



Your Clubs, Your Newsletter

ISSUE 36 - 2022

From the President

Dear Members,
Welcome to 2022, we hope lockdowns are now a thing of the past, although we are still burdened with masks and some distancing issues. Member support of our three venues has helped our financial position for the year as we look forward to visitors making their way back to our venues and sporting facilities.

Murray Downs Golf and Country Club

The bowlers and golfers are now back in full swing at our sporting facilities and our numbers are strong. The Pro Shop has had an operational change with Blaede Hawkins as Manager and Lisa Jean as Golf Professional, both are full of enthusiasm and are building a team to look after our members and guests.

Our weekly draws continue to be popular with our members, and in particular our pre Christmas Draws were well supported once again.

Swan Hill Club and Spoons Riverside

Once again, thank you to members for supporting these venues as the uncertainty of trading has affected visitors to the area.

The Hospitality Industry has been hit hard with the threat of lockdowns and we have lost many good staff to more certain working conditions. The Executive Team have had an extremely tough time finding staff replacements and were forced to change trading hours at these two venues.

On behalf of The Board, I would like to thank our staff for the commitment many have made during the extreme times. We appreciate their willingness to work that extra shift, taking leave when required and supporting our Executive Team in keeping the standard of service our members and guests expect.

From the President continued...

Membership Update

Membership renewals are due on the 31st of March. I would like to encourage and thank those members who understand the importance of supporting our venues as continued support will make us grow. I look forward to seeing you at one of our three venues.

Colin Hedwards - Club President

From the CEO

Dear Members,

On behalf of The Board, Management and Staff I'd like to wish you a very Happy New Year. I hope you managed to stay safe and well over the festive period and got to spend quality time with family, friends and loved ones.

It is fair to say that 2022 has not started as well as we had hoped. It appears Covid is not finished with us yet and the spread of Omicron continues to present significant challenges for so many industries – not least to healthcare and distribution, but also to the hospitality and tourism sectors.

Unfortunately, like so many other industries, we are experiencing varying degrees of disruption to some of our operations. The staff shortage crisis that is being experienced throughout the country is made worse by the increased numbers of staff having to isolate because they have contracted Covid or are a close contact. This latest challenge will be with us for some time, but we will continue to work our way through it and minimise the impact on our services and members wherever possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our staff who continue to display their commitment and dedication to our organisation.





From the CEO continued...

We have welcomed a number of new staff to our team, and we continue to recruit for other positions. The team is focused on providing you with a safe, friendly experience. Please continue to be kind to our team and we look forward to seeing you at one of the venues soon.

It will soon be membership renewal time and I urge you all to renew your membership and encourage others to join. The Murray Downs Golf and Country Club, Swan Hill Club and Spoons Riverside venues provide excellent facilities and experiences for members and visitors. Our organisation is community owned, not for profit, and gives substantial support to many other local community organisations. Renew your membership to show your support and assist in their ongoing success.

I hope you and your family stay safe and well during this latest Omicron outbreak.

Gregory Roberts - Chief Executive Officer

Membership points expire at close of business on Thursday 31st of March, so be sure you use them up!

From the Ladies Golf Captain

2021 did not quite pan out as we envisaged, due to the Covid-19 global pandemic. Our 2021 golfing year was disrupted, as it was in 2020 with many restrictions resulting from border closures, to the closing of our beloved Club for weeks. Not all sponsored competitions were held because of these restrictions. However we were able to hold our Rutherford Insurance Services Open Day, Kennedy's Showcase Jewellers Faye Ayson Memorial Pink Day, LJ Hooker Golf Day and the Golden Putter.

The Challenge Cup Competition has proved successful and will continue in the years ahead, playing against our NSW neighbours, Rich River Echuca, Deniliquin and Barham.

From the Ladies Golf Captain continued...

The Club Championships were held in May. Congratulations to the following Grade Champions.

Club Champion: Mary-Anne Davis on her 15th title, winning by 1 shot from Dione Heppell. **B Grade Champion:** Shelley Wilkins. **C Grade Champion:** Julie Overall. There were not enough numbers for D Grade to hold a competition, but we recognised Faye Palmer for the best scratch score from the three ladies who did play. **Jess Petzke Trophy for Best Net Score Winner Over All Grades:** Julie Overall. **70+ Senior Trophy:** Carol Wiseman. Thank you to the 62 ladies who competed in the three rounds. A celebration dinner was held at the Club to acknowledge all trophy recipients.

Congratulations to the winners of the Annual Trophy Competitions. **Golfer of the Year:** Kathy Parkinson. **Donnington Cup:** Val Hedwards. **Medal of Medallists:** Jenny Lynas. **Putting Competition:** Jenny Lynas. **Singles Knock Out:** Lois Carnie. **Doubles Knock Out:** Georgina Douglas and Carolyn Zambelli. **Anniversary Cup:** Elaine Brown. **Saturday Star:** Judi Benbow. **Spring Brooch:** Mag Kiley.

I would especially like to thank Greg Roberts who went above and beyond during 2021, under very trying circumstances with the ever changing compliance rules that the Covid regulations required. To Colin Hedwards and the Board of Murray Downs, thank you for your support and dedication to our Club. Thank you also to the staff in all departments of the Club, the Grounds and the Pro Shop staff who are always willing to assist when needed. Hopefully 2022 is smooth sailing and we get to enjoy our golfing calendar with no interruptions. Happy golfing everyone.

