

# Directors Annual Report 2021/22

## President

### **100 years**

2021 was our 100 year Centenary anniversary year, a milestone event to reflect on our clubs amazing golfing history, which included our Steelworks Golf Club beginnings at the original Kerr Street Mayfield site where we took over the course vacated by Waratah golf club in 1921, then the move to our present Shortland location in 1936, right through to our current situation, and it's been a huge effort by many people to pull together our 100 year Centenary Celebration Event. COVID interrupted our ability to stage a celebration worthy of such an important occasion in the clubs history and postponing to a later date was necessary. After the 2/sqm rule restrictions had been lifted and some certainty around restrictions was established, we were able to accommodate the membership at a fitting function and allow our reflection on the last 100 years to take place. With Colleen & her team of helpers and the diligent way she approaches everything, the function finally went ahead after weeks of rain and a very heavy course on the Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2022. There was a 100 year e-book produced by Ross Hartley with some treasured members collections gathered and compiled. The evenings relaxed function saw slightly smaller than expected numbers attend due to the weather and the COVID situation, however the intimate gathering of guests were treated to a fabulous evening with special guest Craig Parry. Craig enlightened us all with his insight into the life on the tour and some behind the scenes insights of the daily professional golfer grind, balancing golf, family and personal commitments during his worldwide travels as a PGA Touring Professional. Catering for the Sunday Celebration Event was conducted by Johanna & the bistro team, and our Thursday Night Event was catered for by MEET Restaurants onsite functions team. All that attended both events were supportive in their praise and comments of our wonderful 100 year achievement. The NDGA presented the club with a 100 year commemorative engraved Plaque of our Milestone, and spoke of the Steelworks and Shortland Waters continuing support, and our long standing membership of District Golf. Our greens superintendent Lee Goldie was also presented with an engraved plaque and watch in recognition of his 20 years dedicated service to SWGC. Cakes decorated with our 100 year logo were supplied by Merewether Fresh Bake and were welcomed by all guests with our life member Ken Hawkins given the honour of cutting the cake as part of our formal celebrations.

### **Appointments**

The position of Club Captain was vacated when David Busch stood down due to increased work commitments after the AGM. The appointment by the board of Robert Piltz was then made to fill the vacated position of Club Captain. Robert's in-depth knowledge of the position, plus being a former club director and successful businessman, has provided a vital support link between management and the greens staff, and valuable financial advice to our finance committee.

An appointment of SWGC member Brian Penfold in an advisory and assistance role to our Finance & Risk committee was made. This allowed the board to access Brian's wealth of expertise and many years of experience as an accountant, which has been invaluable in making better informed financial decisions by the board.

## **Bar**

Bar revenue has also grown over the past 12 months. The appointment this year of Josh Hartley as Bar Manager along with assistance & guidance from management, has seen Josh start to build a good service team. Growth, hasn't been without it's COVID challenges, and many thanks to all who have assisted during those challenges.

## **Finance**

Steve Goverd was appointed Chair of the finance committee which has resulted in better structure brought to the role and immediate change. Steve does a powerhouse of work across all areas of the board and his countless hours of input are greatly appreciated. The formation of this years Finance committee has seen solid improvement for the business across all areas.

The year 2021 has had its challenges for the new Board elected 19<sup>th</sup> July. As the new Board was formed and roles within the board allocated, we set to sort through and review the management of the golf clubs expenses, revenue and projected outcomes. Serious financial shortfalls were evident in the review. Government Job Keeper Grant payments that were received by the Club last year, realising approximately \$377,000, which were what I would call "skewed revenue". Revenue, that wouldn't be available to the club during the coming 2022/23 year.

There have been many changes and improvements in how the Golf Club now does business. Expenses were trimmed across the operation and opportunities to increase our revenue recognised. Increased membership, rounds of golf played, and cart hires all increased. The new Budget included a moderate increase in some fees for carts, visitors and social golf rounds, in keeping with ongoing increased running costs incurred. Annual membership costs remaining unchanged for the coming year. The Golf Club after arresting our expenses, has continued to grow with an annual revenue increase of \$669,000 for the year, which sees the club in a healthy position, now trading within the limits of its own income, and planning for ongoing future course improvements.

A review of the clubs Policies and Procedures, was also undertaken and NEW policies put in place to cover every aspect of the clubs operations, which is still ongoing. There were a lot of Policies and Procedures lacking and existing policies overhauled. Fine tuning the clubs stocktaking procedures in the BAR, and increased stock levels, along with greater selection in the Golf Shop, all saw increased revenue.

