

AGM: Women's Presidents Report 2021

I have thought long and hard about what has happened in the past year and remember that we have all endured significant heartache. Many of us have lost ones dear to us, many of us have been separated from loved ones due to travel restrictions. I know we all appreciate our golf family and the support we find and give to each other. Golf is not just an opportunity to get outside and enjoy the wonderful grounds, it is a chance to get away from worries and have time to recharge.

I would like to remember Linda Garlick— This lovely lady was unknown to most of you, but I met her through her partner Michael Clarke, our membership officer. She was a member from 2013 and passed away in August after a long battle with cancer. She is one of the gentlest people I have met here. She was heavily involved with weaving so did not get a chance to play as much golf as Mick and I would have liked.

I would like to acknowledge Janeen Coleman – as most of you know she has moved to cooler pastures. I played my first ever Wednesday game of golf with her 9 years ago. The Management committee voted unanimously to offer Janeen temporary membership for the duration of pennants in recognition of her contributions as Captain, Secretary and committee member to the women's group over her 21 years at the club. We enjoyed a great farewell lunch in June.

I would like to acknowledge Pat Umlauf – Pat also has spent much of her time at Echunga on committee. I know that she will be remembered for her Monday News as Captain, but I will remember her more for her organisation. Our Open Days are a testament to her hard work, and I appreciate her support and help in anything I have been involved in including being a valuable member on the Management Committee.

Carlsa Carter and Val Nairn are mentors of the Biodiversity Program. This year the Club received \$1200 funding from Mt Barker Council for the Biodiversity: minimum disturbance project. Contract weeding of Sparaxis occurred this month. Carlsa provided a lot of the information that went into the application which I'm sure is why we succeeded in the funding. We will be applying for more funding for Sweet Vernal removal. Carlsa and Val also organised a planting day with huge success. Carlsa's organisation skills were impressive and I thank the members (and family and friends) who came out to help. Thankyou both for all your hard work and your enthusiasm. I am planning a talk for members about the Biodiversity Program next year.

In conclusion, I thank the women members for making my job as President so easy. This year I headed the House committee and Transition committee due to our Secretary resigning so have had to juggle a lot of work. I thank the Women's sub-committee (Pat, Pam, Kathy, Sue, Vicki, Libby and Janet) for their contributions, the good laughs, and appreciate them giving up their time. I thank each and every member and friend who has found the time to come out during the year to participate in our comps and events. I would like to also thank you for your friendship. I appreciate your feedback and comments and encourage you to keep making these as we move into another topsy turvy year. I know we can address any issues that come up as a team.

Esther Burt