



Course Superintendent's Report

June/July 2016

Water

- Main dam remains approx 100%
- Quinns Lake is at 100% with Browns River approx 100mm over the inlet.
- Rainfall for the month was 177mm
- No watering was performed in June/July

Greens

- Greens are cut four times per week at 3mm
- Greens are rolled twice a week

Tees

- Tees are cut once a week at 12mm conditions permitting
- Tee surrounds were mown at 75mm as required

Surrounds

- Surrounds are cut once per week at 12mm conditions permitting

Fairways

- Fairways are cut as required at 20mm conditions permitting

Roughs

- Tidied up as required

Bunkers

- Raked once per week with mechanical rake conditions permitting
- Pumped water out as required
- Wash aways fixed as required

Holes, markers, sand and rubbish

- Once per week
- Repair bird damage as required

Thank you

- Paul Lowry continues to volunteer on a weekly basis
- Graeme Fletcher has volunteered for mowing duties
- Pat Dwyer for his continued help
- Paul Jolley for painting marker pegs

Why we do what we do – the overwatering myth

While no one wants the course to be wet and heavy I feel we can address the myth perpetuated by some that watering in summer causes winter flooding. We have all heard the rumblings “If they didn’t water so much in summer it wouldn’t be like this” etc. This summer I was forced, through lack of water to scale back watering on the fairways, this gave me the opportunity to illustrate that it’s not summer irrigation that makes the course wet; it is winter rain that does the damage.

In January I matched 80% of evapotranspiration (ET), February we fell short of matching ET, March and April we didn’t water fairways at all and only replaced 75% of ET on greens. It’s important to note that March and April yielded just 16mm and 9mm of rain respectively and it was noticed by members how dry the course was, there was some cracking of fairways, all rough was dormant and mounds and ridges were dry.

We were as dry this summer as I have ever had this course yet as I write this we are the wettest and heaviest we’ve been in 5 years.

Why? Simple answer: Rainfall. We’ve received over 12 inches of rain since the end of April, over a foot of rain!

It really seems silly to say but I feel we need to, rain in winter makes it wet in winter.

The staff on course don’t enjoy digging holes in fairways, lugging pumps and pumping stagnant water, this is a tough time of the year but at least I feel we can finally put to bed the Overwatering myth.

With the substantial rain we’ve received recently course staff tried their hand at engineering. In the past we have hired pumps to remove water from the playing surface. This year we decided to reconfigure an old Southern Cross Irrigation pump in an attempt to save the club money over the long term. The setup of a PTO driven reverse gear box and pulley system pumps approx. 15-20ltr a second. The pump and gear box are mounted to an old skid as you can see in the picture above, and the picture on the left shows the discharge velocity after 100mtr of friction loss through 40mm lay flat hose. We have configured a 40mm diameter, 5 mtr long flex hose for bunkers, wells and sumps as well as a 63mm ridged suction line for fairway pooling.



Adrian Box

Course Superintendent