



Newsletter, Summer 2020-21

With an eye to the future

Club passes test posed by an unprecedented year

From the President

While it's tempting to say, 'Let's forget 2020', ultimately it's a year that both reflected the Club's strengths and will define its immediate future.

To reach the end of such a tumultuous year with record membership, high participation rates, a course improvement program launched and finances okay speaks volumes for the resilience of this Club. It could so easily have turned out differently, particularly when you consider we were shut down entirely for seven weeks. I want to thank our Committee and all Members for your response to this once-in-a-century pandemic. It would be remiss of me, too, not to acknowledge the significant help we received from the Federal and State governments: Without their payments and fee refunds we would not be in such a healthy state.

But that's enough dwelling on the past - let's look to the future.

Our membership has now surged past 450 and we continue to sign new Members each week. It is particularly heartening to see so many juniors joining our ranks. This really

became apparent when six boys joined in the annual Men's Christmas Ambrose and gave a good account of themselves both on and off the course. The Committee is considering how better to encourage and improve our young players. We are also seeing competition fields grow steadily. Wednesday regularly sees 40-plus women tee it up, 80 is the new 60 on Thursdays, and Saturday's twin shotgun starts enables 150-plus to play. Our Captains are doing a wonderful job of organising these big fields and we should acknowledge and appreciate the considerable time and skill they bring to their jobs.

Expect to see the golf course improve further in 2021. The resurfaced 8th and 17th holes will be in operation by February and we plan to do two more fairways late in the year (when growing conditions allow it). Even though we can't see what's going on under the ground, Dylan and Lex have worked hard to improve the subsoil profile of our greens and this is now reflecting in firmer, smoother conditions. Course Committee has examined the current and projected tree cover across the entire course to ensure good shots are not penalised and to promote shade and habitat where appropriate. Many inappropriate trees have already gone and scores of others have had their lower limbs removed to promote light for grass growth, to enable mowers to get underneath, and to allow golfers some chance to recover from 'the bush'. Equally, dozens of trees have been planted in non-golf areas and this will continue.

Off the course, the new Captain's Office and entry/scoring system are winners. Committee is also considering how the clubhouse might be expanded to cater for more Members and more golf carts. Our Platinum sponsor, Fosterville Goldmine, has already funded the Captain's Office and will provide significant payments in 2021 and 2022 that Committee has earmarked for clubhouse improvements. Note our clubhouse is a community facility and we will be working in conjunction with the Axedale Recreation Reserve Committee of Management.

The end of a challenging year is now in sight and thankfully things are looking brighter. On behalf of the Committee, please enjoy the festive season with your families. Yes, we will provide plenty of golfing opportunities during this time, but they are secondary to family time. Stay safe and we will see you in 2021. Happy New Year.

ALLAN ANDREWS

'Claytons' golf trip a winner



Follow me ... I think I know the way to the next tee! Pam Davies leads Sue O'Connor and Alyson McCulloch.

On the 14 October, 24 ladies motored down the highway to Heathcote golf course to enjoy their golf at a different venue. It was a beautiful course in tip top condition with views to Mt Ida in the background. The weather was warm and the rain held off nicely for us.

We played in groups of three, with the winning aggregate stableford points going to Eily, Mandy and Muriel with an impressive 100 points. A tasty lunch followed at the Heathcote Wine Hub with a few extra ladies from Axedale joining us. After much eating, drinking and lots of chatter, the clouds started to open a little which prompted us to award the perpetual encouragement award and the new "booby" prize. Anne Robinson graciously accepted the encouragement award passed on from Carmel Williams the year before. Jan Walklate won the nomination for the new "booby" prize awarded along the lines of our own "galah" award.

After a successful day out I think there will be plans to repeat another day out at another venue within coo-wee of Bendigo.

- SUE GAMBLE

PS: The **men's river trip** will now be held from February 10-12.



ABOVE LEFT: Skipper Jan keeps abreast of proceedings.

ABOVE RIGHT: The author in pink putts perfectly.



Standing room only

Here's a great sight for the Club - a practice area full of juniors under the watchful eye of coach Fred Kath in October. We have seen a surge of juniors joining, with more than 20 new youngsters already this financial year. The Club charges only \$50 for Junior Membership to encourage youngsters to join and participate in free coaching.

