



NEWS FROM FEBRUARY
2017

Chairman's Corner

Welcome to the Newsletter,
Just back from the USA where I was fortunate enough to attend the Super Bowl extravaganza. As a spectacle, a fantastic event, as a game, just a little to “stop-start” for me given that in the time to play what is supposed to be 60 minutes of Gridiron, I could have played a round of golf & had a beer after but hey I would do it again. The security is something else. Everyone of the 70,000 plus spectators was screened and patted down, yet getting into the ground there was no issue with queues.

With Graeme Trew taking his skills to China we have a new operator at the driving range, Brad Johnson who many have met already as he has been in around the Club introducing himself to those he can. We wish Brad well and feel confident he will do well and that as members we need to support him. So should you need to upgrade your skills or warm up with hitting a few balls Brad will be there operating the same as Graeme, please make him welcome. He will also be doing some hours in the golf shop as an opportunity to meet members.

Lucas Higgins performances continue to impress with some excellent results not only on his home course but also in recently making the round of 16 in NSW matchplay – to get through to this in qualifying he finished tied 5th in the stroke play. He also competed at events in Avondale (Sydney) again performing to a high level.

19th green is coming along well and in worst case scenario could be played but we will give it a little longer to settle in while all the other work on the course is being carried out. Course conditions in spite of difficult weather conditions are at a high level. Many thanks to the greens staff for the maintenance on the course while undertaking many improvements in conjunction. They are certainly earning their keep.

The new deck construction continues to move slowly but surely and hopefully by the next newsletter we will have a better indication as to a starting time.

New golf shop Manager Adam Causley has given the place a freshen up and will endeavor to give the best deal possible for members. So if its equipment, clothing or anything golf please have a talk with Adam or the staff and I am sure they will be able to assist. If they haven't got it they may be able to get it.

Friday nights remain busy and the Members draw is getting up there again, (\$6000) so for the opportunity of a few extra dollars its worth attending, remember the courtesy bus is available to local areas, check with the bar staff to see if you fall into the pick up area.

Just remember we are open 7 days a week to enjoy so if you cannot make it Fridays then other opportunities are available.

A piece of Trivia – Australian Charities in 2015 had a combined income total of \$134.5 billion, employing 1.2 million people, the second largest sector for employment in Australia.

Well two pieces – What piece has the game monopoly removed from the game after all these years?The thimble.

Remember to support the Club, your club and if you get the opportunity introduce yourself to Brad Johnson at the driving range, who knows it could improve your game.

Anyway good health and good golfing, see you at the Club.
Chairman
Keith O'Grady



Murwillumbah

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Manager's Report

Firstly welcome to Brad Johnston the new PGA coach at the driving range. We wish him all the best and encourage our members to get down there and support him. See more below about him.

A very big THANK YOU to Tom Ruhl the Stone and Wood Rep for sponsoring our Golf Day on Saturday 25th January. We look forward to continuing to work with Stone and Wood, supplying Schooners and Stubbies to our members and supporting our local community. I encourage members to get down to Stone and Woods Open Day at the Murwillumbah Brewery on Saturday 4th March.

The revised Deck plans are now on our website under "Latest News Tab" and also on our notice board near the bar for any members who wish to have a look.

Wedding bookings are increasing here at the club. With very affordable packages and now offering ceremonies on the 1st Tee, as well as receptions. If you know anyone who is recently engaged make sure you mention our club to them to have a look at. I'm sure they will be pleasantly surprised by the price and the service we offer.

We have partnered with Cancer Council on the Men's 40 Sun protection program. Did you know that NSW men over the age of 40 are **twice** as likely as women of a similar age to die of melanoma? It's never too late to reduce your risk of melanoma and improve your game. Whatever your age and whatever the weather, use protection to improve your long golf game. [There are FREE sunscreen stations set up on the 1st & 10th Tee and I encourage all members to apply sunscreen when they start playing and re applying half way through their round.](#)

Until next time, Good, Sun Safe Golfing,
Gary Thatcher
Secretary Manager

Meet the NEW GUY!!!!

Hello to all the members of Murwillumbah GC, My name is Brad Johnson and I am the **New** teaching professional at the club. I have come to Murwillumbah from Lakelands Country Club in Western Australia where I was the Head Teaching professional for the past 2 years. I would like to firstly thank all the members that have welcomed me into the fold only a week in!

I have come from a member's club and I want to continue the same trend throughout my career as I believe I am a people's person and always want to grow relationships with the membership. I am extremely enthusiastic in the areas of growing the game with our junior golfers and also servicing the membership in any way that I can, be it clinics, on course lessons, club fitting, club repairs or individual tuition. As with any new venture comes change. As I would love to see more members practicing and using the Driving Range. [You will now be able to purchase range balls from the Golf Shop on the days I am not in operation.](#)

In addition to being available on the driving range, I will also be on hand working in the Pro shop to answer any of your questions. I believe that with Adam and myself we can help you out with and queries and questions you throw at Us!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR RANGE OPEN TIMES AND AVAILABILITY OF LESSONS WITH THE NEW A FRAMES LOCATED OUTSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE AND GOLF SHOP.

