



**THE WILKIES TEE OFF
OUT OF THE ROUGH
THE LATEST GOSS**

Pages 2-3



**AWARDS NIGHT
PRESENTATION NIGHT
WINNERS**

Page 5



**PLANNING AHEAD
MACHINERY
REPLACEMENT FUND**

Page 4



**VISITING THE GAP
TRIP AWAY FOR LADIES
MEMBERS**

Page 4

PARKLANDER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PARKLANDS GOLF CLUB INCORPORATED

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Don't Know What You've Got 'Til It's Gone!

Sometimes when you are out and about at Parklands you might find yourself admiring the natural beauty of the course. Sadly this may come about because you are standing in the rough where you have just arrived at the destination of your wayward drive. Still, you can appreciate that this is a beautiful course, established over many years by a committed team of volunteers and some visionary individuals. We all owe them a great debt of gratitude, but also a duty to ensure that Parklands Golf Club remains as a great community asset into the future. We will certainly always depend heavily on those who put in that extra time and effort, but there is something that each and everyone of us (still capable of swinging a club) can do that is not so onerous; ***come out and play***. This is the single most important action that any one of you can take to ensure the long time viability of Parklands Golf Club. So here's a challenge of "if's": **If** you don't play, start. **If** you already play, play more. **If** you play at every opportunity, terrific; you madam, or sir, are the future of our Club!

A Word From Our President

To me it's an honour to become President of Parklands Golf Club, I hope I can live up to the members' expectations. The Committee and I will look to build on the great work that has been done so far. The club has many excellent members with lots of good ideas. In early 2020, we are planning a workshop (probably on a Sunday afternoon) with all members invited to attend and contribute to the discussions on where we want to see our Golf Club in the future. I ask all members to write down any ideas about the course, the facilities, the golf program and anything else in preparation to bring to the workshop.

Wishing you and yours a happy festive season. Cheers, Peter.



Teeing Off Edition No. 70 by John Wilkinson



Firstly, I want to make a comment on the number of members who took interest in the Club's AGM with their attendance. It must be a long time since so many took an interest in attending the AGM. I thank you all for your attendance as I'm sure the committee will also like to say a big thank you! The result of a good meeting was that Peter Irvin was voted in as President, and I'm sure will have a good go at making a success of his role. New Secretary is Bruce Taylor, who is a relative newcomer to Hamilton, but has been a very good find for the Parklands club. It should be very interesting to how he performs, as he told the meeting he has a good grounding for the position. The Vice President is Marie Cook, a staunch lady member who will play the role well! Treasurer is Tim Spillman who has the task mastered after several years at the job. Men's captain is Allan Hitchcock and Heather (Lil) Hay is again the ladies captain. All in all, a very good annual meeting and we should all have a vision to playing the game of golf in season 2020.

Retiring President Ron Oakley said in his final report that the club had had a very good season's golf and all members should be proud of where the club sits. He added the work of the volunteers was invaluable to the club and the wonderful work that they perform each week had the Parklands up with the best around. He thanked the wonderful job that is performed by the Ladies each year. Their catering of events is the best and the work they do is to be applauded. We thank Ron for his role in keeping Parklands rolling in the right direction and hope he is able to join us for more golf.

Ladies captain Heather (Lil) Hay gave a detailed report of the ladies golfing season. She congratulated all ladies on their golf and thanked them for their support. She said the Ladies had catered for events and were pleased with reporting that they had raised \$5,775 for the year.

The course is in really good condition and it is starting to play longer now the good weather is here. For those who were whinging about not getting any length into their game should be happy. With the extra length you are now getting a little reminder that you can

still hit your mid-clubs and get good result and forget about hitting the big ones!

Several trees have been removed from the course and the removal has made some difference to the course, which many of us won't notice. I think it is planned to grow some more trees in the vacant area leading to the 17th hole, but that will not happen in a hurry, but I think 'it is on the books' to be done. Some of the big hitters always find their way along this space on the course, so I assume it must give them some advantage and is the motivation to closing it down with the tree planting!

Watching two of the VW's the other day trying to 'fix their broken down' chain saw was a classic. Both had owned a chainsaw previously but neither had done any of this work before (that they were able to remember). The chain had loosened itself off the bar, and after 20 minutes they were still struggling until George came along and got it going for them in double quick time. The older gentlemen stated "I thought . . ." Thanks George, you came along for a cuppa and found these two in a little trouble, but they eventually would have found a way.

The club is thankful that they have a good spread of VW's on hand to do jobs across the course and the payments to the VW's has not altered for a very long time. Several packets of cream biscuits and tea/coffee and the lads leave the course happy and satisfied with their work and prepare themselves for a round of golf the next day!

