



5 August 2018

Russell Vale GC

ROUND 14

“The wheels on the bus went round, and round, round and round” after our bus driver Laurie McMartin loaded the trailer with all the golf bags and buggies and the 10 passengers selected their seats. We headed south, down the highway towards Wollongong, going down the Bulli Pas, in 2<sup>nd</sup> gear and as we made good time to Russell Vale, we called into Macca’s at Woonona for a Bacon or Sausage and Egg McMuffin and coffee. We met up at Macca’s, with a few who had arrived under their own steam, before taking the short trip to the Russell Vale G.C. carpark, bringing our total to 21 players

We sorted out the groups and hit off on the very picturesque but testing course that has been cut into the mountain side or was it a little more than a big hill, after the coal had been scrapped away, many years ago. Most of us, had a Kodak moment hitting off, before heading off on the Wollongong track.

The NTP was on the 1<sup>st</sup> hole but most found it difficult to reach even with a driver, so the little Par 59 with 14 Par 3’s was taking prisoners from the very start. We had to keep up the pace of play as the Russell Vale members were behind us, playing in groups of 3 pairs in their Foursomes Championship, the reason why a few of our playing group were playing at Bardwell Valley G.C., instead of with us on this beautiful sunny day. Let’s hope they had a good day because we were having a ball, admittedly having the occasional 4 putt greens. As we rose up the course, we could see the Wollongong views and beaches and Gary Pleasance and Ron Williamson clicked away on their Nikon’s, as the spectacular views were appearing above the trees

After giving instructions on how the “Amen Corner” would operate on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> holes, Laurie McMartin and Joanne Kinkead couldn’t find the NTP’s markers, mainly because they were still in the bus in my bag, missed setting up in the gloomy morning dark at 5.45am. Joanne was upset as she had put her shot onto the 11<sup>th</sup> within 1.5 metres. To rub salt into the wounds, didn’t initially get a bottle of plonk from the 12 cards drawn out at Lunch, but that was corrected by Laurie McMartin later.

We had arranged for each player to have a drink, either beer, wine or soft drink, Ginger beer was popular at the Club House Stop at the 11<sup>th</sup> hole. My group came to grief on the 12<sup>th</sup> hole after our drinkies, with all three of us finishing in the right hand bunker. At least all of us played the 17<sup>th</sup> after a few of us missed that hole in our reconnaissance trip to the course, about a month ago when a group cut in on us, on the day

Craig Tomison (35) won the Par 3 Championship, from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesley Ricketts (32) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Joanne Kinkead (31) over the 14 Par 3’s on the course and Craig was presented with the Trophy at the Presentation

The winners of the Stableford Event were 1<sup>st</sup> Craig Tomison 43pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Laurie McMartin 40pts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lesley Ricketts 39pts, 4<sup>th</sup> Bill Fonseca 38pts, 5<sup>th</sup> John Roach 36pts. Craig Tomison played well but will suffer because of his outstanding round, say hello to B Grade again, although still in C Grade for the Championships

We had a card draw for a dozen bottles of wine, either red and white after the mix-up with the Amen Corner NTP’s being , Robert Rubbo, Joanne Kinkead, Glenn Watson, John Liddell, James Yip, George Liu, John Kottaridis, Joe Oriti, Peter Deady, Mark McKenzie, Craig Tomison, Troy Wilks

We provided lunch up to the value \$20 at the Woonona Bulli RSL after the game, before heading back to Sydney, via the Sky Bridge, skirting the coast on the road to Stanwell Tops, no gliders out but plenty lined up for an ice cream, then back to the Freeway and back to unload at the CHP RSL.

Thanks Laurie for driving us, for the comradery on the bus, the social side of our trip. We enjoyed Minties and goodies provided by the bus company on the way home, Zanetta the catering co-ordinator gave us some crayons and activities sheets to work on in the bus, and we told a few appropriate and inappropriate jokes from old emails that Ron had bought along for our trip

Good Golfing next round at Fox Hills G.C. Prospect, 19<sup>TH</sup> August, 18 holes 7.30am  
Proshop 02-9631 7689 , Par 69, 5537 metres \$25 game Booking 24 & 3 carts @\$40  
2<sup>ND</sup> Round of Club Championships, Handicap and Putting Championships



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The "nearest the pins" Weather Sunny Day, picture perfect

38pts Course Rating

Hole	A Grade	B Grade	C Grade
1st	-	Troy Wilks	-
3rd	Laurie McMartin	-	-
13th	John Kottaridis	-	Mal Tyler
17th	-	Joanne Kinkead	Craig Tomison
Drive & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hole 2nd	John Kottaridis	Troy Wilks	Craig Tomison
Longest Drive Hole 16 <sup>th</sup>	Robert Rubbo	George Liu	Craig Tomison

Ball Comp : Bill Fonseca, John Roach, Joe Oriti, Ron Williamson, Peter Deady, Gary Pleasance    The Bearded One