



SHORTLAND WATERS GOLF CLUB

Annual Report 2019-2020

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT MARCH 2019- March 2020

It gives me great pleasure to present my report for the last twelve months. This period marks the new beginning for the Club after what was a period of financial stress amidst the re-development of the golf course.

To begin with, I particularly want to acknowledge the work and vision of Alan Milton who took on the Presidency after we came out of administration. Alan set down the first tentative steps to commence the task of rebuilding and it was carried out with great energy and drive in a very short period. He provided the foundations for the new Board to build on and I thank him for his vision and energy to set us on our way.

Knowing that we were offered the opportunity of a new beginning, it was my task to lead the Board in establishing a solid framework for the future of the Club. Consequently, it has been a jam-packed time of setting down a solid framework for the overall operation and management of the Club. Whilst it has been hard work, it has also been exciting and satisfying to actually begin to observe the fruits of our labour.

Corporate Governance

It was essential that the Board set down some good governance actions. This task involved developing a new Constitution, a Board Charter as well as setting up Committees guided by charters outlining their roles and responsibilities. In January this year, we set out under the guidance of facilitator David Bacon to develop a Strategic Plan (Business Plan) to provide a vision and guide for the Board and staff for the next five years. From the basic plan, a Management and Action Plan have now been developed. The basic framework of this plan has been displayed for member's information in the Club House and it will be published on the website in the near future.

Establishing Sound Financial Practices

It was paramount that the Board set down good financial practices and to return the Club back into a sound financial position. With final payments made by Aveo for the purchase of the land, we were able to reinstate previously exhausted staff provisions for long service leave and holiday pay. We have put in place financial performance monitoring controls as well as careful budgeting practices, which has placed the Club in a much sounder financial position where the Club is solvent and trading well. The Board's management of the club's finances has been favourably received both by our Accountant and Auditor. While the Club had a loss of just under \$70k for the year, this compares to a loss of more than \$(M)2.76 in the previous year!

Board

The Board has met regularly every month in order to attend to the business of the Club. We have worked well as a team bringing a variety of opinions and experiences to the table. I very much appreciate the time and effort that has been provided by the Directors and appreciate their support. Three Committees were established to cover the overall operations of the Club consisting of a Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, House Committee and a Greens/Match Committee. All of these Committees have met on a regular basis and have provided valuable support to the Board.

Greg Jones resigned from the Board due to personal reasons in August and I particularly want to acknowledge the contribution he made during his tenure as Club Captain. His huge involvement in watching over the development of the new holes ensured that everything was thoroughly prepared and worked through to ensure that the best result was achieved. I also thank Max Nicholls who resigned in September for his contribution to the Board.

Membership

One of the most pleasing occurrences over the last twelve months has been the significant growth in membership. During the re-development and then financial uncertainty of the Club, we lost quite a few members. However, from the time of opening week in February 2019, we were to experience a steady trickle each month of new members. This pattern has been maintained to the present day. There have been quite a few younger people joining and this is most encouraging as they will be the future of the Club. We are in the embryonic stage of developing a junior golf program and hopefully we will see this grow and bear fruit over the next twelve months. Our other target to develop in the future is to have more women participate in the game.

As part of the drive to attract new members, the Board offered a social playing membership category. We saw the potential of attracting sportsmen and women to come and play social golf in their "off season" as well as attracting people who just want to play socially rather than the more formal competition format. Another target has been to encourage social groups to come and play at our course and this has been a huge success largely to the efforts of the Head of Golf Operations, Andrew Rollo. These groups not only play the course but spend money in the Club House and have helped boost our finances.

Opening the Club to the Community

We have made tentative steps to open the club to the community. Shortland Public School participated in running raffles on a Friday night to raise funds for their school's early learning Tadpole Program. The Hunter Bird Observers have made regular visits during the year to carry out bird counts on the wetlands and were quite excited to discover new species visiting our course. The Club house has also become a frequent meeting place for community members and the university staff to enjoy meals and socialisation. To broaden this activity, the Club purchased a food van to begin the development of an outdoor café area. We have also started to promote the club house as a function venue for members and the wider community.

