

# Your Clubs, Your Newsletter

ISSUE 33 - 2019

Your News,  
Entertainment and  
Sports Events Calendar



[www.murraydownsgolf.com.au](http://www.murraydownsgolf.com.au)

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## Your Club News

### From the President

Since my last report, we have survived the Christmas festivities and endured a very hot and dry summer period. The new irrigation pumps have certainly been put to good use pumping water to keep our golfing facility at its very best.



Murray Downs Golf and Country Club, for the first time, was recognised as number 46 in the Top 100 Public Access Ratings. This is a fantastic result and allows us to promote ourselves as "the best course on the Murray."

The recent sporting events, The Reciprocal, The Masters and holding the NSW Seniors Amateur golf tournament had visitors from all over Australia, who will be sure to spread the word about our exceptional facility and I am confident many will return soon. The Course Superintendent, Ash Davis and his team along with the Club house staff must be congratulated and thanked for their support when entertaining our Members and visiting guests for these special events.

The Murray Downs Bowlers have had an amazing summer Pennant Series having taken four divisions. This is a tremendous effort as we had two teams playing in division three, giving us a total of 60 players represented in the finals.

Our Club hosted the Bowls Victoria Women's Regional Championship, where players from all regions in Victoria competed. This event is played at Murray Downs each year with 196 bowlers using our three greens.

The Swan Hill Club continues to provide well for our Members and guests and offers an alternative for entertainment, especially during the summer months with bands in the outside area. Many of our Members utilise the complimentary meeting facilities available for functions, which is a great offer.

Spoons Riverside continues to provide a unique restaurant point of difference and has catered for many weddings over the summer months. The recent announcement by the Swan Hill Rural City Council regarding funding for an upgrade to the river precinct will be an enormous benefit to our venue.

Finally, it has been an honour and privilege to be President of the Murray Downs Golf and Country Club over the past 12 months. I would particularly like to thank my fellow board members and the CEO Greg Roberts for their ongoing support. Your continued support will help us grow. We look forward to seeing you at one of our venues soon.

**Col Hedwards, President**



### From the CEO's Desk

It has been a hot dry summer and our facilities are in remarkable condition considering the weather. Congratulations to all our staff for their dedication and commitment.

The Club hosted the Golf NSW Senior Men's Amateur Championships in March and we had over 140 of the best senior amateur golfers visiting from all over Australia. The event was a major success and they could not get over the high quality of the course and the facilities. The feedback was excellent.

We also hosted the Bowls Victoria Regional Group Side Bowls Championship with similar feedback about the facilities and I would like to thank all our committee members who assist with our championships and tournaments. In particular, a special mention to Marg Hoare and Shirley Deola who have done a wonderful job coordinating this bowls event for many years, thank you.

Greg Ferguson has left our employ to take on the role as the Chief Executive Officer of Yarrowonga Mulwala Golf Club Resort. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Greg for his contribution to our organisation over the past 3 years and wish him all the very best in his new role.

### Bowls Champions

Murray Downs Bowls were the champions for 2019 in all 4 divisions. We had five teams make the grand finals with two of our own teams playing each other in the division three grand final. Our Club won the Premier Division beating Racecourse Bowls Club, the Division 1 defeating Racecourse Bowls Club, Division 2 beating Lake Boga Bowls Club and of course Division 3 played out by two Murray Downs teams. This is a history making wonderful achievement by all our bowlers and congratulations to you all on a wonderful season. Bring on 2020!

### AGM in May

The Annual General Meeting is due to be held on the 21st May 2019 at 8pm at the Club and the Annual Report will be available on the Club website or from the Club on the 30th April 2019. The notice of meeting will be mailed or emailed to all members outlining the details of the meeting and a copy will be placed on the notice board at the Club.

You will notice that there are a number of proposed amendments to the Clubs constitution. Some are necessary to bring us up to date with the ever-changing legislation requirements and others will provide for some much needed flexibility with regard to creating new membership categories and being able to better cater for our

## From the CEO Continued

current and future members. I encourage you to read the notice and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

### Functions and Parties

We have three great venues and I encourage you all if you are organising a party, function or celebration of any kind to consider holding it at either the Murray Downs Golf and Country Club, Swan Hill Club or Spoons Riverside. We are fortunate to have a great range of different facilities that can cater for any event. Peta Zucco is our Sales and Functions Coordinator and she would be delighted to help you organise a function at any of our venues. Give her a call today!

