

Bore Feasibility Study

A working party was convened in early 2009 to investigate existing and potential water resources for the club.

In March the party met with Dan McMahon of Centre State Drilling, Castlemaine to inspect our potential sites.

Present at the meeting were Paul Robinson, Terry Ferguson, Col Cooney, Ed Kennedy and Ed Hoctor. Observations made by Dan were as follows:

- The golf course sits on traditional granite sands soil typical of this area.
- Water is available but sits beneath the granite rock of unknown depth [maybe 30 to 100 metres].
- This water could be obtained but would be very old water [brackish] and would need treatment.
- Treatment would be made via a reverse osmosis plant estimated to cost in the region of \$40 to \$75k.
- As well this type of plant would require a holding dam which in turn would accumulate toxic materials from the filtering process.
- Because the amount of water we would require, we would need a permit from Goulburn Murray Water. This would involve a community advertising process which could degenerate into lengthy hearing process with no guarantee we would be granted a permit.
- Dan McMahon felt sure he would get us water but the costs would be in the region of \$100,000 or more depending on the size and type of plant needed. Building of the holding dam and annual removal of toxic material would contribute to the total costs.
- Basically the party agreed that the project was beyond our means at present with no guarantee of success anyway. I indicated to them that I would, through the Management Committee, approach the Shire and Coliban Water.
- The Working Party remains alive but realistically they understand that the future direction rests with our discussions with the major players. One suggestion was made that we may consider erecting a windmill on the old bore but that remains a forlorn hope. PR was going to seek advice through the Superintendent's meeting as he had heard that there are people who could resleeve the old bore at lesser costs. That remains unresolved to date.

Further developments

I have since spoken to Noel Harvey, a board member of Coliban Water, who alerted CEOs of Macedon Shire and Coliban Water of our interest in pursuing recycled water from the water authority. I contacted Peter Johnston Macedon Shire CEO and after a discussion he volunteered to organise a meeting [probably late April] with our ward councilors, officers and a representative group from the club to further our aims.

My view is that Coliban is running into problems with the EPA about releasing water into the Campaspe and its tributaries, and is looking at ways to overcome the problem. Whilst there will be a cost if we are able to obtain water from Coliban, it represents the best opportunity for us to progress this issue.

Ed Hctor
Vice President
7 April 2009