



Issued March 2018

## Dominic Connaughton - General Manager

I would like to mention how saddening it was losing one of the club's great stalwarts in Austin Hanna recently, he was a true gentleman in every way and called it as it was. Austin was the President of this club for nine years from 1993 through to 2001, held numerous other positions culminating in being nominated by his peers for Life Membership and more recently Patron of the club. I like many other members of this club and the wider community of Narooma will miss Austin and his friendship.

The summer holiday period was not overly kind for the club in a financial way especially where social green fees were concerned. The course super, his staff and the dedicated band of volunteers had the presentation of the course in immaculate condition for this time of year with the additional rainfall adding an extra tinge of green. It seems the weather was most favourable towards fishing, going to the beach and all forms of water activities than turning up for a game of golf. February was a little better catching up on some lost ground. I would like to thank all those who helped prepare our beautiful golf course, we received numerous compliments from visitors during this time.

Since my last report the bar renovations have now been completed and I'm sure most members would be happy with the outcome. A brand-new state of the art software and hardware point of sale system was installed during this time also which will give us better front and back of house information plus up-to-date stock control and reporting systems. The club auditorium and stairway was re-carpeted. A new LED display sign was installed at the front of the club for advertising and marketing purposes plus the new stonewall adjacent to the pro shop was completed.

The fireworks were again a major hit for the club with many members and guests thanking the club for an amazing fireworks display for the whole community of Narooma to enjoy. The clubhouse on the

night was also packed with members and guests enjoying the free entertainment on the outside deck and the sumptuous food served up in the club's brasserie. The club engaged a number of shows over the summer holiday which included the Jimoen comedy show attracting over 300 people on the night.

This year we intend to engage some more entertainment for both the club auditorium and outside deck area especially public holidays and long weekends so please patronise these shows or we may be forced to cancel them in the future.

The only major works scheduled for 2018 will be renovations to the brasserie area expected to commence around August/September.

A few changes have been implemented for the course to commence shortly. These changes have been explained in detail by our Course Super in his report so please make sure you read the report in the latest newsletter.

Dominic Connaughton ACCM JP  
General Manager

## Phil Haynes - Treasurer

Another silly season has passed and despite the good weather trading was not as strong as the same period last year. With the weather good and little wind people tend to head to the beach rather than play golf and this was evident during our busiest trading period. Most local businesses are reporting similar trading outcomes. February has made up for some lost ground with the numbers on course very encouraging (the wind has helped!). We are highly reliant on social play, so thanks once again for members understanding to prioritise these players during the Christmas / New Year break.

The financial difference by not holding member competitions during this period is substantial.

On course we have invested in a feature wall outside the pro-shop which was not just for aesthetic reasons but also marketing. Colin has lost count of how many photos that have been taken by visitors in front of this wall, these photos get shared with lots of people thanks to social media! We have also purchased a fairway scarifier that will assist in the health of our fairways, invested in additional solar panels to keep electricity costs down and installed new front doors on the pro-shop. In and around the Club we have purchased 2 new air-conditioning systems for the gaming and TAB areas, installed a new electronic sign outside the club house for advertising and promotional purposes and installed new carpet in the Auditorium. Our next big project for later in the year will be upgrading the Brasserie area to a standard that matches the quality of food that Paul and his staff continue to provide members and guests.

It is not easy balancing the ongoing needs of the course and clubhouse with the limitations of our cash flow, but I hope members recognise the progress being made.

Phil Haynes  
Treasurer

## Brendan Warby - Course Superintendent

I hope everyone is enjoying their golf at the moment as we have had a cracking season for growing grass to cover some of those bare areas and give us all good lies. The rain has also kept our dams full and enabled us to have no restriction in irrigating our beautiful course, the back at least. For those members who are not aware, the front nine hole are all still watered with manually operated sprinklers and hoses in the wee hours of the morning. As you can imagine it is very expensive to install an irrigation system for the course and we are currently in the early stages of planning. This includes design, water source/budget

and also financing. Fingers crossed. A couple of changes happening this month as a combined decision from both the committee and myself. The first of which is the ongoing confusion about whether the rakes should be left in or out of the bunkers. I personally prefer them in the bunkers, but after some browsing on the net and a little debating we have all agreed that they be placed OUTSIDE the bunkers once you have finished raking the bunker. NOT JUST ANYWHERE

- Rakes to be PLACED outside the bunkers in the direction of play. Preferably with the handle pointing back toward the tee
- Rakes to be PLACED to the side of the bunkers, not in front where they may prevent a ball from entering the bunker
- Finally if we could place them at a point where you would enter and exit the bunker to play a shot
- White painted "T" sections will be indicated at either end of the bunkers to initially show where the rakes should be placed every time.

