



Superintendent Report

October 2024



Tournaments

The past two months have seen the golf course host some major events. This includes the PGA Associate Championship, the Ladies Open and the Sapphire Coast Legends Tour in conjunction with Pambula Merimbula Golf Club.

With these events the focus has been detailing the playing surfaces and the appearance of the property. The cooler weather makes this more difficult, and growth is limited throughout. The use of iron and pigments has allowed us to keep fairway definition and presentation.

Unfortunately, the wind has been relentless making the course untidy and playing conditions more difficult. Fortunately, we have had no major trees come down with the wind, this proves that our tree management plan has been effective in identifying high risk trees.



Irrigation Control Panel

The irrigation pump control panel was damaged during an electrical storm earlier this year. The panel was replaced in 2009 and was not upgraded in our recent irrigation system upgrade. Unfortunately, the company who support the panel are no longer in business and the manufactures are based in Switzerland.

Fortunately, the panel replacement has been covered by insurance.

The new panel has been designed and is currently being built in Sydney, by a company that has been around for decades and has a large support network in our area.

These panels are very sophisticated as they need to deliver the same water pressure throughout the golf course. From our pump shed to the 4th fairway is 20m downhill. From our pump shed to the 11th fairway is 60m up hill. This makes the hydraulics very difficult, a custom-built panel specific for our site is a necessity, with an unfortunate build wait time.

I have been informed that installation is set for early November.

The past 3 months we have been managing with about 20% irrigation compacity from a separate pump to the main system. The high side of the property is far less than that.

Renovations

The greens have been renovated pulling an 8mm core at a close spacing. We have then added some soil amendments including high rates of calcium to help offset the sodium from our effluent water. Finally, we have top dressed using a greens specific sand. The process has been a great success, we expect recovery will be speedy.

The fairways and tees will be renovated in November/December again this year. We will core and scarify these areas. Over the coming weeks we will begin to scalp down the fairways tees and surrounds before the renovations. This may cause some of the highly thatched areas to look unpleasant, playability should not be affected.



Bowling Greens

The bowling greens will also be renovated before the end of the year. The bottom green will be mid-November and the top green once the bottom is back in play.

We will commence the fence replacement on the top green in the coming weeks.

Brad Foster – Superintendent