

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF PORT MACQUARIE GOLF CLUB

Birdies, & Bunkers & Bamboos

BIRDIES, BUNKERS & BAMBOOS

A century ago a small band of golf enthusiasts in Port Macquarie decided to set up their own golf club in what was then little more than a sleepy fishing village. One hundred years later that club is still there and thriving.

Birdies, Bunkers & Bamboos is the story of that century of golf and the people involved. The larger-than-life characters include an irascible World War I hero, a British doctor who toiled at working bees while still dressed in his jacket and tie and a feisty lady who refused to stop for police conducting random breath tests because she didn't drink.

It's also the story of how in the early 1950s these people needed a new golf course out of town and over the next 14 years built it virtually with their bare hands. And they had the foresight to leave intact what would become the most iconic feature of the course – the clumps of bamboo that have since proved to be the downfall of thousands of golfers.

A proud hometown history!

MALCOLM ANDREWS



MALCOLM ANDREWS



‘My hope for the future of golf in Port Macquarie is that it will be based on enjoying the game... and that you will spend a kindly thought for those golfers of yesteryear who gave willingly and voluntarily of their time, energy, talents and equipment gratis... even their finance in many small ways.’

– *Stewart Kennedy, member of Port Macquarie Golf Club from 1935 to 2003*

**“MOST GOLFERS PREFER A GOLF CART TO A
CADDY BECAUSE THE CART CANNOT COUNT,
CRITICISE OR LAUGH.” – *Anon***

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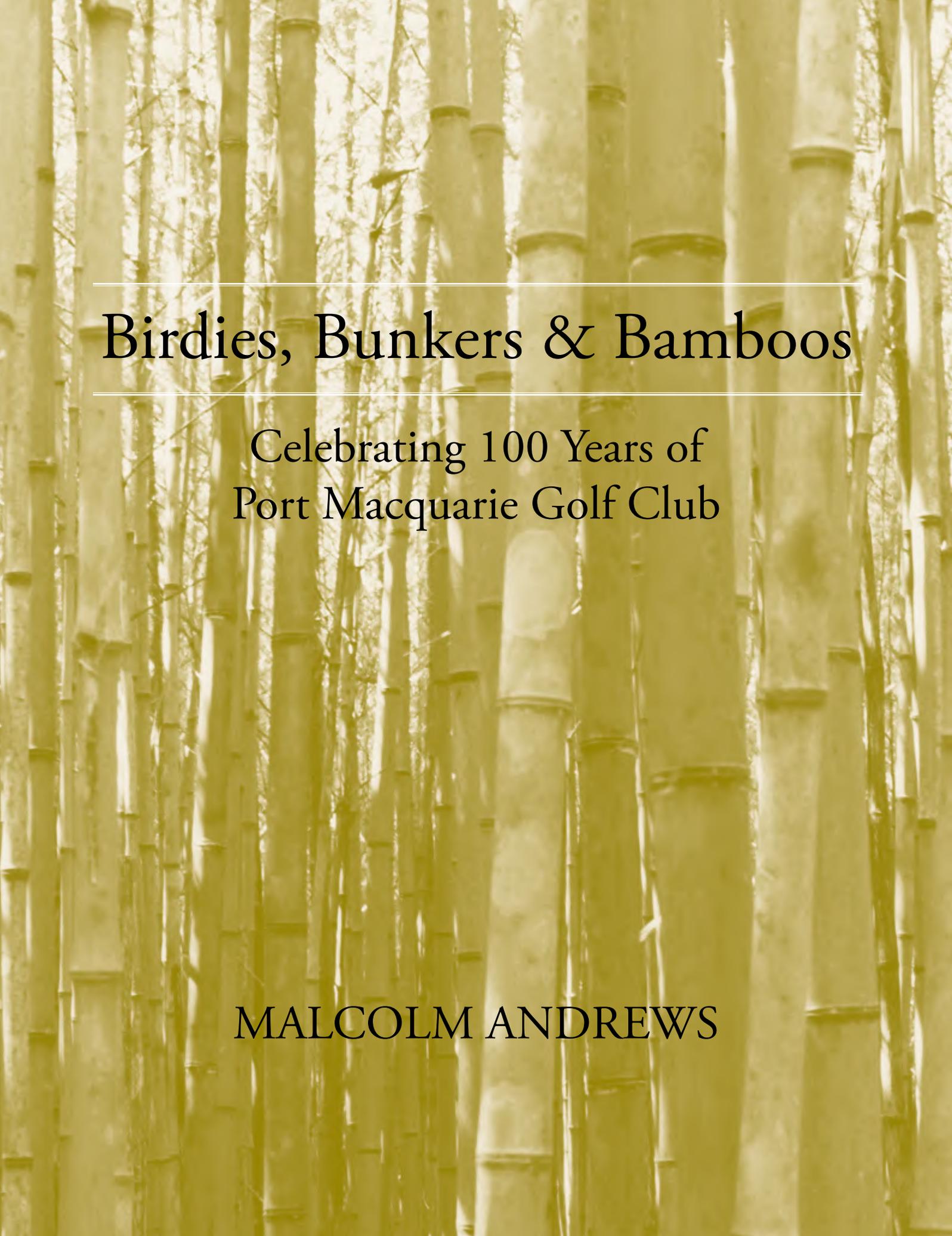
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Note: Throughout the book references to costs have been made in the currency of the time. It would have been meaningless to covert the pounds, shillings and pence of yesteryear into dollars, considering the huge rise in value over the intervening years.



Birdies, Bunkers & Bamboos

Celebrating 100 Years of
Port Macquarie Golf Club

MALCOLM ANDREWS

Prologue

THE GREAT ST GEORGE RUGBY LEAGUE FORWARD and later Australian Test coach Harry Bath had a telling word of advice to all sportsmen and women, no matter which was their chosen sport: ‘Those who drink at the well must never forget those who dug the well.’ Today’s dedicated golfers in Port Macquarie understand the words of Harry Bath only too well. For they have a rich history dating back 100 years to the time when a group led by a local builder, a harbour master, an auctioneer, a real estate agent and a bank manager decided they should build a golf course. And an extremely challenging one at that! Once they did, few broke par. Then almost a half-a-century later another group of foresighted golfers realised they had outgrown their original address and went searching for a new home, found it and then spent their every spare moment over the next 14 years building the 18 holes.

Six years ago members of a small committee started researching the history of the Port Macquarie Golf Club in preparation for its centenary in July 2010. It was no easy task. Photos and details of life in the sleepy fishing village of a few hundred residents when the golf club was formed were virtually non-existent. The Port Macquarie News covered the major events, but with only random stories about golf. Luckily, the Port Macquarie Historical Society had photos of some of the original golfing pioneers – but only because they were prominent in other areas of public life. Of one of the ‘founding fathers’ Captain ‘Jock’ Baird there were no photos and little was written about his life, even though he played an important role as the harbour’s pilot from 1896 until 1924 at the time the port was the village’s lifeline.

Sadly over the years some Philistines proved what happens when people do not follow the philosophy

of Harry Bath. Little is known about the early role played by the lady golfers – the associates – because in 1948 some person or persons unknown decided to throw out all the records. Then, in the late 1960s, club president and later life member Jack Pike spent several years researching the history of the whole club. All his work was to no avail, as again the research ‘disappeared’. Can you believe it?

But the centenary research committee – Keith Heap, Jim Reed, Peter Schroder, Bryan Stewart and Alan Woodhouse – have been able to fill many of the gaps.

In 2009 I was approached to write this tome after some club members had seen *The Fabulous Fairstar*, the book P&O had commissioned me to write as the famous cruise ship sailed into the sunset (or to put it more bluntly, to a beach in Bangladesh where sadly it would be pulled apart piece by piece and sold as scrap metal). Even though I had not played golf since I was a schoolboy, in my almost half-a-century as a journalist I had covered major events and interviewed and written about many of the greats such as Greg Norman, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Kel Nagle, Gary Player, Peter Thomson and Norman von Nida, the great friend of my first boss Sir Frank Packer.

