

## District Reports for April 2014 Council Meeting

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### ZONE A

With Bayview problems close to resolution, Warringah Golf Club is now under threat, facing a Council review of the whole of District Park of which Warringah golf course is a part. The Council has asked for public submissions on the best way to utilise the open space with suggestions including a 9 hole golf course, driving range, facilities for youth engagement, botanical gardens, walkuig tracks etc.. Public submissions were due by the end of March with a report and recommendation due to Council in April then June. Stuart Fraser provided an excellent submission to Council following a meeting with the Warringah steering committee. Does this mean that because of declining club membership, less rounds played and time poor society, Councils could see the open space of a golf course as an easy target for land and that any Council run or owned course is fair game?

Back to Bayview where at the EGM, members voted unanimously to approve the sale of a parcel of land on the hillside of the course which covers a portion of two fairways and one green. A new course plan with the ninth hole returning to the clubhouse is on display and this course will be slightly longer then the present layout.

Around the clubs: In mid-March a mini cyclone ripped through the Northern Beaches destroying 30 trees at Mona Vale and over 500 at Terrey Hills. Monash's rebuildig programme is well under way with 3 greens rebuilt (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>) and in play.

Long Reef's new Pro Sho, practice putting green and 1<sup>st</sup> tee are in play and they have started their new maintenance facility which will be relocated to the north-east corner of the course. Northbridge has recently installed solar panels on the roof of the clubhouse. The club received a \$14,000 govt grant to partially fund it. This initiative is expected to have a 5 year payoff and a conservative estimate of future earnings (based on current electricity rates and usage) is around \$8,000 per year. Manly Golf Club is very proud of their young Club Champions. Two of Manly's youngest ever winners took out the Club Championships in 2013. Seventeen year old Charlie Adare won the Men's Champs and fifteen year old Brianna Baird won the 36 hole final. Brianna is the daughter of the Director of Golf at Manly, Phil Baird. Both players are the product of the Junior Golf Development Programme that the club has been fostering for the past few years.

In the Srixon Major Pennants, Mona Vale won their first ever Division One Pennant and Avondale won their first ever Pennant in Division Two. Concord won the inaugural Div. One Sunday Pennant with a 3/2 win over The Australian. Mona Vale had another success winning the Mixed Pennant for the first time. Killara won Grade 2, Bayview had a win in Grade Three and Elanora was successful in Grade 5.

The following players from Zone A have been selected in NSW State teams:

Mona Vale – Dale Brandt-Richards

Monash – Cameron Davis, Brayden Peterson, Blake Windred

Concord – Shelly Shin, Doey Choi, Antonia Gonzales

Pennant Hills – Aliza Huff, Isabella Chan

Avondale -Isaac Noh, Harrison Endycott

Long Reef – Les Browne (Manager NSW Team)

Zone A Councillors would like to meet with Zone A clubs after the Council meeting to discuss issues of interest which have arisen with their clubs in relation to grades, representative teams and general competition formats. Some of our clubs are experiencing problems with Slope and handicapping but most seem to be issues with their provider.

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### **ZONE B**

#### **KAREELA GOLF & SOCIAL CLUB LTD.**

Outstanding wins in the final of the Major Pennants Div.5 and the Ladies Weekend Pennants have been the most recent highlights of our Golfing calendar. Add to that the ever increasing member and golf playing member numbers and you have a club on the go!

With the Club up to speed on all the latest mod-cons of facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube and the added ability to book in on line we are fast becoming the place to be.

Incredible work by staff and 'grey nomads' has seen our course improve out of sight. We held the Aron Price Junior Tournament catering for any junior golfer under the age of 18. With a field of over 90 and Aron Price in attendance it was a huge success.

The club has something on every night of the week from live entertainment, specialty nights, and outstanding menus in our restaurant through to great golfing events with good prizes. With our focus now on 'Relay for Life' our involvement in the local community is and always has been of paramount importance

#### **HANDICAP MATTERS**

A number of clubs have raise the matter of the slope system in its applicability to pennant matches where handicap is involved.

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### **Zone C**

**Meeting of Metropolitan Zone C** was held at Penrith Golf Club on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2014.

Clubs Represented: Antill Park, Cabramatta, Camden, Carnarvon, Castle Hill, Cumberland, Dunheved, Fox Hills, Glenmore, Leonay, Liverpool, Lynwood, Penrith, Richmond, Stonecutters, Wallacia Windsor.

In Attendance: Chris Allen, Stuart Fraser and Lynne Ritchie:

#### **Update from Golf NSW & Strategic Planning Report**

Stuart Fraser presented an update of the Governance & Structural Review

#### **Smoking Policy for NSW Events**

Denise Spillane announced the non-smoking policy to come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2014.

#### **Cheap Country Memberships**

Cheap Country memberships were also discussed at length. GNSW were not aware of the issue until the meeting and will be looking into the problem.

