

BOARDTALK

JANUARY 2009

Welcome everyone to this edition of BoardTalk and to the 2009 golfing year.

There are two changes to the Board of Management this year. Pat Shearwood has been elected Director of Women's Golf and Nick Jago elected Director of Sponsorship. Pat returns after a one year break from the Board while Nick takes up his initial appointment, welcome to both. The Director of Finance position is currently vacant and expressions of interest would be most welcome.

Sue Manning, our previous Director of Women's Golf has elected to take a break after some 5 years on the Board in that role. Sue thank you for the many hours you have contributed to the Club during your term. Thank you also to Skip Smith for his contributions as Director of Sponsorship over his 18 month term.

Vice President, Glen Hyde, has advised that due to work commitments he is unable to continue in his Board role. Accordingly, the position of Vice President will shortly be vacant and expressions of interest would be most welcome.

Our Club Patron, Brigadier Mark Bornholt has completed his term at RMC-A and on behalf of the Board of Management and all Members I take this opportunity to thank Mark for the enormous support he provided to the Club during his time as Commandant RMC-A. Both Mark and Karen intend to continue their membership of RMC and Mark is to continue as our Patron for a further period of time.

RMC-A has a new Commandant, Brigadier Mick Moon and I welcome Mick and his family to RMC. It is hoped that we will see both Mick and his wife Dianne on the course in the near future.

As always there is much to be achieved during the year ahead and what we are able to accomplish will depend on available resources, priorities, demands and the level of support provided by members. Some of our key focus issues in the year ahead include:

- *Increase membership and increase in the number of members participating in regular competitions.*
- *Continued focus on maintaining our course in its' excellent playing condition.*
- *Review and refine the activities and services provided to members to ensure that we continue to provide an attractive membership package that represents value for money.*
- *Maintain strong financial controls to ensure that our Club remains financially viable*
- *Seek to enhance the relationship with existing sponsors and expand our sponsorship base.*
- *Seek to expand*
- *Advance our Club History project to the stage where the initial draft is completed before the end of the year.*

Club Administration:

Close control will continue to be maintained over all operational areas to ensure that we operate as effectively as possible within our available resources.

The 2009 Members Handbook is now available from the club. Please pick up a copy for future reference. Unfortunately the listing of the 2008 RMC Club Champion is incorrectly shown as Chris Ganderton in lieu of Matthew Creek. Apologies to Matthew and Chris for this mistake.

It is hoped that all the teething problems experienced with the upgrade to Power Golf will have been resolved by the time this document reaches you. The upgrade enables members to book on-line, review competition results on-line, change personal details and receive messages. We also expect to be able to apply membership renewal invoicing on-line. Thank you for your patience during the settling in process.

Members will shortly notice some of our women sporting smart new shirts. For those that pre-ordered or any of the women member interested in obtaining a shirt please see Women's President, Gail Dau. The cost is \$45.00 each and, except for the pre-paid orders, a quantity are available for sale on a "first paid" basis.

The Club has also had the opportunity to participate in an electronic advertising medium, at not cost to the Club, with Plasima Tech.

Casual barman, Mark Herrick, has tendered his resignation effective from the close of business 1 February 2009 to take up a management role. Thank you Mark for your commitment during your term at the Club and best wishes in your future endeavours.

Membership:

It is with pleasure that I welcome long standing member Greg Monteith as a Life Member of the Club. Greg's life membership

was approved and awarded at the 2008 Annual General Meeting.

As mentioned earlier we intend to actively canvass increased membership during 2009. In this regard I ask that all members help expand our membership by introducing new comers to our game and our Club. Members will be kept informed of specific membership drives/promotions as they are initiated via the Club Notice Board and future editions of Boardtalk.

Thank you to those Board Members and Members that volunteered their time to act as Course Marshalls over the Christmas and New Year break. Your efforts in monitoring course usage and green fee collections are greatly appreciated.

Our website, www.rmccgc.com.au, is an easy way to provide people with information on our Club. The site has downloadable membership forms, event details and some brilliant colour photos of the course and facilities.

The Course:

January has seen the arrival of summer and with it drying winds that impact on the course. We have been very fortunate, however, to have had a relatively mild and wet November/December which was great for the course. Leading up to Christmas the course condition was arguably the best it has been for a number of years and it has been pleasing to be able to pass on the many positive comments from members and visitors to our Course Superintendent, Chris Ganderton and his staff. Chris continues to put a lot of effort into getting the best out of our grass, which, of course, is not just a result of what nature provides. This year we will spend in excess of \$14,000 on fertiliser and sprays to help keep our grass healthy, including the promotion of the local couch, which is more drought resistant. And for the benefit of those members who may be concerned about the brown patches appearing on some fairways and greens, this

is only due to the annual cycle of winter grass dying back, not any lack of water or disease.

While rain is always welcome, it is unfortunately falling during thunderstorms, which also damages the course. We have lost a number of trees through strong winds and the erosion of paths and damage to bunkers are also of concern. This year we will be seeking to take measures to reduce the impact of heavy rain, particularly on paths.

Members will have noticed that work on Morshead Drive is now largely complete and new trees have been planted on the 3rd/12th fairway. Members are requested to try and avoid hitting these trees while they are young as we have already had some lose foliage from unknown causes.