The Course

The Greens Staff under the leadership of Course Superintendent Lee Goldie have faced some enormous challenges over the last twelve months. Not only were they working hard on the opening of the new holes, but they were also faced with one of the worst droughts in history. Ironically, the irrigation system on the whole of the course was completed early in the year but we weren't able to make much use of it with dam levels falling to a critical level resulting in the need to purchase water to at least keep the greens and tees going.

However, with some good rain falling in February, we have witnessed an amazing regeneration of the fairways and the course in general and a rise in dam levels.

The new holes on the Lorna Street development were worth waiting for and have proved to be an attraction for our members and golfers in the District, providing a unique golfing experience. Whilst some of our members have sometimes found them challenging, the reception has generally been very positive.

Sponsors

The support of both businesses and members in the way of sponsorship has been very much appreciated by the Board and the Club. We have upgraded tee signage on the course and been able to promote those sponsors who have come on board. I also acknowledge those members who sponsored golfing events during the year. That financial support has meant that important golf competitions can be appropriately recognised and adds a little more

prestige and recognition. Of course, we would welcome any new sponsors. We still have tee signs and plenty of golf events available.

Volunteers

A very loyal band of volunteers has been formed and the result of their hard work is becoming very obvious. A group of ladies – the Late Bloomers – under the leadership of Carol Aitken has undertaken the task of looking after the gardens surrounding the Club House, the 12th tee and the gardens around the 11th tee and green. It has been a challenging job with a great deal of hand watering to keep the plants alive, but the result has been amazing. This work has been backed up with a group of men under the leadership of Martyn Rigby who have supported the Greens Staff in working on various areas of the course. They have worked tirelessly on a number of projects to improve areas and keep the course looking good and their contribution is very much appreciated.

Staff

The Club would not have been able to effectively provide its services without the backing of staff. All have adapted to the new environment in a professional manner and been an important part of continuing the culture of what we are known for – being a very friendly and welcoming club. They have been the backbone of getting us back onto our feet and for that, I thank them.

I especially acknowledge the work of our leadership team under the guidance of the Club Operations Manager, Yvonne Kelly.

Kaye Simmons
President

Captain's Report 2019 – 2020

After being appointed as Club Captain for the first time back in late September 2019, I could not have foreseen the events of the past 12 months. The club has dealt with drought and water restrictions, bushfires and the Covid 19 pandemic.

I would firstly like to thank our green's staff led by Lee Goldie, who under unprecedented conditions, has continued to prepare our course to a standard that most other courses in the region would be envious. Next I would like to recognise the efforts of our Pro shop, clubhouse and administration staff that are at the front line of interactions with business partners, members and visitors alike. The team continues to uphold the well recognised friendly reputation of our club throughout our region. The professionalism of the Board of Directors to resurrect the club from near disaster to a position where the club's future is looking better than it has for quite some time should be recognised and appreciated by all. Last but definitely not least, I would like to thank each and every member of the club for their understanding, patience and support of decisions I have made. I value the constructive suggestions of members and encourage this to continue so that the Club can evolve and prosper. Special mention must go our valued sponsors and volunteers that continue to support our club.

At this time I would like to express on behalf of all involved with SWGC, our sympathy to the family and friends of our greatly respected and loved passed members. I would also like to welcome all new members that have joined the club in the past 12 months.

This year's golfing program has seen some new events and with some creative re-scheduling, our usual knockout and championship events have continued.

