



The Fairway—January 2025

A word from our President

First of all, I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year break!

I'm delighted to announce that Greg Crowe and Norm Bellis have stepped up to act as joint golf coordinators. This is fantastic news! They'll be working closely with Ross and Garry early in 2025 to take over responsibilities, alongside Bronwyn, for the golfing calendar and all things golf-related. They'll also receive support for ancillary activities as discussed in last month's *Fairway*. With this excellent team in place, we can ensure the smooth running of the club's primary focus – golf.

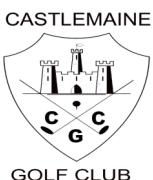
The final big event of 2024, the Yellow Ball competition, took place on December 21st and saw a fantastic turnout of over 80 players. The winning team – Marty Cross, Ian Gilmour, Les Prendergast, and Ross Stevens – achieved an incredible score of 43 points. Ross also claimed the individual prize with another 43 points. Outstanding scoring and a thoroughly enjoyable day all around!

It was also great to see the timesheet being used extensively. While our club has traditionally operated on a 'turn up and play' basis, I encourage everyone to book a time with your group or even just for yourself.

This helps newer members find games and meet others, and it ensures everyone has a fair opportunity to play. Those who book in advance will have priority on the tee at their reserved time. You can book via the website at castlemaine.1golf.com.au, which also offers many other features such as leaderboards, handicap information, and statistics. Save it as a bookmark on your phone or access it through the main website. If you've forgotten your password or need assistance, please contact Jason Thompson for help.

2024 has been an excellent year for the club, with strong financial performance, increased use of the course and clubhouse, and a growing number of visitors, who are almost always impressed by what we have to offer. The atmosphere and camaraderie among members have been fantastic. While 2025 will bring its challenges – particularly regarding our aging irrigation system – let's maintain our commitment and support to make the year even better!

Nigel Wilson—President



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Golf

it has been a busy end to another packed year, with strong fields turning out for December's events. In the Monthly Medal, Peter McCoombe claimed top honors with a net 68, two strokes ahead of Jason Thompson (even par off the stick) and Peter Mangold. In the mid-week medal, James McLeish made a triumphant return from an extended golfing layoff, edging out Leigh Campbell in a countback with a net 67.

The annual Yellow Ball Day was a highlight, attracting over 80 golfers to the course on a splendid day for the club. Ross Stevens delivered an outstanding individual score of 43 points, complemented by his team of Les Prendergast, Marty Cross, and Ian Gilmore, who secured victory by three points over the team of Greg Crowe, Thomas and Norm Bellis, and Paul Miller.

Membership

We are nearing 260 members which is great and so good to see some large fields in comps lately. Also great to have some new players that are playing and loving their golf without playing in comps. Sensational too see Sundays are quite busy with green fee payers. A warm welcome back as always to Jim and Connie. It is always a pleasure having them

Looking ahead to 2025, the club has a packed schedule of events, starting with the annual Max Gale Stoney Creek 3-Ball Classic on January 27th. It will feature a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Be sure to register your team now! If you're unable to find partners, we'll happily match teams on the day. Pennant season is also fast approaching. Last year, Castlemaine Golf Club proudly fielded teams in Division 1 and the Open Division, with the Open team advancing to the final. This year, we aim to go one step further. Anyone interested in representing the club is encouraged to contact Greg Crowe or Norm Bellis. Please note that team submissions close on January 15th, so act quickly!

Norm Bellis

Greg Crowe—Co Captains

playing here when they can.

In summary nothing to report except the junior and female ranks continue to grow at a steady pace.

As usual thanks to Glen, Nigel and all the volunteers who keep the course in the best condition possible with the funds and infrastructure we have. Happy golfing and Happy new year to all.

Marty Beck

Ladies Golf

The ladies kicked off December with the usual Monthly Medal competition, which was combined with the prestigious *Medalist of the Year* award. Congratulations to Barb Livingstone, who claimed the December Medal with a nett 78. However, the standout moment of the year belonged to Jan Barratt, who secured the 2024 *Medalist of the Year* title with a nett 79—an incredible achievement, especially as she played through the challenge of an upcoming hip replacement. Well done, Jan!

