



# The Tee Times

MONA VALE GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER



December 2011-  
January 2012

Volume 6

## What's on in December & January

CHRISTMAS DAY <b>CLUB HOUSE CLOSED</b>	<b>Dec 25</b>
BOXING DAY Teams Stableford Medley	<b>Dec 26</b>
NEW YEAR'S EVE Teams Stableford	<b>Dec 31</b>
NEW YEAR'S DAY 4 person Ambrose Jacobs Creek Top Gun Shootout Qualifier	<b>Jan 1</b>

## Message from the President

Firstly let me wish all members and their families best wishes for the festive season. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

What a wet start to the summer period. It can only improve from here.

Despite the weather the course is looking great and playing well, so please take the opportunity to come and have a game if you have not been down for a while.

I would also suggest you may consider bringing a guest or two over the holiday break while the course is at it's best. The view is great and the food fine with a few drinks and good company.

### Competitions

The captain's report contains the results of Junior and Eric Apperly pennant competitions. So close with Apperly again and a new beginning for the Juniors. Congratulations to those who competed for the club and thank you to managers, caddies and supporters alike. We also look forward to Major Pennants in the new year. Go Mona Vale!

### New Resolutions

At the recent AGM two special resolutions were passed.

The first resolution passed now sees 5 day A,B and Intermediate member's able to vote on matters concerning the constitution.

The second allows 5 day A, B and Intermediate to stand for the Board as directors (2 max) but not for President and Captain. These changes will increase the involvement of those categories of membership in club activities and we look forward to the future.

### New Board

The new board includes our first lady member Liz Vincent (7 day member). Congratulations Liz.

### Increasing Income

The board has been hard at work addressing the difficult market conditions for golf clubs and the golf industry.

Our focus for increasing income includes marketing strategies to increase public play, adjustment of public fees, and filling membership vacancies. This has been coordinated by a new marketing

sub-committee headed up by Geoff Chapman and Tony Sedgwick. It involves print media, radio, website and internet group buying exposure to promote the club to the public and fill membership vacancies. Good progress is being made.

On the other side of the coin there is a concerted effort underway to continue to control cost centres within the club. The board is acutely aware that we must preserve member services whilst doing this.

Recent survey of the Bunker Bar food options highlighted some areas needing change and the caterer is receptive to the returned information. Functions are plentiful at this time of year so your tolerance of the increased usage of the club is appreciated. I would also ask the membership to be supportive of catering initiatives such as the seafood buffet commencing on Sundays each month.

### Junior Development Program

Josh Lane is running our junior development program and this is open for the kids. Boys and girls are both welcome. Please speak to the office or the Pro Shop about participation for your child or friends' children over the break and into 2012. As part of this club's commitment to the juniors, Mona Vale is part of the peninsula's Junior Week of Golf 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> January.

This is your club and what better time to use it! We look forward to seeing you and your friends on the course and in the club.

**Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year**

Graeme MacDougal





# Captain's Report

Firstly may I take this opportunity to wish you all

**A Merry Christmas & Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.**

## Great Results

Since our last tee times the Cock of the Walk has been run and won. Peter Cartledge had a decisive win over Denis Suttling. Denis commented that even if he played his best golf on the day he doubted whether he could have beaten Peter. We will look forward to seeing Peter's handicap fall. Well done Peter.

Stefan Albinski has been at it again clinching the Australian Seniors Match Play Championships. The older Stefan gets the better he seems to play. Well done Stefan.

Dale Brandt-Richards has also been back in the winners' circle winning the Carnarvon Cup and runner-up in the Penrith Cup. Dale has won at least 5 Vardon events this year which is a fantastic result. He is on the verge of making the state side, and

we wish him all the luck.

Junior Pennants has been played and our club was represented by Angus Radford, Mark Burns, Mateo Tapai, Soren Tinberg, Issac Rich, Eric Pont and Alexander Sokolov. Even though the boys were well beaten they competed very strongly and definitely enjoyed the experience; they were able to play at some of Sydney's top courses. Thanks to Jon Tinberg and Wal Pont for their efforts in managing the side.