Event	Grade	Winner/s
2019 Club Championship	A	Dave Busch
	B	Phil Fenton
	C	Gavin Hopper
	Senior	Les Oliver
2 Ball Championship	All in	Mark Baber + Bill Buchanan
Mixed Foursome Championship	All in	Maree Breen + Robert Piltz
Men's Foursome Championship	All in	John Osborn + Dave Busch
Mid-Week Championship	A	Jeff Lobley
	B	Robert Cooper
	C	Trevor Van Kemenade
Singles KO		Still in progress
2 Ball KO		Still in progress
2 Man Ambrose		Still in progress

This year's pennant series has also been affected with cancellations and postponements. I would like to thank all members involved in the pennant series and qualification events for their commitment and how they have represented the club.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Club Captain of such a fantastic club and would be grateful to continue in this position.

David Busch



Lady President's Report 2019-2020

The Annual General Meeting of the Lady Members was held in Nov 2019 with a few changes to the committee Colleen French took up Presidents position Judy Hayes Captain, Melissa Minto Vice Captain, Sandra Freeman Ass Secretary, Gail Isles Treasurer, Sharyn Neilson Handicap Manager, Sue Stanley and Alana Herron joined the committee. Leaving The Committee were Kaye Simmons, Sandy Sroba Joanne Rose and Kaylene Gayner. Thank you to those ladies for your work in the past year.

Club Championships 2019

The Ladies Champion	Maree Breen
Silver Division	Judy Hayes
Bronze Division	Gail Isles

Melbourne Cup 2019

This event is always a winner due to a lot of hard work by the ladies committee. This year our sponsor was Neil Davis from NHD Constructions, many thanks to Neil for sponsoring this day.

Charity Day 2019

Once again, the Lady Members continued their support of charities in the Hunter region. This year we chose Aspect Hunter School. We raised \$5500 our biggest one yet. Many thanks to the men and visitors who joined us for this event. Please feel free to do so again next year. Thank you also to our sponsors for this day: Hunter Valley Private Hospital and Healing Wave Chiropractic for helping to make this day a great success .

Donation to Greens

This year Lady Member's funds donated \$5000 to Greens for course improvements.

Pennants 2019

Our pennant team finished middle of the field this year - well done team. Thank you to the Pennant players for supporting SWGC. With our handicaps we do well in our division.

Thank you to our Major Sponsors for 2019 2020.

Bass Floor	Piltzy Freight Services
JMC Building	Hunter Valley Private Hospital
NHD Constructions	Mark Harper
Wilson's Pharmacies	Healing Wave Chiropractic
Dens Health and Fitness	Sue and John McConnell
Joanne Rose and Frank Bowen	Local Hearing Aid Specialists
Dalton Partners	

Thank you to these ladies for sponsoring our golf days:

Sue Mangan, Sue Baartz, Carol Aitken, Di Young, Melissa Minto, Kaye Simmons, Ann Danks, Janise Snedden, Sheila Wise, Sandra Sommerville
Virginia Cadell, Marlene Edman, Colleen French, Judy Hayes, Chris Jackson, Sharyn Neilson, Mary Coleman, Kaylene Gaynor, Robin Hill, Margaret Swarzes, Mavis Collinson Carol Aitken Di Young Melissa Minto Kaye Simmons Ann Kiker Gloria Achurch Paula Harding Sue Stanley and Sue and John McConnell. Thank you ladies and Gentleman.

Lady Captain, Judy Hayes and I have continued to attend monthly Operation Meetings. These meetings provide a valuable avenue for communication with the Board members and an opportunity to exchange ideas and bring lady member's concerns to the attention of the Board.

Thank You

I am very fortunate to have a happy, diligent committee who always carry out their duties with enthusiasm. I would like to thank them for their cheerful friendliness and loyal support.

Thanks to Elaine, Bar Staff, Lee and green staff, Andrew, Bruce and Staff in the Golf Shop and the volunteers who come in every Monday and Tuesday to do work on the gardens and on the course.

Finally, a big thank you to Yvonne Kelly and Staff and the Board of Directors for their help and support throughout the year.

Colleen French
Lady President