We look forward to seeing you at one of your venues soon.

### Greg Roberts, Chief Executive Officer

## From the Men's Captain

Welcome to the autumn newsletter for 2018. Over summer the course has been very busy with good competition fields and many visitors. As you all would appreciate this has been a very hot, dry summer and on behalf of the Golf Committee my congratulations to Ash Davis and the ground staff team for the wonderful condition of the course over recent months.

Since the last newsletter our Club Championships have been played with Dallas Free edging out Stuart McMillan by one stroke, to add yet another championship to his record.

Championship grade winners were:

B Grade: Mathew Collins

C Grade: Tom Bailey

D Grade: Roger Walker

Congratulations to the winners and to all who competed over the four rounds.

Several Monthly Medals have been decided since the last



Peta Zucco our Sales & Functions Coordinator



## From the Men's Captain Continued



newsletter and winners include Ian Read in November and Graeme Mathiske in December. January saw Ian Johanson successful and in February, Andrew Lolicato reaped the reward for lots of after work practice. Ian Johanson followed up his January win by taking out the March Medal also. Ian's third Medal in twelve months.

January saw the introduction of major changes to the Rules of Golf and a reminder that rule books are available from the Pro Shop. It is in everybody's interest to have a reasonable working knowledge of the rules and I encourage you to get hold of a rule book and have a read. The most noticeable changes are being able to putt with the pin in (and I see many players doing this) and the dropping from knee height rather than shoulder height when taking relief drops. The alternative procedure for ball lost, or out of bounds, has been introduced by local rule at Murray Downs and full description is posted on the notice board opposite the pro shop.

Golf Australia is also promoting better pace of play which involves some changes in the traditional 'furthest away plays first'. Guidelines are on the club notice board and in the new fixture book.

Two of our most popular events, the Reciprocal Challenge and the Veolia Seniors Tournament have been run and won, again with excellent fields including many regular visitors. We certainly appreciate their ongoing support of our tournaments.

The Reciprocal visitor winners were Daniel Irwin, Nick Haintz, Rod Doak and Geoff Viney from Buninyong.

The successful Members were Andy and Jayden Graham with Sean Baumgartel and Gene Brooks.

Near capacity fields again competed in the Veolia Seniors Tournament over 36 holes. Young men's (50-66) group was won by Brendan Bell from Northern with 76 points. The slightly older group (66-71) winner was Roger Bragg from Birchip with 72 points. In the older again group (72+) the winner from West Lakes was John Everingham backing up his win last year with a fine 78 points over the two days. Well done to these players and all the minor prize winners.

Tournaments don't run themselves and many thanks go to the Men's, Women's and Senior Committees for all their efforts.

Many thanks also to all Pro Shop staff, not just for the major events but for the day to day golf. The golf program could not run without them.

## From the Men's Captain Continued



Knockout competitions should be underway as you read this, good luck to everyone. The long running Golden Putter Tournament is on again in June and we look forward to capacity fields for this.

In March Murray Downs had the privilege of hosting the Men's NSW Senior Amateur Championships. The 54 hole tournament attracted 137 players many of them in the very low handicap category. A large number of players from around NSW had their first look at our course and the positive responses and feedback about the quality of the design and condition were very gratifying. It is a good reminder to all of us who play here regularly what a great facility we have.

Hope everyone has a great golfing year!

### Ken Gregory, Men's Captain

## From the Ladies Captain



We have enjoyed our fantastic course and a number of events since October. I am pleased to report that there have been good fields of lady Members playing regularly over the summer. Many have found an early morning start necessary to beat the hot weather that we have had.

Paula Pickert played consistently well over the summer months to win the L J Hooker Summer Star, closely contested by runner up Jan Mclean.

In December the ladies played the Downs course and were then treated to a delicious Christmas lunch. The effort by the staff in setting up the tables, the food and service was appreciated by all in providing a festive atmosphere.

