its organising committee due to the heavy rains and subsequent flooding and road closures.

The Vets have provided considerable funding to assist with many projects and the purchasing of equipment for the course, some of which include:  
Fertiliser required prior to the Mid-Amateur event

- Flag sticks and flags
- Fertiliser and chemicals for growing season
- Injectors enabling a wetting agent to be automatically fed into water supply at the pumping station
- Moisture probe to measure water required on greens
- \$300 donation to the Shoalhaven Cancer Centre Charity Day

**Our 2019 Presentation Day** was successful with members being rewarded with a subsidised lunch which was enjoyed and appreciated by all.

<b>A Grade Champion:</b>	David Lamb, r/up Harry Delany.
Net winner:	Ian Paynter, r/up Gary Sawyer.
<b>B Grade Champion:</b>	Ken Miller, r/up Alan Davies.
Net Winner	Noel Garden, r/up Bob Jessep.
<b>C Grade Champion:</b>	Robert Nagle, r/up Alan McDonald.
Net winner	Kevin Higgins, r/up Carl Miller
<b>Women's Vet Champion:</b>	Maureen Latimer
Net Winner	Louise Barnes
<b>Eclectic Winner:</b>	Rod Elliott
Women's Eclectic Winner:	Louise Barnes
<b>Match-play (L &amp; G Wellard Shield)</b>	Geoff Collins, r/up Danny Rochford
<b>Bill Robertson Shield:</b>	Alan McDonald
<b>Patron's Anzac Shield:</b>	Karl Schroeder

We once again showed our appreciation to the students from Vincentia High School who do a brilliant job on the course on Thursdays under Ian Asbury's guidance. Gift vouchers were presented by way of thanks.

Thanks to Course Superintendent Keenan Hobbs and his team for maintaining our course superbly under drought conditions, presenting a course we can all be very proud of.

Thanks also to the regular volunteers who assist on the course and in the clubhouse. We also thank Greg Collins and his Pro Shop staff for their continued support and assistance throughout the year.

This year Brian Curran stepped down from the Captain's role. Gary Sawyer, a past Captain of the Ex-Servos Golf Club, with many years of experience, was welcomed into this Captain's role.

Special thanks to the Vet's committee for their ongoing contribution and assistance.

Best wishes to all for the coming year.

**Greg Montgomery**  
**Heads Vets President**

## Pro Shop report 2019

2019 was a great year in terms of participation at the Club with just under 35000 rounds of golf played at an average of 96 players per day taking to the course. This is a great amount of traffic that many golf courses would be envious of and something we as a Club should be very happy with whilst still trying to grow these numbers.

One of the main factors that is attracting so many rounds of golf is the condition of the course and for this I would personally like to congratulate Keenan, Chad, Garry and Damien for a job well done. Whilst I will touch on the Mid-Amateur later on, I would like to acknowledge the effort of the ground staff for this event. The boys went above and beyond to ensure the course was presented in its best possible shape and I can tell you that the Club is still getting praise and return business on the back of the boy's efforts. Hopefully now we have our foot in the door we can again host other major events.

The Heads Hotel Summer teams event again attracted significant numbers, around 2700 players played in the 2018-19 season and numbers for the 2019-20 season are on target for similar figures. Once again, we must thank Lee, Leslee, Col and the team at the Heads Hotel for their continued support of the event and we look forward to the final's series in March.

Throughout the year obviously the club held many major events from the Men's, Ladies and Vet's Championships to the VW scrambles, Foursomes, four-ball and match play events. Without listing all of the winners I would like to congratulate those that were successful and all who competed. Good luck also to those who have qualified for district events and I hope you play well.

Perhaps the biggest story of 2019 was the staging of the NSW Mid-Amateur. This was by far the biggest event the club has ever staged with 192 players each day for the 3 days of the tournament. On top of this we estimate 400 to 500 practice rounds were played and the flow on effect has been fantastic. There have been a number of new groups with up to 20 players who have played here after hearing how good the course is. In November there is a group of 60 ladies, who are all members of Killara in Sydney staying at Bangalay Luxury Villas and playing here for three days. This group are playing here after they heard what a fantastic course we have after some of them played in the Mid-Amateur event. The success of this event and the positive feedback we received from Golf NSW has given us the opportunity to bid for future events which we will be attempting to host in the next few years.

Whilst the Mid-Amateur was a great success, plenty of work was required in order to host it. We had several meetings with Shoalhaven City Council and Golf NSW. Sponsorship deals were struck with The Heads Hotel, the Bowling club along with the accommodation providers, Coolangatta Estate, Holiday Haven and Mountain View Resorts and Bangalay Luxury Villas. I would personally like to thank all of our sponsors along with those who made it all happen especially Glenn Askew, Rob Russell, Col Waller and Cec Montgomery. This event has given us enormous exposure.