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### **GA Handicapping System**

Lynne Ritchie gave a presentation of the new GA Handicapping System and implementation of the slope system due in January 2014. Lynne's presentation was well informed and appreciated by all.

The meeting was well supported by Captains, Vice Captains, Handicap Committee's, Club Delegates and Club representatives in the zone.

### **Course Raters**

All members of the Zone C Course Raters continue to meet as a group six monthly with a round of golf and lunch at various clubs within the Zone. The get together keeps everyone informed of course changes and any changes that have been made to the slope system.

### **Women,s Golf Nepean**

The annual tournament for WGN is being held at Richmond Golf Club 9<sup>th</sup> & 10th April, unfortunately it has not been well supported with numbers being very low. WGN will be looking for guidance into ways of improving this next year.

WGN's Website is up and running [www.womensgolfnepean.com.au](http://www.womensgolfnepean.com.au)

### **Big Birthdays**

Penrith & Richmond Clubs must be starting to show their age, with a number of big "0" birthdays being celebrated recently. Richmond's Janet Furnell & Fran Turnbull, Penrith's Kerry Roelandts, Mary Cook, Dianne Moncrieff and Jan Palmer.

Julie Preskett  
GNSW Councilor

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### **BLUE MOUNTAINS DGA**

It is now official that Katoomba GC, Grose River GC and Kurrajong Hills GC have not re-affiliated with Golf New South Wales, thus according to 2014 BMDGA affiliations fees we are down to nine clubs which equates to some 1800 male members and 154 junior males.

The 2014 District Pennants are now complete with the following results :-

Senior Major Pennant - Lithgow GC

"A" Reserve Pennant – Springwoos CC

Masters Pennants - .Wentworth Falls CC #1

Kortum Shield Pennant - Wentworth Falls CC #2.

There were insufficient clubs entered to conduct a Junior Pennant...

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The district has recently completed its 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Week of Golf, which unfortunately was again rain effected with Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March at Wentworth Falls washed out and the course closed to some 80 prepaid entrants which had to be refunded.

The overall participation in the week of golf over our six courses Springwood to Lithgow was again down on previous year with just over 500 entrants for the week, however they represented 26 different clubs..

**Tony Busch**

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### **FSCDGA REPORT TO COUNCIL APRIL 2014**

Far South Coast DGA has set out to promote a growth in co-operation and ideas-sharing between clubs. 17 Feb 2014 saw the first of what is planned to be a twice-yearly meeting of all Club Captains and Vice-Captains. Initial aim was to ensure all Captains and Vice-Captains actually know each other so that lines of communication are more easily established.

The District website is under development – including the establishment of a bulletin/notice board giving space to pose questions and/or share ideas that have (or haven't) worked.

Matters Discussed:

- Difficulties for intergroup planning – men, women & veteran golfers having different district boundaries.
- Major concern of the delegates from all clubs was falling membership.
- Lengthy discussion on the outcomes of the JNIG program going into schools. Different towns – different responses. School responses vary. Even where there was positive interest, that had not translated into membership gains. It may take years to derive the full benefits.
- Attempts to get the mums of the 'cadets' involved as potential members generated some interest, but no big moves in membership.
- Pro's learner clinics had gained some female interest - new members possible – although there was very little interest from men for such clinics.
- Attempts being made to attract non-members onto the course through 'tradies' or 'business house' competitions. Again no data as yet to show membership increases as a result.
- Negative responses to high membership fees were cited.
- Mention made of a club (out of state) offering membership at half price, coupled with playing fees (comp/green) at double the standard price. There is some evidence that for those who are time poor, and only get to play a few times a year, this may be a viable option to keep them on board.
- Another suggestion was that new members might get their first year at half price. Following the meeting some discussion has suggested that GNSW might assist with this 'introductory' or 'trial' year of membership by waiving affiliation fees (in whole or in part) for those in this category.

Discussion then moved to the ongoing problems associated with District pennant – number of teams a club can field, willingness of members to participate (it seems that the old days 'honour' of representing your club has become more of an 'imposition'), distances that must be travelled and the costs associated with this, the fact that more players seem to seek some personal gain from their sport than the gain of club

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'kudos'. Some further adjustments are under discussion for 2015 – one key being the removal of Seniors Pennant to mid-week to reduce the impact on potential green fee income on weekends.

Bob Soper. FSCDGA Councillor.

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### FSC&TGA

Report to Golf NSW for April 23 2014 Council Meeting

The Far South Coast and Tablelands Golf Association is thrilled to finally have our own web page up and running – [www.golffsctga.org](http://www.golffsctga.org) - While in its early stages, we certainly hope to build on the content and continue to improve communications within our District.

Our Annual Tournament was held at the Bombala Golf Club on March 26, 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>.

