

Superintendents Report 2023

What a year it has been. I would just like to start with how welcoming the members have been since my appointment in June 2022.

We have had a big year with the NSW Country Championships, the new 8th Hole, new machinery arriving and new staff members.

Our new staff members are fitting in well. They are a good fit with our team and have been a great addition to us.

We now have 6 greenstaff which are myself, **Chad Casinelli** (Assistant), **Adam Walker** (greenkeeper), **Todd Mitchell** (3rd Year Apprentice), **Kane Albert** (1st year apprentice) and **Garry Hoare** (Turf Technician). Kane Albert is our first year apprentice and is very keen and eager to learn. Adam Walker is our new qualified greenkeeper. He is a Canberra local who did his apprenticeship at Royal Canberra.

As you all would have been aware the course did suffer a lot of wear during all of the rain last year. The tees especially were in a bad way. We made a decision to turf the plate areas for the Country Championships and work on the other areas with fertiliser and renovations. This was a success and the tees are looking better for it.

We have also replaced all but two of the greenside bunkers with new white coarse sand. We will continue this throughout the course and some modifications to the bunkers will also take place.

We have received 2 new machines in the last 12 months, a new greens mower and a new tractor. The new tractor is a lot bigger than the old one and will be handy with fixing up some of the path ways. A new fairway mower will be arriving shortly. I would like to thank Garry for his work on the machinery. Garry is the one who maintains the machinery to the standard and sharpness that is required. As they say "Sharp machinery means a sharp golf course"

The 8th hole is ready for opening on April 1. It was a great effort from the team and Matt from Think Green Golf and Landscapes for the quality of the work done. We have developed a much more friendly golf hole than what was previously there. As many would not be aware we actually dropped the green by approximately 1.7 metres. We also took out around 1-1.5 meters from the fairway enabling the green to be seen from the tee. All up we removed around 1400 Tonnes of material and used this fill in two bunkers and the gully at the back of the green. The fairway was chaffed with kikuyu and the surrounds were turfed with couch. The green was seeded with Dominant extreme bent grass.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that come and assist on a Monday with the function of the course. **Rob Edgerley** and his crew of Parramatta grass removalist do an amazing job. They have also assisted in the bunkers with placing the new sand. **Mick Collins** for his work on maintaining these areas around the clubhouse and carpark. **Noel Schneider** and the Bush care crew for their efforts around the course.

I would also like to thank the Board for their support in my endeavours to continue improving not only the course itself, but the machinery and staff that go along with it.

Looking forward to the next 12 months and beyond

Cheers

Will Ockenden

Course Superintendent