To our outgoing Board of Directors I must say congratulations, the ship is on course and all of you are responsible for that. The leadership of President Rob Russell has once again been fantastic, and I would challenge any golf club in NSW to introduce me to a President who is as hands on and active within their club as Rob. A great job Rob and the Club needs to applaud

your work as I certainly do. Good luck to all the new directors and let's keep the ship headed on its current course.

Whilst I have thanked the Board, I must also congratulate our various committees. Our Vets are the heart and soul of the Club and continue to support the Club with their significant fields on a Thursday. Our ladies are also strong and let's hope they continue to attract more players. Many of our Vets and ladies are also heavily involved as volunteers which we all continue to acknowledge. It really is a unique Club and let's hope the volunteer spirit continues for many years to come because it is absolutely brilliant.

In the shop itself I must thank my main suppliers in Titleist, Ping, Murray Golf and EZGO. Your support is appreciated. For those of you who didn't realise it we took possession of 15 new EZGO carts in October and in May 2020 once the new shed is built another 11 carts will arrive taking the total to 28. This number of carts is allowing us to take larger groups and in March 2020 we have a group of 68 players from Queensland booked in on a Friday, which is the largest group booking we have ever had and with the help of a few members carts we can cater for the entire group in carts.

To my staff Jo and Peta along with cart cleaners Harry and Jamie your efforts are greatly appreciated, and a job well done. Peta has now been with us for 3 years and has taken on a few other roles in the shop. Peta is now an ambassador for Ping so for any equipment queries please feel free to bounce them off Peta or myself. To the weekend helpers in Cec Montgomery and Brett Lawson, your efforts are always appreciated. Cec has stepped down from regular weekend helping and whilst you are not around as much the work you have put into this Club and to the shop is undeniable and you are a strong part of the Club's history for which I personally thank you. Brett Lawson, or 'Lawso' as he is affectionately known, has begun helping on weekends and has fitted in seamlessly and I look forward to the future with you being around.

Last but not least I would like to say thank you to the entire Club for your continued support. We try to look after the members the best we can, and we appreciate your support. There are many others who work closely with us to help us run the day as smoothly as possible. To Geoff Collins, Gaz Hoare and Phil Behan a job well done in running our events and I look forward to working with you in the future. Also to Barney Curran, Brad Sharpe, Wazza Cassidy and all others who help around the shop we say a big thanks.

Until next time happy golfing

**Greg Collins**  
**Club Professional**  
**Shoalhaven Heads Golf Club**

## 2019 Annual Course Report

A quick recap on the year that was 2019. I would like to begin by thanking all the volunteers who have helped not only on the golf course but with me personally and making my first full year at the Club both productive and enjoyable. I cannot forget my green's staff Garry, Chad and Damian. The work all three men put into the Club and the course is impressive and most appreciated; it is a pleasure to work with them. I am more than pleased with Damian our apprentice and his progress as he is showing immense skill on the tools and developing leadership qualities as well. Damian now enters his final year of his apprenticeship.

My main focus when I first started at the Club was to get a feel for the golf course and how certain areas are to be maintained and with what techniques and products, but also how the membership like their golf course to be presented. Both the team and I continue to reach for higher quality on all areas of the course but on behalf of the green's team I hope all members are happy with the golf course and its progression. I am working closely with the green's committee to ensure we continue to improve and develop the course.

We started 2019 with preparations in full swing for the NSW Mid-Amateur. A few changes were made to the golf course in terms of greens surrounds and fairway shapes. These changes came on the back of Golf NSW recommendations. Since the completion of the Mid-Amateur feedback from members was that they liked the changes so most of the new shapes have been maintained. The Mid-Amateur event itself was a success for the Club, delivering a well-presented golf course for all players, a beautiful club to host presentations and social gatherings after each days play and the big one for me was the exposure of the Club to visitors who didn't know we existed or weren't aware of the quality of the facility we have here at Shoalhaven Heads GC. Preparing and presenting a golf course for an event like this was something new for Garry, Chad and Damian which all three were more than up to the task of completing. Preparations began in late 2018 right up until April when the event was held. During the event, the green's staff would be in around 3am to prepare for the days play and then return at 4pm to work through the night to be ready for the next day's play. A job well done and for their first major event they handled the pressure very well.

During the cool season of 2019, we also took on board the suggestions from Golf NSW with regards to some of our bunkers and their positioning on the course. These included the right-side fairway bunker on 5, the right-side fairway bunker on 9 and the left side fairway bunker on 13. The bunkers on 5 and 13 were deemed to be serving no or very little purpose and were only taking up staff time to maintain. It was decided that these bunkers be filled in. The bunker on the 9th hole was filled in to improve play from the tee. Opening up the right side of the fairway gave players a wider area to aim off the tee but also defer players from aiming down the left side of the fairway where the 2nd tee then comes into danger. There have been other minor changes to other bunkers like the first bunker on the 2nd. The steep sand face was replaced with a turf face, making it easier to both play from and maintain. Another bunker was the fairway bunker in the middle of the 9th hole. Again, the sand face was replaced with turf mainly to control erosion which posed a real hazard for golfers and staff as well as exposing parts of our underground irrigation pipe. Other bunkers like these have been identified on the golf course and will be renovated in the near future.