While we all know that the rain was very much needed it couldn't have come at a worse time for the Tournament. On Wednesday the first groups out only managed to get in 8 holes before the course was no longer playable and the players were called in. Rain continued throughout the day and night and an assessment of the course was carried out the next morning. After much discussion, play for the day was abandoned. While there was hope that the skies would clear, rain was steadily falling at the time a decision needed to be made. Late morning/early afternoon the rain ceased and prayers were offered that we would get play in on Friday. The abandoning of play on Day 1 initially saw the Foursomes event on the Friday cancelled with the 36 Hole Stroke events to be played Thursday and Friday. The subsequent abandoning of play on Thursday reduced the Tournament to an 18 hole event. The Match Committee also declared that the Champion of Champion would be staged over 18 holes for this year.

We congratulate Noeline Bell from Tathra for winning the Mrs. R. D. Bridges Shield for the Champion of Champion. First staged in 1954 there are many illustrious names on the shield and Noeline is a very worthy winner. Other results

Division 1	Gross Winner	Noeline Bell	Tathra
	Gross Runner Up	Maggie Hayes	Bermagui
	Handicap Winner	Lorraine Arnaudon	Tura
	Runner Up	Myriam Van Hock	Tura
Division 2	Gross Winner	Joy Gilmour	Eden
	Gross Runner Up	Lesley Ashton	Bermagui
	Handicap Winner	Sue Williamson	Eden
	Handicap Runner Up	Patricia Campbell	Delegate
Division 3	Gross Winner	Georgine Withers	Bombala
	Gross Runner Up	Joanne Buttery	Bermagui
	Handicap Winner	Eva L'estrage	Bombala
	Handicap Runner Up	Jean McLean	Bombala

The Committee of the FSC&TGA along with all of their members, extend our sincerest appreciation to the Bombala contingent for their endless work. The hospitality extended by Bombala was overwhelming with the hard work that the many volunteers put in over the past twelve months evident. While the golf was

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kept to a minimum, the fun and camaraderie of everyone was very evident and the Tournament itself should still be declared a success.

Colleen Bennett  
Councillor

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### MNCDGA

Logan Toms maintained his domination of District events when he took at the Mid North Coast District Division one Championship. The event was held at South West Rocks and the course proved the winner with only four players breaking 80. Toms fired an outstanding par round 72 to beat local player Mick Maynard by one shot. Another local Mark Bird was third with a round of 78.

In Divison 2 Michael Fotheringham from South West Rocks and Richie Sorenson from Coffs tied with rounds of 81 with the local player being awarded the championship.

Home course advantage continued in Division 3 with Dean Capewell winning the championship by two strokes from Peter Bayley of Coffs Harbour.

The Division 4 and Division 5 championships were played at Coffs Harbour Golf Club . Steve Goldsmith from South West Rocks shot a round of 92 to claim the Division 4 title on a countback from Roger Martin. The nett winner was Chris Clark with a 72 from David Thompson on 75. The Coffs Team Of Merv Brasch, Chris Clark and Roger Martin were the team winners.

In Division 5 had a disappointing field but credit to Clive Dries who is this years champions and to runnerup Frank Buckley.

The never ending issue of player participation in District events will again be looked in a review of the Championships. A three player Team event plus the reduction to an 18 hole championship did little to enhance numbers or get renewed enthusiasm for the event.

The Championships is a lead in the Pennant series and the Pennant nominations is again encouraging with all clubs fielding a team in at least one Division. The Pennant series is scattered through April and May with the Finals scheduled for early June.

Kempsey Golf Club hosted the District Two Man Ambrose Championship for the second time and the field of 90 starters was a pleasing result for the organizers. Logan Toms and Aaron Hart shot a 12 under par 60 to win the scratch prize in Division 1. Their round included a 3 putt bogey on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole. Scratch runnersup were Kempsey pair Ross Leopold and Rod Nicholson with a 65. The event was played in three divisions with Gross and Nett trophies. The event looks to have found a permanent home at Kempsey and with sponsors also committed it is hoped the event will continue to remain popular.

Jack Pountney is the leading junior in the District and travelling to junior tournaments State Trial events has meant a busy few months of costs and travelling. It certainly adds to the difficulty in succeeding at these events . Jack played very well in the Harvey Norman Week of Golf shooting rounds of 73,77,76,70,70 which saw him finish 6<sup>th</sup> overall and losing the 15 years section in a playoff. Back on the North Coast he made up for that disappointment by winning the Yamba Junior with a par round of 72

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Coffs Harbour Golf Club has embarked on a program to convert all fairways to couch grass. The 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> fairway levels were raised and sown with couch in November and they are now back in use. A real positive for members and visitors and it looks great.

The return to good weather over the past six months has meant good golfing weather and I have been hearing positive news from Clubs. Whilst we all know things will remain tough in Golf Club land hearing little bits of good news is heartening.

The introduction of the last components of the handicap system has certainly created some talk around the Clubs in our District. The difference between GA and daily handicap has caused some confusion despite the best efforts to publicize the changes. Everyone is gradually getting used to the system although murmurs of players being unhappy with their handicaps will never go away.

