

PRESIDENTS UPDATE

AUGUST 2023

I would like to commence this update by thanking you, our members for the patience and understanding you have shown during the renovations to the Beachside Clubhouse. The renovations are progressing well and at the time of writing this update they are on schedule and due for completion in November.

There is another group of people who also deserve thanks and praise for the way in which they are coping with the renovations, which at times are noisy and disruptive. I am referring to our loyal and professional staff. At times the working conditions have been very challenging and the patience you have shown and your dedication to looking after our members and guests has been outstanding.

We have just wound up the financial year (31 July), and I am very pleased to report that we will again be reporting a very healthy excess of income over expenditure. This is a very pleasing result given the expected downturn in patronage at the Beachside Clubhouse due to the renovations, as well as the difficult economic conditions we are all presently facing. Our Club along with the entire industry has been faced with rising food, beverage, and utility costs as well as increased wage costs and taxes.

The Board Committee tasked with reviewing our Constitution has been completed and the draft changes (mostly minor and cosmetic reflecting legislative changes, increased use of technology and gender-neutral language) will be available for member review and information sessions will be held in the next few weeks.



Turning to Golf, I can report that the new toilets at Hilltop are under construction and will be operational shortly. The Member information sessions relating to the Draft Hilltop Course Masterplan and changes to the Eighth hole at Beachside were well attended. All suggestions made by those who attended as well as those forwarded by email have been collated and will be examined in detail.

This month we saw the Mollymook Open played, with our own Jye Halls winning by 4 shots. Congratulations Jye. It was very pleasing to hear so many complementary comments from visiting golfers about the condition of the course and in particular the work of the volunteer starters, spotters and other helpers. Congratulations to Mark, Jackson, and the course maintenance team, Barry, Mario, Chris, Mark, and the rest of the Hilltop team for once again presenting a very successful event.

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On the subject of volunteers, we have the same small but very committed group of men and women who front up at every major event year after year. However, often we do not have as many people volunteering as we would like. I know from personal experience how rewarding it is to give time to presenting our Club in the best possible light to the many hundreds of topflight golfers who visit us for these Events. Apart from the personal satisfaction you get from giving something back to our Club, you also get to meet and watch some of the best amateurs and professionals from around the country. I would like to encourage you all to consider giving up a little bit of your time for our next event – just 5 hours on a weekend would help enormously.

In addition to the many initiatives, we have already undertaken to ensure gender equity at our Club, we are currently undergoing the accreditation process to become a Signatory Club to the R&A Women in Golf Charter being promoted by Golf Australia and Golf NSW. This process includes being able to meet a number of criteria's (most of which we have already met) and demonstrating a commitment to an inclusive culture at Mollymook Golf Club. I am confident that we will shortly be able to report that we have achieved the status of a Signatory Club. We will proudly wear that badge along with being part of the Top 100 Australian Course and the 2nd most popular course.

An update on Kelsey Bennett. Kelsey recently qualified for her first Major, the AIS Women's British Open. Unfortunately, she missed the cut but what an achievement!



Having said that she has had a couple of top 10 finishes on the LET Access Series in Europe and is ranking well in the Order of Merit (21 at the time of writing this update). Kelsey will be home in time to compete in the Women's Qualifying Tournament we will be hosting in November. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Kelsey for her results to date and wish her luck for the upcoming events.

Finally, I would like to thank our Senior Management Team and their support staff for their considerable efforts over the last few months. This year has not been easy with the economic challenges, upheavals caused by the renovations and the loss of some key staff. Thanks also to my fellow Directors for the continued support given to me, management, and all our members.

Regards,

Dave Hume
President