



VetsNews –AUGUST 2024



Firstly, I must say a thank you to two VWGA ladies who have shown interest in joining the VWGA committee or volunteering when we need help.

I mentioned in my last report that I thought July and August was going to be busy. Well, I wasn't wrong. Mollymook (early July), Toukley (mid-July) and Coolangatta, (early August). These three tournaments are included in this newsletter. Then we had Beverley Park (mid-August), and Hurstville to come in early September. I am certainly seeing a lot of NSW lately.

Regretfully, two of our past committee ladies have passed away recently. Phyllis Fischer (Liverpool) served on the VWGA committee from 1995 –1999 and as Vice-President from 2000 – 2004. Barbara Parker (Gordon) served as a committee member in 1999, 2002-2006 and in 2011. She was Vice-President from 2007-2008 also taking on the role of Treasurer until 2009. I thank you both for your dedication and support of the association over a long period and in Executive capacity.

It is lovely to see our members supporting our tournaments. Can you please try to put your entries in earlier please. As we seem to be making last minute calls to fill up the fields?

2025 is our 75th anniversary and we are trying to plan something to celebrate this event. Watch this space!

2026 will be the 50th anniversary of the Country Championships. So, more celebrations afoot.

Take care and see you around the traps!

Jacky

HOLE-IN-ONE:

There was a total of 13 hole-in-one pins issued in May and June 2024. These included:

Anne Hutchinson: 30 April - 113m 7th hole at Manly using an 8 iron.

Kathy Parker: 15th June -126m 10th hole at Yamba using a 7 wood.

Judy Lonza: 12th June - hole 8 at Bermagui using a 9 wood.

Kay Parker: 17th June – 127m 17th hole at The Vintage using a driver.

Nataline Irvine (Temora):17th July. On 93m 2nd hole at Weethalle using a 7 iron. Natalie has only been playing competitive golf for two years and it was the first time she had played on sand greens. Presumed lost, there was great excitement when the ball was found in the hole. From the tee you hit a blind shot over a dam towards the top of the flag <<<<<< The happy smiles from everyone says it all!



TOURNAMENT REPORT: 1) MOLLYMOOK 1ST and 2ND JULY 2024

Mollymook was fully subscribed after only a few weeks, with a lot of ladies missing out. The final number was 136 players registered. The Mollymook Captain was really pleased and surprised by the outcome.

Lots of ladies attended the 'Meet and Greet' and the food was excellent. In fact, we had so much to eat that we didn't need to go out for dinner.

It turned out to be quite a nice day, but the skies were full of dark clouds when we finished. The course had had a lot of rain, but carts were allowed. The course was playing tough and a good test of golf and probably accounts for local knowledge in the winner's circle.

The dinner was well attended, and we were treated to a very nice dinner, followed by a big rundown of prizes. Congratulations to the winners of the Vets Country Salver – **Kerri Keely and Marg Little (Mollymook) with an amazing score of 45 points** on a countback from Lesley Betsis and Dell Thompson, also from Mollymook. In fact, seven of the 10 placegetters were Mollymook girls separated only by teams from Beverley Park, Pymble and Wakehurst. Well done, Mollymook!



Early on Tuesday morning we all received an email to tell us that the course had been closed due to heavy rain overnight. They also informed us that they would refund the money we paid for the second day. This was very generous of them and much appreciated. A shortened tournament but a good one!

2) TOUKLEY, Monday 22ND July 2024

What a lovely day we had at Toukley!

We finished with 90 ladies going off one tee representing 23 clubs. The field moved well with a couple of the Toukley committee going out and giving a hurry on a couple of times. The unfortunate thing was because we were unable to give Toukley a final figure until only a week before the event, they booked in a social group on the back nine. This resulted in us only having one tee. So, ladies, this is a lesson. Can you please get your entries in earlier to our events to avoid this happening?



Morning tea was available at the start of play with lots of homemade goodies. The course showed signs of all the rain that the North Coast had been experiencing, but there was still quite a bit of run and the greens were very fast, but true. Carts were allowed.

The delegate and some of the Toukley ladies' committee were a fantastic help with the cards. They put them through the computer and printed off a detailed list at the finish. Thank you very much. Thank you to the ladies who stayed for the presentation. The committee appreciate it.



