



MOSS VALE  
GOLF CLUB

SCENIC | CHALLENGING | WELCOMING

# Newsletter February 2010

Welcome to another newsletter, letting you know what is happening at your club.

## From the President — Andrew Everett

A lot of things have happened at Moss Vale Golf Club since our last Newsletter. You will probably be aware of some of them but perhaps not of others.

Firstly, we had a very successful Women's Pro-Am, thanks to our major sponsor Corban Motors and our other generous sponsors including a number of members to whom we are very grateful and without whom the event simply would not happen. Thanks also to all the Directors and other volunteers who gave of their time freely to help make the event a success (particularly Robyn John who worked tirelessly), the greens staff who presented the course in excellent condition, the staff in the Club and at Dormie House and those members who billeted players and made all our visitors feel so welcome, and also Robert Marsh and his staff who once again helped to make sure the event ran smoothly.

Secondly, after 10 years, Ken Pogson has stood down as the co-ordinator of Dad's Army. The course has certainly been much improved by the voluntary efforts of Dad's Army and I'm sure all members will join me in thanking Ken for giving freely so much of his time and for his achievements. Peter Shaw has now taken on the role and we thank him and all members of Dad's Army in advance for the work they will do during 2010.

Thirdly, we have seen promising continuing signs of improvement in our financial position despite very difficult trading conditions due to external economic factors which have particularly affected Dormie House. However, we have a long way to go before we are in a position where we will be able to undertake all the necessary upgrades to Dormie House to ensure it remains attractive to potential guests into the future, and to upgrade the course watering system which will need replacing at very substantial cost in several years' time. We have, however, recently installed air conditioning in the dining room, bar and lounge areas at Dormie House, which has met with a positive response from guests and members alike.

The Board and Jason and his team continue to use a range of strategies aimed at improving our financial position so as to avoid major increases in membership fees or member levies. Our goal will continue to be to increase patronage at the same time as managing costs. In 2010 we shall enter our second year of sponsorship with the Moss Vale Dragons and we shall also be sponsoring the Moss Vale Soccer and Hockey club. Membership of the Golf Club and use of our facilities will be a key element of the arrangements and I ask that these new members are made welcome.

The Board has recently made two decisions which will further assist the Club's financial position but which will affect members:

Firstly, competition vouchers awarded after 1 March 2010 may only be redeemed in Moss Vale Club, at Dormie House or in the Pro Shop. Over the years, the Club has allowed vouchers to be redeemed at a range of outside businesses, with the effect that the cost to the Club of competition trophies has risen significantly. The Board considers the new arrangement a way to enhance your Club's financial position with very minor impact on members.

Secondly, the category of Restricted (6 day) Membership will not be offered for the time being. This decision will not affect existing members holding Restricted Membership. It means that membership will not be available to new members nor to current members wishing to change membership categories.

The rationale for golf clubs offering restricted memberships was a response to overflowing Saturday competition fields in the golf "boom" years leading to clubs closing their membership books. The 6 day option meant that clubs would be able to accept new members without creating problems for their Saturday competitions. In many cases, 6 day members would go onto a waiting list until such time as a 7 day membership became available. The reason for the Board's decision to close Restricted memberships is that we now have a situation at Moss Vale where we always have time slots available for our Saturday competitions and where many members in the Restricted category use the course more frequently than Full Playing members.

Finally, most of you will already be aware that Robert Marsh will be finishing as Club Professional in August this year after more than 25 years in the role. We wish Robert and Maureen all the very best for the big changes ahead.

From the Club's perspective, Robert's departure will clearly mean some big changes. The Board and Management are currently making plans for the new arrangements. I know there are some rumours circulating about what approach the Club might take and some members have expressed their views to me and other Board members. At this stage no decision has been made regarding whether the Club will enter into a service contract with a new professional or take over the running of the Pro Shop and employ its own professional and staff. Rest assured that the decision will not be made lightly and will not be based on uninformed preconceptions. The Board will make its decision based on what provides the best outcome for the Club and its members following a full financial and qualitative analysis of the options, which is currently well underway.

Andrew Everett - President



deborah  
BUCHANAN

ACCOUNTANT TAX AGENT JP

Tel: 02 4868 1366 P.O. Box 577, Moss Vale NSW 2577  
Fax: 02 4868 1466 6/256 Argyle Street, Moss Vale 2577  
Mob: 0405 159 329 debtax@bigpond.net.au

Personal Service • Professional Results

## Club update from Jason

### Bistro Waratah

We would like to thank those members supporting our Bistro Friday through Sunday with patronage extremely positive Friday nights but a little slow on Saturday and Sunday's. These additional nights were initiated due to member feedback so please make use of it otherwise a re evaluation of the benefits will be required.