Eric Apperly was another one that got away. Our bogey club Moore Park has beaten us again. Both clubs finished on equal wins and equal individual games but because they defeated us at Long Reef they went through to the quarter finals. Our team was Kyle Grant, Dale Brandt-Richards, Nick Simpson, Joel Shields, Angus Radford, Mark Burns, Carson Crosse and Dominic Wheeler. This side is a very young side and should be together for a couple of years to come. I'm predicting next year we can win the pennant.

## Up-coming Events in January

Mixed Pennants will be starting in the first week in January, with a new look side, so we wish them good luck.

The qualifying round for the Men's Four-Ball Knockout in early January is always a very popular event. Don't forget to put "Q" on your card if you want to play in the match play section.

We will be hosting the final round of The Junior Peninsula Week of Golf starting on the 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> January. The last round will be played at Mona Vale. It is open to all junior golfers who are under 18 and we are also having a section for players who don't have handicaps. So if you have any kids or grand kids who you think might want to play please contact the office or the Pro Shop. Josh Lane, who is our junior development officer will host weekly competitions for the juniors during the school holidays, for details please contact Josh in the pro shop.

## NSW State Amateur Event

In February we are hosting the NSW State Amateur Competition, on the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February. The course will be closed for these three days. If you have time come out and watch some of the best amateur golfers in Australia and overseas do battle with the Mona Vale course. We will be well represented so come out and cheer our boys on. Hopefully Andy will have the greens running at 12 or 13 on the stint meter and have the rough about 8 inches long!!!!

Once this is over Major Pennants starts on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February when we play NSW at Mona Vale. More details on this later.

## 2012 Golf Calendar

I am currently in the process of revising next year's golf program. I think last year went fairly smoothly but if you have any suggestions please email me at [captain@mvgc.com.au](mailto:captain@mvgc.com.au) "Hit Them Straight!!!"

Regards *Mike Radford*

# House Report



The fireplace has been cleaned, the whales have headed back south to their Antarctic feeding grounds for the summer, and we are all impatiently waiting for some warm December weather!

The multipurpose room on the south-west corner of the club will be completed shortly, just requiring carpet. It has already been well used to store excess chairs etc., easing the congestion in the rest of the club.

## Melbourne Cup Day

This was a really successful day, an optional 10 hole medley competition followed by a delicious

three course buffet lunch in the bar, with live music, sweeps and prizes for the best outfits. A fun day for everyone – many thanks to all the glamorous office and bar staff who got into the spirit and helped out. Put it in your diary for next year!!

## Lunches

During the holiday period, why not invite your friends and family for a delicious lunch, available every day except Wednesday. Choose from a tasty selection of wraps, frittata and baguettes on display in the cabinet, from the Bis-tro menu (classic burgers, fish and chips, house-made pies etc) or the

Seasonal Tasting menu – very good value with 2 courses for \$27 including a glass of wine, beer or soft drink. This menu changes daily – for example, spiced pumpkin ravioli, pan-fried barramundi, lemon meringue pie with raspberries or steamed banana pudding. The popular seafood buffet lunches are held on the first Sunday of every month (next one February 5<sup>th</sup>). Bring your friends and enjoy the great food, drinks and wonderful views.

## Holiday Office Hours

Please note that the office will be closed for Christmas from Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December, and closed for New Year from Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. It will also be closed

on Australia Day, Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Working Bee

Next year we would like to have a few volunteer working bees around the clubhouse, similar to those organised for the course. There are always small maintenance or cleaning jobs to do, so if you're not getting enough (chores) at home, please volunteer to help. We will try to make it fun! If you have any suggestions, or would like to volunteer, leave your name with Phoebe at reception, or email [directors@mvgc.com.au](mailto:directors@mvgc.com.au).

