

# THIRLSTANE GOLF CLUB ON PAR

## Lamington Day

240 Dozen lamingtons were made and sold. Always a fun fundraiser with not only members but many of their friends coming along to join in the fun. Their help on these days is much appreciated.



## AGM (Annual General Meeting)

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021. There are a few vacancies on the General Committee, and all Full Members of the Club are encouraged to nominate.

The Vacancies are:-

- Vice President – 1 year term
- Deputy Vice President – 2 year term
- Two Committee Persons – 2 year terms

## Working Bee March 15th.

A working bee was held on the course on March 15<sup>th</sup>. It was many months in the making having been cancelled due to weather and the date moved on several occasions to accommodate the golfing agenda.

26 volunteers which included the normal Monday work crew helped and were cared for magnificently by Cecily Berglund, Lynne Dutton and Wendy Smith.

Dead and dying trees on the first and third fairways were felled. 24 stumps, mainly from trees taken down during the Covid lock- down were also removed. Several truckloads of rubbish and vegetation were also removed from the area near the 5th tee bed that is currently being tidied up.

Thank you to everyone who helped on the day. It was a major effort to remove the significant amount of material and to have the course playable for the lady's competition on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Bevis.



## Vets Report

At a recent meeting Vets President KJ Jones presented Club President Bevis with a cheque for \$8,000. This, added to the \$10,000 he presented just prior to Christmas takes the total donated by the Vets group over the past 25 years to just over \$236,000 so all going well, next year will see us crack the ¼ million \$ barrier.

In accepting this cheque Bevis paid tribute to the Vets group and stated that because of the way we go about our business we are the envy of many other clubs around the state.

Testament to this is the fact that we have nominations for all positions on our committee including several newcomers which all goes well for another successful year. There are several clubs nearby that do not have a committee and positions are only filled "because no one else would take it on" We finished the year with 103 financial members. This is just under last year's number and as always, we lose members for various reasons. A couple of notable losses next year will be "Smooth Swinging" Billy Russell who along with Gayle have moved to Midway Point to be closer to their kids and grandkids. Bill will be joining Pittwater Club and we wish him well. Having known Bill for over 45 years he has never changed. Very methodical, rarely gets flustered and a great bloke to have a round with.

We also say goodbye to Don Peterson who is moving back to the Launceston area. Always the gentleman, Don has been a keen member of our committee as well of the famous BBQ crew and will be sorely missed.

As mentioned earlier we have 103 financial members and by the time we hold our AGM there will be 11 octogenarians with Rod Brown joining the group later in April.

Barry Isles at 89 is our oldest member and newcomer Shayne Walker at 55 our youngest.

Our other members of this elite group are Carl Brown, Jim Maher, Bob Watts, John Blenkhorn, Don Peterson, Trevor Stubbs, Tony Smith, Geoff Norris, Phil Walden & Graeme Clark.

Our average age is 72 so it goes without saying that we must continue to attract new members preferably under 70 because if nothing were to change our average age increases every year.

David Dunham

## COVID -19

As I will not be seeking re-election at the next AGM as a general committee person & COVID-19 coordinator, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members and guests for their contribution to and making our club safe during the last 12 months.

It is my belief that the COVID-19 role should be held by a person on the current committee, hence my reason for stepping down from that position also. We have 'Covid Safe' systems in place that are working quite well but we should not become too complacent.



There remain two ongoing areas of concern for me that we do not take seriously enough and they both concern the Spike Bar.

1. Many users of the 'touch screen' are not washing their hands before using it as requested by the notices I have placed in the area. *(consider this - you come in from playing 18 holes and touching goodness knows what, the public toilet is adjacent also – wash your hands, it is a no brainer).*
2. Social Distancing is not practiced as well as it should be in the Spike Bar. Markings are quite clearly identifiable on the floor, however, particularly on 'Vets' day, overcrowding is all too common. *(a maximum of 12 people at any one time is allowed – no more).*

After the AGM, I will be available to assist in a short transitional period with the person who takes over the COVID-19 role.

Thank you once again to all members and visitors for your co-operation and adherence to most of the rules we have in place at our club.

Tony Simpson

## A Message from the Match Committee

1. Regarding players booking in at the Starters Box – All Members registered to play in the Ladies/Veterans/Men's competitions are asked that they register at the starters box and have their competition fees paid 20 minutes before their tee-off time.

This allows the person in the Starters Box to Count the Money and finalise the details so they can go out and play their game.

Some Members have been arriving to register – AFTER their tee-off time – so the Starter has presumed the Member is not going to play.

If for any reason a Member has to pull out a phone call would be welcomed to let the starter know 03 64286488.

2. TREE ROOTS – The New Proposal is as follows –

"If a ball lies against or within 1 scorecard length of a tree root, a player with permission from his/her marker, may take a free drop behind the position within 1 club length from where the ball lies".