I jumped at the chance to write about the golfers in Port Macquarie, a town whose people had opened their arms and welcomed me six years earlier. I soon found that these folk at the grass roots had just as interesting tales to tell as the so-called legends of the game. War hero Bull Elliot, who would not suffer fools gladly. Dr Eric Murphy, who would roll up his sleeves to toil at working bees, but never shed his tie or waistcoat in the process. Charlie Uptin, arguably the best-known newspaperman in the history of the north coast

(and whose autobiography provided rare insights to background of the move to Tacking Point). Brian Sams, a record 16 times club champion and as recently as February 2010 still winning veterans matches at an international level. The list goes on and on.

I apologise if someone's story has been missed in my trawl through many hundred thousand of words by the researchers or the awful dumping of the result of investigation in years gone by. Thanks must go to scores of the golf club members who related tales, sometimes tall but mostly true, about the fun they had playing golf and enjoying the off-the-fairway camaraderie, to members of the Port Macquarie Historical Society for photos and suggestions, to the Port Macquarie News for its faithful recording of golf over the years, to Grahame Gunn and Peter Gleeson for some great photographs and to all those people who delved into their own photo albums to resurrect memories and, of course, to the members of the research committee, mentioned above.

Thanks are also due to a couple of my old mates who don't realise what they are missing by not living in Port Paradise – Brad Aulsebrook for his imaginative page and cover designs and Pete Player for his witty cartoons. Both worked for a pittance as a favour to me and to the people of Port Macquarie.

Unlike my book on the Fairstar which rung down the curtain on an era, Birdies, Bunkers and

Bamboos is just the First Act. The curtain is about to rise on Act Two, the next century of golf in Port Macquarie. Who will be the new Jock Bairds, Bull Elliots and Charlie Uptins? Sadly, none of us will be around in 2110 to find out the answer. But the coming generations will most certainly provide a rich history, just as their forebears did!

Malcolm Andrews
Port Macquarie June 2010

In

Good Hands

RENOWNED MARITIME EXPLORER MATTHEW FLINDERS holds a special place in the history of our country. It was he who suggested the name Australia. Golfers in Port Macquarie can also take pride in the knowledge that Flinders and his crew on the HMS Investigator would have been the first Europeans to have sighted the location where our golf course would eventually be built.

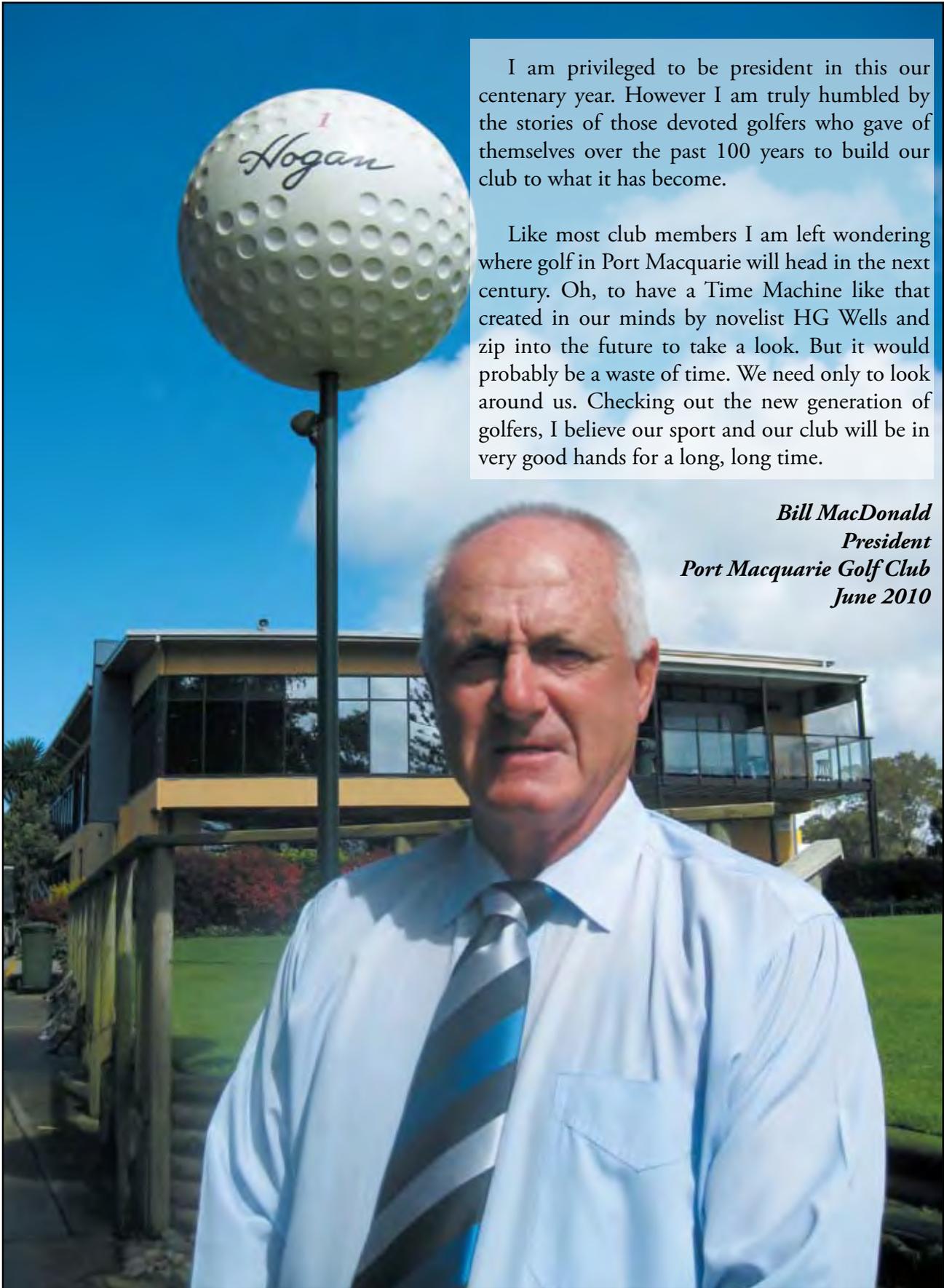
On July 23, 1802 he was sailing up the north coast of New South Wales on a voyage on which he would become the first to circumnavigate Australia. 'To the northward of the Three Brothers [near today's Laurieton] there is four leagues of low and mostly sandy shore; and after passing it we came up with a projection of whose top is composed of small irregular shaped hummocks.' Flinders named this projection Tacking Point for it was where he had been forced to tack to avoid smashing onto rocks. Close by, to the south-east is where today, 208 years later, we hit golf balls around our superb 18-holes – on a genuine links course.

We would all agree with Flinders, who noted at the time: 'The country had a pleasant appearance.' It still has!

The golfers of Port Macquarie moved to Tacking Point in 1953 after more than four decades playing on a pokey golf course in the centre of what was then not much more than a fishing village that was only just starting to realise its tourism potential. Many golfers didn't want to make the move, but luckily saner heads prevailed.

Now, in 2010, as the Port Macquarie Golf Club celebrates its centenary, those of us who play each and every week can give thanks for the foresight of those who trusted their gut feeling that to stay in town would lead to a slow death. We should also give thanks to the genius of golf course designer James 'Jas' Scott, one of world golf's now legendary 'Carnoustie 300' who as young men migrated from that Scottish hamlet to all the major English-speaking nations of the world to propagate the game. Scott refused to accept any other site than that at Tacking Point – and he was proved right! Not only that, the course we play on today is virtually the one which he originally designed after days upon days of fighting his way through the overgrown, snake infested bushland adjacent to Lighthouse Beach.

