



Hill Top Golf and Country Club
Sixty Second
Annual General Meeting

Annual Reports and Accounts
Presented at the Hill Top Clubhouse
Tuesday 28 October 2025

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Sixty First Annual Meeting held 12 November 2024
4. President's Report
5. Captain's Report
6. Bowls Chairperson Report
7. Financial Report of Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet
8. Appointment of Auditors
9. Election of Executive and Committee of Management
10. Election of Club Captain
11. General Business

Hill Top Golf & Country Club
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024
12th November 2024 commencing at 6 pm

1. Welcome and Opening

The meeting was called to order by President and meeting Chairperson, James Ibbotson at 6 pm. The Chairperson welcomed all attendees and thanked them for their presence.

Apologies were received from Bryan Miller, Dave McEvoy, Nancye Brisbane, Allan and Sue Clement

2. Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes –

Minutes of the AGM 2023 were circulated prior to the meeting via email and made available in print at the meeting. - The Chairperson invited attendees to review the minutes.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record. Moved by: Lou Villani Seconded by: Greg Toy ***Motion Carried***

3. Presidents Report

The President James Ibbotson drew attention of the meeting to his report in the printed Annual Report and then spoke to the main aspects, emphasizing:

- Challenges faced by the club, particularly the lack of volunteers for both the Committee of Management and the Golf Match Committee.
- A plea to members to increase involvement to ensure the club's sustainability.
- Financial challenges, including a significant annual loss and diminishing revenue streams from gaming facilities due to regulatory pressures.
- Exploration of new revenue streams and acknowledgment of Treasurer Allen Gale's contributions in financial planning.
- Gratitude to members who supported the club through debentures and other means.

The Chairperson concluded with appreciation for the opportunities and support received during their tenure and extended best wishes to the club for the future.

4. Captain's Report

The Club Captain, Peter Caldow, provided an overview of golfing activities which included:

- Recognition of members' adaptability to changes in golfing formats, including adjustments to the monthly medal structure.
- Acknowledgment of the contributions of the Match Committee, with specific thanks to key members for their roles.
- Challenges faced due to dwindling Match Committee numbers and encouragement for members to join.
- Thanks were extended to the General Manager, grounds staff, hospitality staff, and sponsors for their contributions.
- Recognition of 2023–2024 competition and club champions.

5. Presentation of Financial Report

Treasurer Allen Gale drew attention to the full financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2024 as printed in the Annual Report. He commenced his comments with recognition that the club incurred a loss of over \$300,000, exacerbated by significant principal repayments on new golf course equipment and gaming machines.

The Treasurer then commented on some specifics, the main ones being:

- Positive income growth from \$1.5 million to \$2 million was noted; however, increased operational costs negated these gains.

- Measures to address financial challenges included:

- Staff reductions.
- Increased membership fees and golf-related charges
- Introduction of a \$100 levy for irrigation system improvements. –
- Plans for additional revenue streams and expenditure optimization are underway. –

Questions raised by members were addressed, including queries on gaming expenses, machinery repayments, and plans for asset sales.

Motion: Allen Gale then moved that: the Annual Report be approved

Seconded: Cheryl Howson

Motion Carried

6. Election of Office Bearers

All positions had been declared vacant and nominations for all positions had been called for in accordance with the Constitution in the weeks prior to the meeting. At the close of nominations, the following people had been nominated for the vacant positions.

Allen Gale – President
Mike Jeffers – Vice-President
Royden James – Treasurer
Col Read – Director
Col Barlow – Director
Trevor Downie – Director
David Roberts – Director
Club Captain – Mick Keen

As the nominations for Committee of Management positions were equal to the number of vacancies the Chairman declared the abovementioned people elected to the positions in accordance with the governing clauses of the Constitution.

7. Appointment of Auditor:

It was Moved: Alex Howson that Goulburn Murray Audit Services be appointed as Auditor for the coming year. Seconded: Francie Mark ***Motion Carried***

8. General Business

No written questions had been received prior to the meeting.

