Dear Members,

The Board is conscious of the current climate conditions and of course the drought, which is affecting all of us.

With this in mind we have asked our Course Superintendent Greg Stynes to provide a detailed report and scenario. Greg’s following report is not intended to be alarmist, it is intended to keep the membership informed of what may lay ahead.

As a golf club we need to be prudent in our usage of our most valuable asset in this current climate.

Peter Power
President
For and on behalf of The Board.

Water Management – Nelson Bay Golf Course

We would like to update our membership on water management practices during this current drought period.

Over the past 3 years we have reduced our overall water usage on the golf course to preserve our most valuable resource. Our main water usage period is from October through to late March where we consume the most water; this is reflective of climatic conditions.

Our current water used for irrigation is drawn from the aquifer through our 3 x Bore pumps and pumped into the storage dam each day in preparation for each night’s irrigation. This process restricts us to approximately 0.65 Mega litres per night.

To put this into perspective many 18 hole courses in the district are using between 1 and 1.5 Mega litres per night.

Note: we can only pump out what we can pump in from the bores overnight.

The course is currently holding up well despite the little rainfall that we have received over the last few months. As you can see by the table below we are currently 300mm below the yearly average rainfall for Nelson Bay and 127mm below the same period last year.

Nelson Bay Year to Date
Average Rainfall to Nov 1255.0mm 120.3 Day(s)
Total for 2019 962.9mm 119 Day(s)
Total To This Day 2018 1089.9mm 135 Day(s)

On course we have already implemented strategies to assist with dry/hot conditions including:

- Applications of various wetting agents to assist with moisture retention within the soil profile.
- Applications of organic fertilisers which also hold on to moisture
- Hand watering and use of kicker type sprinklers on areas with limited irrigation coverage especially around green surrounds.
- Monitoring of ground water levels/quantities.

Following Club Championships this week cutting heights on all surfaces will be increased to reduce stress on the plant.

The Graph Below shows the current water storage for the Hunter, this includes Anna Bay sand beds which are currently sitting at 55% capacity.

![Hunter Water Storage and Outlook](image)

The graph highlights 3 possible scenarios for the coming 6 months a wet outlook, an average outlook and a dry outlook.

What does this mean for us?

A wet outlook means we can resume normal maintenance and watering practices without any concern.

An average outlook means we will endure a very tough summer period with possible relief in late summer.

A dry outlook is one of great concern if we continue with dry hot conditions our water table could drop to extremely low levels. Limiting our available water, if this was to occur, we may
be required to cease irrigation on fairways only irrigating greens and tees, if we lost the fairways due to poor rainfall it could take up to 2 years for them to recover. This is a worst case scenario but certainly possible if we look at the majority of the state.

Moving forward we will continue to implement water smart strategies, monitor our groundwater supplies regularly and keep our membership informed of any changes.

Praying for rain.

Greg Stynes  
Course Superintendent
Members newsletter – November 25th

Men’s Club Championships
There have been a number of queries about the published results and I want to explain how the software we have actually works. The aggregate Nett results after Round 2 shown on our website are accumulative but not from frozen handicaps, so should be ignored for Championship purposes. The aggregate Gross results are correct.

The software we are using is not particularly user friendly and an enormous amount of time and testing has been involved in setting up this years Championships across the 4 grades, the Juniors, the Seniors and the Super Seniors all needing separate comps set up as well as the Daily comps based on Nett results.

On top of all that, we have had to freeze the handicaps for the aggregate Nett scores for the duration of the Championships to ensure that the Nett results in each of those grades has been correctly calculated. This has been done and is visible on the two white boards carefully maintained by Jack Evans and Paul Kennedy, whom the Match Committee cannot thank enough.

Unfortunately the software we have does not allow us to show the aggregate of the frozen handicap Nett scores on our club website so please don’t blame us for what appears to be incorrect results. Come into the clubhouse, have a drink and look at the white boards which show the correct aggregate Nett and Gross scores for all players to date. These will be continuously updated on both next Saturday and Sunday. These scores are also available in printed form from the usual pocket opposite the Pro Shop door.