## **Budget 2022/23**

A New detailed and comprehensive Cashflow Budget has been developed and adopted for the club moving forward for the next year. Ledger accounts have been created and removed to reflect accurately, the what, the where, and the how things will be done. We will still be producing a Profit and Loss report to comply with ASIC Constitutional requirements. The new budget has among other things, the inclusion of cart path improvements to several cart paths, top dressing of some uneven fairways. The delayed arrival of our 30 new carts ordered in December are due to arrive 1<sup>st</sup> week of June, after supply setbacks with any imported equipment, due to ongoing global logistics issues.

## **COVID 19**

COVID was still here, and August saw the reintroduction of NSW Health restrictions on our trade and a continuance of how golf was to be played during the restrictions, LGA's were introduced, our take away only policy for the BAR was brought back and saw the clubhouse closure again. Updating the clubs COVID trading and Golf policy was required to continually remain compliant, and above all, safe for our Members and Visitors.

Unfortunately COVID is here to stay, and the club has, and will continue to adapt as required.

## **Volunteers**

Throughout the year our very loyal and diligent band of volunteers have again gone above and beyond, donating their time and assisting the Golf Club wherever they can.

New ropes and posts were installed around our par 3's on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> holes with the involvement from the AVEO men's shed with the making posts and cart signs to help protect those surrounds from increasing cart traffic. There were also fund raising raffles conducted by the Aveo residents with proceeds going towards ongoing course improvements. The gardens around the clubhouse continue to be very well maintained with course volunteers ensuring our gardens and areas of rough are controlled around the course. Your enthusiastic involvement is valued by all and I thank you very much, on behalf of the club.

## **AVEO**

Relationships were rebuilt with the AVEO management with vital communication channels re-established. A development application has been lodged by AVEO during Stage IV to include a toilet block and proposed rest stop to be situated on the OLD 15<sup>th</sup> tee block. *(currently behind 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> greens and 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> tees)*

## **Golf Course**

The Golf Course, under the watchful eye of Lee, provides our main revenue source and it has also showed an increase of around \$250,000. During COVID we were also hit by drought that completely drained and dried out our main DAM water supplies and further affected staff movements. Finally the rains came, came, and came, which saw the dam replenished. Record rainfall for March of 383mm posing additional challenges on the course. A HUGE thank you to all the fill in staff assisting Lee in getting the course mowed and prepared each and every day.

The course over the past 12 mths has come back stronger and continued to grow with Lee and his staff maintaining the course to a very high standard, with further action planned.

The purchase of a new bobcat was made to replace the old one that was over 20 years old. Turfing bare areas took place on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, holes.

Dangerous Trees were lopped and others pruned.

Bunkers were refilled with fresh sand and the purchase of a bunker rake tiller to till the firm sand packed in bunkers from rains. There is still plenty to do which has been budgeted for in the 2022/23 year

**Golf Shop**

The Golf shop under the leadership of our professional Mitch Prior has continued with strong growth. Revenue is up \$188,000 this year, having had its purchasing restrictions relaxed by the new board allowing increased stock levels, more options, and greater product selection being offered including shoes, clubs and consumables. Stock is now arriving more quickly once orders are placed. Demo days are back and being well supported and numbers of golf lesson bookings with Mitch are continuing to grow.

The Ladies clinic unfortunately had to be postponed during COVID restrictions, but they can now resume with new clinics planned.

**Sponsors**

Sponsors are a vital part of the club and the year has seen sponsors continue their involvement with the club. Ross Hartley's rebuild of the clubs website, together with upgrades of the course signage, and the newsletter development, has allowed us to further enhance exposure for our valued sponsors.

I would like to thank the Board for their assistance and dedication over the past term, we have made a significant difference in a very short time. Thank you to Colleen and Ladies Committee for all you do throughout each and every year. A huge thank you to ALL the staff at SWGC, you are heavily involved in all the clubs success and appreciated every day.

Mark Baber

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Baber', written in a cursive style.

President  
Shortland Waters Golf Club

## **Lady Presidents Report 2021-2022**

The Annual General Meeting of the Lady Members was held in Nov 2021 with a few changes to the committee Colleen French took up President position and Captain, Melissa Minto Vice Captain, Anne Millard Secretary, Gail Isles Treasurer, Sharyn Neilson Assistant Secretary, Glenys Martin Vice President, Donna Jones, Debra Kearny and Sandra Freeman form the committee.

