

EASTWOOD GOLF CLUB

“In the face of adversity comes diversity”

Eastwood Golf Club has recently installed a water desalination plant as part of its multi-pronged strategy to ensure sufficient water supply to their golf course and bowling greens long into the future.

Having used mains water since the current golf course opened in the early sixties, the Eastwood Club had struggled to keep the course watered over recent years due to the drought and severe water restrictions.

With supply reduced to storm water runoff, they only had enough water to maintain tees, greens and surrounds. The lack of rainfall two years ago meant the Club had to purchase water and have it trucked in; resulting in many tees being sacrificed for the maintenance of the greens.

After attending an ARUP seminar in early 2008, Eastwood’s Vice Captain Brian Lanigan wrote a very detailed report to his board outlining the Club’s water options.

The Club decided that they needed at least two sources of water collection and set about constructing a water strategy.

Part of the strategy was to capture as much rainfall as they could; as a result the natural watercourse which collects run-off from both sides of Liverpool Rd has been upgraded and diverted straight into their 28 megalitre dam.

A further step in Eastwoods water strategy was to organize the collection of stormwater from the carpark, as well as the clubhouse and maintenance shed roofs into the lake beside the first green, and the instillation of a pump to transfer the water to the main dam.

Thanks to these initiatives, natural rainfall now represents well over 70% of the total water available to the club for irrigation purposes.



Having already sunk a bore some 16 years ago - only to find that the water was too saline for their irrigation needs - the Club enlisted the assistance of Aqueous Solutions.

After tireless work from the Club Captain Rob Osborn, Vice Captain Brian Lanigan and Course Superintendent Michael Vozzo the club has now also installed a state-of-the-art water treatment facility with the capability to pump 50,000 litres of water a day into the club's storage dam.

A major deciding factor in the design of the desalination plant was the 200kg per day solid waste limit the club is permitted to dispose of.

However Eastwood envisage that they will pump 15 megalitres per annum from the bore, 9 megalitres of stormwater will be pumped up from their lake on the bottom half of the course and, combined with their storm water runoff collection, they have taken massive steps to becoming drought-proof.

A further positive from these initiatives was that due to the efforts of Treasurer Craig Hunter, the club was able to fund the major project without applying any additional charges or levies to their members, and is currently enjoying a growth in membership.

Any club looking at their own water requirements would be well advised to have a good look at what Eastwood has accomplished.

Story by Brian Hill