Incoming President Allen Gale addressed the meeting and thanked out-going President James Ibbotson for his time as President and contribution to Hill Top. Allen then added thanks to Manager Christopher Longbottom for his work.

Mr Gale then outlined some options for the coming year which the new Committee will need to address, including:

- Budget expectations for the coming year, with acknowledgment of continued losses but steps to reduce deficits.
- The impact of the upcoming resignation of General Manager Christopher on financial planning.
- Gaming and licensing costs, including amortization and entitlement expenses, which remain significant but are being managed.

Greg Toy urged everyone to support the upcoming Christmas raffle.

Life Member Graham Smith thanked David McEvoy Bowls Chairperson and the Bowls Committee for their work for the Club.

9. Closing

The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance and participation.
The meeting concluded at 6.55 pm

President's Report

In January when the Committee of Management appointed me to the position of President following the resignation of Allen Gale, I wrote to members which stated. *"I am under no illusions that this will be easy. I expect more worries than laughs"*. Now, as I commence the Annual Report, I can confirm that I got that correct.

In February the Club's Manager Christopher Longbottom departed Hill Top. It was extremely gratifying that former manager, Alex Howson volunteered to take on office administration duties. Treasurer Royden James and Alex then worked nearly fulltime to gain an understanding of accounts, issues, outstanding problems and undertake a reconciliation of activities over a substantial period. Our Club is indebted to the work of Alex and Royden which enabled the Committee of Management (CoM) to get full control of most club activities. Similarly, we are thankful and appreciative of the assistance and guidance from our Auditor Michael Milne.

Like so many sporting clubs, financial reporting dominated the year for the CoM. It is hard work trying to operate a medium sized club. As will be reported by the Treasurer positive steps have been taken, finances have improved, and major operations of the club are working well. It is the capital costs of Poker Machines and Golf Course Machinery leases that cause the main financial problems.

Hill Top has been extremely fortunate to gain the services of David Townsend, Manager Hay Bowls Club, for a few days each week initially, declining to less time as the year progressed. David's knowledge, resolve and ability to pursue ideas into action has overcome many headaches and set the path for future action.

In any club the importance of finances and cash flow to enable trading cannot be underestimated. The call for financial help, by debentures, made by the previous Committee injected much needed cash into the club. The next amazing step was the generosity of some members who gave substantial donations and to many debenture holders who ploughed back interest payments into the club.

The resignation of Bar Manager John Dawson was a blow. A big plus was the return of Olivia Clapp as our lead administrator as we gained a person with experience and knowledge of Hill Top operations.

Happy Hilltoppers operated over the daylight-saving period thanks to a core of volunteers and not only raised funds for our club but also provided a major opportunity for social activity and networking within the club. Although of a different nature, thanks go to Sue Atkinson who revitalised the Footy Tipping Competition to involve a record number of participants and associated social activity. Vice President Mike Jeffers also did much to revitalise Happy Hour on Friday nights.

No matter the concern of major issues, the primary purpose of our club for the playing of bowls and golf continued in a smooth manner. The Bowls Committee changes at a different time than the Golf Committee hence I sincerely thank the "old" bowls Committee led by President David McEvoy and the "new" bowls committee led by Paddy Cummins. To Club Captain, Michael Keen for your leadership of the Golf Match Committee and to the Women's Golf President Colleen Johns and Captain Terri Wangeman well done with your organisation of golf in our club. Your efforts are praiseworthy.

Congratulations to our Club Champions in Bowls and Golf and to all the Honour Board and major event winners. I will leave the details to the following respective reports.

Thanks to Andrew Crawford (Bowls) and Leigh Thornton and Judy Baker (Golf) for their news reporting and positive coverage they give to Hill Top.