Well struck! Relaid fairways are off and running

FROM COURSE CHAIRMAN LEX JOHNSTONE

The warm weather might have taken a while to arrive this year, but it has now done so with a vengeance, and boy has the course responded. The couch grass has responded well, our greens have largely recovered their best health and scores have tumbled in the quicker conditions on offer.

Great news, too, from Goulburn-Murray Water - we have received a 100 per cent water allocation for the season, meaning Dylan has plenty of water on hand for the hot Summer ahead.

... and plenty of water to bed down our new Tif-Tuf fairways on 8 and 17. A huge thanks to the 35 volunteers who did a great job spreading the grass sprigs - approximately four-and-a-half hours to complete the job. Due to the 15-20mm of rain two nights earlier, the fairways were too soft to roll the sprigs in. Instead, fairways were watered heavily since sprigging and with warm humid weather since, we have had an excellent strike rate. Apart from a couple of 'cart incidents', golfers were pretty good in staying off the saturated fairways, which will be repaired and rolled once the grass covers a bit. We look forward to reopening 8 and 17 for golf by Summer's end.

Elsewhere, there is plenty happening:

19th hole

Earthworks are completed - thanks Sean and Mick O'Connor. Irrigation is underway, aggregate for drainage is laid and the recent arrival of the top sand means we can complete the job. Fringes will be solid turfed from unwanted fairway nursery plots. Again, we aim to open this hole to play by the end of Summer.

Bunkers

All 30 bunkers will be topped up with new sand. While holes 8 and 17 are closed, we are renovating their bunkers, emptying them, clearing drainage and fixing bases fixed if required before new sand is spread.

Tees

The 17th tee extension will be completed while the hole is closed. Fill is being dumped between the front and rear tees to create one 'monster' tee that will give us flexibility to reduce wear by moving tees to new positions. Soon you will see us cutting sods from the current tees; these will be laid as tee extensions on the 12th and 14th holes. The 17th tee will then be resown with a single grass species.

Greens

You'll recall we root-pruned around greens a few months back. The aim is to reduce competition for water from tree roots. This will ensure the bent grass can drive its roots deeper, reducing water usage and enabling staff to create firmer, quicker greens. Pleasingly, the bent grass root profile has increased by 20-30mm over past 12 months. Roots are now appearing at the bottom of the hole plug when holes are being changed.

You might notice a bit of yellowing in some greens at present. Don't panic! Dylan has simply sprayed out some unwanted grasses and the greens will soon be totally - er, green again.

Fairways

Fairways have been sprayed for broadleaf and other weeds: A great result, fairway moving along nicely. That horrible Parramatta grass on the 13th will be addressed - it's a tough weed to tackle. Spot spraying on all fairways continues.

Fescue nursery.

Fescue grass will be used for green surrounds across the course. It's a nice playable grass that will also act as a 'moat' ensure couch can't infiltrate our greens. Nursery seeding was completed. The strike on seed was okay, but we suffered some unfortunate wash from heavy rainfall. The grass has received its first cut and fertiliser and bent grass seed has been added. Overall a good result.

Planting program

Thanks again to volunteers who planted trees and shrubs on the hillside behind the 1st/3rd greens. Fortunately, we've had plenty of rain to get them started, although some supplementary watering was needed through an October dry spell. An inspection last week showed the December dry had taken a toll, but we look to have around 50 per cent of plants in good nick. Please feel free to tip some water on these small plants as you pass.

Gardens

Yet again, thanks to the 20 or so volunteers who turned out on a Sunday morning to weed and mulch the gardens along the tennis court and on the 15th tee. It was a classic case of many hands making light work, with Stuart Chesher's tipper trailer a big hit. The gardens have been planted with Australian natives including 20 or so Eremophila species (emu bush) as well as Grevilleas, ti-tree, bottlebrushes and others. The garden below the 9th tee is also looking terrific. We intend to involve Members more broadly in tending our gardens and tree-plantings - more news soon.

LEX JOHNSTONE

How you can help your course

There are a number of simple ways you can help us to improve and manage the course. With 450-plus Members, even a few minutes work by many hands will make a difference. It's just a matter of keeping an eye out for little jobs:

> The first is obvious: **Fill your own divots**. Also, while waiting for partners to hit, have a look around and see if there are a couple of others you can repair.

