

Around the Club

A newsletter for Wodonga Golf Club members



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July, 2017

Keeping you informed

WELCOME to the newsletter, Around the Club, which is aimed to keep members and those interested in Wodonga Golf Club informed about latest happenings.

This newsletter is recognition of that fact that members and those associated with the club have been expressing interest in knowing about its future.

The club management said the focus will be on continuing to improve the course condition and the service provided to the members.

"The appointment of our new pro golfer, new ground staff and the pro shop facility are just the beginning of the long-term plan of improvement," the management said.

"The future plans for residential and hotel development on the vacant land will not impact on the normal business of the 18 holes course.

"We look forward to sharing the details of this development in the near future and we see the golf course as a key component of our development plan.

"It will be a valuable attraction to the overall development which is why we are focused on continuing to invest in making it better.

"The development we are planning will also provide vital funding to the golf course for the long term."

Updates of the development will be provided as available.

John's appointment to bring wealth of knowledge to role

JOHN Anderson, *pictured right*, will join the Wodonga club team from next month.

He will join the Wodonga club as superintendent, heading up the ground maintenance crew.

With an excellent working relationship with the new club pro, Gavin Vearing (*see next page*), the appointment will bring significant benefits to Wodonga.

John has been most recently working at Howlong Golf Club.

He started his career as an apprentice green-keeper at the Wodonga Golf Club, before being appointed to assistant superintendent.

He was then senior green-keeper and course foreman at Riversdale Golf Club in Melbourne and has worked at Howlong since last year.

He was involved in the tournament crew at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club in 2013 at the Australian Masters, giving him significant experience at working with top-level events.

John is highly recognised for his



skills, being the most outstanding apprentice at Wodonga TAFE in 2011 and runner-up in the Victorian Golf Course Superintendents Association's Graduate of the Year Award that same year.

His impressive list of work-related qualifications include:

- Certificate III (Apprenticeship) Sports Turf Management;
- Certificate V (Diploma) Sports Turf Management;
- Certificate II In Business;
- Victorian Certificate of Education.

Club bunkers to get revamp

WORK will commence on a bunker renovation program during the next month.

The work will include improving the drainage of bunkers 3A, 3B and 6A, which have become waterlogged during times of wet weather.

In bunkers 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 18, the sand levels will be topped up.

Both works will provide a better golfing experience for those taking to the course.

Interruptions to golfers will be minimised wherever possible.

Around the club

Thanks to Mandy

WODONGA Golf Club management has paid tribute to outgoing club professional Mandy Buchanan.

"Mandy was our club professional for five years and, during that time, had a significant role in developing the pro shop and had strong relationships with our members," the club management said.

"She was greatly respected for her golfing expertise and we wish her much success in her new endeavours."

Renewals issued

CLUB membership renewals for the 2017-18 financial year have been issued.

The club looks forward to receiving renewals from the members.

For those who joined during the year, they will receive their club renewals during their membership anniversary month.

If there are any questions regarding memberships, please talk to the pro shop staff.

Functions

JUST a reminder to keep the Clubhouse Bar and Bistro in mind if you have an event or function coming up.

The Clubhouse has a number of options available for any special event, whether it be formal or casual, corporate or private, large or small.

Facebook page

DON'T forget you can find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/wodongagolf/>

We will be focusing efforts on enhancing this page in coming months.

Gavin into swing of new role

NEW club professional Gavin Vearing (right) has been warmly welcomed by club members and players since arriving at Wodonga last month.

Gavin takes over from Mandy Buchanan, who was the club professional for five years.

With more than 20 years' experience as a golf professional, Gavin said he was excited about the opportunities at Wodonga and looked forward to working with management and the club owners during an exciting phase of development at the club.

"Even though I have worked in the golf industry for the past 20 years, the opportunity to run my own pro shop is very exciting and a new challenge," Gavin said.

Gavin also has a love of regional areas, having grown up on a farm near Ararat. and commencing his love of golf on sand greens at Willaura Golf Club, aged 10.

"I played most of my junior golf at Chalambar Golf Club in Ararat before shifting to Melbourne to pursue a career in golf," he said.

"I felt like a kid in a lolly shop shifting to Melbourne as I joined Victoria Golf Club and worked at Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

"Pennant golf was played against clubs such as Huntingdale,



Commonwealth, Yarra Yarra and Metropolitan.

"I spent five years with the Victorian Institute of Sport practicing alongside golfers such as Stuart Appleby, Robert Allenby, Geoff Ogilvy and Richard Green.

"I turned pro in January 1996 and played tournament golf full-time in Australia, Asia and Canada. My best result was a fourth in the Rolex Masters in Singapore where I picked up \$19,000 for my week's play."

Gavin has previously worked at the Howlong Golf Resort, Green Acres Golf Club in Kew and Western Australia's Sanctuary Golf Resort.

His experiences have seen him become an accomplished player and gain vast knowledge in coaching and club management.

A former member of the Victorian state team, he has had three top 10 finishes at the Victorian Open during his professional career.

Storm repairs to course are a focus

REPAIRS to the golf course following a savage storm in March are closer to completion.

The damage was caused during a freak weather incident which saw 20mm of rain dumped in about 10 minutes, with winds reaching an estimated 90kmh.

The club management said there were hundreds of fallen trees

on the course following the storm.

"The work to clean up after the storm has been very intensive but we are closer to getting it finished," they said.

"We would like to thank everyone for their help during the clean-up and their patience as we have worked on restoring the course."