The following week, the ladies embraced the festive spirit with a joyous Christmas luncheon. It was a special gathering attended by retired golfers, life members, and some of the newer ladies from our clinic. The day featured a fun-filled *Drop Out Ambrose with a Twist*, where players were limited to just three clubs! Judging by the scores, some ladies

may now be reconsidering how many clubs they really need in their bags!

During the celebrations, several smaller awards were presented:

Best 3 Stableford Rounds: Marie Louise Fitzpatrick

Best 3 Monthly Medal Scores: Jacquie Phiddian

Best 3 Putting Rounds: A tie between Julie Bottomley and Marj Lang

Best 3 Par Rounds: Marie Louise Fitzpatrick

A warm welcome to our 10 new members, all graduates of our latest clinic! Many of these ladies have started submitting cards for handicapping, and we look forward to seeing them join our Tuesday competitions soon.

Wishing everyone continued success in 2024!

Bronwyn Gudgeon—Ladies Captain

Around the Clubrooms

A warm welcome to all CGC members to your clubhouse for the new year. The past year has seen continued growth in support by members and functions for our clubhouse, which has meant strong growth in our trading figures and hence growth in our profitability. We have introduced several new product lines to your bar during the last 12 months, most of which are locally produced and it is gratifying to see strong support for these which in turn is supporting our local producers.

The revamp of the clubhouse has been continuing throughout the year. The most recent areas to be ticked off the list were the clean out and tidying of the storage area behind the bar. This included the removal of lots of dust covered boxes, old bottles, glasses from a bygone era and of course the usual heaps of cobwebs and spiders.

The other area to be ticked off was the men's change room

which had become a storage area for lots of stuff. This area can once again be used as a change room. The padded chairs (18) which are occasionally used for special occasions – weddings, have been relocated to the store area behind the bar.

Our last parma night for 2024 together with the presentation function was very well attended with some 70 plus diners. A huge thanks to our kitchen team and bar attendants who did a great job on the night.

The next item on our list of jobs to improve the clubhouse appearance is the sanding and re coating of all the timber doors which are looking a bit shabby, so a big shout out for some club members to assist with this project.

Owen Scott Clubhouse Rep.

Around Your Course

The weather is warming, and the irrigation system is running at full capacity. However, the issue with the inlet to the back-nine pump persists. For now, we've implemented a temporary solution, using the sump dam and transferring water from the main dam to the sump. Leech's has kindly loaned us a heavy-duty transfer pump to assist. If we can lower the water level enough in the main dam, we may gain better access to the inlet. We'll keep you updated as the situation develops.

The main activities over the past month have included:

- Mowing, and then mowing again.
- Poisoning the 2nd and part of the 3rd fairways in preparation for renovation in late January. We'll choose the best weather for this, so the dates are not yet confirmed.
- Applying fertiliser to the back-nine fairways, which has already delivered noticeable results.
- Hand-watering some areas of the greens showing signs of heat stress.
- Continually tidying fallen branches.
- Installing nine varied nesting boxes, funded by a council grant.
- Removing the old culverts from the 14th crossing – thanks to Darren Rice for his assistance.

Hosting a visit from the team at Vossloh to test the strength of their donated rails – they seem to be holding up well!



Upcoming Activities

The next few months will involve the following:

- Continuing efforts to resolve the pump inlet issue.
- Ripping up the 2nd and 3rd fairways and preparing the ground with additional soil and fertiliser – late January. A major working bee will be required.
- Scarifying the 'donor' fairways (10, 11, and 18) and spreading the sprigs on the same day – late January/early February. This will also require a major working bee. Renovated areas will be out of play, and new playing conditions will be in place for a few months.
- Greens renovation – mid-March.

Finally, please remember to repair your divots and ball marks on our fantastic greens – it's your course, so let's keep it in great shape!

Nigel Wilson—Course





Yellow Ball 2024

1st Place

Les Prendergast, Ross Stevens,
Marty Cross, Ian Gilmore

2nd Place

Greg Crowe, Norm Bellis,
Thomas Bellis, Paul Miller

3rd Place

Helen Skinner, Helen McEwen,
Swee Ho, Bronwyn Gudgeon



On the Saturday before Christmas, 83 players took part in the usual Stableford competition, adding some festive fun by teaming up for the "Yellow Ball" challenge. The course echoed with laughter as players scrambled to locate the elusive yellow ball in spots they'd never ventured to before! Not too sure how many of the 'original' yellow balls made it back to the clubhouse intact, ready for another round.