Peter Mackay

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### **NHDLGA**

Welcome to another year everyone. Our District has been in holiday mode for December, January and for the Upper Hunter most of February. The Upper Hunter has been in very, severe drought over this period, having also to cope with extreme hot temperatures. This has certainly not helped Golf Clubs maintain cash flows and we are having many clubs within this Hunter area struggling to stay viable. Fortunately in the past couple of weeks rain has fallen to revitalise the pastures and given some relief for the golf courses.

The AGM resulted in only two positions being filled for 2014. This was a very disappointing result. Over the following two weeks we filled positions and ended up with a workable size District Committee to organise 2014 golf;

President Lyn Wootten

Vice Presidents Maggie O'Donnell, Dee Deitz and Lyn Flanagan

Secretary Susie Davies

Captain Sue Wilson

Vice-Captain Robyn Winter

Publicity Officer Lorraine O'Connor

Treasurer June Ernst

Councillors Dee Deitz and Maggie O'Donnell

### **Match Committee**

Sue Wilson Chair

Robyn Winter, Dee Deitz,

Lyn Wootten, June Ernst

The season opened with a Committee's Day at Muree on March 10th. There were entries from 20 District clubs with 111 ladies playing. This day is always enjoyed and gives the Club Committee's a chance to network with each other. Our next calendar event is the Veterans Salver to be played at Beresfield on April

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14<sup>th</sup>... Following this event will be our District Tournament to be played on May 19<sup>th</sup> /20<sup>th</sup> /21<sup>st</sup> at Nelson Bay and Horizons. The Committee is looking forward to good fields in the District Tournament at these popular venues.

Weekend Pennants have finished with a win to Charlestown Green. We are now into the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the Scratch Pennants playing in 3 Divisions. When the Scratch Pennants finish we start Handicap Pennants. This is played in 4 Zones and most Zones have 8 teams. Because of the population spread we are able to offer a good Pennant programme to all the clubs in the District.

Our District has had an Amalgamation ongoing this has caused considerable instability within the clubs. It will be great to have a decision made for a closure on this issue to allow clubs to focus on the future.

We are looking forward to a good year working with you all.

Dee Deitz and Maggie O'Donnell

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### **CSGA DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

The CSGA concluded 2013 with their Annual Charity Gala Day at Braidwood. We managed to raise \$500 for the local hospital which was very much appreciated. The ladies had fun dressing up in pink and blue, the theme colours, and the large Xmas hampers were also enjoyed by the raffle winners. Colleen DeCosta and Dee Rogers were the winners of the Canadian Foursomes.

Opening Day was held at Gungahlin Lakes in March and the day included the District Divisional Champion of Champions. The Division One Winner was Jocelyn Mackay (Moss Vale) and Division Two Karen Ebsworth from Queanbeyan. The overall Nett winner was Sue Hanley Gungahlin Lakes.

The Pennant season is well under way with finals being played in the next few weeks. Unfortunately we started the season a lot earlier this year and the extreme temperatures became a real issue. This has led to a review of our Heat Policy and we now cancel if BOM is forecasting 36 degrees and above instead of the 38 degrees previously set. Next year we will look at moving back the season so heat will not be such an issue.

Several of our Juniors attended Lake Macquarie and fared reasonably well. Chloe Thornton is now a member of the NSW State Development squad and has been producing some quite credible results. Unfortunately she recently had a setback with appendicitis. Developing juniors and retaining them is an ongoing job, and we lost 2 of our best this year with Grace Hallinan moving to Melbourne and Mackenzie Rice moving to the college system in America.

Sue Harrison the Jack Newton coordinator and CSGA Junior Promotions Officer has been running some wonderful programs both for juniors and adults. These included a Junior Coaching and Play Camp, two day school teacher introduction to golf instructing, exhibition of junior golf at the ACT Community Services Connect and Participate Expo held at the Bus depot markets on Saturday 29th March. Sue also tried to



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negotiate with GA re entering an ACT team in the upcoming Interstate series being held here in Canberra, but failed this time around. Hopefully negotiations will continue for future years.

Several of our Committee had a meeting with the ACTDGA to discuss numerous local issues. The topic of Amalgamation was raised and we see it as a future possibility if current boundaries for each group could be maintained and GNSW provide direction so all districts have the same outcomes.

We are looking forward to working with GNSW in running the Autumn Meeting 5-8<sup>th</sup> May and encourage Councillors to promote this great event within their district. Entries are done via MiTournament.

Liz Smyth – CSGA Councillor

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### NRDGA

The beginning of 2014 has seen much improved weather conditions in the Northern Rivers area compared to the same time in 2013. Favourable weather has led to improved course conditions which lead to improved revenue a major factor in the health of all our clubs but particularly our struggling ones.

There has been a steady decline in Pennants participation over previous years so the 2014 Pennants will see a major change this year from all divisions playing scratch match play to Division I playing scratch and the remaining Divisions moving to a handicap match play format.