## Best Wishes for the Festive Season

*Liz Vincent*



# Gerry's Golf

Hi Everyone

The Golfing Bonanza has been and gone with the Australian Open out at the Lakes Golf Club. It was a fantastic field out there with Tiger, Freddie and The Shark playing awesome golf. I went out on the Friday to watch these top line players in the world put on a ball-striking display. Unfortunately I missed the John Daly fiasco!!! which left me a little disappointed with his departure from the tournament. It was my understanding that when a player runs out of balls that's it. All over for

them. So it was interesting to hear that the Rules official said that they would have gone and got him more balls, as we thought after you lose all your balls you have 5 minutes to return to play. Many people have asked why didn't he ask his playing partners for some? Well in Pro Golf tournaments the player has to use the same brand of ball, same compression, same ball markings for the whole 4 days that they play. So Big JD and his wife and the merry-go-round were gone from Sydney.

I was standing on the 3rd fairway

watching Bubba come through when after his 300 meter drive he hit what looked like a 4 iron into the green. It looked like one of those shots you see in the Wednesday comp at Mona Vale! It went so far to the right of the green it brought a warm feeling to the Gallery to see a Pro hit so wide of the target and it gave us all hope to continue the dream.

## Fabulous African Trip

Only a few weeks before I was away in Africa on my annual holiday (I'm sure you all missed me!).

Our holiday began along the East Coast of Namibia in a place called

Swakopmund where the desert meets the ocean. It was 35 degrees during the day, a real dry heat, and every day at 4pm a sea fog would roll in and turn the temperature down to about 12 degrees!! So one minute you're stinking hot, next you're freezing cold. Our next stop was Etoshia National Park via a very, very, very small plane. Many times I thought there was NO way we were going to survive this trip!!! But we made it and headed to our Safari tent in the jungle where we stayed for 5 days and saw everything we'd imagined - lions, leopards, elephants,

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# Green's Report



## Concrete Paths

### Generally

The wet weather is playing havoc with the carrying out of the regular programmed works, particularly mowing, and creates more non-programmed work like pumping out and reinstating of bunkers. This is valuable time lost. The greens staff toil on regardless and do a great job in sometimes very trying circumstances.

### Weather

Will the rain ever stop? Over October and November we received 190.6mm over 18 days making the total rainfall 1372.7mm (over 105 days) for the calendar year up to the end of November. This is 280mm more than that received for the corresponding period last year (over 112 days). December is also measuring up to be a wet month. What a year!

### Drainage

No major drainage works are proposed this financial year. Despite the rainfall received the drainage previously installed works a treat and allows play to resume shortly after the water level in the main ponds drops (and the deluges stop).



# Finance Report

### Income

The first quarter of the trading year resulted in a net loss of \$104,987, which was \$128,910 below the budgeted figure.

As we know, the main contributor to this poor result was the reduction in subscription receipts, which after three months were more than \$110,000 below expectations. Some

very heavy rain periods added to lower income.

### Expenses

Our concerted effort to restrict costs resulted in total expenditure for the first 3 months being moderately better than budgeted. While this is a good result, there is room for more improvement, and the effort will continue, always bear-

ing in mind that we don't risk reducing Member services. So, on one hand we continue to successfully control cost centres, and on the other, we employ the marketing strategies mentioned in the President's Report. These initiatives, (including increased Public Green and Cart Fees, new packages to boost public play, and special membership offers) are now giving early positive results, and we are confident that they will help improve the situation. Obviously, we have started the year

morning and walk through the jungle about 3 hours to our next camp, walk, yes walk - no golf carts over there - and it was stinking HOT! At 9.30 every morning it would be 32 degrees and we'd stroll (?) through the jungle (more like panicking). On the 3rd day things were going normal when suddenly the Guide (thankfully armed with a rifle) put up his hand and said "STOP"! Holy Crap! There they were! About 8 lions around 50 meters away, dozing in the shade. The BIG male put his head up, had a good old look at us, then went back to sleep. When the Guide said let's go I thought, "Mate, I'm right behind you!" until, unbelievably he started to walk towards the lions! I said

**Sanding of divots on the tees by members whilst waiting to tee off will assist in keeping them in good condition.**

The men's 18<sup>th</sup> tee is recovering well after being stripped when the turf was used for the enlarged surrounds to the 16<sup>th</sup> tee.

