

Patrons Report to AGM 26th November 2023

Dear Members & friends . . .

The Patrons Medal 2023: The following are recipients of the Patrons Medal for 2023.

Ladies Joint Winners on 130 points . . . Kelsie Hains & Gillian Ashley from

* Previous winners

- Robin Woodward on 120 points. *
- Sue Bentley on 119 points. *
- Sarah Terrell on 101 points.

Mens . . . Greg Humble on 103 points, from

- Len Strother on 100 Points. *
- Mark Pink on 98 points. *
- Kevin Bentley on 93 points. *
- Steve Clarke on 85 points.

I'm pleased to provide this Patrons Report for 2022/23. It's going to be brief this time around!

As usual it's been an interesting and demanding year again and I'll only highlight the most important issues and outcomes.

The End of Karma Lease and knock-on effects: We knew that the loss of Karma facilities and packages would bear additional pressure on our events and that certainly has been the case. I congratulate the members that have found the resolve to work through the problems and continued to support the events so admirably.

Upcoming accommodation: We're working closely with Place Developments and are hopeful of them being able to offer accommodation in the mid-part of 2024 however it looks like being the latter at best. We're hoping to negotiate favourable rates applicable to the accommodation; packages of the type offered by Karma.

The Golf Course & Facilities: Whilst the course has presented fairly well our course advisory sub-committee; Simon Bennison, Greg Whitmee and me, remain to be disappointed in certain aspects that haven't come up to expectations. The RIA did act on pressure from us to appoint a qualified Superintendent but unfortunately he hasn't been able to have much of an impact so far. That could be inadequate direction, a lack of contractor adherence to directions or barriers put up by the RIA or a combination of all.

Communication to RIA re course condition: We've communicated our concerns via Quarterly Golf Course Condition Reports that Simon Bennison has undertaken. Based on the last report, we sought a meeting with the RIA and have been granted that on site on 1st December. Greg Whitmee and Jeff King will be meeting the CEO and hopefully the Superintendent. Unfortunately Simon is away and I'm unavailable but Greg has all the same info and Simon will be fully briefed on return. Hopefully we can gain some meaningful outcomes from that meeting.

Another EOI: As the existing lease on the golf course and facility expires about August next year there will be another and very important EOI leading up to that. We've remained close to the Director of Place Development, the firm that currently holds the golf course lease. I can confirm that they remain committed to the venture and will be working hard to win the new long term lease. Our STG has committed to assist that outcome where possible.

The RIA Board: The Chairman of the RIA Board, Hamish Beck, has continued to confirm his support for the golf course. Regrettably, a very strong supporter in Marina Hogan has departed the Board and that has weakened our position to a certain extent.

Of great concern to me and the STG: We had a meeting with the Board and RIA Executive on Wednesday 31st May from which we gained information relative to a proposal provided by a consultant firm that if adopted could seriously affect the quality of the golf course and facilities. We've been shown a schematic of changes to the golf course and facilities that we believe would be highly detrimental to the golf course maintaining a reasonable rating. RIA says that it's only schematic and doesn't form any part of a set plan and they just wanted to see if options are available.

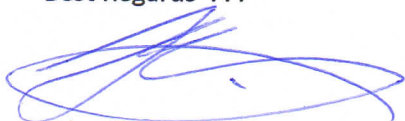
We've requested that any redesign should include input from RICC. The only response to that has been a comment that the proponent would obviously want to involve our input. I don't think so and this issue needs to be strenuously pursued.

I've suggested that the RIGC MC work on certain strategies, some of which I've provided, to best combat what could well be a massive downgrading of the golf course and also our rights and privileges that are under threat. It's quite a task that needs to be carefully planned and actioned and the MC will advise on outcomes from these strategies when complete.

Cancer Councils Longest Day promotion: Following the wonderful success of the inaugural event, for which new member, Mark Heron, is to be congratulated, where we became rated 1st in WA and 6th nationally, a follow-on event has been agreed to by the Cancer Council and RIA to be conducted 15th > 17th November 2024. Our club will support the event in every way possible. Interestingly, we've plans to include a special day of less demanding golf based on traditional standards with some fun aspects injected along the way; open to all comers! Once the format is finalized, we'll advise member s of the options to participate or assistance in its running. A most important consideration is the date that RIA accommodation bookings are open and that date is the 6th March 2024

Aprille and I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to another good and successful season that lies ahead.

Best Regards . . .



John Birkett
RIGC Patron

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