Thanks, are also due to David McEvoy for his organisation and sheer work with the Christmas raffle and to all the sponsors of the club and events. Hill Top has assisted several charities and functions to raise substantial funds, about which the Captain has provided more detail.

This year we celebrated the 60th year of playing golf at Hill Top which commenced in 1965 with a golf day and low-key dinner.

All members should recognise that Hill Top is a club that “punches above its weight” given the size of Tatura and membership base. You should be proud of your club. As President it is extremely gratifying to talk to visitors who praise our facilities. There is no doubt that much of these positive aspects reflects the work of Hill Top staff, indoor and outdoor and many volunteers who are involved in a huge range of activities from mowing to gardening, to building, painting, cleaning beer lines, organising, writing, sorting rubbish, organising events and doing a range of many other things. THANK YOU, staff and volunteers, for our work, contribution and cooperation throughout the year.

Trenching and wiring has been undertaken on most holes of the golf course and wiring and replacement of sprinklers around greens has commenced. All part of the irrigation system update, so overdue, which is partly funded by the irrigation levy charged to golf members.

At a special Extra Ordinary Meeting of Members on Monday 28 July a unanimous decision was made to sell the block of land north of the 13th tee, known as Lot 2. Several weeks of preparations took place and the advertising commenced in the first week of September for the sale by expressions of interest.

A major change took place in September after the decision was made to “lease out” the operation of the Bistro. This was done for financial reasons only. It was hard to say goodbye to James Bray who was not only our Head Chef but a contributor to the club who maintained a great relationship with bowlers and golfers.

We welcomed Tom and Carolyn Georges who at the time of the AGM are perhaps still settling in.

To the Committee of Management (CoM) I hope all members appreciate the work that you have undertaken in the past year for Hill Top. There is no doubt that much of what we do is not seen or heard and some of the painstaking meetings are a credit to your endeavour. Like the work of the staff and volunteers it is impossible to list everything CoM members have done, and I wish it was possible to convey in simple short sentences the huge efforts it took to handle to big issues, such as

- The overall finances and management of the club.
- The sale of land
- The Bistro
- The Gaming machine compliance and accounting issues
- Gaining organisational control of sponsorship
- Development of policies and procedures
- Building, facility and safety issues
- Specific issues and complaints

To conclude I openly confess that I have found it very hard to be President of our club during 2025, and I hope many big hurdles have been cleared. I thank all members of the CoM and our advisers David

Townsend and Alex Howson for their ongoing support. I also thank the members who have given me words of encouragement. Similarly, I wish to thank my wife Bev for her support and the times that she has had to calm me down when I have vented my anger and frustrations about the “little things” that have tipped me over the edge.

I am extremely positive and hopeful that 2026 will be a great year for all aspects of Hill Top.

David Roberts.

Club Captain's Report

The period from October 2024 to September 2025 has been both active and rewarding for our golf section. Throughout the year, members have participated in a variety of club competitions, social rounds, and inter-club events. The consistent enthusiasm and sportsmanship displayed by our members have fostered a positive atmosphere and further strengthened our club's vibrant community spirit.

Feedback regarding the condition of our golf course has been overwhelmingly favourable, which is a testament to the dedication and expertise of our grounds staff. Recent enhancements, such as the acquisition of new John Deere equipment and the trenching of fairways for an upgraded sprinkler system, have significantly improved the overall playing experience for all members and guests. Our major tournaments have seen robust participation, drawing visitors from golf clubs across the country. The General Golf Committee remains committed to promoting our greatest asset—a superbly maintained golf course. On behalf of all members, we extend our sincere gratitude to Justin Allison, Gavin Thomas and all our volunteers for their outstanding work in maintaining our backyard.

The Committee of Management and staff have shown strong leadership during recent challenges, supporting the General Golf Committee to keep activities running smoothly. James, his Bistro team, and the bar staff have been consistently professional and courteous to all patrons, and I appreciate their respect for my role as Captain.