Monthly Medalists



Barb Livingstone



Peter McCoombe

My boss phoned me today, he said,
 "is everything okay at the office?"
 I said, "Yes, its all under control.
 It's been a very busy day, I haven't
 stopped."
 Can you do me a favour?" he asked.
 I said, "Of course, what is it?"
 "Speed it up a little,
 I'm in the four-ball behind you."



Celebrating 125 years
Castlemaine Golf Club
Sponsors and Supporters

Castlemaine Golf club is very fortunate to have the support of so many local businesses - as tee, practice net, event, and service sponsors.

In appreciation of their support, we encourage our members to spend their dollars - and to use their winning vouchers at any of the following companies:

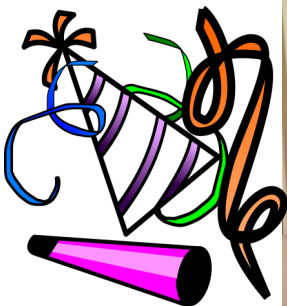
ASQ - Skydancers	Maine Shoes & Accessories
Carpet Flooring Group	Maldon & District Comm. Bank
Cassidy Landscaping	Maxi IGA
Castlemaine Fresh	McDonald Honey
Castlemaine Hire	McKenzie Davey Pharmacy
Castlemaine Mitsubishi	Mt Alexander Funerals
Castlemaine Rod Shop	Mt Alexander Timber & Hardware
Celebrations	Outliers Research & Design
Cliffords Quality Cuts	Petstock
CV Auditing (Martin Cross)	Pyrenees Premium Cuts
Don KR	Saw & Core
Dr Marty's Crumpets	Smith & Maltby
Drummond Golf	Spa Country Colonics
Elgas	Steve Barty Gas
Fasom Plumbing	Stevens Mensland
Finn Business (Greg Sinclair)	Terry White Chemmart
Five Flags Hotel	The Bridge Hotel
Good as Gold Carts	The Railway Hotel
Jellis Craig	Thompson Family Funerals
Kosmac and Clemens	Tingays Smash Repairs
Kowelec	Vossloh Castlemaine
Leech Earthmoving	Warral Honey
Love Shack	

Other local businesses have also supported us through signage, donations, monthly medals and other prizes, and we also thank them.

November 2024



The ladies enjoyed a delicious luncheon to celebrate the end of 2025 after playing a drop out Ambrose with only three clubs in their bag.



Presentation Night 2024

Congratulations to all the winners for the year and thankyou to all those who assisted on the night. A big thankyou to our wonderful kitchen elves who produced close to eighty meals without blinking any eye.



JANUARY 2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2 Stableford	3	4 Stroke Monthly Medal a.m. 9 hole stable- ford Parma night	5
6	7 Stroke Monthly Medal	8	9 Par	10	11 Stableford a.m. 9 Hole stable- ford	12
13	14 Stableford	15	16 Stroke Mid Week Monthly Medal	17	18 Stableford a.m. 9 Hole stable- ford	19
20	21 Par	22	23 Stableford	24	25 Par a.m. 9 Hole stable- ford	26
27 Australia Day Max Gale Stoney Creek 3 Ball	28 Stableford	29 2nd + 3rd fairway renovation	30 Stableford 2nd + 3rd fairway renovation	31 2nd + 3rd fairway renovation	1 WORKING BEE 2nd + 3rd fairway renovation	2 WORKING BEE 2nd + 3rd fairway renovation

FEBRUARY 2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
27	28	29	30	31	1 WORKING BEE 2nd + 3rd fairway renovation	2 WORKING BEE 2nd + 3rd fairway renovation
3	4 Stroke Monthly Medal	5	6 Par	7	8 Stroke Monthly Medal a.m. 9 hole stableford Parma night	9
10	11 Stableford	12	13 Stroke Mid Week Monthly Medal	14	15 Par a.m. 9 Hole stableford	16 Una Carroll Breast Cancer day
17 CVVG Veterans Day	18 Par 1st Rd Captain's Trophy	19	20 Stableford	21 Castlemaine Footy and Netball Club day	22 Stableford 4BBB Championship 1st rd Hero Series a.m. 9 hole stableford	23
24	25 Stableford	26	27 Stableford	28	1	2