

Greens Report 2014/15

This year we have seen a number of changes at Murwillumbah Golf Club in the greens department. Superintendent Brian Cox has done a great job in managing these essential changes to both oncourse and offcourse issues which has seen another successful year for the club and both members and visitors alike talking about the greens and the course long after their games here at Murwillumbah Golf Club

Greens:

This year we oversewed the greens for the cooler months which was a great success. The oversew wasn't done the previous year due to the new irrigation work being laid and it was actually a good thing having a break from the winter grass for a year as it allows the 328 grass below to fully recover and build up for a stronger growth and better coverage for the next seasons to come. The coverage of the winter grass this year was good with no heavy rain washing patches out of the greens like previous seasons. The seed was maintained well in its growth period and thrived when the roots were deep enough allowing mowers to cut short and roll for a smooth fast surface that reacts well with a spinning golf ball. The oversew is a successful process that we will continue in the future.

On Course Work:

A number of projects have been executed this year with many of them making life and golf more enjoyable at the club. The biggest structural project that was completed this year was the re-concreting and levelling off of the front area of the golf shop. Removing the thoroughfare between the shop and the practice putting surface was an excellent move as it creates more room for buggy parking freeing up actual car parks and promotes a safer traffic environment with pedestrians and motorised cart drivers. The dead area around the side of the golf shop was also converted into an undercover seating area where golfers at halfway can sit outside in the warm sun or cool breeze and enjoy their break. This has also assisted in pace of play as golfers are aware of where the group in front of them are. The majority of the work was completed over a one week period only causing minor disruption to the golf shop and golf proceedings. Well worth the hassle.

The practice nets have also been refurbished with new carpet and hitting mats being laid along with the removal of the bushes behind the area which just attracted snakes, lost balls and untidiness. Since the refurbishment there has been a noticeable increase in traffic in the nets.

Golf course changes for the year included the reshaping of the 1st fairway which was written in the master plan for the course. The hole now gives a visual effect of a slight dog leg to the right which encourages golfers to hit away from the players coming up the 18th fairway and makes the hole more enjoyable to play as the risk reward has been increased. The 18th hole has had some additional work done to it as well with the planting of more trees down the left hand side encouraging golfers to hit out away from the school side and onto a flat landing patch 200 plus metres up the fairway. An extra panel of netting was also installed this year to increase the safety of the school from errant tee shots and allowing us to play back from the newly designed tees with no fear of hitting over the fence.

Machinery:

We have continued with the machinery replacement program that was designed to keep the greens shed equipment up to date and function whilst maintaining a steady turnover of new machines and keeping costs down. This year's new machine was a greens mower that has now been calibrated correctly to handle the angulations and design of our greens. The new mower is the latest model out and the best value for the club. This coming year will see the new tractor purchased as our old model has finally died and towed its last trailer.

Staffing

There have been some staff changes within the shed this year which has seen a new face, a promoted second in charge and a retired mechanic. The new face in Tony Keyte has joined the team and settling in nicely, Tony has bowling club experience and is adjusting to the golf course work load and sharing his knowledge on the green. I'm pleased to write that Brendan Rice has been appointed second in charge at the greens shed after completing his apprenticeship at the start of this year. Brendan has made great progress as a greens keeper and is now learning a leadership role amongst the team. Tom Clark announced his retirement from the greens shed finishing up in July 2015. Tom was a great part of the team and always had an opinion on most topics whether he knew something about it or not. The shed certainly is a lot quieter around smoko time now that Tom isn't there but he still pops his head in to give his welcomed feedback to the boys on what sort of job they are doing without him.

Warren Colefax

Greens Chairman