Monthly Medal competitions and Privilege Cup events saw robust attendance, indicating an increase in participation compared to the previous year. Daniel Ford was presented with the Hill Top Shield, and Jarrod Taylor received the Star Medallist honour. The Annual Club Championship was marked by keen competition and exemplary sportsmanship. Matt Miller secured his eighth title, while Bec Jeffers achieved her second Ladies Championship. Additional honours were awarded to David Roberts (B Grade), Ray Whitfield (C Grade), Mike Jeffers (D Grade & Senior), and Tanz Dellar (Junior). Congratulations are extended to all winners and runners-up.

Inter-club matches have provided valuable opportunities for our members to represent Hill Top and build relationships with neighbouring clubs. A highlight of the year was the GMGA Summer Pennant in February, where Hill Top entered the only composite team of men and women members. The team finished the season by winning the Pennant final 5/0 against a combined team from Merrigum and Rushworth. Additionally, our club entered a strong contingent of golfers and bowlers for the Annual Cohuna Cup and Waverley Shield at the Cohuna club. Looking ahead, next year's venue will be Maryborough.

Our sponsors' generosity has strengthened our golf program, supported member achievements and enabled quality tournaments that attract visitors. Hill Top values these partnerships and deeply appreciates their support. Thanks also to members—John and Gavin Ryan, Colin Barlow, Peter Caldwell, John Dickinson, Helen Urban, Judy Baker, the Hill Family and Gary Hopcraft, whose generous donations helped make their events successful.

Charity Golf Days like 'Couriers Day' and 'Dookie Devenish RCHA Day' drew golfers of all levels. Hill Top teamed up with the Dookie Devenish RCH Appeal Committee for a fundraising golf event benefiting the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. Through golf events, raffles, and a sports memorabilia auction, the Dookie Devenish RCH Appeal raised \$235,662, ranking third among regional Victorian organisations, despite competition from larger centres.

Couriers Day, sponsored by Glenn Newton, was a successful charity event. The proceeds were donated to the Black Dog Institute, and Glenn received an Australia Day Award from the City of Shepparton in recognition of his effort and contributions.

The 3 Course Classic, held over Labour Day Weekend at Hill Top, Mooroopna, and Shepparton Golf Clubs, was organized by each of the club's captains with Drew Curtis Manager of Shepparton overseeing entries and logistics. Paul Corneillus took out the overall Men's A Grade, while Leanne Laidlaw excelled at Hill Top and Mooroopna but did not place at Shepparton.

The Golf Committee has implemented decisions to offer members more options and enhance their experience of the game. Participation in the Committee's objectives has varied according to individual schedules. The group includes former captains David Cornwall, and Peter Caldwell who brought past leadership experience. Women's Captain Terri Wangeman and Nikki Miller have been involved in activities related to Women's Golf and the Club's Junior programs, while Glenn Newton and Fred Andrews have overseen successful Pennant teams and Reciprocal Right Agreements. Leigh Thornton delivers weekly golf news in a humorous style that entertains readers.

Bev Roberts has been involved at Hill Top since 2014 and as a member of the Golf Committee for the past 10 years. Bev has extensive knowledge of the MiClub system, and her experience has been very much appreciated particularly during tournament days. Scott Carter also warrants a mention as he has assisted Bev whenever required.

Hill Top bowlers are acknowledged for their season, pennant win, and the cooperation demonstrated between golf and bowls in the clubhouse.

We look forward to another strong year ahead, with plans to introduce new events and further upgrade our facilities with the introduction of Golf Connect. Member suggestions are always welcome, and everyone is encouraged to take part in club activities.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

Michael Keen

Women's Golf Report

As Captain of Women's Golf, It is my pleasure to present the 2024/25 report.

We are a small but active group of lady golfers who continually participate and support Hill Top in a variety of club events. We also enjoy the social aspect of our golf days and look forward to having lunch together which is incorporated with the daily Presentations, our weekly raffle and our much-loved Golden Putting competition which is a fund raiser for the club.

