

Secretary's Report ... 2019 AGM

My Report this year is one of sadness, thankfulness and celebration. Since the Half Yearly Meeting we have farewelled a number of our Veteran Golfers. Our thoughts go out to the families, friends and golfing buddies. Two in particular were Noel Bell, long time President of Lismore Vets and a strong supporter of NRVGA; the other being an executive member of Club Banora, Ray Tume. Ray was their Veterans' Treasurer. Both golfers were active participants in NRVGA Vet Open Days and took on roles at their respective Clubs to promote Veterans' Golf.

Thankfully, Peter Hamilton, Treasurer of Maclean's Veteran Committee has recovered from a serious stroke following Maclean's Week Of Golf in early July. Peter has been able to audit our Financial Accounts this year. And to top off some more unwanted health problems, I had a quite serious fall just after our Half Yearly Meeting requiring a full reverse shoulder replacement. The shoulder is coming along but the tears to the Achilles Tendon are a slower process. I am really looking forward to getting back out there on the Golf Course.

Celebrations and Congratulations are in order to Ian Leake and Rob Farmer who won the inaugural NSWVGA State 4BBB Medal at Port Macquarie over two days in early October. Our other nominated Veterans who participated acquitted themselves well with Greg Starr winning the Tuesday individual Round. This State Medal Final will again be held in Port Macquarie at the end of 2020. NRVGA will be sending representatives along once again to support this initiative.

Our Veterans' Open Day Program has once again been a success. We were able to play the postponed day (due to inclement weather) at Mullumbimby later on in the year. Total participation at these days was only down 117 over the year compared to last year. Most Clubs had a slight decrease in numbers. Murwillumbah, Mullumbimby had exactly the same numbers whilst Maclean, Grafton, Coraki, Lismore and Woodburn Evans Head experienced increases.

I have kept other detailed Statistics this year which are quite interesting when analysed.

Taking out Numbers of own players at own Vet Open Day, provided an indication of the number of Vets travelling from each Club over the year's program ...

Ballina – 98, Byron Bay – 77, Casino – 82, Club Banora – 41, CTH – 132, Coraki – 107, Grafton – 34, Iluka – 9, Kyogle – 53, **Lismore – 282**, Maclean – 103, Mullumbimby – 48, **Murwillumbah – 201**, Ocean Shores – 122, Pottsville – 48, WEH – 116, Woodenbong – 26, Yamba – 48. There were 33 Visitors who played at various Open Days. Congratulations to those smaller Clubs that had larger travelling numbers based on their Club Membership. **Lismore must be singled out as the 'Best Travelling Vet Club'** when everything is taken into consideration.

Another interesting fact analysed from the Data collected was the 'percentage number of balls' related to the 'field number' handed out in the Ball Rundown. Some Clubs were not so 'generous'.

Ballina – 26.42%, Byron Bay – 28.00%, **Casino – 38.38%**, Club Banora – 23.88%, CTH – 23.03%, Coraki – 27.89%, **Grafton – 47.47%**, **Iluka – 30.20%**, Kyogle – 23.80%, Lismore – 27.50%, Maclean – 29.17%, **Mullumbimby – 51.47%**, **Murwillumbah – 33.15%**, **Ocean Shores – 51.47%**, **Pottsville – 40.54%**, WEH – 25.78%, Woodenbong – 24.59%, Yamba – 20.55%

If one works with 30% of the Field receiving a ball, you can see which Clubs exceed this percentage.