### Members 10% benefit Card

A reminder to all members to use your member cards to enjoy the exclusive Food & Beverage discounts available only to members of Moss Vale Golf Club. Don't forget, the 10% benefit applies to all food and beverage purchases at both the Club and Dormie House whenever you use your membership card when you pay.

### Ladies Pro-Am

I am pleased to advise that as Andrew has pointed out the event was a resounding success with far greater involvement in the event this year from our members and a substantial amount of positive feedback received from players, visitors, the ALPG and our members ensures this event will be with us for some time to come.

This years raffle was a big hit with over 3,200 tickets sold. Congratulations to the following individuals who picked up prizes this year :

**1st Prize - Rydges Hideaway Resort FIJI  
ANGE STEWART**

**2nd Prize - 4 nights Midweek Accom at  
Duntryleague Guesthouse  
ANDREW KIRKTON**

**3rd Prize - Full Playing Membership at Moss Vale Golf Club  
2009/10  
ROBERT MACKINTOSH**

**4th Prize - 2 Nights Peppers Anchorage Port Stephens  
JOHN MELLEN**

**5th Prize - 2 nights Accom at Rydges  
North Sydney  
ALISTER ROSS**

**6th Prize - 2 Nights Accom, Dinner,  
Breakfast and Golf Dormie House  
MECHELLE SANDRY**

**7th Prize - MIO Portable Navigation Unit from ATECO  
Automotive  
RICHARD EASTER**

**Thank you to all those Members and Visitors who  
supported our Pro-am Raffle**

Once again thank you to Rydges Hotels & Resorts, Peppers Hotels & Resorts, Duntryleague and ATECO Automotive who have donated prizes free of charge to Moss Vale Golf Club.

This sort of support is truly appreciated and I urge all our members to support these businesses whenever possible.

### Members Draw — \$1,000 at 26th February

Please come along to the Club on Friday evenings for a chance to

win. With Christmas fast approaching this would be a great way to cover the costs of all those presents.

### Birthday Vouchers

A reminder once again to all members that your Birthday vouchers can be used in any area of the Club. This gives you flexibility in choosing between Bistro Waratah, our Friday night Buffet, Café 19, Pasta Night or the Chill n Grill outdoor area during the Summer months.

### Finance Update

We are pleased to report that Dormie House is trading reasonably well up to this point in the Financial year with our Cash Operating Profit through 7 months \$154,511. This result is however a little down on 2008/9 with the result at this point last year \$175,805. We are seeing a reduction in Beverage expenditure this year and Occupancy is down 4%. We are forecasting our year end profit result to be in the vicinity of \$275,000 which would be another pleasing result considering the markets conservative approach to travel and expenditure.

The Golf Club is showing an improvement of \$15,539 on the 2008/9 result through 7 months of this financial year. Our Operating loss is currently \$54,930 against \$70,469 last year. This is still a way from attaining our aim of a sustainable business in its' own right however we are expecting further improvement in the coming 5 months to June 30 with a forecasted loss of \$90,000 this year. This compares favourably to the loss of \$188,614 for the Clubhouse and Course operations last year.

### Contributing sponsors

If you would be interested in sponsoring a weekly Golf competition with a part of full financial contribution towards prize allocations on the day, in return for promotional advertising, member awareness and an opportunity to represent your business or individually at the event presentation, please contact me directly to discuss suitable options. Many clubs have significant members contributions in this area and it is one Moss Vale has not taken to over the years. As reported in last years annual report the club returns over \$50,000 in prize vouchers per year to our members.

### Course Update from Adam

We have received more than 200mm of rain so far this year. This will see the course staff as busy as ever and it should aid in the recovery of the course from the summer period. Along with the rain come more incidents of disease in our green surfaces. There is a control program in place to combat this problem. There is some evidence of the disease scaring which will reduce with some recovery growth.

Leading up to greens renovation on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March there will be some action to reduce winter grass in our green surfaces. What should be noticed is some discoloration of the winter grass this is to be expected. Reconstruction of the 1<sup>st</sup> green is set to take place in early August weather permitting. A concept drawing will be posted once it has passed the appropriate board levels.

A new irrigation controller for the tee watering will be replaced in the coming weeks. Replacement was required due to a lighting strike close to the greenkeepers shed.

Dads army are back at it with maintenance continuing on course gardens. There has been a extensive amount of black wattle removed to the right of the 4<sup>th</sup> tee some more removable is set to continue in this area. There has been blackberry and privet control around the course and more concrete path work set for 7<sup>th</sup> and leading off the 13<sup>th</sup> green.

