

## MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

The number of Junior Golfers is increasing and we now have 36 junior members. This increase and the number of players who compete on a regular basis is largely due to the efforts of a dedicated committee. Pip (President) and Rebecca (Secretary / handicapper) and their committee are to be congratulated for their dedication and diligence. The My Golf program has certainly been the catalyst to gain the interest of these young people. Phil Curd our club professional with assistance from Rebecca has successfully conducted two of these programs in recent times and another one is to commence in two weeks' time. A progression from the My Golf program is being initiated by Golf Queensland, and this is an invitation to juniors to join a talent squad within the Wide Bay region. This will commence Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May at Bargara when coaches from Golf Queensland will be here from 1 pm to 5 pm to offer free coaching to these juniors. This program will continue for further five sessions spread over 10 weeks alternating between Bargara and Bundaberg with Phil Curd and the club professional from Bundaberg doing the coaching. This program is free to all participants and is encouraging all players to achieve their playing ability, not just directed at the elite player.

The Board has recently approved a Child Protection Policy for the club. This will be communicated to our junior players, parents and those assisting with junior golf within the next few weeks. A reminder to all players that when Juniors are holding competition events on the golf course the entire golf course is a designated a smoke free zone. During all other times smoking is permitted on the "even numbered" fairways (2, 4 etc) and the DOSA which is positioned in the garden bed area south of the Pro Shop.

Our volunteers are continuing to excel with course presentation, gardens around the course and the club house. Recently one artistic person ( lady) has designed and arranged plants and some timber blocks in the shape of a turtle in the garden area between the men's and ladies first tee.

The Bargara Veteran Golfers have once again successfully conducted another QVGU State Championship event. 240 player of which 196 were visitors from 36 clubs enjoyed perfect weather and great organisational skills from the committee during this two day event. The course again was presented in excellent condition and this is due to efforts of Kevin and his staff and the volunteers.

The implementation of the new Golf Administration System and the POS Terminals in the club house has been a learning experience for all concerned. There certainly have been some moments of frustration, however we do not live in a perfect world and over time we will all become proficient in using it to our advantage. Special thanks to Val Bazley, Maire and Barb who regularly are assisting members to navigate the system. The POS terminals

within the club house have been welcomed by our staff and in time will be connected to a loyalty program to encourage member participation within your club. It is expected that the printing of new membership cards will commence within two weeks.

For some time our Head Greenkeeper, Kevin has been trialling some new sprinkler heads from Toro to irrigate the fairways. These have proven to be successful and the 10<sup>th</sup> fairway has been selected to have 11 sprinkler heads installed along with the necessary control systems to provide an automatic pop up sprinkler system. His tests have indicated considerable reduction in water usage as compared to the travelling irrigators and the system will be programmed to allow for irrigation during non-golfing hours. This project will cost approx. \$6000 and will be funded from the Golden Circle account. Work is also due to commence in recent weeks on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> Tee blocks to level the surface areas and improve the irrigation and to plant some appropriate hedging around the men's 18<sup>th</sup> tee. Some of the greens which have foreign couch will be patched in the coming weeks. The material for patching will come from the nursery. The 15<sup>th</sup> green and the nursery will be decommissioned possibly late August to fumigate and kill the roots of the foreign couch which can grow to a depth of 30 centimetres.

On the subject of fairway irrigation which is done by the travelling irrigators. These may be inconvenient during golf but are essential to keep the fairways green and in good condition. To effectively cover some of the longer fairways it does take 20 hours, so contrary to some comments the irrigators do work during non-golf hours. If your ball comes close to the irrigator, please do not interfere with the spray mechanism, take the appropriate drop away from the machine and continue to play out the hole. On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May our green keeper had to return to the course on four occasions to re-start the irrigator on the 11<sup>th</sup> fairway after interference to the spray mechanism by players. .

56 solar panels have been installed on the roof of three buggy sheds and 82 are being currently installed on the roof of the caddy shack and the Pro Shop.

The Board has again met with Richard Butler from Rubicon on 25<sup>th</sup> May, who presented architectural drawings, décor and costs for stage one of the project which is aimed at refurbishing the kitchen, front of the bar area and the front balcony. This will include a children's play area, alfresco dining area with updated décor, lighting, air conditioning, carpet and improved toilet facilities. Some much needed maintenance work is also included in stage one. During the next two weeks the Board will need to ascertain and agree on the essentials for this project so as to ensure that we deliver an outcome that is financially viable.

The Board recently contacted those members who were on the buggy shed waiting list to ascertain interest in "paying up front " ( 5 years rent \$2000) to fund the building of an additional shed. To date 8 members have indicated interest. Perhaps there are other

members who are not on the waiting list who may have an interest in this project. If so could you please contact the president.

To the ladies of Bargara Golf Club.

Dear Ladies,

I write this letter to send my sincerest apologies for the condition of the greens for the final two rounds of your club championships. At no time did I intend to cause upset to any member by bayonet tine-ing the greens prior to the last two rounds of your championships. I did not believe that the surfaces would alter that much from the tine-ing and looking back it was maybe not the best thing to do. Yes, greens do need maintenance done to them from time to time but again my apologies for tine-ing during your championships.

Signed Kevin Bunyan, Head Greenkeeper.

Good health and good golfing

Don McKewen, President.