The final Sunday starting times will be the same as for all previous rounds except where we have the best 4 aggregate Gross scores in each grade playing in the last groups to hit off. We obviously cannot select these last four groups until we close Saturday’s third round. So please come along and see the best grade golfers in the club fight for the Championship honours. Important information for all players:

in the area between the 3rd and the 4th fairways the green keepers used to have a stockpile of sandy dirt. This has been removed and the area is no longer to be considered as GUR or an Abnormal Course Condition. You must play your ball as it lies there.

Newsletters from Golf NSW For all those of you who used to get the newsletter from Golf NSW the methodology has been changed due to the Privacy Laws.

To get the newsletter from Golf NSW you must first register at the following website: https://golfnsw.us13.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f0553abd675e81f091ebac724&id=b11f338494

NBGC is no longer able to simply pass any newsletter on to you.

Happy golfing!

David Rann
Captain
Dear Members & Guests,

As you are aware we recently hosted the Australian Women’s Senior Amateur with positive feedback from players and organiser alike enjoying our wonderful facility.

I thought I would share a letter from Golf Australia;

5 November 2019
Mr Trevor Harrison
General Manager
Nelson Bay Golf Club Ltd

Dear Trevor,

Please convey to your Board, members, and staff the sincere appreciation of Golf Australia for your club’s hosting of the 2019 Australian Women’s Senior Amateur Championship. The championship was very successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all players. The comments regarding the course and facility were very positive as was evidenced at the presentations.

Golf Australia is extremely grateful to your Course Superintendent, Greg Stynes and staff for their efforts in presenting the golf course so well for the championship. They did a fantastic job and should be congratulated for their efforts. The greens in particular were outstanding.

Thanks to the Bluewater Grill team for their work with the functions throughout the week, as well as to Maurie and Warren and the pro-shop staff for their service during the week. We also thank you personally for your assistance and organisation in the lead up to and during the event, along with Peter, David and Peri who were tireless in supporting the tournament. The incredible team of volunteers did not go unnoticed and it was a pleasure to work with them all.

The contributions and hospitality shown by everyone at Nelson Bay Golf Club was outstanding and Golf Australia and the competitors were made to feel so welcome by everyone at the club. We hope all concerned enjoyed their involvement with the Championship and look forward to returning to Nelson Bay Golf Club in the future.

As part of your hosting, Golf Australia will be forwarding some tickets to the upcoming Australian Open via separate mail. We hope you can make it along to what is sure to be a truly great Championship in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Trevor Herden, Director – Championships
Ashley Marshall, Events Manager

Club Events

Good luck to all those who are participating in the Men’s Club Championships over the next two weekends. There are lots of contenders this year so it’s assured there will be great golf to be seen particularly at the pointy end of the championships.

Why not follow the players from the comfort of the clubs balcony. Please keep hydrated out there, slip slop slap and enjoy your golf.

We continue to increase our membership with 1250 golfing members and heading towards 6000 social members (currently 5980) with a total membership of 7140.

I would like to thank the members for their assistance and patience over the past two days with a major Coal Industry Golf Day & Dinner on Wednesday followed by the road works on Thursday. Using the “Limo” golf carts, staff were able to ferry golfer and visitors between the Bowling Club cark park and the clubhouse.

I encourage you to attend the Clubs raffles as there are a host of prizes to be won. Soon we will kick off the Xmas ham raffles. I was lucky enough to win one last year and they are great.

Look forward to seeing you on the Course and in the Clubhouse.

Peter Power
President
Members newsletter – November 20th

Dear members,

The Medal of Medals for the Men was won last Saturday by Dennis Knight with an excellent nett 68, having won the A Grade medal in March. Congratulations Dennis!!

The men’s Championships start this coming Saturday and the draw has been published on our website for Saturday. Start times for this Sunday and the following Saturday will be the same for everyone.