This book tells the story of the Port Macquarie golfers over the past century. Even with so many records lost over the years, it still is able to provide a powerful picture of our sport and unearth the wealth of true-blue characters who shaped our club's history. They came from all walks of life. Timber workers, bank managers, school teachers, hospital sisters, fruit growers, plumbers, council workers and mayors, women volunteers for Meals on Wheels, butchers, schoolgirls and boys, newspapermen, labourers, men of the cloth, shipping agents, GPs, police officers, soft drink manufacturers...I doubt whether there is a profession – blue or white collar – that hasn't had someone leave their mark on Port Macquarie golf. It is something of which we should all be proud.



I am privileged to be president in this our centenary year. However I am truly humbled by the stories of those devoted golfers who gave of themselves over the past 100 years to build our club to what it has become.

Like most club members I am left wondering where golf in Port Macquarie will head in the next century. Oh, to have a Time Machine like that created in our minds by novelist HG Wells and zip into the future to take a look. But it would probably be a waste of time. We need only to look around us. Checking out the new generation of golfers, I believe our sport and our club will be in very good hands for a long, long time.

*Bill MacDonald
President
Port Macquarie Golf Club
June 2010*

In need of an Earthquake

*‘Port Macquarie is the Sleepy Hollow of the north...
which spends much of its time trying to keep awake.’*

– Sydney Morning Herald reporter, 1904

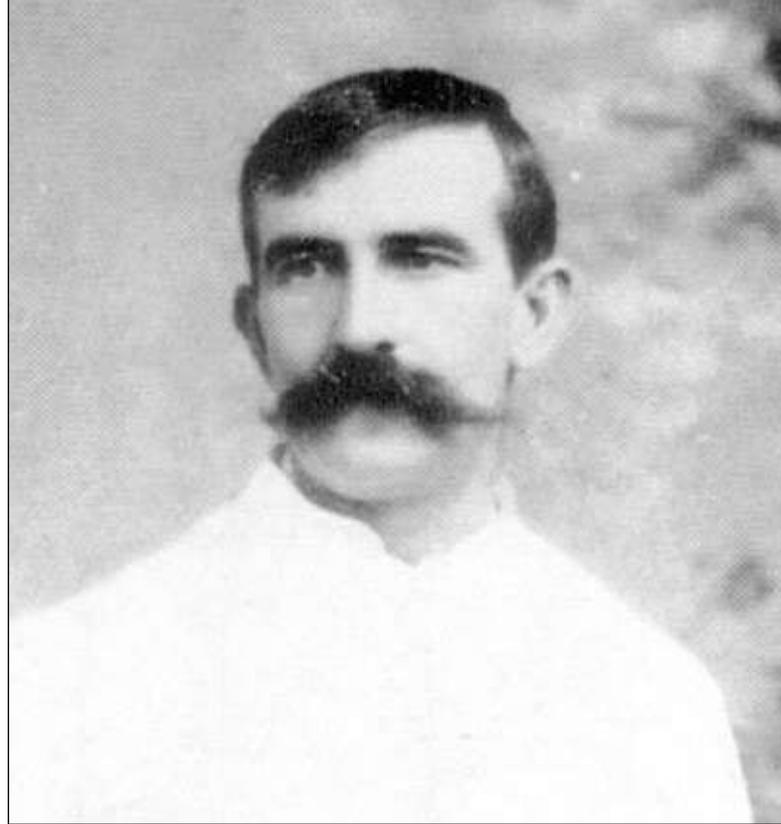
LOUIS BECKE IS REGARDED BY MANY CRITICS as the finest writer of stories about the South Pacific. Indeed American author James A Michener, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his book *Tales of the South Pacific*, acknowledged that fact.

Becke was born in Port Macquarie in 1855 – but he certainly didn’t like the place. He was to later explain his feelings about the settlement his family left as he approached puberty: ‘I have often thought that town ... [is] the dullest and most God-forsaken hole on the whole of the Australian continent. Nothing but an earthquake or a big fire will ever improve it.’

This was the obvious conclusion of a young Becke, who as a lad yearned for adventure, and was to eventually achieve this sailing the Pacific with one of the most notorious characters of the 19th Century, Captain ‘Bully’ Hayes, a pirate, slaver, bigamist and murderer. It was a far cry from Port Macquarie, which was too sleepy for young Becke.

And Becke wasn’t alone in believing Port encouraged drowsiness. A reporter from the Sydney Morning Herald arrived in town on a horse-drawn coach in March 1904 and reported on his reactions: ‘Port Macquarie...is the Sleepy Hollow of the north. A number of Sydney people

Louis Becke was unimpressed by the town in which he was born



go there for a quiet holiday, and have it, especially the quietness. It is a town of 1000, which spends much of its time trying to keep awake, so as to be able to look out of its windows when a visitor arrives by coach.

‘It has a lazy, contented existence that is essentially sub-tropical. Occasionally it has a spasmodic energy and talks about the possibility of the dairying, the slackness of the timber trade, and the price of porkers. But in the middle of a sentence it falls asleep. From the Manning to the Richmond there is a somnolent zone.’

The reporter must have spent considerable time in bed while visiting the Hastings, or maybe just dozing in a rocker on the front porch. Time and time again he returned to the theme: ‘It must be confessed that to go to Port Macquarie is to wish to sleep.’

But the residents of Port never shared the disdain of Becke, nor the condescending attitude of Granny Herald’s scribe, even though the first street lights (nine acetylene gas lamps, seven of them in Horton Street and the other two at the Murray Street corners of Clarence and William Streets) would not be installed until 1911 and the first 15 residents connected to the new-fangled telephone system the same year.

To them Port Macquarie was synonymous with Paradise. They loved the place and few ever wanted to leave.

IT IS NOT KNOWN WHEN GOLF WAS FIRST PLAYED in Port Macquarie. But there is written evidence that some enthusiasts were playing in 1906, and a photograph of four lady golfers in the archives of the State Library of NSW is dated 1905.

Eventually the golfers decided to make it all official and gathered for the foundation meeting of the Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday, July 2, 1910. Jacob Healey, a carpenter who had emigrated from Lincolnshire a quarter of a century earlier and had become a respected local builder and businessman, was elected as the first president. Store owner, auctioneer and shipping agent Bill Spence was appointed secretary-treasurer. Three committee members were also elected – Port Macquarie’s harbour pilot Captain James ‘Jock’ Baird, auctioneer and land agent Walter Stacey, and bank manager GW Wilshire.

Membership subscription for the first year was set at five shillings and 10 golfers applied to join the club. To put this in perspective five shillings in 1910 was the approximate weekly rental on a ‘modern’ house.



Photo by Splash Studios; courtesy Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW

Ladies before gentlemen...the oldest photograph of golfers in Port Macquarie still in existence. The four unnamed women were believed to have posed in 1905, some five years before the golf club was formed. The golfer second from the left is said to be Nora Flynn, from the family whose name is remembered by Flynn's Beach and the adjacent Flynn Street. The historic family home 'Roto House' was later the local headquarters for the National Parks and Wildlife Service and still houses a set of old golf clubs belonging to Nora.

It was an exciting time for Australia and Australians in 1910:

- A young mechanic Fred Custance made the first sustained flight by an aircraft in Australia, flying 5km in a Bleriot monoplane from a field near Adelaide. He just beat the American adventurer and escapologist Harry Houdini into the air. Houdini piloted his Voisin biplane off the ground at Diggers Rest near Melbourne the following day.
- Andrew Fisher's Federal Government decided to build a railway line across the Nullabor Plain, on what is now the route taken by the Indian Pacific.
- An Act of Parliament outlawed the use of private banknotes and the first official Australian banknotes were printed. Australia's first official coins, minted in England had arrived earlier.
- British polar explorer Captain Robert Scott passed through Melbourne en route to Antarctica on his ill-fated trek to the South Pole.
- The Royal Australian Navy was created and the first ships purchased from Great Britain.
- Scottish golfer Carnegie 'Neg' Clark won the Australian Open at Royal Adelaide, beating his old schoolmate from Carnoustie Dan Soutar (see also Now You Has Jas, Page xx).
- A record 100,000 punters turned up at Flemington Racecourse to see Comedy King (10-1) beat the fast-finishing 9-2 favourite Trafalgar to win the Melbourne Cup.
- Surf life savers showed off their latest innovation – a surfboat – at Manly Beach.
- Newtown captain Charles 'Boxer' Russell kicked a goal in the last minute of the final match of the Rugby League season to snatch

a 4-all draw against South Sydney, giving the Bluebags the Premiership, which was decided on the results of home-and-away games with no finals' series.