> **Pull out weeds**. Again, even while waiting to hit you might be able to pull out two or three weeds from around tees or even on the fairway.

> Tip a bit of water on young plants. There are plenty of new plantings around the course, both in garden beds and in non-play areas: If you have some spare water, or spare time, don't be scared to **water these young plants**. They will not die from over-watering but will if allowed to dry out.

> **Pick up sticks** likely to affect play and throw them deeper into the bush.



ABOVE: Sprigging hell, can our Members work! Just some of the throng who turned out, buckets in hand, to sprig the 8th and 17th (pictured) fairways. Fairway resurfacing is a massive step forward for the Club. Let's face it, today's golfers expect good conditions year-round and that's what our new Tif-Tuf fairways will provide. We expect to be playing 8 and 17 again by February. Can't wait to hit it over the creek on 17 again!

BELOW: The grass stood no chance against our whipper snipper team, seen here clearing around the new trees planted below the 1st green.





ABOVE: Newly planted trees on the steep hillside between the 18th and 2nd

FROM THE CAPTAINS

Gold letter events squeezed in

In a difficult year, we have managed to squeeze in a number of Gold Letter events prior to Christmas.

Thanks to Members who made time to fit in with the schedule.

The **Men's Championship** was keenly contested. Reece Thompson took a two-shot lead into the final day - which was delayed by a week due to the Heat Policy - only to falter and see stalwart Lex Johnstone notch up his 18th title. Well done again, Lex, and well played Reece.

Club Champion	Lex Johnstone 68-69-68	205
A Grade Nett	Ian Hann 64-65-67	196
B Grade Champion	Rod Threlfall 83-82-79	244
B Grade Nett	Damien Nihill 62-68-66	196
C Grade Champion	Bart Leahy d. Ian Stove in play-off	
C Grade Nett	Ian Stove 68-59-64	191
Junior Champion	Jaidi Jackson- Leahy 73-82-73	228
Veterans Champion	Joe Stanley 62-74-61	197
Putting Champion	Grant Lane 29-29-26	84

The **Men's Singles Knock Out** final saw Reece Thompson comfortably defeat Rod Jacobs. All qualifying

players have been really co-operative in arranging and playing these matches in recent weeks and they should be congratulated in keeping this program alive in 2020.

The **Doubles** was taken out by evergreen Bill Andrea and Paul Pyke 4-3 over Stu McGibbon and Mark Fitzgerald (not Travis Fitzpatrick as your Hon. Sec. erroneously advised!).

Played on a Sunday, the **Men's Canadian Foursomes** attracted only a small field, with Lex Johnstone and Roger Heider notching up yet another victory.

The **Mixed Canadian** on 20 December attracted 15 pairs, which was excellent for a Sunday. Fred Kath and Ruth Iser shot a terrific 72 to win the gross, with Joy Kennedy and newcomer Geoff Robinson combining well to take out the nett. Pleasingly, all relationships were reported intact at day's end!

The Men's Christmas Ambrose was again a hit, with the capacity field of 30 teams filled well prior to the event.

In recent weeks there have been three Holes in One; Peter Stringer, Gary Day and Brian Edwards have hit the ultimate shot and enjoyed the experience of scoring an Ace!

The 2020 Annual Tournament is proposed to be folded into the 2021 Autumn Tournament as a 'festival of golf' headed by the Symes Motors BMW Axedale Pro-Am on Thursday 11 March. More information as planning evolves.

The renovation of the Captain's Office is complete. We are now fine-tuning operating from the renovated office which has more room, is brighter and allows volunteers to move freely to service Members and visitors.

The computer scoring system is running well with Members learning how to enter a competition, print a scorecard and lodge their scorecard after their game. Members seem to be enjoying the simplicity of the whole process which this system provides.

We have also been developing a new / changed green fee card and these are now being used for GF players. The card has a copy of the course map which is more relevant than local rules and allows visitors to navigate our course more easily.

We have asked Stephen Amos to join the Match Committee for the 2020/2021 year. We also see Steve as a future captain of the Club. He has experience at Pyramid Hill, is enthusiastic and keen to be involved at Axedale.