We have several competitions throughout the year, many of which are still ongoing until December when we will then celebrate all winners at our Christmas function and Presentations for 2025.

However, at the time of writing this report we have completed many of our major competitions and I would like to congratulate the following winners:

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS – 2024

A-GRADE Bec Jeffers,
B-GRADE Liz Mulcahy
C-GRADE Leanne Davis

ENDA STARRITT FOURBALL - Julie Donaldson and Karen Ballantyne

VETERANS - Robyn Downs

27 HOLE FOURSOMES –

Scratch – Niki Miller and Bec Jeffers - Handicap – Josie De Ieso and Colleen Johns

ROYAL WOMEN’S HOSPITAL 4BBB - Bev Roberts and Julie Donaldson

DORIS CHAMBERS FOURSOMES – (Golf Victoria Event) - Julie Donaldson and Niki Miller

SILVER SPOON – (Golf Victoria Event) - Liz Mulcahy

Winners of the two Golf Victoria Events will play off in a State final in Melbourne later in the year. Good luck Julie, Niki and Liz. “May the force be with you”

In May we held our Bowl which was well supported by all clubs in the District. This also included the GMGA Joyce Broadbent Shield. The Winners of both events were Cobram Barooga Golf Club.

Our Club Championships for 2025 are in October and November with the final to be played on Sunday 16th November.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my thanks to the following people,

Firstly, to my wonderful Match Committee, Niki Miller, Bev Roberts and Sue Turnbull who make my job as Captain so much easier. Your support is invaluable. Also, thanks to our President Colleen Johns who has taken on this role for the first time.

Our Sponsors – Liz Mulcahy is our Sponsorship wonder-woman who has ensured that we have a sponsor for every Wednesday. We appreciate all our sponsors and value their support. Thanks Liz.

Justin and his staff of willing helpers – Our course is one of the best in our district and appreciated by all members and visitors who are quick to give us praise. You are a small band of workers, but you are mighty and a special “shout out” to the ladies who have the garden beds looking so good.

Finally, thanks to Captain Mick Keen who is super supportive of our lady golfers and is always encouraging us to join in on Saturdays. Thanks to the Committee of Management who provide us with their leadership, and a big thank you to our in-house staff, James in our Bistro and the friendly faces behind the bar.

We have a little gem here at Hill Top which we should always appreciate and look after. Let us all get behind the Committee of Management and support all they do to ensure our long-term survival, as I cannot imagine not having this great club in Tatura for us all to enjoy.

Terri Wangeman

Bowls Chairperson Report

It has been another successful and productive year for our club, with great matches within the club and against other clubs, friendly competition, and just as importantly, great times spent together sharing a laugh over the many occasions that have occurred during the year. Members have enjoyed the camaraderie in the clubhouse, and the satisfaction that comes with a win, or reviewing those oh so close ones!

Our seasoned players have shown real dedication as they have instructed and mentored our newer members. We will be leaning on their experience and willingness to assist other bowlers as we head into our upcoming pennant season without an appointed coach.

Congratulations to our club champions for the 24/25 season, Di Downie and Paul Newman winning the ladies and men's championships respectively. Our other club events were again well patronised, and many tight tussles were had across the various events.

Special congratulations should go to Di Downie and Jeanette Overall for their victory in GV Champion of Champions Pairs event this. A fantastic achievement!

We had mixed results for our various pennant teams over the year. Our midweek sides had a really good year, with the Division one and five teams both reaching the grand final. A great effort. We are looking for an improved performance across all our teams for the forthcoming season, with a focus on training and improvement from our newer players, and commitment and focus from our experienced players.