- Nineteen Australian artists, including Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton and George Lambert, held an exhibition at the Royal Academy in London.



Charles 'Boxer' Russell...his kick for Newtown's Rugby League team was a sporting highlight of 1910



The so-called Chasm Hole...then and now

AS FAR AS THE GOLFERS of Port Macquarie were concerned, the establishment of their club was every bit as exciting.

The first published reference to the activities of the new club was in the Port Macquarie News a fortnight later (July 16, 1910): ‘The first practice for the newly formed golf club took place on Wednesday afternoon and was most successful. There was a good attendance of players and spectators.’

And two Saturdays later on: ‘The local golf club, although in its infancy, has been challenged by the Kempsey club to a friendly game, which will take place on the local links on Monday

next, August 1.’ There is no record of which town triumphed. The Kempsey club was also in its infancy, having been only formed in late November of the previous year.

These were the days when all clubs had wooden shafts and there were no numbers on the club head. As Gerald de Lissa, one of the originals at Port Macquarie, explained, most golfers got by with seven clubs – driver, spoon, midiron, mashie, lofter, niblick and putter. The driver was either a brassie (the nearest modern equivalent is the 2-wood) or a baffie (4-wood). The spoon was similar to a 3-wood, midiron a 2-iron, mashie a 5-iron, lofter an 8-iron and niblick a 9-iron.



AT FIRST, THE GOLF COURSE WAS CONCENTRATED along the waterfront near the current CBD and the headlands to the east. Later it was virtually confined to the area that is today occupied by Port Macquarie High School, Oxley Oval and Oxley Reserve.

The original first tee was near the western end of Port's southern breakwall and almost adjacent to the back of the present police station. The first green was on Allman's Hill (sometime referred to as Tombstone Hill) across Clarence Street from Port Macquarie Primary School.

Local residents Neville Anderson and Alec

McLaren both remembered spending their spare time as kids searching for golf balls on this hazardous hole. Alec recalled one occasion when he ducked away from school during the lunch break to hunt for balls on what is now the edge of the Sundowner Breakwall Caravan Park. There was a stiff Nor' Easter blowing and so engrossed was he in his search that he didn't hear the school bell. He was in big trouble when he got back to his classroom late!

The course then more or less followed the headland around to the south. The green for the second hole was near the north east corner of the old jail. The third hole was played from a tee near



The president presented Captain Baird with a case of pipes and tobacco pouch as a token of his fellow members' regard.

the Observatory to a green in a hollow above Town Beach near the former camp site of the famous explorer John Oxley.

The fourth hole was a short, but treacherous, layout above Town Beach. The tee was located on what is now the beach's car park. Golfers were faced with a tricky shot to an elevated, but exposed green. On one side was the road, on the other a savage drop to the beach. The green was opposite the home of a man called Fischer, who was one of Baird's boatmen. He was the granddad of Father Leo Donnelly, the current parish priest at St Agnes Catholic Church, Port Macquarie. Fischer's home is now the Maritime Museum. When hitting from the tee the golfers were either threatened by Nor' Easterlies likely to blow their balls onto the road or Southerlies trying just as hard to push the balls over the cliff and onto the beach.

After negotiating this rugged hole, players would walk to Flagstaff Hill to tackle another tough hole from an elevated tee down to a tricky green on the edge of the sand at Oxley Beach. It was no mean feat at the best of times.

Then they had to confront the infamous Chasm Hole. The tee was on the eastern side of Pacific Drive, above Oxley Beach. The green, the outline of which can still be seen today, was on the Windmill Hill headland, just north of the current lookout. The golfers faced a daunting tee shot over the chasm, created over the years by rough seas eating into the foreshores, onto the grassy hill, followed by an approach shot to the green. Daunting? Even today, with all our high-tech woods and state-of-the-art golf balls, it would be intimidating. But in 1910 it was truly a horror hole.

From Windmill Hill the course turned westwards with a long hole through Oxley Reserve along the edge of Burrawan Street to a green located in what is now the south-west corner of the high school grounds.

Little is known about the rest of the course other than it returned to the centre of town via what was then known as the police paddock. This was land now opposite the swimming pool, enclosed by the current Gordon, Grant, Church and Lord Streets. There are suggestions that the original course may have had 15 holes, but there is no concrete evidence to prove or disprove this.

In the mid-1920s the cricket and football fields on Oxley Oval were relocated to Westport and by 1927 a new nine-hole golf course had been laid out on Oxley Reserve and Oxley Oval. But they kept the par-three hole above Town Beach until 1934.

THE FIRST PORT MACQUARIE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP was staged in 1913. It was won by Captain Baird. For a person who was so important to the Port Macquarie community and its maritime history, very little is known about Baird's life. He was skipper of the tug Alert, attached to the Port Macquarie pilot station. He had been appointed as the port's pilot in 1896, a position he held until transferred by the maritime authorities in 1924.

He certainly played a major role in the development of the golf club, holding administrative positions from its foundation until the day he moved away from Port Macquarie. He was heavily involved in handicapping and was on the greens committee. At the last annual meeting before his departure was made an honorary member of the club (the equivalent of the present day life member). The Port Macquarie News of Saturday, March 29, 1924, reported that the president Dr R Sproule presented Captain Baird with 'a case of pipes and tobacco pouch' as a token of his fellow members' regard.

At the time Baird was the reigning club champion, a feat he had accomplished several times. In the inaugural titles in 1913 he beat the then club president George Lindsay in the semi-final before accounting for club captain PG Hampshire,

one of the town's pioneer surfers, in the final. In 1914, Baird lost his title to Spence, the club's new president.

Membership while 'the war to end all wars' was being fought in Europe and the Middle East was very small, with most of those involved being of an age that precluded them from enlisting or being drafted into the Army. What members there were, like most Australians, fully supported the war and made regular donations to help in the war effort. Every week the Port Macquarie News published lists of local citizens and organisations that had made donations which, intentionally or not, put a lot of pressure on those who had yet to put their hands in their pockets.

In 1916 the Country and Suburban Golf Association sent a suggested resolution to all clubs that 'no unmarried man who being fit and fit and at any time during the war has failed to enlist, should at any time hereafter be admitted as a member of the club'. The Port Macquarie Golf Club adopted the resolution unanimously at its 1916 Annual General Meeting and reaffirmed the same resolution 12 months later.

The club was kept together by a small group of stalwarts including Healey, Baird, Lindsay, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Condon, Constable WH Harrison and Miss Jinnie McGann. By the end of the war in 1918 membership consisted of just 10 men and five women. Membership fees were 10 shillings for men and five for ladies.

It was hard to keep the club's finances out of the red. The Port Macquarie News of May 12, 1917 reported that Constable Harrison, the treasurer, had told a meeting of the club two days earlier that for the 1915-16 financial year that the club had been £6/10/3 (six pounds, 10 shillings and three pence) in credit. However 12 months later that credit had dropped to just 7/2 (seven shillings and two pence). The golfers certainly had to watch their pennies.



George Lindsay

After the war, the first detailed mention of the golf club's activities in the Port Macquarie News was not until 1920, when it was reported that Dr Sproule had been elected the club's president. He had revenge for his loss in the inaugural championships with victory in the first such tournament after the Great War, taking out that year's title. At the time he was the club's oldest member.