The NRDGA sent a team to the last Country Championships at Muswellbrook, but travel and getting players to such events is becoming rather difficult. Last year we drove a mini bus – 9hrs both ways. The problem with transport is the limited availability of commercial flight travel to and from regional areas, and if it is available it is rather expensive, particularly with luggage and golf equipment. If travel is by road, that can put an additional 2 days of time away from work or other commitments.

Junior golf in the Northern Rivers is growing at an amazing rate. In 2011, we had 466 rounds of golf played in our Order of Merit circuit. In 2013, that number had grown to 978 rounds and the greatest area of increase is in the 9 Hole (Cadet) and 5 Hole (Tyro) categories - these participants make up over 50% of the 2013 numbers. 14 of our 20 affiliated clubs currently conduct “Junior Open Days”. The link between schools and club based Cadet/Tyro programs is driven by the encouragement of all schools to travel to the local golf course for the last session in their school based golf programs.

Northern Rivers junior golfers Jay McKenzie and Harvey Remfrey have broken into the representative scene in a BIG way. Jay has been selected as part of the NSW State Team participating in the Australian Boys’ Amateur Championships in Victoria. Both Jay and Harvey have also been invited to participate in the prestigious 2014 Fayde Junior Matchplay Championships.

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Casino recently hosted the NRDGA Director's Golf Day. This day allows not only directors but JPO's, greens staff, club professionals and club volunteers to mix for a game of golf followed by a meal and general discussion session related to club issues both positive and negative to assist the operation and health of our clubs. This has run for a number of years now and is a very informative and enjoyable day.

Phil Dowling

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### WDGA

Most of our Clubs in the District have started their winter competitions during March, with the first District Opens being played in early May.

The biggest concern in our District is the Slope Rating given to our Sandgreen Courses in comparison to grass green courses.

The only wholly grass green course, Gilgandra, has an official rating of 98; the only other course with grass greens is Warren which has six sand and 12 grass greens rated at 104. These are the two lowest ratings in the District.

The Sandgreen Courses are rated from 107 to 114.

There is no way the average golfer off sandgreens could play to their handicap on grass greens previously, let alone now they have to use a reduced handicap.

Parkes which is in an adjoining district and has all grass greens, has a rating equal to a number of clubs in our district and lower than two of our clubs – Trangie and Tottenham making it impossible for members to play to their handicap.

If we are to use the premise of the Slope System that players should have a chance to play to their handicap on any course, then this is not going to happen under present ratings when sandgreen players go to play on grass greens.

Whilst I know that the Slope System was not set up with sandgreens in mind, there are a number of sandgreen courses in NSW – our district has 17 sandgreen courses.

Now is the time for Golf NSW to consider the system and come up with a rating that gives all players a chance to achieve on any course.

Bruce Mitchell

Secretary/Treasurer WDGA.

Report prepared as requested for Peter Brien

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### WDLGA

Most Western Districts clubs have not resumed their golfing season after the summer break and early April will see them all back playing therefore there has not been a lot happening in our district since last year. After heat wave and drought thankfully most towns in the west have received some very welcome rain since Christmas and hopefully we will get some follow up rain.

**Western Districts Annual Tournament** - Western Districts tournament will be held on Tuesday Wednesday & Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> May at Forbes. Invitation to all and we would love to see as many players as possible to enjoy a great week of golf and entertainment. Please check on NSW website for details.

**WDLGA Junior Camp and Championships** - The very popular junior camp will be held in October school holidays. This camp and championships and camp are open to any junior player. This is a very popular camp with Sharon Nott, WD Junior Promotions Officer and a professional golfer in attendance for the week.

**Far West Bowl** - The Far West Bowl will be held at Wanaaring on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> July. This is always a great event with plenty of fun.

**Bogan Gate** – held 9 hole chicken runs through the summer which has proved successful gaining 4 new members. 3 ladies 1 man – the amalgamation of the men and women has been a very smooth adjustment for the club and everyone is very pleased, we have men and women on the committee and we all have a great time bouncing ideas off each other.

**Narromine** – They are still waiting to hear from the Golf Foundation – our renovation has begun for upgrading the Ladies rent room. We have decided to apply to sport & Rec for a grant to lay the water on our tees - as you can imagine they have become so hard and dry in the drought.

**West Wyalong** – the course is looking great after some much needed rain. They have one new member. Our new Tier 3 is up and running and we are all busy getting the hang of it.

**Cobar** – the men have invested \$ 15,000 to replace grass on our 16<sup>th</sup> fairway with drought resistant grass. We had a temporary climatic rating but this has now been lifted due to some welcome rain.

**Coonamble** – with funding from Golf NSW Western Districts held a beginners clinic by Sharon Nott and 8 ladies attended. With our nearest golf professional 2 hours away this was great for our club.