As per the Conditions of Entry, the best 4 total scratch scores in each grade after 3 rounds will be placed in the last groups to hit off on Sunday 1st December. The grades have been finalised as A: up to 12; B: 13 to 16 inclusive: C: 17 to 20 inclusive and D: 21 up. These are playing handicaps off the black markers for Gymea Lily. This roughly evens up the numbers in each grade.

Good luck to all involved!

Hot off the press: Jenny Frost was runner up in the Australian Veterans Golf Championships in Launceston last week. Well done Jenny!!

Ladies update from Peri

Dear Ladies, I must apologise for my lack of communication over the pat few weeks. I have been enjoying a brief holiday with my family visiting the magnificent wine regions of South Australia.

I believe I missed a few very smoky days when it wasn’t even possible for many to venture onto the golf course. We are so fortunate that this has been our only problem over the dreadful start to the fire season. I’m sure you would all join me in sending our thoughts and prayers to those who have lost so much.

Although our Captain’s v President’s day had to be cancelled, I would like to congratulate everyone who played in the Vice Captain’s v Vice President’s day and well done to those who won their matches, the magnificent trophy will be the prized possession of the Vice Captain for this year! We decided to return to the original format of match play this year. Most ladies don’t have the opportunity to play this form of golf and this is a great opportunity to learn to play Matchplay in a fun game. I hope you all found it fun and picked up the rules by the end of the game.

I would like to thank and congratulate those ladies who represented Nelson Bay in the District Medal played at Toronto on 4th November. Barbara Frost (Div 1), Maureen Griffin (Div 2) and Margaret Harding (Div 3) all had very good scores, but sadly just missed out on prizes.

Yesterday we played our Foursomes Championships and I think everyone enjoyed the day in spite of the heat. Our winners were:

- Division 1 Scratch Winners Barbara Frost & Amy Squires (133)
- Division 1 Scratch Runners-up Robyn Kennett & Mary Reisch (137)
- Division 2 Scratch Winners Elizabeth Pfennigworth & Kath Allen (147)
- Division 2 Scratch Runners-up Chris Wright & Bernice Ticehurst (158)
- Division 1 Net Winners Jill Woodhill & Lyn Robertson (114.5)
- Division 1 Net Runners-up Wendy Heapy & Dianne Moon (117.25)
- Division 2 Net Winners Roz Manly & Tina Wasilewitz (115.25)
- Division 2 Net Runners-up Deirdre Haxton & Bev Suska (116)

Congratulations to all those winners and indeed to everyone who played on the day.

Our Presentation Night is coming up on Thursday 28th November and I would like to encourage everyone to consider attending, particularly if you have won a prize. It is always disappointing when a prize-winner is not there to receive their prize or trophy. It promises to be a fun night with a lovely meal and of course the usual dancing and entertainment.

Our Xmas lunch is also almost upon us. This is on Tuesday 3rd December and the format is a shot-gun start at 9.30 (3 clubs and a putter) followed by lunch. A list for you to enter your teams is outside the Pro Shop and a draw will be done. It is important that we know who the walkers are so we can position everyone on the course appropriately. I do look forward to seeing all the Xmas outfits!

Stay cool on these hot days and enjoy your golf.

Happy golfing!

David Rann - Captain, Peri Kennedy - Lady Captain
Members newsletter – November 13th

We are approaching the end of the year and wow! How time flies!

On Saturday 9th Nov we held the final play-off for the $1,200 Handiskins comp and the winnings went to Stuart Phegan $440, Col Herring $360, Steve Rigby $300 and Rob Fitzgerald $100, so when next year’s Handiskins comes around just remember how much these guys won!

On Sunday 10th we hosted the annual Angel Billy Charity day and over $23k was raised for this most worthy cause.

Next Saturday, 16th, is the Medal of Medals comp and the current status of medal winners is already posted on the window opposite the Pro Shop door. Anyone can play in the stroke round but only those who have already won a medal this year will be eligible as the Medal of Medals winner by having the best nett round on the day of those previous winners.

