

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025

Overall, 2025 proved to be another very busy but successful year. Although our net profit in 2025 was only \$10772 compared to the previous year's net profit of \$69011 I believe it needs to be highlighted that we spent a significant amount of our funds in 2025 on capital items that the Board deemed a necessity. In total we spent almost \$460K on capital items throughout the year. These will be outlined in the Treasurer's report. In reality we continue to be in a sound and secure financial position moving into 2026. Once again, I would like to acknowledge and thank our Treasurer **Sam Stalgis** and Director **Marilyn Schott** for the conscientious approach they take in overseeing the club's finances and the fact they have been mindful of being frugal with our expenditure wherever possible.

Throughout the year the Board continued to ensure our club satisfies all the Golf NSW, Clubs NSW and state government requirements to help keep all our members safe and healthy whilst at the club. We reviewed important policies such as the Code of Conduct Policy, Severe Weather Policy and Use of Private Carts Policy and created policies for Pace of Play and Dress Code.

One of the Board's major objectives is to continue to provide a quality golf course which is well maintained and challenging for golfers of any ability. Pleasingly, we continue to receive many positive comments about the quality of our course from visiting golfers and our members. In late 2024 we were ranked 128th best course in Australia by Golf Australia which is a reflection of the conscientious planning, hard work and community spirit we so proudly invest in.

During 2025 major changes to aspects of the course were undertaken. In early winter, work on rebuilding the 4th green and surrounds commenced. At the same time greenside bunkers on the 17th and 18th holes were repositioned and the fairway bunkers on the 5th hole were modified. Additionally, the cart path on the 14th tee box was moved to help with the safety of golfers on the tee. Much to the relief of staff and golfers this work was completed in July.

In early Spring, work commenced on rebuilding the 11th green and extending the 11th and 12th tee boxes. This work was completed in November.

Overall, we have a golf course that continues to get better and better. Although no major course renovations are planned for 2026 minor changes will occur later in the year, notably changes to the 1st fairway and the large greenside bunker on the 18th hole.

Our greens staff do a fantastic job and on behalf of the club membership I applaud them for their diligence and conscientious efforts. Thanks to **Lachlan Maddison, Chad Casinelli, Cooper Maddison** and **Kane Albert** ably led by our Course Supervisor **Will Ockenden**, for the monumental work they do in ensuring we have a quality golf course to enjoy.

They have been ably supported by our hard-working volunteers led by **Rob Edgerley** who oversees the removal of Parramatta grass from the fairways and surrounds and our Bushcare team of **Noel Schneider, Harry Deany, Mark Allison and Sally Leonard** who oversee the vegetation management of the course periphery.

Additionally, **Jim** and **Sheelagh Preston** do a marvellous job maintaining the gardens around the Clubhouse and **Mick Collins, Greg Stephenson and Mark Williams** ensure the immediate surrounds of the clubhouse are well maintained.

Other major capital works undertaken in 2025 included the upgrade of the drainage at the entry to the carpark, concreting of the entry area and the installation of a scullery at the rear of the kitchen.

The club continues to support charities and the local community. During the year we held our annual Shoalhaven Cancer Care Centre Day raising a total of \$30K. Thanks to the small committee for planning and running the day and Connie Parrish in particular for organising the raffle prizes and selling the majority of the tickets. During the year we also hosted the Heads Primary School Charity and HMAS Albatross golf days.

In November 44 golfers participated in the “Longest Day” raising \$54 773K for Cancer research. This significant amount saw us being ranked the highest fundraising club in Australia. Thanks to Colin Brown and his team for organising and running this very successful event.

That month we also hosted for the third consecutive year the NSW Matchplay Championships which proved very successful.

Another essential component of any successful golf club is the Pro shop. In most instances they are the first port of call for golfers and to have a team who are friendly, obliging and make you feel welcome is a major plus. Our team of **Lloyd Herron, Barney Kingdom, Brett Lawson, Phil Behan, Greg Stephenson** and **Graeme Murphy** under the guidance of our club professional **Greg Collins** and his wife **Jo** do an admirable job in this regard. Without doubt Greg has been instrumental in attracting more and more members to our club by adding additional golfing events such as the summer team’s competition to our annual calendar.

Within the clubhouse our bar and catering trading were somewhat disappointing in 2025. Both were down compared to 2024 figures, and this is an area the Board will have to look at more closely going forward.

Irrespectively, I thank the kitchen staff of **Mountain Eagle-Pitt, Gail Bateman, René Kendall** and **Jodie Bell**, ably supported by our young baristas for ensuring the club provides quality food at very reasonable prices. Late in the year Mouny and Jodie left our employ but we welcomed Linda Thompson in February of this year.

Thanks also to our Bar Manager **Lee Maddinson** for co-ordinating the kitchen and bar staffing and all associated operations. I thank all the volunteers who work behind the bar, clean the beer lines and help the kitchen staff when possible.

As has been mentioned many times in the past the success of our club is primarily the result of our volunteer base, and without that base we most certainly would not be as profitable as we are now. In 2025 there were 4019 recorded hours of volunteer work.

I have mentioned a significant number of our volunteers in this report, but I must add the finance team that undertakes the payment of all the accounts and ensure the daily takings balance. To **Marilyn Schott, Leanne Jeffs, Brian** and **Lorraine Rowe** and **David Wilson** thank you for your dedication and perseverance.

Effective communications are essential for success. Our members need to be kept informed of what is happening in and around the club. To help in this regard I thank **Jackie Boaden** for the distribution of emails to members, **Jill Lutton** for maintaining our digital records and **Jackie, Rebekah O’Reilly** and **Steve Hancock** for updating various aspects of the club website.

Also, of significant importance in the club’s success is the role undertaken by the various committees who strive to both manage and meet the expectations of the membership and help ensure the club

runs smoothly and efficiently. Thanks to all the members of the Building, Greens, Match, House, WHS, IT and Comms committees for your involvement. It is very much appreciated!

Our Vets committee led by President **Harry Delany** continue to do a tremendous job in ensuring that our Vets can compete in club and interclub competitions. Similarly, the small team of lady members ably led by **Lady Captain Chris Russell** are doing a great job in organising and running the various women's competitions at club and Pennant levels. Additionally, they organised a fantastic Melbourne Cup luncheon.

We are also very fortunate to have a significant number of sponsors who support our club. Their support is critical to the ongoing success of our club. I would hope our members are familiar with our sponsors who are listed on our website and that they utilise our sponsors where possible.

2025 was another successful year for our club and I have no doubt we are the envy of many other clubs not only in close proximity to us but even further afield. The Board has worked tirelessly to ensure we meet member expectations and to support all aspects of club operations in 2025. I thank them all on your behalf.

Rob Russell
President