**Dunedoo** – many western clubs were in drought conditions with no water and temperatures in the 40's from December to February golf courses were looking very much like dust bowls and playing provided many challenges. Country folk are a resistant breed and know cycles take place. With good rain falling late in February, early March many courses have transformed into green carpets (now requiring mowing every 3<sup>rd</sup> day by the volunteers) and playing golf is now fully back on the "to do list"

**Coonabarabran** – we held a charity day for our local cancer support group. We had a very successful day with a 9 hole ambrose to start with where we encouraged each golfer to find 3 non golfers to play with. We are hoping by doing this we attract more ladies who would like to take up this great sport. We provided lunch for approximately 70 people and raised \$6,000. Wonderful effort. Nell McArtney, a long time golf turned 80 and we helped celebrate this milestone. Sally Knight has decided to stop playing 18 holes

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however will return for our fun day when she can play 9 hole, this is quite acceptable as Sally as turned 87 years of age.

**Mudgee** - Mudgee will be hosting the GNSW Mid Amateur Championships for men and women on Sunday Monday and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May. Open to all players aged 30 to 54 years of age.

Also Mudgee will be hosting the GNSW Weekend Tournament which is a fun weekend with golf and dinner. All welcome to come and have an enjoyable weekend,

Happy, healthy and successful golfing for 2014 to all.

Marcia Box - Robyn Newey

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### **NORTH AND NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION Inc**

Following a very dry hot Summer most Clubs have once again resumed their 18 hole competitions following Opening Days from late February. The rain at the end of March was welcomed by all and hopefully more will follow. The dry weather has affected all of our District courses but the courses without water or watering systems have suffered the most. Our first Pennant match scheduled to be played at Boggabri in mid March had to be rescheduled as the course was unplayable for Pennants, extremely dry with cracks and powdery dust.

Our District Association Meeting was held at Boggabri March 11th. The Association Handicap Manager reported that we have 680 handicap players registered at the end of 2013, a decrease of 44 players from the previous year. There are 6 junior girls at present. There are 13 single figure players, the largest group, 212 players, is the 19 -27 handicaps. Our Association Junior Girls Championship will be played for at Tamworth on the Longyard Course on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Our Association Pennant competition commenced March 17<sup>th</sup> and is split into Two Zones. There are five rounds programmed.

At our November 2013 District Meeting many clubs again expressed their disappointment at the cessation of the 3BBB Classic Team event. The 4BBB event has not been as popular.

The Annual Association Tournament is to be held at the Moree Golf Club, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. Tournament Notices have been e-mailed out. We look forward to a good number of entries and would gladly welcome any ladies from all District and Metro clubs. The Presentation Dinner will be held at the Moree Golf Club on Wednesday June 4<sup>th</sup>. The Annual General Meeting will be held Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We were most appreciative to Deputy Chair Sue Fabian for conducting the Information Session for Club Captains & Committees held at Tamworth March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Di Boulton**

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### WESTERN RIVERINA

"Golf is underway again in our clubs following the summer recess. With most towns receiving very welcome rain courses are starting to recover and we are looking forward to a good year ahead.

Our first club tournament is at Finley with a steady stream of tournaments between now and September.

The number of juniors playing golf is a continuing concern however we are hopeful that we may be about to turn the corner. A number of clubs have programmes going with participating numbers varying. A recent community coaching day at Deniliquin sees Finley Club gain a qualified coach and a programme is to be commenced.

With a retired professional in David Brockie at Finley and Wayne Rostron, who ran a large junior programme at Noosa, assisting the professional at Griffith we are quietly confident that things are about to change and we may soon get some youngsters swinging.

A development programme is to be discussed at our next District meeting and with the assistance of Clubs I hope to be able to report improvement at our next Council meeting. Unfortunately some clubs / members are reluctant to become involved and without clubs to drive programmes they are unlikely to succeed, we need to change attitudes.

The financial viability of clubs continues to be tested and more clubs down this way are looking to involve volunteers to reduce costs.

Rules Information Seminars are to be conducted at Lockhart and Jerilderie early May and we are hopeful of good attendances."

Ken Martin.

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### WGCNC

Our Handicap Pennant competition has commenced with not as many entries as 2013 (12 in the South and 9 in the North) which is probably due to the age of many lady members in the smaller clubs and member numbers declining

Our Committee Day is to be held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April at Wauchope with approximately 116 players for a Four Person Team Event. This enables Committee members from the CNC district to renew friendships and exchange ideas. We have invited 9 junior girls to join us on this day which gives them a chance to meet some of the Committee ladies who fund raise to help support the juniors during the year and also for the Committee ladies to play with the talented juniors we have in our District and see how much they improve each year.

## District Reports for April 2014 Council Meeting

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A very successful 2 day junior camp was recently held at Coffs Harbour which is the first of 3 for the year. Many thanks to Catherine Robinson and Brendan Barnes who are working with our junior girls and putting in a great effort and it is great to see how keen the girls all are.

Our Senior's Tournament will be held at Sawtell on 6th & 7th May so hope for a good field and fine weather.

### **Verelle Miller**

District Councillor WGCNC

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### **RIVERINA DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION**

With the hot weather behind us our Sandgreen courses are preparing for the coming season and this involves a lot of volunteering work by members to mow and prepare greens.