Changes to the junior clinic Fridays 4.30pm not Saturdays anymore. Also Tuesday & Wednesday 4pm not 3.30pm.



Golf Shop Report

The past month has been steady in the golf shop with lower numbers than expected due to the sweltering heat. We experienced diminished competition fields and social golf numbers were also affected by the conditions. During February we also tend to have fewer visits from social clubs with the majority beginning their golfing calendar in March. Well done to the brave golfers who continued playing throughout this hot and humid period.

Welcome to Brad Johnson who has been appointed as Murwillumbah Golf Clubs new Teaching Professional. Brad will also be working in the golf shop a few days a week and will be a great addition to the team. The plan is for Brad to have more interaction with our members and visitors and try to integrate the driving range with the Golf club. I believe a closer relationship between the driving range and golf shop will benefit the golf club overall. In the past the view of many members was the driving range was a separate business and not connected to the golf club. In the future we hope to change this perception and encourage members to utilize their driving range and make use of the facilities available. I encourage everyone to drop in and visit Brad to have a chat and welcome him to the Murwillumbah Golf Club family.



New Callaway golf clubs have just arrived in the golf shop and a lot of members have already tried out the demo woods available. Callaway is a fresh brand in the shop and carries with it a lot of hype in the golf industry. The current model "Great Big Bertha Epic" drivers and fairway woods are being used by some of the best players in the world and on every tour. Along with the Epic woods Callaway also offers new bags, caps, towels, umbrellas and balls which are now for sale in the golf shop.

If you would like to try the new Callaway demo woods please see our Friendly Golf Shop staff to arrange it.

The Earle Williams 4bbb Match Play nominations have closed and a draw will be completed next week ready for the first round on Saturday March 4th. Competitors are urged to arrange match's to be played before each rounds deadline to allow the smooth running of the event.

[A timesheet for the Men's Foursomes Championships which will be run on Sunday 12th March is also available in the golf shop so find a partner and have a go.](#)

Good golfing,
Adam Causley
Golf Shop Operations Manager

Hole in One!

Can you guess which golfer scored a Hole-In-One on the first day of his official retirement???



Power surge a spark to early burnout.....

Jason Day is 29 years old, 12 years younger than his friend and mentor, Tiger Woods. But as Day watches Woods suffer through yet another chapter of his back-injury saga, his fear isn't merely that he will end up like Woods at that age. His fear is that he will end up like Woods at an even sooner age.

"Hopefully I can stay healthy and get to 40," Day said. By traditional golf standards hoping to play comfortably to age 40 is a modest goal. This is, after



all, a sport in which players have won major championships in their 40's and won tournaments in their 50's. But the modern swing that enables players to hit the ball further than ever is also taking a physical toll on some, which raises the question: Will the same star that are peaking earlier than ever also flame out at a younger age than their predecessors?

For Woods, whose prime was more prolific than any the game has ever seen, the answer is already yes. His latest comeback attempt from three back surgeries has quickly stalled. After withdrawing from this week's Genesis Open.

For the generation of players behind Woods, the answer is unclear. But recent trends have at least raised the possibility that the typical career arc for a pro golfer is fundamentally changing. Five of the first six PGA tour events so far this year have been won by players between the ages of 22 to 24. On the other hand, players who could hardly be considered old are showing some wear and tear.

Day, who has a history of back issues, took three months off in late 2016 to recover from a back injury. Roy McIlroy, 27, has his own history of back pain and has been sidelined for the past month by a fractured rib. Justin Rose, last year's Olympic Gold Medallist took two months off to deal with back problems. Speaking recently on the No Laying Up podcast, McIlroy said, "Because of how much of an athletic and power sport golf is becoming, you're going to see guys maybe not play into their 0's, and maybe that's OK."

If longevity is the price of an explosive swing that leads to longer drives and higher finishes in the short term, that is a price players are increasingly willing to pay. Every swing is different, but Woods, Day and McIlroy embody a stylistic change that has pervaded the sport. In general the modern swing is shorter, with more restrictive lower body movement. That requires a more violent turn to initiate the down swing, which takes more toll than swing which are longer. This kind of swing also requires more sheer strength to execute and endure.

Day said he is making a slight swing change that will make it easier on his back even if it is likely to cost him a few yards off the Tee. Players are becoming ever smarter about the way they approach fitness. And if more of them break down at earlier ages, their peers can draw lessons from that.

"If these guys only have a ten year career, that will be more learning for golf." Said 2006 US Open champion Geoff Ogilvy."

Thomas Pieters a 25 year old Belgian who is one of golf's rising stars, said that as much as he wants to win major competitions now, he wants to do something else by the time he is 40. "There is more to life than Golf" He said.

The Wall Street Journal.

Promotions Report

Our Mexican Theme Night was a very enjoyable event for all those who attended, As you can see by the photos below, many Members dressed up and thoroughly enjoyed their night. Well

done to all those who braved the Chilli eating competition and to those who the chilli got the better of.... Maybe better luck next time Brownie....