The amalgamation of the Hill Top and Tatura Bowls Club pennant teams continues strongly, and it is impressive to see the level of cooperation and understanding between the two clubs to put our best teams on the green to give ourselves the best chance of success. The players play as a team, whether they are from Tatura or Hill Top, which demonstrates a cohesiveness that will stand us in good stead as we move into the new year.

Our sponsors and supporters need to be acknowledged, as their contributions have enabled us to run successful events over the year, providing great enjoyment for our members, and support for Hill Top. Without their contributions, our club would be much the poorer. Our immediate past chairman of the bowls committee, David McEvoy deserves mention for the work he has done over the last couple of years, maintaining our sponsors, and developing new partners as well. This is a difficult role, and he has gone about it with enthusiasm and great success.

The recently installed bowls committee for the 25/26 season have hit the ground running, with the recent Trevaskis memorial 2 Bowls Triples tournament having been conducted in September. It was another very successful event, with 44 teams playing. There were many compliments from visiting bowlers about our club, the facilities and how welcomed they felt. This is something we should be proud of, as it is a fantastic event for Hill Top, with good reviews, and positive word of mouth feedback will keep people coming back, hopefully with more new players. The work of Trevor Downie and Glenn Clarke needs to be acknowledged, as both put many hours of work preparing for and running the tournament, ensuring it was the success that it was.

As we head into our upcoming season, we look forward with anticipation to the ups and downs of pennant season, and the competition and friendly rivalry around our club events. Above all we look forward to the friendship and camaraderie and shared experiences that are such an important part of being in our club of Hill Top.

Paddy Cummins

Hill Top Membership

Membership Category	Numbers	
	2025	2024
Life	4	6
Bowls	47	46
Golf and Bowls	12	12
Golf and Bowls senior	10	10
Golf Playing	136	131
Golf Senior	57	58
Golf remote	33	28
Golf Country	4	4
Golf 3 Day	16	15
Golf Intermediate 1	5	4
Golf Intermediate 2	8	7
Golf Junior	<u>33</u>	<u>30</u>
Sub total Bowls and Golf	<u>365</u>	<u>351</u>
Social 5 year	312	173
Social 1 year	<u>88</u>	<u>167</u>
Sub total social	<u>400</u>	<u>340</u>
Total Membership	765	691

TREASURER'S REPORT FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The audited financial statements reveal an operating loss of \$199,265 for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 compared to a loss of \$365,841 in the previous year. This is a significant turnaround and reflects a positive change in Hill Top's operations. It is even more praiseworthy considering that after adjusting for "non-cash" items such as depreciation and amortisation, the result is a small operating profit of \$1,849 in 2024/2025 compared to a loss of \$179,989 in 2023/2024.

Total income for the year was \$286,724 less than last year, due mainly to Bistro and Gaming operations and a one-off insurance payout in 2023/2024. However, the reduced income was more than offset by the actions taken by both the previous and the current the Committee of Management to reduce costs, particularly employment costs which were \$291,965 less, materials and consumables \$90,765 less and other expenses down \$102,691.

Despite the positive turnaround in operating performance, it must be remembered that Hill Top also has significant financial commitments in the form of leases, licences and loan repayments on golf course equipment and gaming machines totalling around \$178,000 in 2024/2025. These capital commitments place real pressure on Hill Top's liquidity. In essence, it means that an operating profit of around \$180,000 needs to be achieved to cover capital costs and achieve overall cash neutrality.

The end result is that Hill Top has relied on further draw-down on the overdraft facility and the generous donations and debentures from members, to be able to meet its financial obligations. For example, donations totalled \$126,227 which included debentures converted to a donation and the overdraft increased by \$57,579.

To address the need to achieve, as a minimum, cash neutrality after meeting all capital requirements, the Committee has a number of strategies in place which hopefully will come to fruition in 2025/2026.

The attached financial statements are in a format compliant with ASIC requirements, and by their very nature are upper-level reports and do not provide a lot of detail. If any member would like to see more financial detail, please contact me.

Royden James