## Junior Development

Juniors & Cadets News ..... "Get into Golf "  
for Boys & Girls

One of the goals for the Club is to increase the membership of the Club specifically the Junior and Cadet players.

We have been in working with the Jack Newton Foundation who are assisting us in the recruitment of new Juniors and Cadets. They have a new coaching and development program called "Get into Golf ".

They have been working with the schools in the Southern Highlands to get boys and girls interested in golf with a view to them playing at MVGC.

We will be holding a "Get Into Golf " Gala Day on 22nd March where kids from these schools can try out Golf for a day participating in various activities and skill stations.

There will be a free pack for the kids attending consisting of a MVGC logo ball, a pack of tees, ball marker and participation certificate.

There will be an Inter School Competition, prizes will be handed out and there will be a free BBQ.

MVGC will be offering a coaching program over a 10 week period at a reduced rate on Tuesday and Sunday afternoons plus the opportunity to play the course and use of practice facilities. A trail membership of 3 months and use of loan or discounted equipment if required.

One of our other priorities is to make sure our existing Junior and Cadet members have access to coaching and clinics from Rob Marsh and his team (currently Tuesday and Sunday afternoon at 4.00 pm).

"Get into Golf " is an introduction for boys and girls to golf clinics, coaching, playing & support, There are different levels for the juniors to progress through i.e. Levels 1 – 4.

- Level 1: Basics skills: grip – address – posture - swing – follow through - Mid iron play- Driving - Pitching - Chipping - Putting.
- Level 2: How to play on the course: scoring, rules, etiquette and tactic's, supervised play for 3, then 6 holes, then 9 hole.
- Level 3: Obtain a handicap and accreditation for 18 holes play in competitions.
- Level 4: Tournament play in clubs, state and national.

Later in the year we will be running another "Get into Golf" recruitment drive for all boys and girls with a similar support package and offer; we will keep you all advised of the dates as they are finalised.

We are looking for volunteers - Junior Cadets: girls or boys plus ladies and men to support the clubs professional in running the Gala days and clinics. Eventually this will require these persons to complete an online coaching course.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the Gala Day eg registration, organising the kids clinics and playing on the course.

Cooking the and helping with the food & BBQ plus set up and pull down the facilities for the day.

Please contact Richard Lord 4870 1004 or [ralord@iinet.net.au](mailto:ralord@iinet.net.au) if you can help.

**Richard Lord - Junior Co-ordinator**

**Send us your Email address and you could Win!**

Moss Vale Golf Club wants your current email address! If we don't already have it we would like your email address so that we can send you a Newsletter every two months and a brief "what's on" email each week.

So...on 1 July 2010 we shall conduct a membership draw. We shall be sending emails to the first three financial members whose email addresses we have to advise them that they have a discount of 50% on their 2010/2011 membership fees if they reply by email. All you have to do is send your email address by email to [info@mossvalegolfclub.com.au](mailto:info@mossvalegolfclub.com.au) before 31 June 2010. If we already have your current email address you do not need to send it again...you will automatically be included in the draw.

**Golf Update**

The Pennants season is underway - or more to the point under water with only 1 result to date due to washouts. This result was a positive one though with the White Horse Cup team 4-3 over Port Kembla on the 14th Feb. Good luck to all our players in the coming weeks and months.

**From the Pro Shop**

March Madness Sale - The first ten days of March will see the first of our clearance sales for the year. Clothing, shoes and golf bags will all be 20% off. Selected clubs including drivers, hybrids and putters will be half price!!! This will be a great opportunity for members who have pro shop accounts in credit and ball credits to be used and save some money!!!

Pro shop accounts will need to be finalised by July this year when Maureen retires and Robert has a rest before seeking part time work. Donna Munro has ceased her work in the pro shop to full time care for her in-laws in Sydney. This all happened suddenly on 8th Feb when John's father broke his shoulder. She will miss everyone and we will miss Donna and we wish her all the best.

Ladies Beginner Clinic - Will start again March 14th Sundays @ 4:30 - 6:00pm for five weeks for \$120. Book at the pro shop. Great way to start playing or refresh if you've had a break.

New Products :

- Outdo Sunglasses protect your eyes and don't distort the green when putting. New range now in stock.
- Callaway have two new models 'Diablo Edge' demo available in driver and hybrid!! FTIZ next month!!!

Busy Course - First week in March Mon - Fri 1st - 5th will be busy with competition play each morning. Womens Golf NSW Summer Tournament Mon, Tue, Thur. Members mid week Wednesday comp and Rotary Charity Day Friday so remember social golf will only be available after 1:00 pm this week!!!!

**Robert Marsh - Pro Shop**