

PRO SHOP REPORT 2021

Once again, we had another difficult year with Covid causing issues for everyone. Initially when restrictions began to ease the club became very busy as many of the Sydney groups understandably couldn't wait to get on the road and get out of Sydney. With no one heading overseas and interstate travel difficult we were perfectly placed not far from Sydney and Canberra and wow did people come. This was until we were all restricted to our local government areas which was extremely difficult for our members as our LGA ends halfway to Gerringong. Many of our members live north of our town and we were unable to accommodate them, yet we could travel to Batemans Bay for a game as it was still in our LGA. These rules significantly impacted not only our member's competition playing numbers but also the social groups we have on a Friday and Sunday. It seemed like every time we turned on the TV, we were assessing what the rules were going to be.

With that being said golf in general has been a huge winner out of Covid with increases in participation across the industry. Looking forward and whilst international travel will resume, we are of the belief that many will choose to stay locally meaning our golf course will be busy for some time. During Covid we had many people in the age demographic of 20-50 begin playing as there was no other sports being played for kids or adults. It will be interesting to see how many of these younger age groups remain golfers or will they return to their pre covid sports. The summer team's competition was very popular with these age groups and events like this with eased rules should retain many of these new golfers.

We also had an interrupted year in the Pro shop with operations downsized. For many months we only had one person in the shop working at any time and we were serving from the window. Whilst we were able to remain open for the members which was the priority it was hard to showcase my shop as people were basically not allowed in. Obtaining stock has also been a huge issue with some people waiting 6 months or more for equipment to arrive from suppliers. Let's hope this improves in 2022.

Throughout these times we as a Pro shop team along with the Board were discussing operations on sometimes an hourly basis. To all involved I think it was a job well done as we remained open (unlike many clubs) in the safest possible. Special mentions to **Rob Russell**, **Marilyn Schott**, **John Clawley** and **Alan Davies** for their efforts and guidance.

The Pro shop could not have managed to stay open without the help of our staff members. **Peta Griffin** was absolutely brilliant in assuring we could operate safely. I would also like to thank **Peta** for her efforts in the shop over the last four and a half years and wish her all the best for her new career role. Jo and I will miss what you did but we still look forward to regularly catching up. To **Lawso** and **Phil**, these guys have also been brilliant all year with curveballs being thrown at us, all our staff have been able to adapt, and Jo and I thank you for everything that you did. In November when **Peta** moved on **Lloyd Herron** joined the team with plans of him undertaking a PGA traineeship in 2023. He has already fitted in

nicely with the team and we look forward to watching Lloyd's progress leading up to and when he joins the professional ranks.

Throughout the year the one thing that wasn't impacted a great deal was the ability for our greens staff to continually supply a quality product for all of us to enjoy. To **Damian, Chad, Gaz, Todd** and **Nick** you guys are a great asset to our club. Keep up the great work!

To our kitchen staff who were heavily impacted by covid restrictions, you have been simply amazing in trying times. **Gail** and **Mouny** are fantastic assets to the club along with their growing staff.

I must recognize the committees behind the scenes that make the club work, there has been a lot going on and the efforts put forward by all has been fantastic. Without recognizing all the committees individually I would like to make special mention to the Match and Greens committee along with the Vets who all have been working together to try and make our course and operations smoother and better.

To the outgoing Board who have put the club in a great position in trying and stressful times I must say a job well done. To those of you who remain let's hope the next 12 months are less stressful and we can continue to build on the foundations that the outgoing and past Boards have laid.

Good luck to all in 2022 on the course. We look forward to seeing everyone happy and healthy and enjoying the wonderful facility that is Shoalhaven Heads Golf Club.

Greg Collins
Club Professional