The greens have some disease and are being sprayed to eradicate this. The greens are also soft with the continual rain and suffer from pitch marks. **All members are requested to do their part in repairing pitch marks.**

Widening of the worst of the collars where the width has been reduced by encroaching kikuyu has commenced. The collars should be a mower width for practical reasons.

### Bunkers

The bunker renovation programme is on hold pending the availability of funds.

### Fuel Tanks

A preliminary soil contamination investigation report is being finalised following the drilling and taking of soil samples and their laboratory testing to ascertain whether there are any nasties in the soil after use of the underground tanks for in excess of 30 years. This report is required to be included with the other Development Application documents which firstly have to be

lodge with the Crown Land Authority (as owners of the site) for their approval to enable us to lodge the Development Application with Pittwater Council (the consent authority).

The Development Application will be for the installation of an above ground fuel storage tank and the decommissioning of the existing underground tanks and validation of the site.

### Volunteers

The volunteers continue to attend to many varied tasks on the course which is a great help to the greens staff.

The area alongside the path from the 9<sup>th</sup> green to the 10<sup>th</sup> tee is being planted out with donated plants by the volunteers who will also maintain the area.

### Programmed Works

As we are now into the growing season the greens staff are all but fully occupied with mowing and this leaves little time for carrying out other works.

The bunkers will be topped up with sand and there will be a focus on the preparation of the course for the NSW Amateur Championship in the first week of February 2012.

**A Very Merry Xmas to all and Great Golfing in 2012**

Alan Thompson

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rhinos, everything! We travelled in an open jeep and got within 2 meters of 2 male and female lions lying on the side of the road. "Just having a rest!" the Guide said!! I replied, "Well, let's hope they're not hungry because we're up the creek if they are!"

From there we flew to Lower Zambia via another 3 small planes which were great fun (NOT!!) and stayed 2 nights with the Norman Carr Safaris' Walking Tour Camp. This entailed getting up early to safari in the mornings and afternoons which turned into nights, then pack up the next

very much on the back foot, but we are definitely clawing our way back towards positive territory.

On-going support from members in utilizing Club facilities will help us achieve this - now is a great time to introduce some guests to your Club.

A Christmas present of a couple of months of decent golfing weather would be great. **P l e a s e** Santa!

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,**

Tony Sedgwick

what I just had!!!

I could keep going forever with tales of our adventures during those 3 weeks. They went so fast it only seemed like 2 days before we were back on the Big Kangaroo flying home. What a great holiday! I'd thoroughly recommend anyone thinking of going over there to just do it.

Now it's time to thank all Members for your support over the past 12 months and **wish everyone A Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year!**

Great Golfing

Gerard and the Pro Shop Team

# News for the Ladies ...



## Robyn Harding Women's President

I am honoured to hold this new position as Women's President and look forward to working with our very keen and hard-working committee ladies. A big welcome to our new committee members—Di Agostino, Anne Catlin and Jan Gooding.

I specially want to thank Kathryn for the last 3 years. She went above and beyond the call of duty! Hopefully she can now relax and get lots of sleep.

### Congratulations

To the new Board President, Graeme MacDougal and to our very own Board member, Liz Vincent. We look forward to 2012 being a positive and energetic year as we work with the Men's Committee.

### Annual Dinner & Revue

Just over 100 ladies came to our annual celebration, which every year is held together in the safe hands of our MC Lenore Green. Thank you Lenore for not falling apart when the sound

system didn't work straight away!!

A huge thank you to our caterers Christien and Mitch for a lovely Christmas meal.

All our performers did a fabulous job. Especially Bev Rainbow—our very own U-Tube star—who had us all in stitches!

### Gala Day

The rain only deterred about 30 of our intrepid players but we had 144 ladies together for lunch resulting in a fun-filled, chaotic and colourful day.

A big thank you to all our ladies for their generosity and cooperation. We raised a wonderful amount of \$4,021 for Bear Cottage, who have already celebrated their 10 Year Anniversary.