### **Club Championships 2021**

The Ladies Champion	Maree Breen
2nd Division	Maree Burns
3rd Division	Rachael Kitching
4 <sup>th</sup> Division	Paula Harding

### **Melbourne Cup 2021**

Another great day put on by the ladies Committee. This year our sponsor was Neil Davis from NHD Constructions, many thanks to Neil for sponsoring this day.

### **Charity Day 2021**

Charity Day for 2021 was a great success with the Members of SWGC and Visitors raising \$6000.00 for Survivor's are Us. Thank you to our sponsors Mark Harper and Hunter Valley Private Hospital.

### **Pennants 2021**

Pennants 2021 SWGC ladies team participated in div 2 and did well.

### **Thank you to our Major Sponsors for 2021 2022.**

Bass Floor	Piltzy Freight Services
JMC Building	Hunter Valley Private Hospital
NHD Constructions	Mark Harper
Healing Wave Chiropractic	Movable
Joanne Rose and Frank Bowen	Local Hearing Aid Specialists
Newcastle Water Proofing	Noel Millard
Petro Gleeson	Newcastle Integrated Physiotherapy
Cath Roach Family	Chris and Jim Jackson

Thank you to these Ladies and Gentlemen for sponsoring our golf days  
Sue Mangan, Sue Baartz, Carol Aitken, 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, Mavis  
Collinson, Glenys Martin, Gail Isles, Melissa Minto, Kaye Simmons, Anne  
Kiker, Gloria Achurch, Paula Harding, Sue Stanley and Sue and John  
McConnell, Cathy and John Nolan, Maree Breen, Lesley Gallagher, Alana  
Heron, Liz Johnston, Sandra Freeman, Kylie Neems, Effie Roach, Donna  
Jones, Fran Haynes, Kay Harkess and Robyn Pickin.

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 members concerns to the attention of the Board.

### **Donations to Course**

With the help of all our members the Ladies Members Fund was able to  
donate \$451.59 for cups, \$418.00 for new flags and  
\$ 300 towards a new Whipper Snipper. Thank you to all who donated.

### **Thank You**

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

Thank you to Johanna, Elaine, Kim and Bistro staff, Josh and Bar  
Staff, Lee and green staff, Mitch , Andrew, Bruce, Jane, A J and Ben  
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 thank you to Stuart MacAskill and Staff and the Board of  
Directors for their help and support throughout the year.

Colleen French

President of the Ladies Committee

## **Captains Report**

Well, it's been quite a challenging year since my appointment as Club Captain in August 2021. Our second COVID lockdown started at roughly the same time meaning I like many other members were unable to play due to living outside the LGA. This also meant that we had quite a few new members who joined temporarily to make use of our club while they were unable to play at their home club during the lockdown and I would like to welcome all the new members who joined during the year.

The sheer number of players we had playing both socially and in competitions during this time was unprecedented and great to see. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown, this meant all our major events had to be postponed until later in the year and squeezed in before Christmas. I would like to thank everyone who played in our major events this past year and congratulate the following winners.

### **Club Championships 2021**

A Grade	Ben Hawes
B Grade	Michael Lacey
C Grade	David Hogg
Senior Champion	Les Oliver
Mixed Foursomes	Petro Gleeson and Peter Royal
Men's Foursomes	Anthony Quinn and Mitch Steel
Men's 2 Ball	Glendon Laws and Michael Gittoes

I would like to thank our Course Superintendent Lee Goldie and his staff, not only for their work all year but especially how the course was presented during the Championships and over Summer. The course was the best I have seen in my 28 years of membership. During the last year I have had many compliments regarding the course condition from not only members and visitors but also from pennant teams and social clubs whilst playing our course. Considering we have gone from drought to flooding rains in the last 2 years it is a credit to Lee and his staff for the work they put in to present the course to such a high standard.

I would also like to thank our team of loyal volunteers who work tirelessly every week around the club and on the course. Your effort doesn't go unnoticed.

Also, many thanks to our Professional Mitch Pryor and his staff in the pro shop. During the lock down they managed to get full fields away every day while continuously fielding other enquiries for games of golf. I think the phone may have rung continuously for about 3 months. During the last year the pro shop is looking much more like a pro shop now they have been given more budget for stock and it is pleasing to hear positive reports from members about the service they receive.

Thank you to my fellow Board Members, Greens/Match committee members and Ladies Committee members for your ongoing support and work throughout the year.

Finally, to all the members I thank you for your support over the last 12 months, not only to myself but also to our club. Your ongoing support, golf sponsorship and loyalty is what truly makes our club the best club in the district and I wish you all good golfing for the future.

Robert Piltz  
Captain  
Shortland Waters Golf Club