Chris Beames has been lost to the MC and moves to the Course Committee. Chris contributed to the MC over the past two years and it was great having his thoughts as a younger member who has had some great experiences at other golf clubs. We take this opportunity to thank Chris for his service to the MC.

Women's competitions

Ruth Iser shot a terrific final round to take out the **Club Championship** in September. Linda Andrea played excellent golf to take out the **Saturday Championship**, with Emma O'Connor winning the Saturday nett.

Linda Andrea 78-70-74 = 222 Gross Champion

& Emma O'Connor 69-66-61 = 196 Nett Champion

Raye Fleay played steady golf throughout the rounds of the **Singles Knockout**, continuing her good form to defeat Muriel Pitts in the final.

The **Doubles** final was a ripper, see-sawing all day before players took the long walk to the 18th tee locked together. It all came down to two par putts, with Pam Davies and Mandy Hamilton just nudging ahead of Kaye Osterfield and Barb Collins at the death.

FESTIVE SEASON GOLF

Book online for all Comps

Wed 23 Dec Two comps: Either 8.00am or noon shotgun start.
Women and Men can opt for either and mixed groups are fine.

Thu 24 Dec Social golf only.

Fri 25 Dec No-ho-ho golf - Christmas Day

Sat 26 Dec Competition golf definitely on.
Women & Men 8.00am or noon shotgun starts

Wed 30 Dec Women's competition

Thu 31 Dec Men's comp, 10.00am shotgun start ... yes, 10am

Fri 1 Jan New Year's Day. Possible Social Club event.
4-Person Ambrose, any combination. Details to be confirmed

Sat 2 Jan Medal Day, stroke: 8am or noon shotgun start.
Women white tees, Men black tees



ABOVE: The Women's Doubles final was closely fought all day, coming down to the final putt on the 18th. Left to right are runners-up Barb Collins and Kaye Osterfield and winners Mandy Hamilton and Pam Davies enjoying a post-match frothy.

Seeking volunteers for holiday season and 2021 Pro-Am

The festive season and New Year are traditionally busy times for Green Fee players, who are an important revenue source for the Club.

We are urgently seeking volunteers to take two-hour shifts in the Captain's Office over the next few weeks. To volunteer:

- > Go to our website Home Page
- > Click the Competitions tab
- > Select 'Captains Office Volunteer Roster'
- > Book a time to man the office

Your main duty will be to ensure we collect the correct Green Fee from all players, and to record their names and contact phone numbers (for Covid tracking).

The Eftpos machine is simple to use - even your correspondent has no trouble! Basically just key in the amount, hit the green button, have the punter swipe his/her card, and offer them a

receipt before filing the Club's receipt in the day's takings. If you are new to the job and want a tutorial, let us know and we will assign an experienced operator to help you with your first shift.

A list for the 11 March Pro-Am is at the clubhouse. Please add your name to your preferred job.



The new Captain's Office is much larger and features a central island bench as a working area - very handy for setting out cards when compiling a shotgun start ... and isn't it great to have those back!



Our ageless Club Champ

A glance at the Club honor board reveals the contribution made by Hon. Life Member and eight-times Club Champion Garry Harrop. On 14 November, on the temporary par 66 layout, 73-year-old Garry added to the legend by shooting 72 off the stick, bettering his age by a stroke. Golfers dream about this achievement, although your correspondent reckons he'll need to live to 120 to have a chance of matching Garry's feat.

FOR THOSE WHO MISSED THIS ARTICLE EARLIER ...

Everything you thought you knew about snake bites is wrong

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article appeared in our Spring edition but is so important it is worth repeating for those Members who missed it. The story totally changed my understanding of snake bites. It was written by Rob Timmings, who runs a medical/nursing education business Teaching nurses, doctors and paramedics. Given snakes are often spotted on our course, this is well worth taking a few minutes to read.

In Australia ...

- 3000 bites are reported annually.
- 300-500 hospitalisations
- 2-3 deaths annually.

Average time to death is 12 hours. The urban myth that you are bitten in the yard and die before you can walk from your chook pen back to the house is a load of rubbish.