Mag Kiley - Ladies Captain



Club Champion: Mary-Anne Davis





From the Men's Golf Captain

What another very trying period we have endured since my last report, mainly caused by the ongoing border restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This meant that many of our annual golf tournaments and sponsor events had to be postponed, or cancelled, but hopefully all of this is behind us and we can all enjoy our golf at Murray Downs.

We held our Annual Club Championships in November 2021, where James McLean claimed his second Murray Downs Club Championship by a considerable margin. Congratulations to all our Championship and major event winners:

Club Champion: James McLean

B Grade Champion: Brian White

C Grade Champion: Roger Walker

D Grade Champion: Kain Domaille

Senior Champion: Craig Burrell

Golfer of the Year and Medal of Medallist: Glenn Wilkes

Putter of the Year: Ross Kenyon

Singles Knockout: Rob Merrett

4BBB Knockout: Jorgen Leschke and Jackson Quirk

Mixed Knockout: Jorgen Leschke and Sara Clark

LJ Hooker Summer Cup: Jackson Quirk

Anniversary Cup: Stuart Brumby

In mid-November we commenced the second year of the 9 Hole Summer Competition, thanks to the generous sponsorship from Gary Lowe of Swan Hill Windows & Kitchens. This event is proving to be very popular, with participants able to play their 9 holes on any day of the week and in conjunction with other weekly competitions. This summer, the competition has been divided into 2 series, each being 8 weeks. The first series was completed in mid-December with the "Golden Oldies" (Rob and Bev West, Jo and Maz Morrison) team coming out on top and the Captain Mick Kiley taking out the player of the series award. The second series commenced in mid-January and will conclude in mid-March.

We got to hold the 54th Annual Golden Putter at

From the Men's Golf Captain continued...

the end of June, with 244 players participating. The winners being a pair of former locals in Greg Cadd and Brad Arnoldt with a score of +15. This event was preceded by the Golden Shoe, which was taken out by Brett Harkin from Devil Bend with a score of 43 points.

The 36 Hole Murray Open, another tournament sanctioned by Golf NSW as a qualifying round for the NSW Open, was played at Murray Downs in late November. This event was preceded the day prior, by the Murray Downs Pro Am. Matthew Millar from the Federal Golf Club in Canberra, shot a new course record of 8 under par, 64, on the first day of the Murray Open, which assisted him to take out the event with a final score of 10 under. The Pro Am was taken out by Jo Cash, Jo Watts, Gaye Legudi and professional Cameron John.

Sponsor days in Ambrose format have proved very popular, as the recently held RTM Construction and the Bailey Ag Australia Day events were at full capacity. Hopefully we will be able to hold more of these events during 2022.

The 2022 Reciprocal Tournament was also at full capacity with 128 players entered for Friday's 4BBB and 248 players entered for the 36-hole Reciprocal Tournament. The 2022 Reciprocal winners from Bunninyong Golf Club, consisting of Dan Irvin, Geoff Viney, Mick Haintz and Rod Doak with a final total of 219 points. Woodend Team Mick Keating, Mick Fitzpatrick, Andrew Franklin and Mark Hilton came in next with 213 points. The Murray Downs section was taken out by Jorgen Leschke, Brenton Halligan, Arnold Kirby and Jordon Weekley with 233 points, from Lisa Brady, Dione Heppell, Virginia Allen and Shelley Wilkins on 217 points.

Finally I'd like to welcome our new Golf Professional Lisa Jean to Murray Downs and trust that she will enjoy her time here. Lisa brings with her a long list of credentials as a coaching professional.

Men's Captain - Mick Kiley





From the Bowls President

It was an interrupted start to the bowls season, but we are happy that it is well underway now. As a club we are excited to welcome new members and new players to the club. We currently have 6 teams in the Saturday Pennant and 5 in the Midweek. So far, all teams have represented the club in a professional and respective manner.

The delay of the start of the season allowed the club to try some new things. We started Saturday Social bowls which had a great result, allowing members to come over and play which allowed us to start our Club Championships earlier. With this I would like to congratulate Josh Thornton and Teresa Furnell on winning the Men's and Ladies Club Championship.

It was Josh's third Championship for the Club and Teresa's first Championship. We seen some terrific matches leading up to the finals. Josh went on to win the Champion of Champions for Murray Valley, which is an outstanding achievement. Josh will now go on and represent the region in the state titles.

As a club we have had some strong representation in the Murray Valley State Events. Teresa Furnell, Di Scown and Noelene Weir won the Women's Triple's event. All ladies played extremely well, and we wish them all the best in the upcoming regional events.

Our current coach Josh Thornton has been selected in the Australian Squad in which he is trialling for selection in the next Commonwealth Games. It has been a very busy time for Josh and his family with the arrival of a new baby, as well as a new role with Bowls Victoria. We wish Josh all the best for the upcoming selection trials.

The club is excited to be working with Bowls Australia and running a program called Jack Attack a fun and exciting way for social and barefoot bowlers to play. This will start soon and will be played on Tuesday evenings. We welcome new players to arrange a team and come and enjoy a game of bowls.

From the Bowls President continued...

Finals are not far around the corner and fingers crossed the club will be well represented across all divisions. It has been a very tough 12 months for our members and our club, but we appreciate all the support and guidance by Greg and the Murray Downs Board Members.

I would also like to thank all our members and bowlers for their support and volunteering to help our club continue to grow for our community. We look ahead to a big and exciting 2022 season.

Garry McCaig – Bowls Chairperson

If your membership is due, don't forget to renew!
Renew online to save time
www.murraydownsgolf.com.au



Club Champions: Teresa Furnell & Josh Thornton



Club Champion: James McLean



New Course Record: Matthew Millar



New Golf Professional: Lisa Jean