At the Veolia Seniors Tournament in February we welcomed a good field of visitors and local members. Many of the visitors return regularly because they love our course and our hospitality. Murray Downs ladies featured very well in the overall results. Winners of the 2-day event included 1st Judi Lonergan, 2nd Judi Benbow, 3rd Rhonda Barrow and Jenice Krahnert.

The Ladies Opening Day sponsored by Rutherford Street Insurances attracted a great field of 128 players. Visitors from surrounding clubs and some novice golfers enjoyed the experience of an Ambrose event and a fabulous afternoon tea supplied by the Members. A visitor Cindy McMillan from Sea Lake teamed up with

## From the Ladies Captain Continued



Barb Upton, Marg Craig and Flo Henson to win the golfers section. Mary Ann Davis & Di Martin played with novices Kristy Helgeland and Jordyn Jolliffe to win the novice section. A great time was had by all who came and we thank Gaye Legudi and her team from Rutherford Street Insurances for continuing to sponsor this event.

The ladies have embraced the new rules that were introduced in January. We have had a few challenges remembering to drop from knee height, but leaving the pin in while you putt has proved popular and definitely does speed up play.

We know how lucky we are to play on a marvellous golf course. Many thanks to all staff who work to make this possible.

We have many upcoming events to keep us busy on the golf course. The Singles and Doubles knockouts are about to start. The LJ Hooker Corporate Sponsor day in April, our Championships and Pink Day sponsored by Kennedy's Showcase Jewellers in May.

I would like to thank my committee for their assistance in all club activities and all lady Members for their good sportsmanship and company. I wish all, great golf and good fun in the season ahead.

**Marg Moore, Ladies Captain**

## Golf News



### From the Pro

February and the beginning of March was a full packed calendar with tournaments. The Reciprocal Tournament, Swan Hill District Health Charity Day, Veolia Seniors Tournament, North West Agriculture Day, Ladies Opening Day and the New South Wales Men's senior open have kept us on our toes.



The feedback from the participants in the NSW Senior Men's open was amazing. A huge compliment to Ash Davis and all the grounds staff. Congratulations to all participants and winners!

## From the Pro Continued



Naturally a huge thanks goes out to all sponsors of these and many other events hosted here in the Club. We are extremely grateful for your ongoing support and efforts.

Ladies clinics have started in the last month and have been well supported by many of the lady Members of the Club and are currently being offered on Thursday mornings from 10am to 11am and Friday afternoons at 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

Junior clinics have started up again and have begun again in the first term. We have our Wednesday intermediate level and of course our precious little Golf Mini's on a Saturday morning. A huge thanks goes out to Elaine Brown who gives up her time to be a program coordinator and brings great energy every week. Another thanks to Ash Free, Mal Woolhouse and James McLean for their passion for junior golf. What a great bunch of kids, and thanks to all the parents, grandparents and Members who get their kids here each week.

We have some upcoming demo days planned with Titleist, Callaway and Ping, please see us in the Pro Shop for further details. We have many demo clubs from all the major Brands in the game and we have our Trackman 4 which gives members the opportunity to practice like the best in the world, improve your game and help to get the right equipment in your hands. If you haven't ever used this technology, then I encourage everyone to come and try it.

We have a new range of winter gear coming soon, plenty of new equipment and a flow of new products coming to the shop each week. On behalf of all the team in the Pro Shop we thank you for your patronage and look forward to seeing you all in the Pro Shop soon. "Your leisure is our pleasure".

**Shane McHenry, Golf Professional**



The first kids cup for 2019 in February with 27 Golf Mini's. Golf Mini's is held every Saturday 9.30am for \$7 per child

## Bowls News



As another season of bowls draws to a close we can reflect back on a season with a few ups and downs. Our tournaments were fairly well attended, and most of this can be put down to our Members visiting all other clubs during the year; and we thank all members who did this.

Tuesday pennant was not as successful this year; no premierships, but enjoyed by all who participated. Team 3 played in the Grand Final.

With Saturday pennant, well what can you say? 5 teams in the Grand Final. Premier Division played Racecourse, Division 1 played Racecourse, Division 2 played Lake Boga and all of these teams won their premierships. Division 3 Murray Downs team 4 played Murray Downs team 5. These 2 teams played a draw, so another end was played, which also ended in a draw. So another end was played, team 4 eventually winning the premiership, so congratulations to all our teams. This is the first time one club has won all 4 premierships in one season, very well done to all. It is now thirty years since Murray Downs won its first premiership.