The format for the championship in those days was intriguing. In 1920, there was a qualifying round of 18 holes of stroke play. The two leaders were Lindsay and Baird who both shot 96. They then fought out 36 holes of stroke play to decide the champion. Lindsay had rounds of 104 and 101 to beat Baird (106 and 107) by eight strokes. Baird had a disastrous 15 at the fourth hole in the first round.

In 1926 the championship was played in appalling weather over 36 holes of stroke play. Because of driving rain that battered the golfers every inch of the way, only two managed to finish their first round. Tom Hallett shot a respectable (under the conditions) 100 and LW Perry 103. Hallett followed it up with an 86 in the second round to beat Perry by 10 shots. Mrs Perry won the ladies championship with two rounds of 98.

The club regularly conducted a monthly competition. The player with the best stroke round over the period would win two golf balls. The player with the second best round won a single ball – and there was no rule against the same player winning all three. The burglars weren't encouraged as can

IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE THESE DAYS
but in the foreground of this photo on
Sunset Parade to the east of Town Green
was where, in 1910, golfers teed off on
the first hole of Port Macquarie's first
golf course. The first fairway was where
the pines now stand as tall sentinels along
the banks of the Hastings River. What a
difference 100 years make!



be seen by a review of the handicaps in May 1921 – Captain Baird (club captain) 2, AC Elliot 2, G Lindsay 5, T Warlters 5, CE Wright 7, J Jones 7, B Poutney 10, Dr Sproule (president) 12, T Hallett 12, R Kelsall 15, K Hole 17, C Kennett 18, H Stephen 18 and Canon Morrish (secretary) 20.

GOLFING TERMS HAVE CHANGED over the years. What we now know as ‘par’ was once called ‘bogey’. This can be somewhat confusing as today a bogey is one over par.

It had its origins in a 16th Century Scottish word bogie meaning goblin. This later developed into bogey man or devil. It was first used by golfers at the Great Yarmouth Golf Club in the English county of Norfolk in 1890, when players began to say they were playing against the score of an imaginary Mr Bogey... the score shot by the devil that only the best could beat. The term quickly spread throughout Britain. At the United Services Club at Gosport, across the Solent from Portsmouth, all members had to have a military rank. So the golfers played against the mythical Colonel Bogey. Hence the famous hit written in 1914. Three years earlier, in 1911, the American

professionals had begun talking about par, a stock exchange term previously popular among players in The (British) Open. And when the pros began hitting lower scores than their British counterparts, they rubbed salt in the wound by referring to one over par as a bogey.

When the Port Macquarie Golf Club was established in 1910 the bogey was still in use as the standard score and remained so for some time. In 1921, such was the difficulty of the Port Macquarie course that the nine holes had a bogey of 43, with the course record of 41 held by Captain Baird. Remembering that the old golf course was not only tough, but also pretty rough and ready, and the equipment archaic by today’s standards, scores around the 100 for 18 holes were quite respectable.

| <i>Hole</i> | <i>Score</i> | <i>Bogey (Par)</i> |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 | 5 | 5 |
| 3 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 5 |
| 5 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 4 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 4 |
| 8 | 5 | 5 |
| 9 | 4 | 5 |
| ----- | | |
| | 41 | 43 |
| ----- | | |
| Handicap: | 2 | |
| Net score: | 39 | |

CAPTAIN ‘JOCK’ BAIRD’S RECORD ROUND ON THE ORIGINAL COURSE
(when winning the monthly stroke competition for April 1921)

Golf's Pioneers



Stewart Kennedy refers to Tom Rosenbaum as a builder. But, seen here in the centre of the photograph, he and his brother Roy (right) were apprenticed to their father William Rosenbaum (left) as carpenters and cabinet makers.

PORT MACQUARIE GOLF CLUB STALWART Stewart Kennedy, a fruit and vegetable grower, recalled the names of a few of the pioneers of the sport at the Oxley links in some notes he made in 1993, a decade before his death at the age of 93: 'Some of the names of people I recall that played and were interested in the golf club when I was going to school were: Jock Baird (pilot officer), AC Elliot (solicitor), Arthur Bartrim (retired blacksmith), Percy Hallett (mercier), Tom Hallett (furniture and cabinet maker), Bert Pountney (owner of Port Macquarie News), Arthur Bailey (storeman), AG Byrnes (hotelier), Jim Wrigley, RV Dulhunty (surveyor), Allan Cumming (grocer), AG Reid (bank manager), N Spanswick (farmer), Tom Rosenbaum (builder), Fred Ross (butcher), WH Marshall (cordial manufacturer), Johnny Blair (post office), Dr Sproule, Dr Murphy, Dr McLaren, Tom Reed (mercier) and Gordon Blair (truck driver).' Kennedy's list shows a wide diversity of professions in the golf club's ranks.

Never less than a **Bogey**

ONE OF THE FEW SURVIVING REFERENCES

*to the early days is a light-hearted look at golf
in 1910 by Gerald de Lissa.*

‘The course on which we played [had] five holes with a bogey of 46,’ de Lissa explained. ‘There was no par in those days, just bogey amounting to “same man, different hat”. The first tee was behind the Royal Hotel and the first green was on the top of a cliff just about above where your Town Beach now is.

‘I recall the day I accomplished a course record for the first hole. I hit a sizzling drive from the tee, with just enough hook on it to land at the bottom of the cliff below the first hole – about 200ft [51m] up. I can recall that I played 11 trying to get on top of the cliff before I decided to play back towards the tee then up the “fairway”. After

sundry encounters with rocks and other hazards I ultimately holed out the first for a dazzling 36!’

Not bad for one hole, by anyone’s standards!

But de Lissa loved his golf as he went on to point out: ‘Yes, it was strange golf we played in those days compared with the circumspect regulated play on your excellent links today, but I doubt very much whether your players of today enjoy your game as much as we did in those bygone days.

‘To the best of my knowledge nobody ever played a round below bogey.’



You Could Bank on Healey

AS ONE OF PORT MACQUARIE'S MOST SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMEN it was logical that his golfing peers should turn to Jacob Healey to serve as president when the golf club was formed in 1910. He may have not been one of the town's best golfers but his financial acumen had seen him rise from a humble carpenter to become the owner of a major general store, a bakery and a thriving dairy property. Healey was also a successful racehorse owner.

Born on October 12, 1859, he was a native of the Lincolnshire Fenlands in eastern England, one of a family of nine children. He migrated to the colony of New South Wales at around the age of 25 and, after a short stay in Sydney, moved north to ply his trade at Port Macquarie and along the Manning and Macleay Rivers. He was very successful and soon had his own building company. In October 1891 his firm won the contract to build a two-storey structure in Horton Street to house the Bank of New South Wales (the forerunner of Westpac) at a cost of £2675. The impressive building was designed by a son of the so-called 'Father of Federation' Sir Henry Parkes, respected colonial architect Varney Parkes whose most famous creation was the Marble Bar in George Adams Hotel (now the Hilton). The Port Macquarie building is still there today (as the Westpac Bank) and is under heritage protection.