There will be a separate daily comp in conjunction. The Player of the Year award will also be determined then.

The following two weekends host our men’s Championships and you can enter this up to next Saturday, 16th November, when the draw will be carried out soon after.

Late entries may be accepted but can only be fitted into the draw as it stands then. **Forms and all information are available at Reception.**

The traditional **Closing Day** will be Sunday 8th December and the **Opening Day** for 2020 will be on Sunday 12th January but due to poor attendances in the past, the official Prize presentation ceremony will not take place then but will be held on the evening of Friday 31st January when all the prizes for the following will be awarded:

- all our Pennant teams (men’s, ladies and juniors),
- Men’s,
- Junior Champions.

This is a gala night and a real fun evening to attend. The organising committee will ensure a good time is had by all. All prize recipients should keep this date clear.

The Regional Finals of the 2 person Ambrose was played at Pacific Dunes on Sunday last but the official results appear not to be available yet.

Keep looking at the NSW Golf website for details.

Both Peri Kennedy and David Diemar are away at present so I have nothing to add for the Ladies or the Vets.

Happy golfing!

**David Rann**
**Captain**
Registration is open for the 22nd Anniversary Angel Billy Golf Day. This popular Golf event is a great day out and Fundraiser for the Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service.

While we have a good number of players registered, we’d love to see more female Golfers register the event.

Download the registration form on the website here or grab a copy at reception.

Teeing off at 9AM, Four Person Ambrose, Shot Gun start.

Entry Fee is $90 per player which includes golf, sausage sandwiches and a 2 course lunch.

Great prizes up for grabs including:
- **Corporate Hole Sponsor** - $860 (4 players)
- **Hole In One Prize** - Toyota Yaris, Proudly Sponsored by Port Stephens Toyota
- **Major Raffle** - $2,000 in prizes, Proudly Sponsored by Harvey Norman Salamander Bay

See you on the Golf Course.
Following advice from Trevor Herden, the GA Rules guru, we have kept the Drop Zones (DZs) near the 18th green as per his set up for the recent Senior Women’s Tournament.

The mat has been abandoned as it is past its use-by date and will be labelled as such and a new DZ is painted on the fairway side of the path which can be moved around a bit to suit re-growth and maintenance.

A new DZ has been left at the far end of the pond which will be fairer for those who have gone into the Penalty area at that end. Players may use either DZ depending on where their ball has crossed the margin of the penalty area. The Temporary Local Rules will be amended to confirm this.

Due to the ongoing drought, which has no end in sight, my current intention is to leave “Preferred Lies” in place right through the summer with the sole exception of the Men’s Club Championships. This will be reviewed from time to time but our course is our most precious asset and without sufficient water it cannot repair itself. See Temporary Local Rule 5 for relief from bare patches on the fairways and the like. **You MUST mark your ball position before taking relief.**

Mike Harris’ B grade Pennants team played at Horizons on Sunday 27th Oct and won their Semi-Final match 4 up. Many thanks to all the supporters who turned up. Our C grade Pennants team also played their Semi-Final match immediately after the B graders and won their match 4.5/1.5. Many thanks to all the supporters who turned up.

Full details of the results are on the white board next to the bar at our club. The location and times of their finals will be advised as soon as the NDGA notify us.

Mike Harris’ memorial service takes place at The Uniting Church at Salamander on **Friday 1st November at 11:00am.** Golf shirts should be worn.

This last week or so has been one of very mixed emotions and shows how fleeting life can be so enjoy the good times when you can, as no one knows what will happen tomorrow.

Happy golfing!  
David Rann  
Captain
Golf Newsletter – October 22nd, 2019

THE NDGA DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS  
The 2019 A Grade District Championships will be held on SATURDAY November 16 at Pacific Dunes GC. There will be a 2 tee start with tee times from 10.45am to 12.44pm.

The 2019 B and C Grade District Championships will be held at Belmont GC on SUNDAY November 17. There will be a 1 tee start with tee times from 8.30am to 11.38am.

The documents for these events, including Flyer, Conditions of Play and Entry Forms are available from our Reception.

Please note that there are separate Entry Forms for A grade, B Grade and C Grade and the handicap range for each is shown on the Flyer. We must have at least 6 A grade players playing in the District Championships to pre-qualify NBGC for next year’s A Grade pennant competition.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS  
The Entry Forms and Conditions of Entry for the upcoming Men’s Championships are now available from our Reception desk.

This year we are trialling 4 rounds over 2 weekends, being 23rd / 24th November and 30th Nov/1st December. There will again be 4 grades with A grade up to a playing handicap of 12 and the remaining entrants roughly divided over 3 grades being B, C and D.

I encourage all full members to play in the most important tournament of the year. There will be prizes for scratch and nett but no one will be able to win 2 prizes based on a priority of events. There will also be divisions for Juniors, Seniors and Super Seniors. Men in these divisions will be identified by the golf management software so no need to tick boxes.

PRESENTATION CEREMONY  
In previous year’s the annual awards presentation ceremony has been held on the Sunday Opening Day for the following year, but in my experience, many recipients of prizes and awards have been unable to attend.

To make this more of a premier gala event, the Match Committee has decided to combine the main prize event for the Men’s and Mixed Championships with the very successful Pennant teams’ dinner, where all the club’s pennant teams get together and have a great evening. This combined event will take place on Friday 31st January 2020.

Tickets will be available in due course and will be limited by the capacity of the Function Room.

NSW GOLF AMBROSE REGIONAL FINALS  
The following pairs have made it to Pacific Dunes on November 10th. For details go to the Golf NSW website, Event Calendar.
MEN’S MONTHLY MEDAL FOR OCTOBER

The Medal winners were:-

- A grade - Nick Matwijow
- B grade – Ian Edmunds
- C grade – Brad Foley
- Scratch winner was James Marshall.

Congratulations to all!

THURSDAY AFTERNOON REPORTED COMP

As we are getting around 30 players each week now, we have formally changed the Men’s comp from a ball comp to a single grade comp with 1st and 2nd places, depending on numbers and because only a few Ladies are regularly playing their comp must remain a ball comp only.

At the moment we see no reason why this 9 hole comp should not continue through the summer until daylight saving finishes. Any exceptions will be advised.

I also remind you that there may just possibly be some late changes to handicaps due to the processing taking place on Saturdays as there is no Match Desk service late on Thursdays.

B & C grade pennants Both of our teams have made the semi-finals of this year’s pennants comps and will be playing at Horizons this coming Sunday, 27th Oct from 10:30. Come along and support our heros!!

B grade will be honouring their team manager Mike Harris who died quite suddenly after a short illness last week.

Happy golfing.

David Rann
Captain
Volunteers for the Australian Senior Women’s Amateur Championships.

Nelson Bay Golf Club Board of Directors and the Tournament Directors from Golf Australia are overwhelmed by the volunteer support offered by the Nelson Bay Golf Club Members.

Some 110+ volunteer positions have been filled by 70+ members.

Thank you for your goodwill, support, and time, in showcasing our beautiful golf course. Your efforts in volunteering assure a smooth throughput of the tournament.

General Information/instructions for Volunteers.
- Check rosters at the back of the Pro Shop.
- Kindly arrive ¼ - ½ hr before your rostered time.

Starters
- Report to Clubhouse: take instructions and paperwork from Ashley Marshall from Golf Australia, proceed to your rostered tee.
- Paperwork includes, player lists, tee times, local rules and Golf Australia instructions for starting the players.

Scorers
- Report to the Clubhouse: take instructions from Golf Australia.
- At the scoring desk, be seated with the player, take player’s card, check signature, check score additions. The player stays seated at the desk until scorecard is checked.
- Any problems with a card are referred to Golf Australia immediately.
- Cards go from the Scorers Desk to Golf Australia for entry into their electronic scoring system.