Remember this will be most effective if we all try and stick to these points and if someone you are playing golf with is leaving them in the wrong place they may not be aware of these changes and you may be able to bring them to their attention. Nicely please.

The other change we are going to try is moving to only having one colour flag for all greens and this will be red. The red flag will cover front, middle and back of the greens. The reason for this is as follows;

- We are able to see the surface of most of our greens before our approach shot to see where the flag is
- Red flags are easier to see against any background
- Range finders are frequently used these days to measure the distance to the pin
- A lot of our greens are too small to warrant three different colours
- Our two tiered 10<sup>th</sup> green will have a sign on the tee informing golfers whether the hole is on top or the bottom
- Changing the flag each time causes them to become dirty and worn a lot quicker
- And from the green keeping side of things it speeds up the hole changing process

Don't forget volunteers are very welcome and appreciated. The ladies garden group are here for a couple of hours every Tuesday from about 9.30am and the blokes every Wednesday from 12.30pm.

I'll just finish by wishing you all the best with your golf, please repair your divots, pitch marks as well as one other and don't forget to give your friendly ground staff a wave.

Yours truly

Brendan Warby  
Golf Course Superintendent

### Peter Jones - Club Captain

How good is our golf course at the moment, Brendan and his team are doing a marvellous job and the course is stunning. To keep it looking and playing as good as it is could I ask all players to do their bit and help, if you see an unrepaired pitch mark or un-filled divot please repair them it doesn't take long and it keeps our course looking great.

Speed of play is still an issue could I remind everyone their place in the field is immediately behind the group in front of them not in front of the group behind them, if you think you may have lost a ball hit a provisional then you don't need to go back, plus remember you only get 5 minutes to search.

If you are holding up the group behind you call them through and remember when you are out of shots put the ball in your pocket until the next hole, lots of people say they like to finish to see what they've had however this slows play and if you can't score on the hole pick it up.

We have also gone back to leaving rakes outside of bunkers this will enable the ball to roll into the bunker instead of being jammed against the rake that been placed badly inside the edge of the bunker. Also flags on the green will be all one colour and it's the players job to observe where on the green they are, however on the 10<sup>th</sup> hole there will be a sign on the tee telling if it's on the top or bottom of the green. If you forget to look it's also on the ladies tee.

Peter J Jones  
Captain  
Narooma Golf Club

### Chris Fader - Ladies Captain

I believe I started the last newsletter with: "Sylvia Donohoe continues to play incredibly impressive golf".... and she continues her winning ways! The summer 'off-season' competition was jointly won by

Sylvia and Meridie Banson. This award is calculated on the 10 best scores recorded from our season close (in October) to our season open February 1. Division 1 runner-up is Tracey Mitchell. Division 2 winner is Di Williamson and the runner up is Janice Eardley. Congratulations to all who played consistently well through the summer heat.

The first big change for 2018 is that a new index for the red course was implemented beginning February 1. Based on scoring information collected last year, a more balanced 45-hole index has been created and is now successfully in use.

The Far South Coast and Tableland Golf Association 2017 medal playoff was at Bega February 16. Each district club sends three representatives (one in each division) to compete for this prestigious annual award. This year Chris Hendra not only represented Narooma as our Division 3 entry, but she WON THE MEDAL. What a fantastic outcome!

An enormous thank you goes to both Tracey Mitchell and Colin Homes for their launch of a 6-week long ladies beginner golf class. Tracey has organized the initiative and has worked exceptionally hard at making the program successful. Thanks also to the Narooma lady golfers who have volunteered their time to help with the course. Hopefully we will see a few new faces on the golf course in the near future!

Happy Golfing to All

Chris Fader – Narooma Ladies Captain.



**NEW TOURNAMENT IN 2018**

NAROOMA GOLF CLUB PRESENTS

**SEAHORSE MEDLEY AMBROSE**  
SATURDAY 11TH & SUNDAY 12TH AUGUST, 2018

- 3 PERSON AMBROSE
- SATURDAY: 1ST HOLE TEE OFF - SUNDAY: SHOTGUN START
- DAILY 18 HOLE COMP PLUS OVERALL WINNER OVER 36 HOLES
- \$70 PER ENTRY - \$45 CART HIRE (PER DAY)
- EXCELLENT PRIZES
- SCRATCH & HANDICAP WINNERS
- EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

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