Due to the course having so many trees with large roots this rule applies anywhere on the course and through to the green.

## Ground Staff Volunteers

Thirlstane golf club is extremely fortunate to have so many members who volunteer their time and effort for the smooth running of this club from people who work in the bar and kitchen to ladies and veteran groups, from general committees and sub committees that consistently work to operate and raise funds to keep this club stable and viable.

From where I stand, I can only give you proper insight to the position I currently hold and that as a member of the current ground staff. Currently there are two groups of ground staff and for the sake of this article let me try and explain what these groups do.

### GROUP ONE CASUAL GROUND STAFF

These volunteers are relevantly new to our organization they responded to a call in one of our newsletters asking for anyone who was interested to front up once a week on a Monday when they had spare time and to bring their brush cutters along. This call went to assist the permanent ground staff and help present the course to the standards set down in our mission statement. This group has evolved, and their numbers fluctuate between 6 and 10 on any given Monday. The evolution of this group has now turned into something unbelievably valuable; they have now been organized into a working party that are under control of our president Bevis Dutton.

In conjunction with Scotty Westlake, they have been carrying out major projects to improve not only the presentation of our club but to complete projects that bring additional safety to our playing members and members of the public that use our facility. Some of these projects include the cleaning up of frontage fence lines, the new gate, the clearing of trees around our major dam and remove any threat to the banks of the dam. They have also assisted on the tee bed improvements, the cleaning up of the bush around the course toilets but most importantly the identification and removal of dangerous trees within the golf course playing areas. This has been a major safety project that is ongoing and is one that is both dangerous and costly and has required the expertise and guidance of Bevis Dutton to ensure that it is being carried out safely and correctly.

I take my hat off to this group and to the two men that organize this group as to the speed that this is being carried and to the careful cleaning up required to bring the course back to playable and close on perfect. This project is far from over as large trees will continue to, die, become unsafe and must be removed safely.

Now that winter is setting in most of the major programs carried out within the playing surface will have to cease as no heavy equipment can be allowed on the playing surface. This does not mean that this group will become redundant as there will be burning off to be carried out, dam walls to be brush cut, drains to be cleaned and made safe. Some fixtures will need to be replaced or painted, car parks and paths to be kept clean and several other things that makes course presentation superior to other courses around the state.

It should be noted that this group are what some would call true volunteers as the only thing they receive for their efforts is a free feed at lunchtime and the satisfaction of belonging and contributing to the best little golf course in the state.

## PERMANENT VOLUNTEERS

Out of pocket expenses \$10 per day plus honorary membership

This is the group that I belong to and will remain with until such time as I finish my current project, the cleaning up of the course paths. I have had the pleasure of working with this group for over 10 years now and the efforts of this group is exceptional.

To be a member of this group requires real commitment. They are expected to attend the course twice per week, Mondays, and Thursdays, for some this includes public holidays and long weekends. My wife would ask do you need to go on long weekends? and my reply would be, the grass does not know it is a public holiday.

Each of these permanent volunteers have been assigned a part of the course to look after, for some it is the greens and their surrounds for some it is the greens and tee beds for others it is the rough and for others it is the banks and first cut next to the fairway, for others it is the spraying and fertilizing.

The course superintendent controls this group as well as looking after the fairways, Roger carries many responsibilities and whilst the casual volunteers respond to Bevis and Scotty everyone when it comes to course management responds to Roger.

All the permanent volunteers take great pride in the presentation of their part of the course, but I can't speak for them as most would have their own stories to tell. I can only tell you mine.

When I first started Roger had a habit of giving out projects, my first project was to clean up the car park. This was quite a large task and with help from others gravel was laid and concrete buffers were made and painted white. They were then spaced out to give some guidance as where patrons should park. It is a bit ironic that part of my last project as a permanent volunteer was to tidy this area up and repaint the buffers a job I have just finished.

My second project was along with the help of others was to rebuild the long path from the club rooms down to the end of the first tee bed. The old mats were ripped up and pavers that we had lying around were concreted in and gravel replaced the old mats. This was not done without incident as I got a machine tangled up in a tree during the construction.

Another major project that was allocated to me was brought about by a letter from the veterans committee asking for some modifications to the course. These modifications required the trimming of all the trees around the playing area that included the rough and the edge of the fairways, this was a tough job that took over three months to complete as most of these trees had their branches trailing on the ground. This job was completed not without criticism from some people, but the justification is now there as keeping all these trees trimmed is standard practice now. The second part of this project that the vets letter contained was to clear most of the rough away that was under the trees and extend the first cut from the edge of the fare way to the tree line.

The length of the grass in the rough among the trees was reduced to two inches and in the first cut reduced from 4 inches to one- and three-quarter inches, this allowed the top quarter of a golf ball to be seen should a player miss the fairway.

