



This is the first edition of the new 'The Fairway'. A newsletter that we hope will provide open and positive communication to members about club activities, future plans and how members may further contribute to the smooth operation of the club.

It is intended that 'The Fairway' will be available on the first Saturday of each month and also be available for downloading on the club website – castlemainegolf.com.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to 2010 and best wishes to you for the New Year.

Your newly elected Committee of Management and their respective sub-committees are working very hard to keep the club running smoothly.

The course has never looked better in my time here. We still have being challenged financially but with new processes being put in place by Pearl and her team we are sorting things through.

Green fees are definitely on the rise, which is an excellent sign that many others are enjoying our course. However to make the club more profitable membership has to increase.

On the subject of members – if people know of others who play, have let their membership lapse or are thinking of taking up the game please encourage them to have a game at Castlemaine Golf Club and show them what we have to offer.

If anyone can help with bar work, grass cutting, general work around the course and club house please don't hesitate to contact the person in charge of that area.

To our volunteers thank you for your efforts, especially over the Christmas period.

Finally an enormous thank you to Les Prendergast who after over 35 years of employment at the club finished work at the end of January.

We will be challenged to replace Les's contribution, knowledge and skills through other means. We as a club will look to acknowledge Les at a function in the near future.

*Phil Freeman*

*President*

*As you know the reorganization of the club management structure developed five portfolio areas – golf, course maintenance/ development, strategic planning, finance and administration.*

*From time to time each newsletter will have a report from these areas to inform you about the work of the new management committee.*

## GOLF PORTFOLIO

I am pleased to inform members of the composition of our newly established golf sub committee. The team of Dawn Angliss, Kay Francis (ladies Capt.) Matt O'Brien (handicapper), Stan Saville (intrepid reporter), Kevin Gardner, Peter Verlaan and I have been busy over the last few months.

We were very pleased with the response to our survey of over 50 members for their views on golf at Castlemaine.

Some highlights from the survey include:

- Preferred events are Stableford, 4BBB, stroke and Ambrose
- More mixed events
- More shotgun starts
- More draws for partners
- A strong preference for a putting green & chipping area
- Preferred lies are not necessary or if so on fairways only
- After golf presentations are essential (almost unanimous)

- Pennant golf is very important
- A strong preference for a club uniform
- We have an aging membership who average about one and a half games per week.

We also valued the many suggestions / comments for improvements for participation, communication and golf course. Those relating to the course have been passed on to Gavin Lang and his course sub-committee.

To address some of these issues we are attempting to improve communication through the notice board, newsletters like this, our website, the press and at presentations. In our syllabus for this year we hope to reduce the hit-off times during Autumn to Spring to allow for draws for partners and attendance at presentations.

Other issues addressed by our sub committee include:

1. **Review of Local Rules.** Preferred lies around the greens have been removed. All new work (including newly top dressed areas) treated as GUR.
2. **Mid Week Competitions.** 9 hole comp to continue to operate on the 5 week days. The fee has moved to \$4 to allow for increased prizes and club revenue. An 18 hole medley Stableford comp to continue to be offered on Thursdays. Kevin Gardner has agreed to coordinate this. We would love to see members support this additional 18 hole event. This is a great opportunity to improve your golf. Ask Gavin Lang whose handicap has been reduced from 10 to 5 by playing more regularly. It is also a chance to play with our club champion James Zappelli who strongly supports the Thursday comp and recently shot 64 off the stick.
3. **2010 Syllabus.** Major highlights include the men's Club Championships moving to April 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The Victorian Country Teams event at our course October 9 & 10, District Championships May 16<sup>th</sup> and more shotgun starts and draw for partners.
4. **New events.** An innovation this year is a mixed 4BBB Stableford event over four Sundays 20/6, 18/7, 15/8 and 19/9. In addition to the daily event winners an aggregate of Stableford scores for competitors who play with a different partner each time will be totalled from their best 3 scores to determine a men's and women's winner.
5. **Raymar Trophy.** The format for the Raymar trophy has changed to reward the golfer with the best nett stroke average over their 5 best Saturday monthly medal round from January to December.
6. **Conditions of Play.** These have been developed for club events (see syllabus) this includes a format for play offs.
7. **2010 Presentations.** Feedback from the 2 person Ambrose event followed by a BBQ and presentations has been very positive. We intend to hold a similar event in December, which will include presentations for women and men.
8. **Representative teams.** To clarify and make transparent the process for selection the committee have developed a set of criteria for the Captain or delegate to consider in Priority order 1) expressions of interest via notice board and golf presentations 2) Defending title holders 3) Contribution to club eg. Regular competitor in club events, Committee, Sub Committee, voluntary work. 4) Club Championship performances in all grades 5) Current form.
9. **Australia Day.** Congratulations to Kay and her team on a great event. It was terrific to see about 40 people make the effort for the early start. This even included a couple of international visitors. Thanks to Graham Francis and others for the "Aussie Lunch". Winners on the day were Tracey Jefferies and Les Johnson both with the outstanding score of 43 points.
10. **Triple Classic.** I encourage members to participate in this year's Triple classic. Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March at Castlemaine followed by Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Bendigo and Heathcote Monday 8<sup>th</sup>. At \$15 per day or \$40 for the 3 including lunch each day this is great value. Profits from the event are split between the 3 clubs. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase our course and club.
11. **Participation.** Our club has been through a very difficult period. I sense we are about to thrive again. Each member can really assist