By keeping these records of the Veteran Open Days, I am able to award points (3) to each veteran who plays. Rewarding Ability by giving extra points on a 10, 8, 6, 4, 2, basis to those Vets who finish 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th, in their respective Fields on the Day, allows me to determine the Veteran who accumulates the most points for the Programmed Year. That Veteran receives the NSWVGA Veteran Medal + \$50.00 Voucher. The Runner-Up receives the NRVGA Veteran Medal + \$30.00 Voucher. This year, with one Veteran Open Day to Play there were two veterans tying for First Place and three others within striking distance. It came down to the last Veteran Open Day at Pottsville and Winners would be determined depending on the Result of the Day. All five Veterans – **Rick Wagner, Rod Wade, Theo Sheppard, John Lowe and Brett Kerrison** - played at Pottsville with only one of the five – John Lowe - gaining a place and accruing extra points. This left a Three-Way Tie for first place at the end of the day –

Rick Wagner, Rod Wade and John Lowe. As there can only be ONE Winner and ONE Runner-Up, a Countback had to occur. All three players played 17 Vet Open Days. All three players had first five placings throughout the program. I was able to discount Rick Wagner, as he only had two placings to the other two who had three placings. This left Rod Wade and John Lowe still in the running. With not being able to separate the pair on points accrued from these placings, it came down to who was in first place at the end of the 17th Vet Open Day at Woodburn Evans Head.

The Winner was decided – **Rod Wade (Ocean Shores)** on **69pts c/b** from Runner-Up **John Lowe (Lismore)** on **69ptsc/b**. **Rick Wade (Lismore)** was third on **69pts**. **Theo Sheppard (Maclean)** came 4th with **66pts** and **Brett Kerrison (Lismore)** came 5th with **60pts** from 16 Vet Open Days. Theo Sheppard was the only Veteran to have travelled and attended every Vet Open Day. Congratulations Theo!

The Championships will be held on 4 November 2019 at Ballina this year. There were 275 Veterans who met the 'Qualifying Criteria of 3 Vet Open Days to be played'. There will be approximately 90 players contesting the Championships, with Winners once again being given the opportunity to play in the NSWVGA State Medal Championship in Port Macquarie later in 2020. These are to be played later in the year which does have implications for our Association. This will be raised in General Business. Players who won Trophies last year at Byron Bay are asked to return the Trophies to Ballina for this year's presentation.

These winners were ... **Greg Starr** (Yamba) – Gross Champion; **Michael Brown** (Byron Bay) – Nett Champion; and **Tony Waller/Merv Evans** (Club Banora) – 4BBB Champions; Gary Austin (Murwillumbah) – Stableford Winner.

Our Constitution was updated at the Half Yearly meeting and was posted on our dedicated Website. I keep the Website up-to-date with information as I receive it. Please keep me informed of Club Committee personnel and any relevant information you may like to post on your individual page. Encourage your Members to visit the Website to view Draws for the Current Vet Open Day and Results of Vet Open Days.

One item that I would like to raise and discuss is our Financial situation and forecasted future. We are definitely in a healthy position but as costs rise and financial support given to our nominated NSWVGA State Medal finalists is continued, I can foresee a Loss being incurred each forthcoming year. Registration Fees WILL REMAIN the SAME in the foreseeable future (as long as NSWVGA does not increase their Affiliation Fees). I believe we must come up with a strategy to provide the Association with some extra Income. Over for discussion in general Business.

In closing, I would like to thank our President John Lowe for the year that he has had. John has attended every Vet Open Day except Coraki which coincided with the funeral of Noel Bell. Whilst I was away overseas, John collected the Results from the various Open Days and emailed them to me. That way I was able to keep the results posted on-line. Between John and myself, we have had NRVGA Executive at each of the Presentations at each Vet Open Day.

To the hard-working Secretaries, I thank you for all the work you do. The names of new members are being sent regularly so that I can up-date the Associations data base – which I am obliged to do for NSWVGA. I must keep the Associations Membership on file so that it is available upon request (see NRVGA Constitution Item 20 ... RESPONSIBILITIES of CLUB SECRETARIES and Item 21 ... DUTIES of SECRETARY / TREASURER of NRVGA). There are a couple of Clubs who did not send through any new members throughout the year. I can only assume that Membership of these Clubs remained the same as that stated 30 September in the previous year. (???)

To the Vet Open Day Organisers and their Committees, a big 'Thank You' goes to you on behalf of all those Veterans who attended your Vet Open Day. The camaraderie is very evident at these days.

Stay safe and in good health and have a very Merry Christmas
Ray Kent ... Secretary / Treasurer