**KURRI GOLF CLUB**

**NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2020**

1. **Business Focus**

An agreement with the adjoining land developer was signed in November which has resulted in KGC receiving as compensation an amount of $250,000 for loss of amenity ie. shorten Hole 18. $50,000 of the money has already been received with the remainder due late March. It is intended that the bulk of this money will be spent on irrigation, upgrading clubhouse surrounds (including resealing the entry), equipment upgrades and with a significant amount being allocated to other admin requirements.

A new turf sod cutter has been purchased and this will be used for green repairs, tee resurfacing and fairway remediation.

We welcomed 40 new members to the club at the last Board meeting.

1. **Greens and Course**

Staff focus will continue to be directed to course watering, irrigation projects and prioritising green repairs. The benefit of increasing mowing heights is starting to show effect.

Now that we have a turf cutter the putting green at the front of the clubhouse will be used as a temporary nursery to supply turf for green repairs. In the longer term this green will be rebuilt and its size will be increased for similar use. A strategy for weed control is being developed.

Despite all diligence, Green 2 contracted disease resulting in die-off patches. Staff have been quick to diagnose the problem and undertake remedial action including spraying, coring, seeding, fertilising and top dressing.

We have now received 20 loads of residuals from Hunter Water for use on our projects and ground repair. A load of fowl manure is being ordered and will be used in conjunction with the residuals to repair bare patches on the fairways.

Staff are doing a commendable job in extremely difficult times and their efforts are evident in the condition of the course.

Congratulations to our apprentice Liam for passing his tech exams. Thanks to John Howson for providing and carting the bunker sand and getting the turf cutter from Sydney.

1. **What’s happening on the 11 and 16**

Earthworks on 16 are generally finished, seed has been purchased and final surface dressing can now be completed. Focus now is on the cart path and getting the ladies tee back into play. It is expected that this area will continue to be a “No Play Zone” for some time.

Irrigation for Green 11 and surrounds has been reviewed. Three additional green sprays will be installed as well as six surround sprays. This work is already in progress and all the necessary materials to complete the works are now on site.

1. **Irrigation**

A staged high volume on demand 4 pump system along with 340 sprays has been purchased from Maitland GC. This is an important acquisition and enhances our automatic watering strategy. The sprays will be used for new spray lines and to upgrade existing sprays. A new pump house will be built for the pump and its control panel.

The irrigation plan continues to be updated for recent opportunity. The plan to trial afternoon volunteer watering was deferred due to peak electricity costs.

Water supply upgrades to Greens 1 and 3 has been completed and supply to Greens 2 and 4 is in progress.

We are going to tender for a major irrigation mains upgrade on the Back 9. This will involve replacement of the 55 year old asbestos main with a 150mm PVC main as well as 4 new 100mm PVC mains to boost water supply in the vicinity of the clubhouse and Greens 16 and 17. These works are expected to commence start of April and will also include at least 3 additional new spray lines.

1. **Surround Remediation and Upgrades**

Green 6 surrounds are 50% done. A sump for run-off control has been installed. Focus now is on establishing a spray line and completing rehab at the rear of the green. Golfers are requested to stay on the path and not take carts around the back of the green.

Hunter Water residuals are in place to rehab the left side of Green 14 and this work will commence after the extension of the existing spray line.

The left side of Green 7 is also dependent on establishing a spray line and it is hopeful that these rehab works will be done in conjunction with Green 14 works.

1. **Relocation Tee 18**

Work has commenced on the new Tee 18 and is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. In the interim, and as soon as possible, it is intended to play from a temporary tee at the new tee location.

1. **Out of Bounds**

Due to continuing issues with stray balls impacting on our neighbours adjoining Hole 1 the Board has taken appropriate action to alleviate the problem by moving the out of bounds line from the boundary fence to a line inside the course consistent with the eastern boundary of the power line easement. This change will come into effect in the next few weeks.

1. **Removal of Trees**

Several trees have been marked for removal in the vicinity of Holes 10 and 18. This is necessary for new irrigation routes, tree root control and will provide better definition of the angles into the fairways.

1. **Golf Cart and Course Vehicle Control**

Golf cart rules are yet to be finalised. Members are requested to continue to slow down and limit cart movements to the existing paths and worn areas. Parking in close proximity to greens and newly rehabilitated areas is not allowed.

1. **Government Grants**

KGC was successful in obtaining a dollar for dollar $20k Community Grant to construct an undercover practice facility and access path. Work has commenced and will take a few weeks to complete.

Thanks to all our volunteers for their efforts, Snow for the use of his tractor, Howso for the use of his truck and Gus and the boys at Loxford for the myriad of jobs they do to help us out.