When he completed the bank's construction in 1893 Healey bought John Hayward's Family Emporium, a store on the south-east corner of Horton and William Streets. Among the opening



Jacob and Ada Healey...
the golf club needed his financial expertise

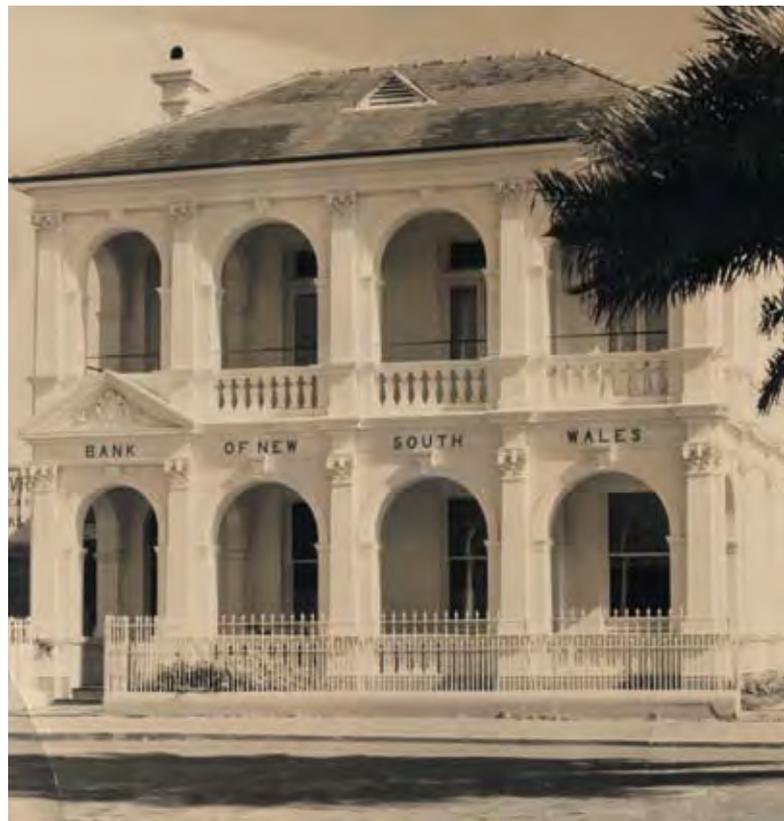


Hayward's Emporium, just before its sale to Jacob Healey

specials under the new management were tins of jam for four pence, vinegar at six pence a bottle and bottles of Worcester sauce at four pence. The same year Healey purchased McKune's bakery and a property, The Hatch, on the south-eastern bank of the Wilson River near Telegraph Point. Later he bought Willerie to the north-west.

In 1898 Healey married Mrs Ada Scobie and became stepfather to her two children, John and Helen.

Healey was involved in almost every facet of civic life in Port Macquarie. As well as his role in the formation of the golf club, at various times he served as chairman of the Hastings Shire Council, president of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society and chairman of the Port Macquarie Butter Factory. When he retired in 1925 he and Ada moved to the Sydney suburb of Killara. Healey died there in 1940, the year after his wife passed away.



The Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac) in Horton Street...a testimony to Healey's hand-on, construction skills

Wouldn't Suffer Fools Gladly

WILLIAM ANDREW SPENCE, or Bill to his mates, could be irascible at times. Testy. Irritable. Petulant. Cranky. Quarrelsome. Yes, all that and more.

His detractors were not adverse to passing on their opinions to others. As AWS Mackay wrote in his column 'Men Whom I Have Met' in the Hastings Shire Gazette, in April 1957, six weeks after Spence's death at the age of 85, he was 'temperamental to a marked degree' and 'quarrels with his associates were frequent'. Spence's friends took a different view. They reckoned it was all

because he wouldn't suffer fools gladly. And that's why the golfers of Port Macquarie elected him the first secretary-treasurer of the golf club in 1910. He was the ideal man for the job – a perfectionist in everything he attempted and an expert bookkeeper and accountant who gave close attention to detail. This was just what was needed in the fledgling organisation. Mackay pointed out in his article: 'His work, at all times, was characterised by extreme accuracy. If a matter went through his hands, it was known to be correct as far as humanly possible.'

Bill Spence lived all his life in Port. Born on

Liberty Hall in Clarence Street (to the right of the photo), around the turn of the century, when it housed 'Worboys Watchmakers'. Bill Spence later ran a general store in the building.





Port Macquarie's cricket buffs were spoiled by visits of the likes of legendary batsman Victor Trumper

February 10, 1852, he was the first child of Michael Spence and his wife Emily (nee Hollis). And he followed his father into business, running a general store in the building known as Liberty Hall in Clarence Street, adjacent to what is now the site of The Glasshouse. However Bill Spence was not just a store owner. He was also a licensed auctioneer and arguably the town's most important shipping agent at a time when Port Macquarie was a major NSW port.

As a youth he was one of the finest sportsmen in the Hastings. He was a champion athlete, excelling in the pole vault, and fine footballer. But his specialty was cricket. A punishing opening batsman he was arguably among the top two or three cricketers in the area. In the final years of the 19th century the locals would regularly play host to a group of players from Sydney known as the Waverley Cricketers, even though some of those who came to Port were from neighbouring clubs such as Randwick and Paddington. Among the latter was the great Victor Trumper, who until the emergence of Don Bradman was regarded as the

supreme batsman. The Sydney cricketers' major sponsor was the North Coast Steam Navigation Company. Spence was the firm's local representative and duty bound to make the visitors welcome. But he would also pad up against them and acquitted himself admirably.

And, of course, Spence loved his regular round of golf, with his home above the store in Liberty Hall just a two-minute walk from the first tee on the original links.

When the first Port Macquarie Municipal Council was elected in June 1887 Spence was one of the six aldermen (the others were James McInherney, Fred Hayward, John Hibbard, A Jennings and James Gaul). Spence served as Mayor in 1902.

Sadly, in his later years he suffered from severe rheumatism, which brought an end to his regular rounds of golf. He died at the age of 86 at his then home in Hay Street.



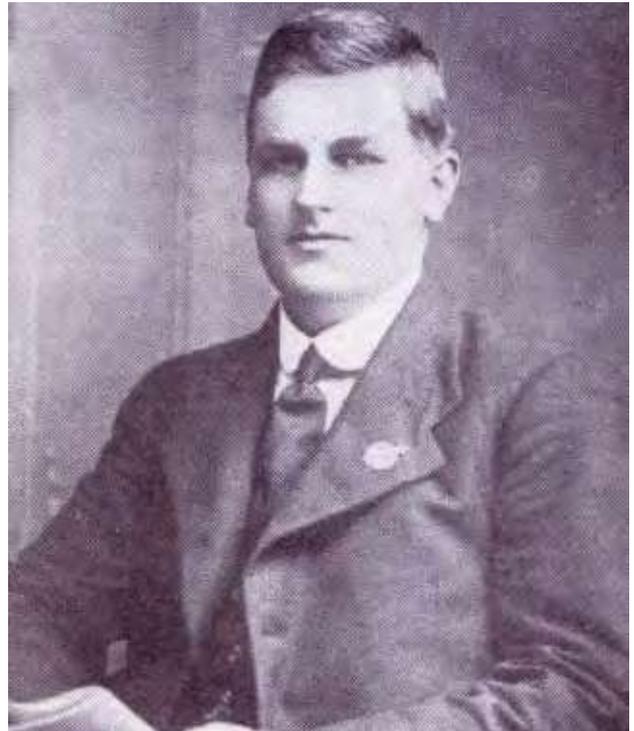
A Man of Courage

ALBAN CHARLES 'BULL' ELLIOT was not a man with whom you would pick a fight. One look at his war record showed his courage under fire. He was never afraid of a stoush and, as it turned out, the only time he was beaten in Port Macquarie public life it was on a legal technicality.

The son of a Royal Navy Commander, Elliot had been born in 1892 in the British township of Waterlooville, which had been named after the local pub, the Heroes of Waterloo. According to local legend, on the day it opened in 1815 scores of weary soldiers, who had just disembarked at nearby Portsmouth after returning home from the Battle of Waterloo, called in to celebrate their victory and many stayed on.

With a pedigree like that Bull Elliot was destined never to take a backward step.

After migrating to Australia and taking up a career in law at Bathurst in the NSW Central West, the 25-year-old enlisted to fight in World War I and ended up on the 'Fields of Flanders' in Belgium. With the rank of Lieutenant he was adjutant to the British commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Oswald Croshaw. In late September during the attack on Polygon Wood in the third Battle of Ypres, Croshaw was killed, leading from the front. Elliot took over command. Despite twice being knocked off his feet by shells exploding nearby he led his troops through German lines before commanding a small party which captured German machine guns and ammunition, which they then used against the former owners of the weapons. For his efforts Elliot was awarded the Military Cross.