While not new, the management of snake bite (like a flood/fire evacuation plan or CPR) should be refreshed each season. Let's start with a basic overview.

There are five genus of snakes that will harm us (seriously): Browns, Blacks, Adders, Tigers and Taipans. (Editor's note: Axedale golfers don't need to worry about Taipans or Adders ... well, maybe just those who can't add up their score!)

All snake venom is made up of huge proteins (like egg white). When bitten, a snake injects some venom into the meat of your limb (NOT into your blood). This venom can not be absorbed into the blood stream from the bite site. It travels in a fluid transport system in your body called the lymphatic system (not the blood stream).

Now this fluid (lymph) is moved differently to blood. Your heart pumps blood around, so even when you are lying dead still, your blood still circulates around the body. Lymph fluid is different. It moves around with physical muscle movement like bending your arm, bending knees, wriggling fingers and toes, walking/exercise etc.

Now here is the thing. Lymph fluid becomes blood after these lymph vessels converge to form one of two large vessels (lymphatic trunks) which are connected to veins at the base of the neck.

Back to the snake bite site. When bitten, the venom has been injected into this lymph fluid (which makes up the bulk of the water in your tissues). The only way that the venom can get into your blood stream is to

be moved from the bite site in the lymphatic vessels. The only way to do this is to physically move the limbs that were bitten.

Stay still!!! Venom can't move if the victim doesn't move. Just in case you missed that ...

Stay still!!

Remember, people are not bitten into their blood stream.

In the 1980s a technique called Pressure immobilisation bandaging was developed to further retard venom movement. It completely stops venom /lymph transport toward the blood stream. A firm roll bandage is applied directly over the bite site (don't wash the area).

First aid for a bite victim

Three steps: keep them still.

Step 1

Apply a bandage over the bite site, to an area about 10cm above and below the bite.

Step 2:

Then using another elastic roller bandage, apply a firm wrap from fingers/toes all the way to the armpit/groin. The bandage needs to be firm, but not so tight that it causes fingers or toes to turn purple or white. About the tension of a sprain bandage.

Step 3:

Splint the limb so the patient can't walk or bend the limb.

Do nots:

Do not cut, incise or suck the venom.

Do not EVER use a tourniquet.

Don't remove the shirt or pants - just bandage over the top of clothing.

Remember movement (like wriggling out of a shirt or pants) causes venom movement.

DO NOT try to catch, kill or identify the snake!!! This is important. In hospital we NO LONGER NEED to know the type of snake; it doesn't change treatment. Five years ago we would do a test on the bite, blood or urine to identify the snake so the correct anti venom can be used.

BUT NOW ... we don't do this. Our new Antivenom neutralises the venoms of all the five listed snake genus, so it doesn't matter what snake bit the patient.

Read that again - one injection for all snakes! Polyvalent is our one shot wonder, stocked in all hospitals,

so most hospitals no longer stock specific Antivenins.

Australian snakes tend to have three main effects in differing degrees.

- Bleeding - internally and bruising.
- Muscles paralysed causing difficulty talking, moving & breathing.
- Pain

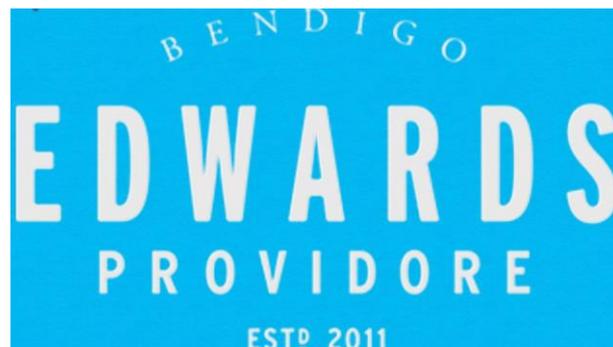
In some snakes severe muscle pain in the limb, and days later the bite site can break down forming a nasty wound. Allergy to snakes is rarer than winning lotto twice.

Final tips: not all bitten people are envenomated and only those starting to show symptoms above are given antivenom.

Did I mention to stay still.

Rob Timmings

Kingston/Robe Health Advisory



Thanks to Edwards Providore for their continuing sponsorship of the Club. 2020 was tough for small businesses such as this, so please support Edwards and all our sponsors.