These measures when completed were a great success as they had the desired effect of speeding up play and reducing the frustrations of many vets and made their golf experience at Thirlstane more pleasurable. A letter of thanks was sent by the vets to Roger thanking him for making those decisions and carrying out the work.

These are some of the projects I have been directly involved in and the reasons behind them. During the last 10 years I have enjoyed playing a part of improving and maintaining the golf course. I evolved through the ranks which I think is a good system, I started on a brush cutter, went on to do the bunkers, I did some time on the z master and learned to drive most of the machines. As my time as a regular volunteer comes to an end, I will miss the involvement that being a regular volunteer offers.

Things I will not miss are getting here on daybreak in the winter and driving into wind and rain when the temperatures get below 6 degrees.

In a couple of months' time when I finish my last project my status as a regular volunteer will be gone and I will most likely miss it. This is just a brief insight for our members into the efforts of course volunteers both regular and casual. Many people who have come before have left a big mark on this club and many yet to come will do the same. My mark is small but at least it is a mark.

Alex MacDonald



## Vale – Deane Halley

This month the club lost a valuable member of our work crew in Deane Halley. Deane had only been a member for a couple of years and had become a very handy man about the club and will be greatly missed.

Our sympathies go out to Wendy and the girls.

## Vale – Val Addison



This week we farewelled a much-loved member of our Golf Club.

Val Addison began her golfing career at Port Sorell and when the move to Thirlstane occurred, she became a Foundation Member and was one of the first ladies to play on the new Thirlstane course. Val was not only a committed golfer she was the most generous, kind, and thoughtful member who was always available to assist with catering, fund raising and club events. She sat on committee for many years taking the position of both President and Captain at different times. With a strong competitive spirit, she was a valuable pennant player and if you study the honour boards you will find her name featured on most of them, even the coveted Hole-in-one board.

When unable to play golf any longer Val continued to be involved with the Club and gave generously of her time helping out wherever possible and particularly enjoyed the social events that included all our past members.

Val and Don sponsored a much looked forward to event each year supplying not just the trophies but also the cheese and biscuits for all to enjoy.

Val will be sadly missed, and our condolences and thoughts go out to Don and all their extended family.

Jan Richardson

## Dinner at the Club



An enjoyable meal prepared by Gina Philp was had by those who attended on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March.



## Letter from Les

Hi to all recipients of the Thirlstane "On Par" Newsletter circulation.

For all those who missed the note, Les and Ann Honess have vacated the Apple Isle to move north to Queensland.

On 12th December we caught the ferry and drove up The Kidman Way, not the shortest route but when towing a caravan defiantly the flattest and fastest. We arrived at the Sunshine Coast at 8:50am 15th December in time to check out the Real Estate agents as they opened.

I have not been laughed at so much as we were by the real estate agents when we asked if they had a house for sale. At that moment they would lose interest in us and go back to the task at hand prior to our intrusion. A couple dragged out a "doer upper" or a half-done project, with more to fix in the completed section, so still a long way to go for completion and still not ticking a lot of boxes on our list.

One of the greatest surprises was the increase in price and the slip in standard with the houses available that are posted on the internet. Even attended an auction to find that market is as over priced as the rest.

On 23rd December there was a house posted on the internet at 3pm, we contacted the agent and organised an inspection at 5pm next day. Thinking we had the drop on the rest we fronted at 5pm to find 11 other families who also had the drop on the rest of us! In QLD, the agents are able to hold a one bid auction if there is more than one offer on the house. This was carried out. We decided this house ticked most of our boxes, so to get it we would put in an over-the-top bid and won it.

So now our address is 24 Retreat Crescent, Yandina 4561. We are about 10 km North of Nambour, roughly 17km to the beach at Coolum and 3km off the M1 motorway. And another advantage is that the youngest grandchildren are 10 minutes away, close but not all the time in our hair. The house is 5 years old with two spare bedrooms, air con and a pool, a few more boxes ticked.

Anybody who would like to call in and stay at any time you are more than welcome. So, keep the address and this phone number (0428621054) and give us a ring and you are in. I have had a couple of games of golf, with mixed results as usual. Nambour Golf Course is the closest to us but very steep and at this stage I am favouring the flatter courses a little further afield. I have taken up bowls as well, to spend more time with Ann. The bowling club is only small and everything is done voluntarily, so I feel right at home.

Before finishing off I would like to thank all member of the Thirlstane Golf Club for their friendship and banter while I was a member, I really enjoyed my time there. Furthermore, a sincere thanks to Scottie, Adrien, Les & Alan for their muscle power and time in preparing my "shed" for the big move. Without your help I really would have been lost. Best wishes to all and look forward to catching up again in the future.

Les Honess