Bull Elliot feared no one

A year later in another battle, Eliot received a Mention in Despatches. He took another souvenir of the Great War back with him into civilian life – lung problems caused by the mustard gas used as a weapon by the Germans.

In 1921, Elliot arrived in Port Macquarie to set up a legal practice that continued even after he left the Hastings 15 years later (with the firm under the new ownership of fellow golf club member Bill Joscelyne). Elliot quickly made his mark on civic affairs. He showed the same leadership as he did on the battlefield and was soon the dominant figure in many organisations, including the Port Macquarie Council, of which he became Mayor.

He was the first president of the RSL sub-branch, MC at most public functions and a leading light in virtually every sporting group, including the cricket, football, surf, fishing, and race clubs.

And, of course, the golf club! He was secretary of the golf club for 15 years (from 1922 to 1936), captain for a decade (1927 to 1936). And he won the club championship eight times (1922, 1924-25 and 1927-31). He was also North Coast District Golf Association champion several times and won a host of foursomes and mixed foursomes events.

'He displayed conspicuous gallantry in visiting all parts of the line and organising parties for the removal of the wounded. During the whole time he worked continuously and unsparingly and at all times set a splendid example of untiring energy and cheerfulness.'

- Citation for Elliot's Military Cross.

There were some in the club that didn't like his nonsense approach to life. And on the council he put the noses of a number of fellow aldermen out of joint. The angriest of them all was a former mayor and colourful character Ernest Moule. At the drop of a hat, Moule would take legal action against those who upset him, even though he rarely won a case. On one occasion when 'Bull' Elliot forcibly removed him from a council meeting, Moule took Elliot to court on an assault charge only to find the magistrate unsympathetic. 'Why don't you settle this amicably,' the beak suggested. 'Two such well-known and respected men should not have to go to law to settle their differences.'

On another occasion Moule took legal steps against an alderman for using alleged disorderly language. He had called Moule a 'mongrel, cur, thief, swine, blackguard [and] bloody crawler.' Moule lost the case.

But he did score a victory over Elliot. It was in 1935 when 'Bull' was secretary and captain of the golf club, secretary and treasurer of the cricket club and president of the football club. Elliot had

persuaded the council to move the football and cricket clubs from Oxley Reserve to Westport Park. The former was then transformed into an [almost] self-contained golf course – except for the Chasm Hole and a crossing of Pacific Drive at Burrawan Street. The council gave the golf club a £150 loan towards the work in relocating tees, fairways and greens and improving drainage.

Moule took Elliot to court, claiming there was a conflict of interest because of his roles with three sporting clubs. The court found against Elliot



The modern-day Heroes of Waterloo, a pub built on the site of the original watering hole that gave its name to Bull Elliot's home town in Hampshire.

but the magistrate did not proceed to conviction because of Elliot's good character. Nevertheless, the Department of Local Government ruled that because of the court ruling he could not continue to serve as mayor and, indeed, was disqualified from even being an alderman. The civic career of Port Macquarie's longest-serving mayor had come to an end.

The following year Elliot accepted a position in Sydney with the Crown Solicitor's Office and on the eve of his departure was honoured by the golf club with Life Membership. After moving to the NSW capital he became president of the NSW Country Rugby League. 'Bull' Elliot returned briefly to Port Macquarie in 1974 to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations of the RSL sub-branch. He died four years later, aged 86.

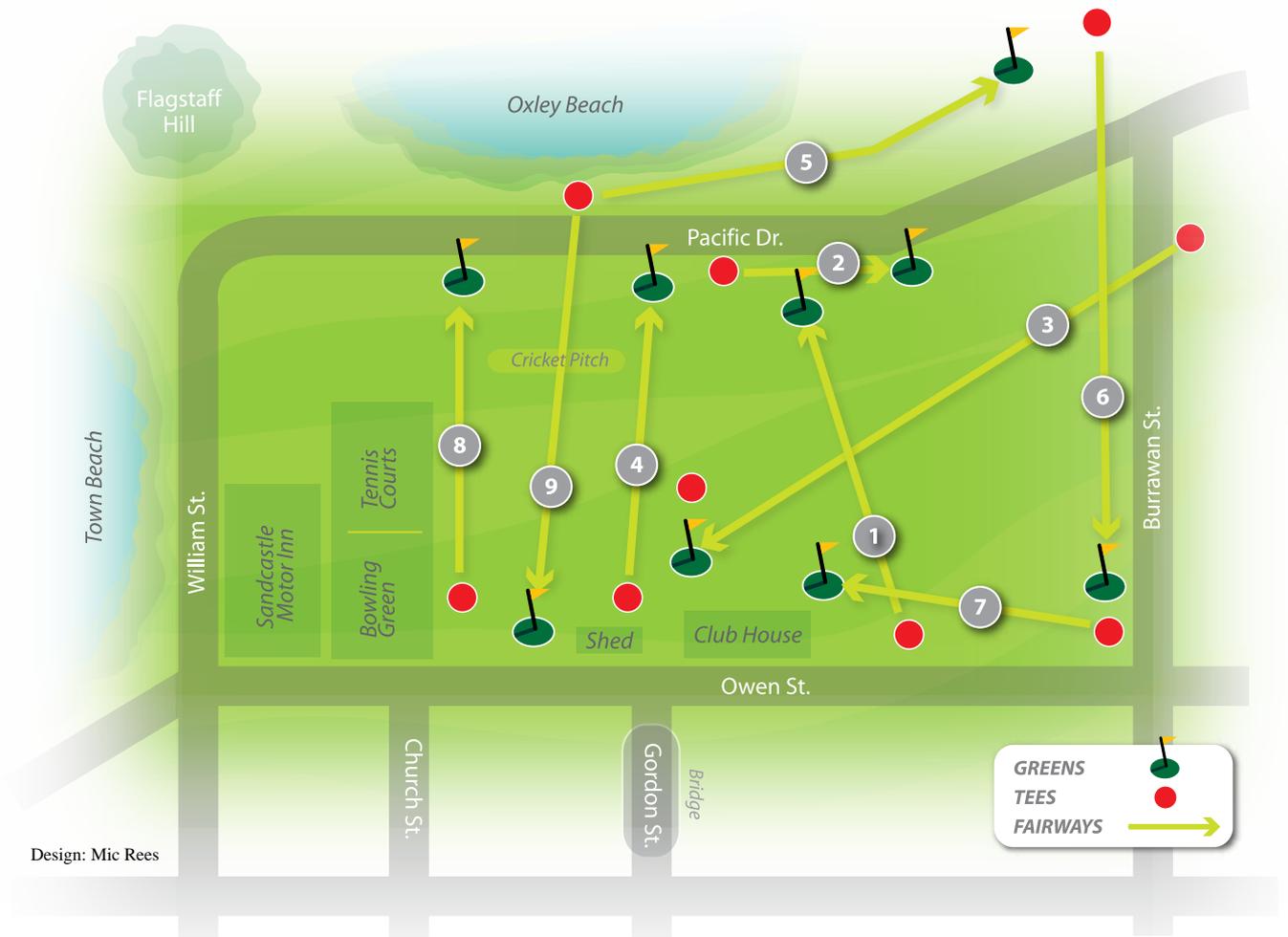


MEMBERS OF THE PORT MACQUARIE GOLF CLUB pose outside the clubhouse on Oxley Reserve in the early 1930s. (Back row, left to right): Eric Herring, Percy Hallett, Arthur Bailey, Bert Pountney, unidentified lady golfer, Miss Mollie Murphy, Miss Lane. (Front row): Allan Cumming, Eric Cumming, Rupert Poutney, unidentified golfer, Herbert Blair, Miss Jane Harriott, two unidentified lady golfers, Mrs Bill Condon, Miss Julie Condon, Mrs Allan Cumming, Fanny and Alban 'Bull' Elliot.