The hot dry summer took its toll on some grass green courses which mainly effected greens.

Our popular pennants season kicked off in February and are well supported by 7 clubs. The leader after 7 rounds is Kapooka Golf Club closely followed by Narrandera and Wagga Country Club. The Semi-Finals will be played at Kapooka when Junee Vs Kapooka and Wagga Country Club Vs Narrandera.

The Wagga Country Club was host to a very successful JNIG Wagga Wagga Junior Masters on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March. There were 125 juniors from around the State in all age groups with two rising stars from Concord Golf Club taking out the overall championships. Doey Choi continued her stunning form cruising to a 12 shot victory with rounds of 71, 73 to finish four under par 144. Fellow Concord member Jason Hong took out the Boys Championship in completely different fashion beating Bermagui's Jackson Hearn on the second sudden death playoff hole.

The following week after the Juniors the Wagga Country Club held their annual Pro-Am. Unfortunately the weather wasn't so kind with heavy rain during the first round and showers during the second round. Despite the rain good scores were recorded with Anthony Summers -8 winning by one shot from Grant Thomas -7.

Last weekend the Leeton Golf Club held a very successful Pro-Am and during the presentation acknowledgement was made to the Club for their centenary of golf in 2013. Stuart Fraser presented a plaque on behalf of GolfNSW and congratulated the club on achieving their 100 years of golf. A plaque from the Riverina DGA was also presented. My thanks to Stuart for travelling to Leeton to enjoy their hospitality and making the presentation.

The Rock Golf Club will be celebrating their 100 years of golf on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014.

David Byfield  
RDGA Councillor



### RIVERINA LGA

#### RLGA REPORT April 2014

#### SEASON OFFICALLY OPENED

Ladies from 15 clubs enjoyed a 4BBB stableford event at Jerilderie Golf Course on Monday 17 March to kick off RLGA's 2014 season. Jerilderie had plenty to show off too. Their watering system ensured green grass in all essential parts of the course. The recently constructed outdoor deck area and a gourmet lunch impressed those in attendance.



**Corowa and Deniliquin ladies set for a fun District opening day.**



**Opening day brings players from far and wide. Pink Thurgoona gals with Hay pair in white.**

Commercial Albury ladies hosted their successful club opening day in late February. Wagga Wagga City's opening day drew 80 competitors and it was a full house at Howlong for their opening day. District golf is well and truly underway for season 2014.

#### HIGH TEA

Wagga Wagga Country Club is definitely keeping up with fashionable trends. Their inaugural Sureway Ladies Classic provided competitors with an elegant high tea and champagne at the conclusion of play. Also featured was special guest, golf professional, Nikki Campbell, who treated guests to a Q and A session with ladies' captain, Judy Fergusson. Definitely a format to watch and obviously will grow with financial sponsorship from Sureway.

#### JUNIOR GOLF

Exciting things continue to happen with junior golf development across the Riverina. First MYGOLF session, for 38 juniors, was held at Corryong Golf Club in January. Although not a NSW club many community volunteers supporting the program were from Welaregang Golf Club. Howlong Golf Club community coaches and members were also instrumental in initiating the program. Great to see cross border cooperation happening for junior golf development.

## District Reports for April 2014 Council Meeting

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JNJGF Community Coaching and Teacher training days were conducted at Deniliquin in early March. As a result plans were developed for local golf professional, David Brockie, to assist community coaches and support programs as they develop at Deniliquin, Berrigan, Finley, Jerilderie and Oaklands.

Similar format to be introduced following JNJGF training days scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> June. Griffith professionals will support development of programs at Yenda, Hillston, Goolgowi, Hay and Coleambally.

Corowa's junior program continues to strengthen through the support of Assistant Professional, Paul Steiner and Trainee Professional, Lloyd White. Following fun golf sessions they offered at all local schools, 24 juniors joined the club and participate in Sunday morning clinics during the school term. A separate development squad for juniors holding a handicap conducted on Wednesdays will increase from four to six participants next term. However, if football or hockey training gets in the way sessions are conducted to suit squad members.

### **DISTRICT RULES SEMINAR**

RLGA is to host a District Rules Seminar at Lockhart on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 10:00 am. Rod Clark has kindly offered to run a morning session. Perhaps unusual timing however, night driving in the Riverina involves playing dodgems with kangaroos and hence a deterrent for many to venture out after dark on country roads.

The seminar is open to all golfers. The RLGA Committee is hoping for a positive response to the opportunity to attend during daylight hours. May's regular Ladies Committee meeting will follow at the conclusion of the seminar.

### **UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS**

Inter-club pennant commences on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April with 19 competing clubs in four geographical zones. Sadly, Hay had insufficient available players to enter a team this season. District foursomes championship will be contested at Griffith on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Margaret Playford

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### **NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT GOLF ASSOC. INC. (WOMEN)**

The Annual General Meeting was held in November 2013 with the following being elected:- President Marlene Ballinger, Vice Presidents Joan Bragg and Penny King, Secretary Pip White, Treasurer Janice Egan, Handicap Marie Moule, JPO Patsy Barry and Committee Margaret Curr, Marie Moule & Margaret Miller. There are eleven clubs affiliated to the District Association with the number of players generally holding steady.