I am very pleased to announce that our popular and respected apprentice, Toby Jamieson, has successfully qualified as a greenkeeper and been appointed to a position with the Federal Golf Club. Toby, who left on 9 January, has been a real asset to the club and it therefore came as no surprise to see him snapped up by one of the district's larger clubs. I am sure I speak for all members when I wish Toby every success for the future. In keeping with the Club's philosophy of developing young people in the golf course management industry, we have taken on a new apprentice, James Bray, whom we welcome to the Club.

Around the Greens:

FROM THE MEN'S CAPTAIN:

2009 Pennants Campaign:

The 2009 Pennant season commences on Sunday 1 February with the Club's B Grade team, captained by John Williams, taking on Murrumbidgee. The team had a strong season in 2008 reaching the semi-final stage of the competition and they are confident they can go one step further this year. On 5 March, the Senior Masters competition commences. This competition is played on a

Thursday. If any member wishes to nominate for the Senior Masters team please contact Sam Malone or John Burke.

DGA District Stableford Competition:

In 2009 the DGA will be introducing a District Stableford competition. Our Club will participate in this event and has nominated four of our normal Sunday rounds from May through to August when our stableford scores will be included in this DGA competition. There is no additional cost to members to participate in this event. Please see the notice board for further information.

FROM THE WOMEN'S CAPTAIN.

Women's competitions for 2009 commence on Thursday 5th at 8.30am and Saturday 7th February at 10.40am. Both days are Stableford and bring a plate.

All women members should have received their annual welcome letter by now and this includes forms for the special fee, nominated day and Championship survey. A meeting of all women members has been scheduled for Thursday 5th March at 7.30pm at the Club House. This meeting will consider various competition matters and any thing else the Ladies wish to discuss.

The Women's Open Day is on Saturday 14th March. The notices to other clubs are being issued now and hopefully we will have a similar size field as last year. Volunteers are required for assistance on the day whether it is selling lunches, raking bunkers, spotting or other activities in the Club House.

HIO News

Our Hole-in-One sponsor, Defence Force Credit Union has agreed to continue their sponsorship of the Hole-In-One Challenge on the 16th Hole during 2009. Full details are posted on the Club notice board.

Congratulations to Tony Slater who recently achieved his second Hole-in-One in the past 6 months.

Local Rule Change

Members are reminded that the recently installed fence on the 3rd/12th fairways is a boundary fence and therefore the rules applying to boundary fences are enforceable.

Members are also asked, for safety reasons, **not** to cross this boundary fence to retrieve errant golf balls.

Social Activities:

Our popular **Trivia Nights** are set to continue in 2009 with the next one scheduled for Friday the 20th of March 2009. Watch the Notice Board for booking details.

The Club is hosting a **“Get Into Golf Night”** on Friday 20th February with a view to welcoming any potential and/or new members to our Club. Further details will be posted on the Notice Board in the near future.

Thank you to all those members that supported the Australia Day raffle. The barbeque was won by Pat Shearwood.

Members may have also noticed the recent upgrade of the Club barbeque facility. The new stainless steel looks fantastic. Thank you to Tony and Brian from Prestige Metal Works for this great job and for donating the stainless steel as part of their sponsorship arrangements.

Sponsors:

I am delighted to announce that Pete’s Golf Connection is continuing their association as the Club’s major sponsor in 2009. Please remember to reciprocate the generosity of our major sponsor by purchasing all your golfing equipment from Pete’s.

I am also delighted to welcome a new sponsor, Kardinia Wines, and thank them for their support.

The Board expresses sincere appreciation to our sponsors. Again I ask members to show active appreciation to our sponsors by utilising their products and services at every opportunity. Our sponsors are integral to our financial viability. All sponsor contact details are available on the “Corporate Partner” page of our web site and a list of our sponsors is on the last page of this edition.

Social Golfers:

Social Players continue to be an important source of revenue to the club through their green fees and we welcome these players and encourage them to consider becoming members. It is also important that we ensure that all social players honour their green fee commitment. All social players including non-members playing with a member are liable to pay green fees and must carry their receipt while on the course for production on request from any member or staff member. Over the festive season members of the Board patrolled the course as Course Marshalls at selected times and disappointingly found some non-members on course who had neglected to pay the green fee due. Course Marshall activities will continue at selected times and I ask that members assist in this important function by ensuring that their guests pay green fees.

Volunteers:

Volunteers are always needed to assist with a wide range of activities so I encourage you to “get involved” when the call for help is made. Any help is greatly appreciated.

As always I would welcome feedback and comments on the content and format of this edition. Again thank you for your continued membership of our Club and until next time happy golfing.

Cyril Mitchell

Club President

Mobile contact 0400 006 542



*RMCGC would like to proudly thank our Major Sponsor
Pete's Golf Connection for their continued support*



*RMCGC would also like to proudly thank all Corporate
Sponsors for thier continued support*



AAMI (Fyshwick)
Bellchambers Asbestos Removal
Bellchambers Pty Ltd
Boral Group
The Brassey of Canberra
CA (Pacific) Ltd
Chester Cheater - Chesta's Floors

Cadbury Schweppes Australia Pty Ltd
Defence Force Credit Union
Goodyear Auto Care
Grace Smash Repairs
Jesner & Kelly Printers
Lines Signs & Pavements P/L
Pete's Golf Connection ACT
Prestige Metal Works
Scientific Pest Management
The TeddyBear Shop
Tip Top Bakeries
Transact Pty Ltd (ACTEWAGL Retail)

Urban Contractors Pty Ltd
and welcome our Newest sponsor
Kardinia Wines