Watch out for the koala and her little one who is perched in the gum trees near the 5th/7th area of the course. She may be anywhere across her living area. Also watch out for snakes who are known to live anywhere on your golfing trip, so be aware at all times. The reason we warn you is because the VW's had a snake who had a conflict with a mower and paid dearly for the experience, besides from giving the worker a very large fright into the bargain!

Veterans golf was played at the Casterton course in November. Our newly elected club President Peter Irvin was in fine form and won the B Grade section and was a popular winner. Unfortunately, the rains had fallen across the course in the lead up to the event and left several soft parts across the course, but didn't cause too much trouble and the event was played in good spirit. The final veterans' day for the season is to be played at Portland on Monday 2nd of December and includes the Presentation of the seasons events. For those wishing to know when the next event is to be played, you have to wait till March 2nd at Heywood. In the meantime, keep the practice up and be ready for the 2020 season to roll around. I might add that I think having the Ladies play on these days has been well received and the Veterans need to be applauded on their wisdom of having the Ladies join in and play.

Out Of The Rough by Heather Wilkinson

Another very successful end of season trip was enjoyed by thirteen Ladies and it was voted a 10 out of 10 for enjoyment. Thank you, Marie, for your professional management and planning, no one got lost and everyone enjoyed both the golf and social aspects of the trip.

Our season ends on Monday November 25th and we return in February to our scheduled competitions. Summer Time Golf (previously called Twilight) continues and you can hit off at any time on a Friday for nine holes. Ladies are also welcome to play in the Saturday eighteen hole events.

Some of us may also have a hit on some Mondays so just give me or one of the other girls a ring if you are interested.

Wonderful to see some new faces joining our ranks, welcome Rhonda and Kylie and I believe Sue is planning to play also.

Congratulations to all the new Committee Members and we wish you well for the coming season.

Thank you to all the Volunteer workers who keep our course in such a fantastic condition, we truly appreciate your hard work.

Just a warning to our Lady Members, if you see Mary and Lil travelling together DO NOT follow them, they are likely to get you lost also. I was told (by them) that whilst trying to find Drummonds in Ballarat they ended up on the Melbourne freeway; no hope for some people. I will not mention the Maryborough – Avoca Road!



Christmas is coming onto us very fast and we wish all golfers a wonderful Christmas and very rewarding 2020. Stay safe and healthy and both of us look forward to seeing you all fit and raring to play in the new year. Happy Christmas to Jim Eveston. *John and Heather*

From the AGM

More than thirty members attended the November 18 Annual General Meeting of Parklands Golf Club. We received reports from Ron Oakley, Heather Hay and of course from our Treasurer, Tim Spillman. Wilky has a good summary of Ron and Heather's reports in his column. Whilst our current financial position shows a credit balance of some \$19,000 we should keep in mind that we have many commitments, and some ageing equipment that will require replacement sooner or later. The rough cutter for example, will require replacement at some time in the near future. New units cost around \$25,000-\$30,000!

No changes were made to the fee structure so a full adult membership is still only \$150.

The Management Committee for 2020 comprises:

EXECUTIVE:

Peter Irvin• (President), Marie Cook• (Vice President), Bruce Taylor• (Secretary),
Tim Spillman (Treasurer), Allan Hitchcock (Captain), Heather Hay (Ladies Captain)

COMMITTEE:

Stewart Turner•, Laura Hitchcock, Allan Flavell, Dale Grambau, Kelly
Hitchcock, Lorraine Ardley•, James Brown, Heather Wilkinson•, Vince O'Brien

•New to Executive or Committee

The contribution of past executive members Ron Oakley and Kelly Hitchcock is gratefully acknowledged. Ron served as President for four years and Kelly as Secretary for three years. Both took on these positions of responsibility at a time when the Club was finding it difficult to attract members to the executive. They should be proud of the service they have given to the Club and take satisfaction in knowing that they have made important contributions to Parklands Golf Club.

Rod Schwarz will not return to the Committee this year, but we look forward to seeing him at the course more often, as he recovers from his farming misadventure.