The year finished with the Pennant final between Walcha and Inverell being played at Glen Innes with Walcha winning in grand style 5 matches to nil, well done Walcha!



## District Reports for April 2014 Council Meeting

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2014 has started with Guyra's open day in February with 42 players and Shona Mulligan and Wendy George Guyra winning with 50 points and Kay Nash and Candice McCann Armidale winning the Scratch with 32 points. Tenterfield's 2 Day tournament is on April 3 & 4 and Glen Innes open day is on April 9. Inverell's open day is on May 28 and Armidale is on June 18.

The Annual Tournament was restricted to two days, Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 March, due to the wet conditions of the Uralla golf course. The winners in the 36 Hole Championship events were:-Elizabeth Hobday Inverell won the Open and Closed with 160 gross, as well as the Open Veterans and Champion of Club Champion. Runner up in the Open and Closed was Pennie Glock Uralla with 164 gross. Winner of Division 2 was Lyn Vidler Glen Innes with 186 gross and Division 3 was Pip Leake Walcha with 200 gross. The 36 Hole Nett winners were in Division 1 was Loraine Glock Uralla 147nett, Division 2 was Marlene Ballinger Delungra 155 nett and Division 3 was Mary Rodgers Merriwa 157 nett. The Super Veterans Nett winner was Janice Egan Glen Innes 150 nett. As this was the 75<sup>th</sup> District tournament there was a Special Team event for the club with the best average nett score over the two days and it was won by the Glen Innes team of Janice Egan, Lyn Vidler and Joan Watson. Congratulations to Uralla Golf Club and the NEDGA Committee on a successful tournament with almost 90 players each day. Also it was great that Sue Fabian was able to represent GolfNSW and speak at our dinner, we appreciate these visits very much.

There are still questions about the handicap system changes and how it works or not works with small fields and I hope GA revisits this matter in the near future.

Jan Frater - NEDGA Councillor

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### **WOMEN'S GOLF NORTHERN RIVERS April, 2014**

As the clubs are now back for 2014 and we have not had a District meeting, there is not much to update.

For so many years the period November to February has been reports of heavy rain, flooding and loss of revenue for District clubs. No so this year, with that period being the driest in 100 years for areas, particularly the north-east corner. We have also experienced extreme heat.

One Club to suffer the consequence of the dry was Club Banora (Twin Towns). The course was built on peat soil, an area of boggy conditions. Over the years cracks did form as the ground dried out and in recent years many hundreds of thousand dollars had been spent on taking lumps and bumps out by levelling the fairways and turfing them. The dry weather has been so severe that the water level in the area dropped so low that the cracking appeared throughout the whole course. This became an OH&S issue, dangerous to have machinery driving over what could be sink holes under the surface. It is also an issue with players walking all over the course, let alone driving buggies. Consequently the ultimate future of the course is unknown, areas have been completely roped off and a composite course of 9 holes has been rated for competition play. Members are relocating to other local clubs and the course remains open whilst the Club's insurers continue to cover them. On a Pro rata basis memberships have been refunded.

## District Reports for April 2014 Council Meeting

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March saw some rain in the south and we have had some 6" of rain in the past week by way of a "few showers" here in the northern corner. Those courses that do not have the continual use of irrigation watering would have appreciated the fact that dams and lakes are topped up again.

The 2014 Pennant season is due to commence shortly, being played in 2 divisions in 2 Zones, North and South. As this is the first season with the Slope system in play it will be interesting to see the results as we do play on a handicap aggregate basis.

The Veteran's Annual Tournament was to have been played at Club Banora mid-March and consequently has been postponed. As yet we have been unable to work out an alternative time given that the season's timetable is so full.

Joy Slater

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### **NORTH WEST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION**

#### Office Bearers 2014

President:	Mark McWhirter (Coonabarabran)
Secretary:	Graeme Keppie (Coonabarabran)
Treasurer:	David Coulton (Warialda)
Zone Delegate:	David Chomley (Moree)

#### Tournament Dates

6 <sup>th</sup> April	Coonabarabran Open (NWDGA 2BBB Championships)
26-27 April	Bingara Open (NWDGA Individual Championships)
4 <sup>th</sup> May	NWDGA Keno Mixed 4BBB Playoff (Moree GC)
24-25 May	Narrabri Open
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Mungindi Open
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Moree Open
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Bellatta Open (NWDGA Sandgreen Championships)
27 <sup>th</sup> July	NWDGA Playoff for NSW Mens 4BBB (Bingara GC)
3-4 August	Warialda Open

## District Reports for April 2014 Council Meeting

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Following extremely hot and dry conditions through summer the recent rain, over most areas, has improved conditions and courses should generally present well for the winter golfing season.

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### Notes: