

President's Update September 2021

It has been around 5 months since my last President's update. Over that time, we have all faced some tremendous challenges once again due to Covid19 restrictions. The Clubhouse has been closed and our beautiful Bateman's Bay has been in lockdown. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel as Clubs in NSW are projected to open on Monday, 11 October 2021. Let's pray Bateman's Bay will be 14 days clear of any new Covid19 cases so that we can enjoy our Clubhouse once again. In saying that, there will still be an updated Covid19 Safety Management Plan in place and staff, members and visitors will be required to be fully vaccinated to enter the Clubhouse for the Club to be allowed to trade. I'll leave the full details regarding the reopening to our General Manager to convey to you via our eNews and website.

When the Clubhouse does reopen, be aware that most of our Clubhouse personnel were stood down during the closure therefore I am sure they would welcome your appreciation to see them back at their posts. It is important that we all look after our staff, fellow members and the community at large by being receptive and respectful of the restrictions and abiding by them, whenever you are in or around the Club.

Annual General Meeting

Due to the Covid19 lockdowns, this year's **AGM** has been postponed. With the uncertainty of when the Clubhouse would be reopened and the capacity restrictions that would possibly be in place, it was thought prudent to postpone the AGM to a later date. We will advise accordingly when this date has been set.

Rear Security Fencing

In my last President update, I raised the issue of an edict from Liquor and Gaming and our local police, that the Club was required to install a rear security fence within the next 12 months. As a last-ditch opportunity, the Club met with our local police and suggested that the Club could implement additional rear entrance electronic security, coupled with additional personnel on targeted nights. This would achieve the same outcome as physically securing the rear entrance to the Club house after hours. I am very pleased to report that our suggestion was accepted, and our **Alcohol Management Plan** will be updated accordingly. This additional security will still need to be in place within the next couple of months however it will have far less visual impact on the club and, in general, be far less intrusive to our members. A great outcome.

Degustation Nights and Restaurant

If any member has not had the opportunity to attend our Degustation Nights, then you are certainly missing out. Chef Atick has delivered a superb menu coupled with some delightful, sponsored wines, on the night. These nights are proving to be extremely well received by members and guests and are selling out within 24 hours after coming on sale.

Chef Atick has had a pretty challenging first year with Club Catalina trying to adjust his business around the Covid19 restrictions and impacts. When the Club reopens, please join him for a meal to show your support. I am sure whilst he has been in lockdown, he has been dreaming up some great menus for us to sample.

New Storage facility

Members may have noticed a construction fence that has been erected in the Northern carpark. We have been waiting for the installation of a small external storage facility at the back of the restaurant for over 12 months. With delays with council and then Covid19, this installation is finally happening.

Stage 2 Renovations

The Stage 2 renovations were planned to have been well on their way by now. However, once again, due to the impacts of Covid19 restrictions they have been delayed until next year. Primarily they will consist of the same look and feel as our now comfortable Stage 1 renovations.

Stage 2 will consist of:

- Indoor and Outdoor gaming areas
- Sports Bar
- slight adjustment and facelift to the lady's locker room,
- the external and internal toilet facilities near the sports bar
- a face lift to all other toilet facilities within the Clubhouse
- an update to the Front of House area of the restaurant in keeping with the rest of the restaurant; and
- a minor facelift to the main reception area with the inclusion of a Club history wall.

As previously mentioned, the Stage 2 renovations will be managed with as little inconvenience to members as possible.

Given the delay to the delivery of the Stage 2 renovations it is likely that Stage 3 renovations will also be undertaken at the same time as Stage 2.

Stage 3 will consist of:

- a family/café area,
- kids' playroom
- outdoor playground,
- small deck, and
- the reception area.

After the Club's financial situation is made clearer due to the impact of our current Club closure, your Board will determine if we will be in a financial position to deliver on Stage 3 early next year.

Irrigation System

Unfortunately, I must report that the Club was unsuccessful in its grant application to NSW Government Regional Sport Facility for financial assistance with our much-needed irrigation system. This has not deterred us as there is another grant round expected to begin in the 3rd quarter of 2021 in which the Club will re-apply. I understand it is rare for a grant to succeed on its first application, so we remain forever hopeful.

In the meantime, a state of the art 27-hole Irrigation System has been independently designed by a golf course irrigation specialist. Tenders were sort, bids were assessed, and we are pleased to announce **Waterland Pty Ltd Irrigation & Reticulation Systems** have been offered the project. Work is planned to start on the extension to the pump shed very soon in preparation for full installation of the Irrigation system to begin around March 2022. The irrigation system installation will be undertaken over a 6-month period and will be managed to ensure there will be as little inconvenience to our golfers as possible.

Other Golf Course Matters

A full set of 27-hole Tee Posts and Distance Markers have been installed after the trial Tee Posts on Holes 1, 10, 15 and 19 were well received by members. The Board would like to thank member, Peter Criss for his excellent work in volunteering to prepare the Tee Posts and, with the help of Don Wallace, their installation. The posts look very classy and should weather nicely.

Eurobodalla Shire Council are currently undertaking an **Urban Creek Flood Study** regarding the high-water levels in and around the district including our golf course. Given we have had a number of days where the course has been closed due to excessive flooding, the Club will participate as much as possible in relation to this study.

The revegetation planting has finally begun down the sides of the 2nd, 15th and 16th fairways. Members in carts, please be aware of the no-go zones that have been established whilst we give the new plants a chance to survive.

The greens are looking fantastic after the renovations. An enormous amount of time and effort over the past month has been spent by our greens staff to improve our course and I must say, it is coming along very nicely. However, on the weekend I noticed that some members were not repairing their divots on the fairways. Please have pride in your course as, at the moment, there is no one else to blame for the divots but members!

Washdown Bay

Our new fleet of **Club Car Carts** with the **Visage Fleet Management System** arrived and are looking great and performing well. The Cart Washdown Bay was expected to have been installed by now however it has been held up due to Covid19 restrictions. It will be installed right next to the greenkeepers shed. Once we have it installed, our carts should always look brand new.

Strategic Planning

During lockdown your Board has not been idle. We have been holding regular sessions via Zoom with a view to establishing your Club's next Strategic Plan. Lewis Greenup from LG Advisory has been engaged to facilitate our plan. Whilst undertaking this task via Zoom is not ideal, the Board are hopeful that we can meet face to face for the final stages of preparing the plan. To date, we have reviewed: legislative changes, trends in the industry, local demographics, strengths and weaknesses, points of difference with our closest competitors and mountains of information/data for us to analyse. Did you know that Eurobodalla is the oldest demographic LGA in NSW? We have also focused on looking at opportunities for future growth for our Club that will align with our core business i.e., golf.

Once we have completed the Strategic Plan, we will be publishing it on the members website. To be a great Club we must be a great business.

17th Tee parcel of land

Members may have noticed that the '**sold**' sign has been removed from the for-sale sign near the 17th Tee. Unfortunately, the proposed purchaser has withdrawn his offer. On a positive note, with current property market prices in Bateman's Bay, this may provide a greater opportunity for the Club.

Summary

Club Catalina is continuing to travel well, albeit dealing with the challenges along the way. I am confident, as your President, that we will continue to prosper, improving the Club and golf course facilities, and services to you, our members, and the community.

Stay safe and enjoy your golf.

Cathie Flynn

President

Club Catalina