Machinery Replacement Fund

At the September meeting of the Parklands Committee it was resolved that a Machinery Replacement Fund be established. The purpose of the fund is to enable the timely replacement and/or major repair of ageing equipment, without placing unnecessary strain on our financial position. Money will be directed to the Fund via a small increase in competition day fees. As from 1st October fees were increased as follows:

- Friday Summer Time Golf events \$5
- Wednesday events \$8
- Monday and Saturday events \$10



As a bonus to members, all completed competition scorecards will be retained as entry tickets into a major **members only** prize draw, that will take place at each Annual Presentation. The first draw will be in November 2020. Whilst we are unable to publish the prize list at this early stage, it will include prizes from sponsors, and free golf membership for the ensuing year. So remember that each time you play in a competition at Parklands, you are purchasing a valuable ticket in PARKLANDS TATTSLOTTO! We are confident that you will see the value in, and necessity for, this decision. It will enable our Club to support its membership into the future, with a golf course and facilities of which we can all be proud.



Blokes Trip Away

Parklands Volunteer Workers (Wilky's VW's) organised a trip to Chalambar in Ararat. Thirteen hopefuls headed off on September 5. Glorious weather, immaculate fairways, lightning fast greens and sledge-ready golfers, made for a closely fought and challenging contest.

The **Parklands Volunteer Workers Perpetual Champions' Trophy** was won by Stewart Turner, with a tidy stableford score of 32 (including a brilliant birdie on a precipitous par 4) in a count back from Les Pye. The in form Alex Walter took third place with a 30. Mitch Miller x2, John Wilkinson, Barry Elvery and Ron Smith were NTPs.

Such is the prestige of a win in an event such as this, that an artist was commissioned to paint a portrait of the victor. The artwork, pictured left, now hangs in a prominent position in the workshop above our immaculate workbench.

Ladies Do One Better

Not to be outdone by the blokes, the Parklands Ladies organised a November trip away that covered three days!

Accommodated in Hall's Gap they played The Grange at Stawell, Chalambar at Ararat and the picturesque Hall's Gap course. Along the way they wine and dined (of course they did!) and finished with a luncheon at Cafe 109 in Dunkeld, one of Parklands' valued sponsors.



We Are The Champions!



The Annual Presentation Night was held at the clubhouse on Saturday November 23. A pleasant evening indeed, with plenty of well barbecued fare, courtesy Allan Flavell and the indomitable George, followed by some very tasty desserts. Many thanks to those who organised and ensured the success of this event. Below is the full Honour Board.

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

THE WOMEN

Club Champion (Scratch).....*Irene Box*
Club Champion (Handicap).....*Karen Sharrock*
Spectator Trophy.....*Kelly Hitchcock*
Cathy Winnell Trophy.....*Gaye Goggin*
Eclectic Award (Scratch).....*Jenny Row*
Eclectic Award (Handicap).....*Heather Hay*
Birdies & Ferrets Award.....*Heather Hay*
Putting Award.....*Heather Hay*

THE MEN

Club Champion (Match Play).....*Dale Grambau*
Runner Up in Club Championship.....*Ashley McDonald*
Russell Family Trophy.....*Steve Natrass and Gary McArdle*
Eclectic Award (Scratch).....*Dale Grambau*
Runner Up Eclectic (Scratch).....*Mark Miller*
Eclectic Award (Handicap).....*Graeme Torney*
Runner Up Eclectic (Handicap).....*Steve Natrass*



The Trackside Five

There are five Parklanders who often slip under the radar. It is not well known that Doug Ezard, Russell Morris, Bob Warburton, Allan Flavell and Barry Alvery are regular attendees at the races in Hamilton where they fulfil an important function for the Hamilton Racing Club. They ensure that all horses are checked in and present at the appropriate area at the right time. Our club, Parklands, is rewarded handsomely for providing this service. The "Trackside Five" volunteers are important contributors to our fundraising efforts. Over the course of the year they bring thousands of dollars to our club. We'd like to grow this group into the Trackside Eight if possible, to relieve some of the pressure on the dedicated five. Should you be able to help contact one of the five. They would be thrilled to hear from you.



Subscribe to Parklander

The first edition of Parklander has been forwarded free to all members. Sadly future editions can only be forwarded free by email. The reason for this is that printing and mail out costs would be a significant burden on club finances. Should you have an internet connection simply send an email to events-subscribe@parklandsgolfclub.com.au

Fees and Charges

Membership fees are due and payable on March 1st of each year. Sandgreen fees are payable by casual users and visitors.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Full adult	\$150
Seasonal (Bowler)	\$80
Full Time Student (17-20 years)	\$50
Junior (16 years and under)	\$35

SANDGREEN FEES

Adult	\$10
Juniors	\$5

Coming Soon

Saturday 7 December Your Regional Butcher Day (formerly The Monthly Medal)
Friday 13 December Members BBQ 6.30pm. All welcome
Monday 16 December Committee Meeting at Clubhouse 7.30pm

MERRY CHRISTMAS