Already March and Easter is now just around the corner, how time flies.....

CHOCOLATES GALORE!!! Our Easter display will be set up soon at the bar. You automatically receive an entry into the draw when you make a purchase at the bar.

Natasha Bolden - Promotions Coordinator

BEVERLEY'S
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Free finance Seminars for planning your retirement. Here at Murwillumbah Golf Club. 6pm Wed 8th March, 2pm & 6pm Wed 15th March, 2pm & 6pm Wed 21st March, 2 pm & 6pm Weds 28th March. For more information see flyers at the front desk.



Two golfers are waiting their turn on the tee when a naked women runs across the fairway and into the woods. Two men in white coats and another guy carrying two buckets of sand are chasing her, and a little old man is bringing up the rear.

One of the golfers grabs the old man and asks, "What's going on?"

The old guy says, "She's a nymphomaniac from the asylum, she keeps trying to escape, and we attendants are trying to catch her."

The golfer asks, "What about the guy with the buckets of sand?"

The old man says, "That's his handicap as he caught her last time."

June Baker

After retiring from the Navy in 1989 after almost 22 years' service and having bought a five acre herb farm near Mooball, June became a Tweed resident once again. She found herb farming a full time occupation and did not consider playing any sport until semi- retiring from that business, when she decided golf would be a good idea.

The obvious club to join was Murwillumbah Golf Club where several friends from her pre-Navy school teaching and hockey playing days, such as Elaine Butler, Carmel Waugh, Lyn Anderson and Sandra Pursey were to be found.

June started off as a Saturday morning golfer and finally, after giving up farming altogether, became a regular weekday player. Of course, as usually happens to most golfers, a turn on committee is to be expected. June agreed to become the Women's Golf Murwillumbah Handicapper in 2009 when Flo Chadwick was Captain. She held this position for 4 years and spent a further 3 years as Captain. In 2012, June attained her Golf Australia Club Level Rules Accreditation. During her time as Captain, it became obvious to June that some way of revitalizing interest within the club and outside it was necessary to encourage players to stay, new ones to join, and give junior girls better opportunities to advance their skills within a State environment.

Being part of NSW, Murwillumbah must belong to NSW Women's Golf which is based in Sydney, and is too far away for the purpose. Therefore, June was instrumental in raising the idea that Women's Golf Murwillumbah should look seriously at re-joining Queensland Women's Golf to which it originally belonged.

This has now happened for a 3 year trial basis and Murwillumbah players are again eligible to compete in all Queensland events, as well as NSW ones. June sincerely hopes that being a Queensland affiliate continues beyond that time.



Golf Program for March



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Wednesday 1st	Individual Stableford in 2 Grades 9 Hole Warriors
Thursday 2nd	Women's Single Stableford
Friday 3rd	Blue Marker Day (No Social play until 1pm)
Saturday 4th	Monthly Medal in 4 Grades
Sunday 5th	Open Day Individual Stableford
Monday 6th.	Social Golf Day. Veterans AM
Tuesday 7th	Women's Single Stroke & Putting 3 Divisions
Wednesday 8th	Individual Stableford with 4. B.B.B Stableford in Conjunction 9 Hole Warriors
Thursday 9th	Women's Single Stableford
Friday 10th	Open Day Individual Stableford Medley
Saturday 11th	Individual V's Par in 4 Grades
Sunday 12th	MEMBERS FOURSOMES
Monday 13th	Social Golf Day. Veterans AM
Tuesday 14th	Women's Single Stableford
Wednesday 15th	Individual Stableford in 2 Grades. 9 Hole Warriors
Thursday 16th	Women's Irish Fourball & "Mufty day"
Friday 17th	Open Day Individual Stableford Medley
Saturday 18th	Nominations open for Earle Williams 4BBB Stableford Individual Stableford in 4 Grades
Sunday 19th	Junior Open Day
Monday 20th	Social Golf Day. Veterans AM
Tuesday	
Wednesday 22nd	Individual Stableford. 9 Hole Warriors
Thursday 23rd	Women's Single stroke
Friday 24th	Open Day Individual Stableford Medley
Saturday 25 th	Individual Stableford in 4 Grades
Sunday 26th	Open Day Individual Stableford Medley
Monday 27 th	Social Golf Day. Veterans AM
Tuesday 28th	Women's 4BBB Stableford Match Play & Single Stableford
Wednesday 29th	Individual Stableford in 2 Grades
Thursday 30th	Women's Breast Cancer Open Day. Single Stableford
Friday 31 st	Open Day Individual Stableford Medley



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If you would like a copy of our 80th Anniversary history book, "With Pick and Putter" please write your name and number below and drop into the office with \$10. This will get you a 6GB USB to keep, with a copy of the book.

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HAPPY EASTER

Easter Giveaway Night at the Club
Thursday 13th April
6pm onwards



Face Painting
FREE Eggs
Raffles
Music



Wednesday Nights 7pm
1st, 15th & 29th March



Every Thursday 3pm

Fairway Sessions

Sunday 26th March 1-4pm
Good Melodic Live Music