Thank you to Gerard who tirelessly hit balls onto the 16th green

(helped with a little champagne and home-made scones from Anne Tucker). I felt sorry for Ian Betenson who was the only bloke to show up and help us on the 'ball in the boat' competition, but he still enjoyed the day. Thank you Ian.



Gerard amid the Risque Reindeers

### Barrenjoey Week

Please get your forms in now as numbers need to be confirmed. Thank you to all the office staff, especially Phoebe who has been swamped at this time of the year.

On behalf of our committee I wish everyone a

**Happy, Safe and Peaceful Christmas and New Year**

which I look forward to with great anticipation!

Regards,

Robyn



## Trudy van der Reyden, Women's Captain

### Orange Week of Golf

Once again our Mona Vale Ladies enjoyed their week in Orange, it was Wine Week as well which of course we also enjoyed!

Our winners over the week were: Tina Lane; Denise Scott-Fell; Judith Laurie; Pam Plunkett; Trudy VanderReyden; Kathy Winterford and Kathryn Baldwin. Well done !!

### 3BBB Teams Final

Our Champion 3 BBB Team, Julie Bennett, Trish Rott, and Michelle Crowe won the honour of



playing in the State Final at Cypress Lakes finishing a very credible 14<sup>th</sup> with +5. A total of 5000 ladies played in the event.

### Gala Day

In spite of the wet weather Gala Day was still a great success. The putting course with many obstacles was designed and set up in the club house by Liz Dunn. There was a play-off with 4 players on 10 putts and the winners were Maureen Botha and Tania Ebeling.

Gerard went around with 8 putts. The winning team for Gala Day were Maureen Parkes, Glenda Lloyd, Chris Binfield and Wendie Bailey.

### Summertime Stableford

The Summertime Stableford competition starts on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

### Barrenjoey Week

Good Luck to all our Ladies playing in Barrenjoey Week. This year is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Mary & Father Christmas (aka Robyn & Trudy)

and Presentation Night will be at Mona Vale Golf Club on 16th February.

**I wish you all a Very Joyous Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year**

May we have a little less rain in 2112 and lots of Good Golfing.

Thanks to everyone,

Cheers

Trudy

With the seafood buffet on Melbourne Cup Day being a great success, we are offering a seafood buffet every first Sunday of the month, commencing Sunday, 5th February. Unlimited seafood will be available from 12:30 till 15:30pm.



**Members only pay \$45**

**Non-members \$55**

Call reception and book early to avoid disappointment.

With Christmas on its way, you need all the help you can get in the kitchen. Now you can order our famous Fruit Mince Pies to cater for your guests.

Telling you all about the Fruit Mince Pies is Christien's mum, Rita Darvall: *"When Christien was a young boy I used to make Fruit Mince Pies every Christmas, which he and his father really enjoyed. One Christmas we were going to spend Christmas with my sister-in-law, so I promised to bring along some of my Fruit Mince Pies. I made a large batch and froze three dozen to take with us. A few days before Christmas I went to the freezer to get out something for dinner and moved the container which had the Fruit Mince Pies in it, and it felt very light. I opened it and there was only 1 Mince Pie inside. Both Christien and his father to this day blame each other. I then had to get up at three in the morning to make a batch of Mince Pies to fulfil my promise to my sister-in-law. (Not happy!)"*

*The next year I discovered that Morgans made beautiful Fruit Mince Pies which I then bought each Christmas instead of making them myself.*

*Christien grew up and became a chef. He is running his own catering business and now makes the beautiful Fruit Mince Pies for Morgans! Now I'm Happy!"*

We are also selling the Fruit Mince Pies along with a lot of other sweets and treats at the newest markets on the Northern Beaches. Held every Friday morning at the Warriewood Rugby Park from 8:00am till 15:00pm, the Beachside Markets is the place to go for all your grocery shopping and yummy treats. Come and visit us!

For all your other Christmas needs, Gastroville is now taking your order for not only Fruit Mince Pies, but also for Pineapple Glazed Hams and delicious desserts like Lemon Drizzle Cakes. Feel welcome to ask the kitchen for more information.

**A Merry Christmas from all the Gastroville staff**