Also thank you to the lady who accidentally turned up at Toukley looking for the Wyong tournament. It was too late for her to get to Wyong for her tee time so she stayed and played in our event (she is a vet).

The scores were very good and spread between several clubs however the overall **winners of the Chapple Salver were locals Gail Gear and Brigitte Wardle (Toukley) with magnificent 47 points.**

3) COOLANGATTA, 1ST, and 2ND AUGUST 2024

This event was a long time in the making! Covid spoilt it when we were so close to holding it in 2020. The weather was kind to us on both days. Windy and a bit chilly early in the morning, but no rain. The course was in very good condition and was playing very well. Lots of run and fast greens. We were lucky enough to be able to play both courses that Coolangatta/Tweed have. There were plenty of places to lose your ball and/or go into bunkers. A very good test of golf.



Most of the players attended the meet and greet and each day there was a very lovely lunch which was being replenished all the time. Even though there was no tournament dinner we were not wanting for sustenance!

There were 68 players from 14 clubs participating and 3 committee in attendance. The winners of the **Vets Country Salver** were **Dianne Ross and Deb Kelly (Coolangatta delegate)** with a fabulous score of 47 points.

BITS AND PIECES:

Laetitia Curtis (Patron and Life Member, The Coast) advised us that in May, Joan Dunn received an award for 50 years membership at The Coast. Joan has served on the Ladies Committee in various positions including Ladies



Captain, Handicapper and Veterans Representative for over 20 years and counting! Her golfing achievements include Club, Midweek and Mixed Foursomes

Championships and 2 Holes-in-One. Her name appears on most of the clubs Honour Boards. The picture shows Laetitia (left) and Joan (right). Congratulations Joan on a very well-deserved award and being recognised as a great Club Member, a willing participant and helper in every Club activity and is considered an asset to the Club. I

served on the Vets committee with Joan 2010-2011 and can concur that she is always the first person to help, loves her delegate role and loves a glass of red. Cheers Joan! (Ed).



LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Nancy Smith (Gundagai)

Congratulations to one of Gundagai's great lady golfers, Nancy Smith, who has been awarded a Life Membership with the Gundagai Service's Golf Club. 50 golfers' friends and family members attended a special lunch at the Club to help Nancy celebrate the occasion and show their appreciation for her wonderful service to golf.

Sally Keatinge, (Gundagai Lady President) commented that Nancy is a truly deserving recipient who started golfing at the old Gundagai Golf Course, helping her husband Cecil, organise and run Vets golf days and tournaments. Over the past 45 years she has worked tirelessly, making a huge contribution to all aspects of golf from working on the course, catering, fund raising and serving on both the Ladies and Veterans Committees. Nancy is still involved with organising events, tournaments and promoting golf at the club. At the age of 94 she is an inspiration to all golfers, always showing great sportsmanship and sharing her love of the game, mentoring many a player on their own golf journey. At the age of 90, Nancy represented the South West playing in the State Medal Finals in Sydney, winning the Country Medal in 3rd Division and came 3rd overall in that Division, a remarkable achievement. A true champion who has won many events over the years, you only have to look at the trophies and boards at the club to see Nancy's Smith's name on most of them. She has won Club Championships in both the Ladies and Veterans Competitions. Nancy has played on over 30 golf courses in the state, representing Gundagai in many successful Pennants teams and at the South West Annual Tournaments. Nancy has partnered many players to win foursomes events. One of Nancy's favourite events was the Dawson Shield Mixed Foursomes, which she won many times with Graeme Cheshire, Geoff Ennis and with her son Geoffrey.

The golfing community of Gundagai all appreciate how much Nancy has done for golf in this town. Her dedication to the Gundagai Golf Club has been exemplary, and all the golfers look forward to enjoying Nancy's company on the fairways and greens for many more years to come.



Chris Wratten (Delegate) reported the twelve ladies from Tuross Head Country Club attended a great day at Catalina in July. It was perfect weather for the event and the Tuross Ladies thoroughly enjoyed their day. Looking very professional Team Tuross! Unfortunately, there were no birthday celebrations received at the time of compilation of this edition. I love to share these happy times so please keep those pics coming. Cheers

Lyn