A major change which is easily gone unnoticed by anyone who is not on the green's staff is how the greens are actually maintained. The amount of watering has decreased. Instead of being watered every night, they are now watered heavily every few nights and hand watered with hoses on areas of the greens that require extra moisture. They are then left to dry before watering again. This assists with disease pressure and thatch build up as well as improving the root system, speed and firmness of the greens. Obviously during the cooler months of the year, greens are watered very little. Consistent grooming and scarifying is carried out, mainly through spring and summer. I have also recently started to lightly dust the greens with sand which also helps with disease and thatch control. I am looking to do away with the big renovation of greens in September and apply consistent minor renovations throughout the year. Greens recover from minor renovations within a few days rather than waiting a few weeks like we do with the major renovations. All of these cultural practices I am using are hopefully going to ease the pressure on our greens and make them stronger against pests and diseases. This will ultimately mean I can save money and time by not using as much chemical to control pests as well as being more environmentally friendly.

Over the past 12 months the team and I have worked particularly hard in bringing our tees up to an improved standard. It is taking some time, but I think we are starting to win the battle. Our tees were full of weeds which was a major factor. Eradicating the weeds and then getting new turf to grow over has taken some time. Heavy top dressing has been a major key as well as consistent fertilising. A reminder to all those who play, it is a massive help to us if divots are repaired after your shot has been played. This helps speed up the recovery of healthy turf. Being able to utilise different courses for each golf event has been great as well. Pushing markers from the blue or red course to the yellow and white helps spread the wear and allows turf to recover faster. Towards the end of 2019 I decided the 8thtee needed to be stripped, new soil applied, and fresh turf laid. This tee had very little turf left on it to grow back in. In addition to new turf, we also decided to frame the tee with native vegetation as we have done in other various areas of the golf course. The 8thtee along with other areas will continue to be planted out to create a bit of character to these areas as well as provide habitats for native wildlife.

The volunteers as I mentioned earlier have been great. Pathways around the course have been built and/or upgraded. New pathways include behind the 4thtee, in between the 1stgreen and 2ndtee, a new turning circle at the men's 5thtee and also at the 6thtee. The pathway from the 2ndgreen to the 3rdtee was recently upgraded too. Further paths have been planned to be built in 2020. Other areas on the course which have been driven by volunteers are the maintenance of our rubbish and sand bins. This also includes top dressing of tees on a Monday after the weekends play. Other tasks that are carried out are rough cutting in the summer as well as debris removal from bunkers, surrounds and greens, the maintenance of gardens and the club house surrounds plus much more. There are other projects in planning for volunteers to be involved in which I am excited about. I will keep the membership updated on these throughout my reports during the year. I would also like to thank our Vets and Ladies committees for their support in 2019. Several items and tools were purchased thanks to kind donations from both parties. Some items include injection systems, new flags and a moisture meter designed for reading moisture content in the soil (mainly used on greens). Thank you again.

To assist with our irrigation practices and efficiency, 3 new injection systems were purchased and installed. These systems inject wetting agent into the water as it passes through the irrigation system and is applied through the sprinklers. The wetting agent helps water penetrate the hard dry surface allowing water to get into the root zone where it has the most impact on turf health. After just one week of installing the system, I could see an improvement in turf health and presentation. It also allows me to use less water during the spring and summer period.

A huge area of the club I have been involved in with our Secretary Alan Davies as well as members of the board is WHS (Work Health and Safety). Whether we like it or not, WHS is part of all our working lives now and is a very important part of any business. Alan and I work closely to ensure the safety of not only our staff and volunteers but the safety of our members too. If you are a volunteer, you are still considered an employee of the club and must abide by all policies set out by the club's management. I am pleased with the response from members, volunteers and staff in regard to WHS and the changes we have implemented. It is not easy to adapt to these changes, but it is up to all of us to keep up the good work. If you are considering becoming a volunteer on the course, please feel free to knock on my door for a chat and I will have you inducted to start work!

To round off 2019 we experienced another drought, which basically rolled in as part of a 2018 drought, as well as probably the worst bush fires NSW has ever seen. The main thing is we all stayed safe and we still have a golf course and club to come to. As far as maintaining a golf course goes, it has been a challenging year in regard to extreme weather patterns. I mentioned earlier how pleased I am with my team, but they really have gone above and beyond in 2019 to ensure we present the best course possible for our members and guests. A lot of their efforts and hard work can go unintentionally unnoticed and the majority of work is done before most people get out of bed. I am confident they will give the club and I the same effort in 2020. I am a big believer that we can always improve and that is what we are striving for in 2020. I am excited for the year ahead and the improvements we can achieve on the golf course.

**Keenan Hobbs**  
**Course Superintendent**