Golf Course Supervisors - Volunteer support.
- One cart per day will be provided by the Pro Shop.
- At the end of your duty time, meet the next rostered person at the back of the Pro Shop and pass the cart on.
- Your role is to support/assist the Spotters on the course.
- Some spotters may require a ride out to their fairways, or a ride back in the Club house.

Spotters
- Spotters on the first timeslots kindly take equipment out to the fairway. Equipment is in the undercroft at the back of the Pro Shop - vests, hard hats and flags.
- Last spotters bring in the gear.
• Golf Australia advises - keep spotting simple, green flag, ‘the ball is seen’, red flag,’ ball not seen’.

Remember to slip/slop/slap and have a good day.

We are open for more volunteers.

Chris Wright
Coordinator
Volunteers for the Australian Senior Women’s Amateur Championships.

Dear members,
As you are aware this will be a busy week for the Nelson Bay Golf Club.

We have arranged for our members to play at Pacific Dunes 4916 0500 and Horizons 4982 0474 at the following rates;

Green fee $20,
Comp fee $10,
Cart fee $20 per person.

Many thanks to Pacific Dunes and Horizons for their kind offer.

Nelson Bay will have limited competition play during this period, please contact the Pro Shop for full details:-

Timesheets will be available upon normal release times
Limited social play available, call the Pro Shop to book as normal.
**Sunday 20th** - 6.30am-10am
**Monday 21st** - Vets 12pm-1pm
**Tuesday 22nd** - 7.30am -9.30am (same 9 holes twice )
**Wednesday 23rd** - 9.45am-12.54pm
**Thursday 24th** - 7.30am-8.54am (Same 9 holes twice); Vets 12.07pm-1.30pm
**Friday 25th** - 9.40am -12.30pm

As always, our members generously volunteer their valuable time and golf course for these events, this is very much appreciated.

I encourage you all to come and watch and walk the course with players from New Zealand, Japan and of course from all over Australia. Golf Australia advise that this is the largest field to ever participate in this event and we feel a testament to our course and clubhouse.

The 127 strong field assembled includes the return of defending Champion, and recent US Womens Senior Finalist, Sue Wooster.

Chasing her first title in the Senior ranks is Louise Mullard from NSW. Louise was the 2018 Australian Womens Mid-Amateur Champion and also NZ Mid-Amateur Champion.
Two-time winner Jacqui Morgan from NSW is sure to be in contention also. Plus, there are a number of strong contenders crossing the ditch including Robyn Boniface, Robyn Pullar and Brigit Holford. Helen Pascoe leads the Order of Merit from Jacqui Morgan and Sharon Dawson and it's sure to be a close contest as the week unfolds.

**Golf**
The finals of the Scratch Matchplay Championships were played in wet conditions on Saturday 12th October. The results were as follows:-

A grade: Wayne Mitchell beat Will Semmens 5&4  
B grade: Peter Courts beat Bob Connor 2up  
C grade: Zach Semmens had a walk-over as Lee Barrett could not play for medical reasons

Both the winners and the runners up won great prizes from our sponsors, Moses Golf, whom we applaud for their generosity.

The presentations also included the Handicap Matchplay Championships played earlier this year. Ross Skinner was the very generous sponsor of this event and we thank him very much.

A grade winner was Shane Maher over Peter Gibson  
B grade winner was John Harvey over Ray Mahady  
C grade winner was Lee Barrett over Mitchell Ingle.

One of the semi finals of the State Super Seniors Pennants was held here on Monday 14th and both the club and especially the course were showered with praise by the organiser and the players who were from The Lakes and Forster-Tuncurry. Greg Stynes and his team should be very proud of such praise, coming as it did from players who have even represented Australia as amateurs. Well done Greg and staff!

Look forward to seeing you on the course and around the clubhouse.

**Peter Power**  
President

**David Rann**  
Captain