Thank you to the committees who run our club so smoothly. Firstly to the main committee who put in so much time to make sure everything is in place. To our match committee, thank you Carl and Harry and co for your constant support. To our mid week and Saturday pennant selectors, thank you for your time and effort. Your decision making proves a point with this year's results. Special thanks also go to our social committee, bar staff and barbeque cooks. Thank also to those involved in running our very successful night bowls series.

To Ash and his staff for a job well done in very hot and trying conditions, thank you very much. And last but not least, to our Greenskeeper George, who came to Murray Downs with limited knowledge and no idea how to play bowls. He worked hard growing the grass, learnt to play bowls, played in a grand final, then left us. Thank you for what you did in your time here George.

To all the new bowlers, we hope you enjoyed your year and continue to enjoy our club.

To all the ladies who work behind the scenes, Sandra, Betty, Connie and Vickie what would we do without you!

**Bill Pearson, Chairperson Bowls Committee**



## Sports Calendar

### Golf Events

#### April

10th LJ Hooker Ladies Golf Day  
28th Kubota Golf Day

#### May

1st 1st Round Ladies Championships Monthly Medal  
8th 2nd Round Ladies Championships Monthly Medal  
15th 3rd Round Ladies Championships Monthly Medal  
22nd Kennedy's Showcase Fay Ayson Memorial Ladies Pink Day  
25th - 26th Mid Murray Amateur Tournament

#### June

2nd Stihl Shop Golf Day  
16th Choices Flooring by Swinton's Golf Day  
26th - 27th Ladies Golden Putter  
28th - 30th Men's Golden Putter

#### July

17th The Guardian Ladies Golf Day

#### August

7th Cameron's Fine Jeweller's Gold Links Day  
17th - 18th Murray Downs 36 Hole Ambrose Pairs Tournament  
24th - 25th Murray Downs Junior Tournament

#### September

4th 2019 Murray Downs Pro Am  
25th Mildura Health Fund Ladies Golf Day

#### October

9th - 11th Murray Downs Ladies Classic  
13th Elegance Tiles by Conidi Tiles & Lighting Golf Day

### Bowls Events

#### April

26th Club Presentation Night

#### May

8th Bowls AGM at Murray Downs 7.30pm



One of Dads Army's prized awards is the Golfer of the Year and for the first time, 2018 saw a tie for the award - Barry Bishop and Damian Kelly couldn't be separated and so share the title.

## What's New!



Murray Downs Bowlers Grand Final Day



Congratulations to recent Members Draw Winner Frederick Burge who took home \$4,200 at a Murray Downs Members Draw during March.



2019 Men's NSW Senior Amateur Championship at Murray Downs on March 11th to 14th



2019 Women's Regional Sides Championships in March



Scuba diver out on course collecting golf balls from the water



Reception & Courtesy Bus: (03) 5033 1422  
Murray Downs Resort: 1800 807 574  
Pro Shop: (03) 5033 1427  
Murray Downs Drive, Murray Downs, NSW, 2734  
PO Box 496, Swan Hill, VIC, 3585  
www.murraydownsgolf.com.au



Reception: (03) 5032 2060  
5 - 17 McCallum Street, Swan Hill, VIC, 3585  
www.swanhillclub.com.au

## Entertainment Calendar

### Swan Hill Club

#### April

26th Broly Bros

#### May

3rd Dean & Carruthers  
4th Things With Strings Festival All in Jam  
10th The Drowning Sorrows  
17th Still Cruisin Trio  
24th To be confirmed  
31st Me & the Girl

#### June

7th Code 5  
9th Seven Car Pileup  
14th Endangered Species



Live Music in the Beer Garden at the Swan Hill Club

### Functions and Events

Are you looking for a venue to hold your wedding, function or special event? Spoons Riverside riverfront venue can cater for your needs



P: (03) 5032 2601  
125 Monash Drive, Swan Hill, VIC 3585  
www.spoonsriverside.com.au