by playing regularly and encouraging others to participate and join as new members.

Please feel free to offer any suggestions on golf at Castlemaine to myself, or any of the above sub committee members.

Good golfing to you all. May your drives hit the fairways and all of your putts drop in.

*Peter Williams Coordinator of Golf*

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING PORTFOLIO**

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*Members:*

Ross Shimmen, Heather Braid, David Roos, Michael Bottomley, Jen Dyer.

Key activities to date:

- clarifying the Planning Coordination Team's Roles and Responsibilities, (see the Club House notice board for details).
- making sure that our current sponsorship arrangements are up to date
- reviewing the Marketing Strategy Plan and identifying some key actions to work on
- checking out some grants which could assist the Club to progress projects or host events.

*Coming soon:*

- news about developing our Club's new strategic and business plan.
- making a start to work on the Club's Sponsorship Development Plan – What works well with our current sponsorship arrangements? What can we do better? New ideas?

If you are interested in strategic and business planning, sponsorship, marketing or policy development please contact *Jen Dyer 54712494* for more information or chat to one of the team members. We generally meet on the first Monday of the month.

## **THE COURSE**

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Sub committee members: Gavin Lang, Ken O'Brien, Colin Bean, Bev Tingay Glen Carroll

Current watering pattern has been going okay even with a few burst pipes and the course is looking very healthy

All the bare surrounds have been top dressed and a filter and drain point installed on 7<sup>th</sup> fairway.

Our priorities over December and January were:

- Next 30 sprinklers on club house nine will work on 100 metres out from green which will decrease the amount of manual watering.
- Prepare the practice putting green with an aim to sow in early March.
- Improve the pathway from the 4 green to the ladies 5<sup>th</sup> tee.
- Completion of the direct outlet into the dam on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking at further developing a priority list of work as more volunteers put up there hand. We are pleased that already two people have offered to learn to cut the greens and surrounds.

Course volunteers have also been kept busy with an extraordinary number of tree limbs falling during the storm and high winds in January.

Thanks to Ken O'Brien for his great work in cutting the fairways.

## **FROM THE HOUSE**

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The club has had a rush of bookings for functions over the first few months of 2010.

This is excellent to boost our income but also adds another level of commitment for volunteer assistance especially in the bar.

Coming functions where we need bar assistance

*Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.*

*Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup>.*

If you can assist please contact:  
Michael Bottomley/Grant Thomas

Other functions where no assistance is necessary is a workshop for the Department of Primary Industry and a family luncheon.

Also Castlemaine Creative Artists are using the club house each Tuesday from 9.30-3.30pm.

We have established a working group to look at use of the kitchen and our ability to provide catering for a range of functions – we have the Triple Classic, Pennant coming up just to mention a few. The first meeting of this group is next Tuesday at the clubhouse at 1.30pm.

Thank you to the Lang family who have been providing catering for men's medal day and from February after golf each Saturday 4.00-6.00pm we plan to have the bar serviced by volunteers. Again if you can assist please contact Michael Bottomley/Grant Thomas.

Members will receive their membership renewal notices in the next fortnight. This will reflect the new fee structure plus water levy endorsed by the annual meeting last October.

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## **FUTURE OF GOLF IN THE MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE**

An initial meeting between our club and Mount Alexander Golf Club was held recently.

The purpose of the meeting was to openly discuss the challenges in developing golf at all levels within the shire.

With recent data from Golf Victoria showing decline in club memberships and preferred new golfing patterns (ie, groups of players playing weekly but rotating courses and playing green fees versus club membership), the need for strong junior golf programs and increased expectations in services to members and green fee players it is important that there be open discussions about solutions to ensure the sustainability of golf in our shire. A further meeting is planned between the two clubs.

We hope the first edition is the beginning of improved communication with members.

Over the coming months the newsletter will develop in its layout and include pictures, unusual golf stories etc. You can contribute with a good golf story, cartoons etc. Contributions for the next issue must be with Michael Bottomley by Friday February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Next edition Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Good Golfing,

Michael Bottomley