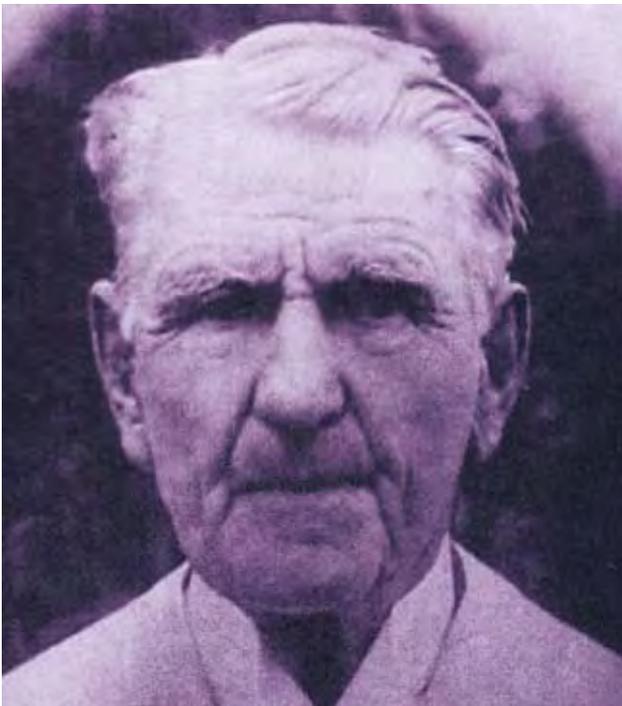


Which is the rough and which is the fairway? Golf was fairly primitive on the old Port Macquarie links.

Action on the old course.



The layout of the old course on Oxley Reserve during the late 1930s and 1940s. The hole numbers changed several times although the same tees, fairways and greens were used.



The club's first captain and secretary Bill Spence could be impatient at times.

Right Royal, Star Publicans

WHEN IT COMES TO COMPILING THE HISTORY of pubs in the Hastings area the name of the Byrnes family will be written large. And the same applies to golf.

Alf and Clara Byrnes, both born at Manilla in the central-west of New South Wales, were the first to make their presence felt in 1921 when, both in their thirties, they moved to Wauchope where Alf took over the licence (and later the freehold of the Star Hotel. In the words of the Port Macquarie News, Alf became the most popular hotelkeeper the district had ever known. The couple and their five children, including their only son Bob, worked hard and their efforts bore fruit with the Byrnes eventually adding the Royal and Macquarie Hotels in Port Macquarie to their portfolio.

But Clara still found time to contribute to church life and work for various charities in the Hastings. Golf was definitely her forte. She was a foundation member of the Central North Coast Associates Golf Association and served as its secretary from 1932 to 1958. Seven times she won the Association's Championship and in the NSW Country Championship she won in 1936 and was runner-up two years later. Alf passed away in August 1959 and Clara six years later, on October 18, 1965. Both were aged 76.

Her sporting genes were passed onto son Bob. At school in Sydney at the famous St Joseph's College he excelled in cricket, golf (in which he had a state junior golf handicap of 3) and rugby. He was a member of the undefeated Joey's side that won the GPS competition in 1932 under the tutelage of the legendary coach Brother Henry.

Back in the Hastings he followed his parents into the hotel industry. In 1942 he married Grace Wrigley, a union that was blessed with four daughters and three sons. And Bob Byrnes continued his love affair with golf. While he was playing on the old course, Bob Byrnes won the Central North Coast Championship in 1946 and was club champion in 1948 and 1949. In 1953 he paired with G Blair to win the foursomes and, fittingly, with his mother to win the mixed foursomes. Bob Byrnes also played a major role, with Don Lowe, in establishing the club's Thursday competition. Byrnes died on January 2, 1976. He was 60 years of age.



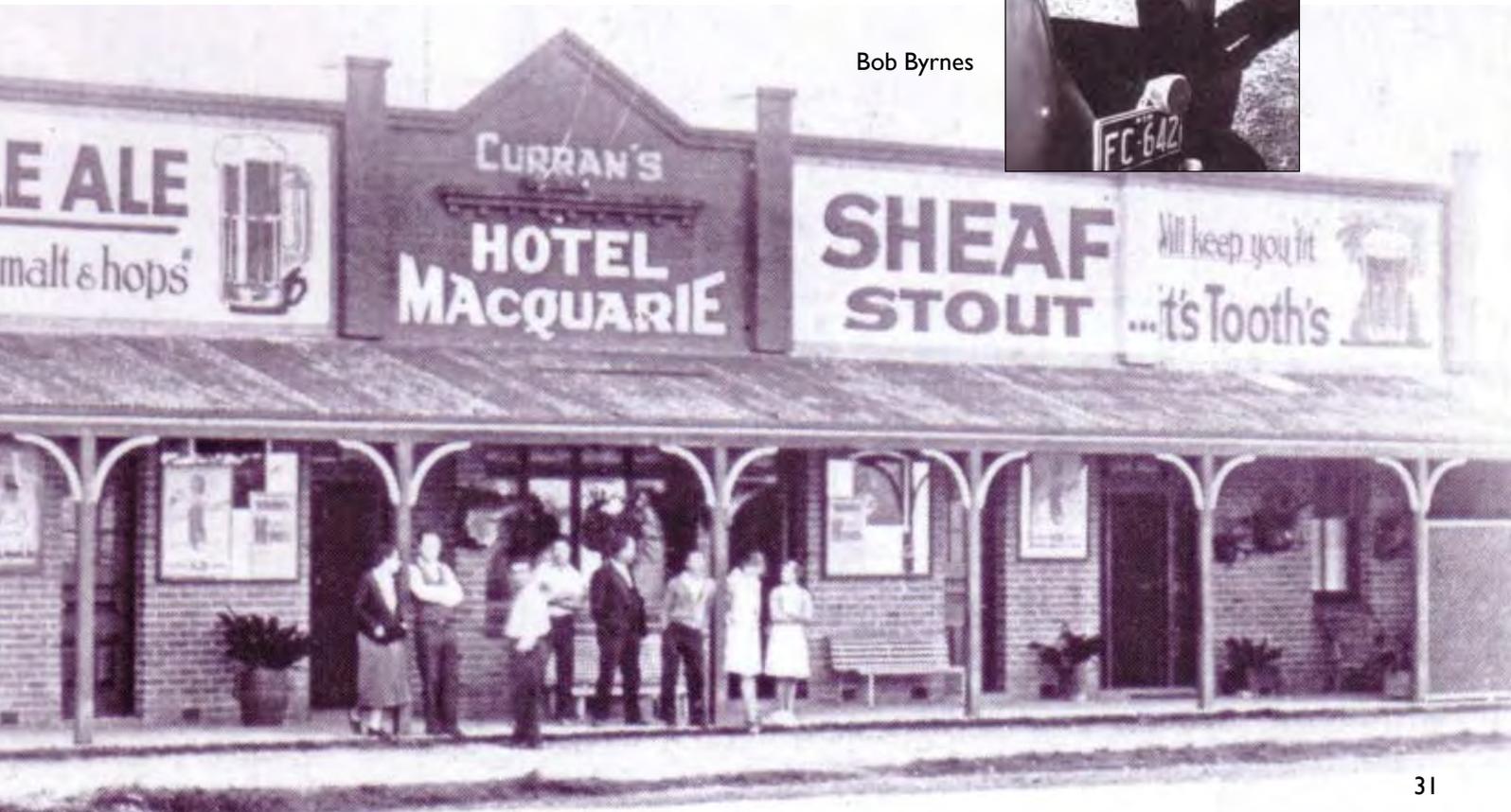


The Star Hotel in Wauchop. Alf and Clara Byrnes' first pub in the Hastings area.

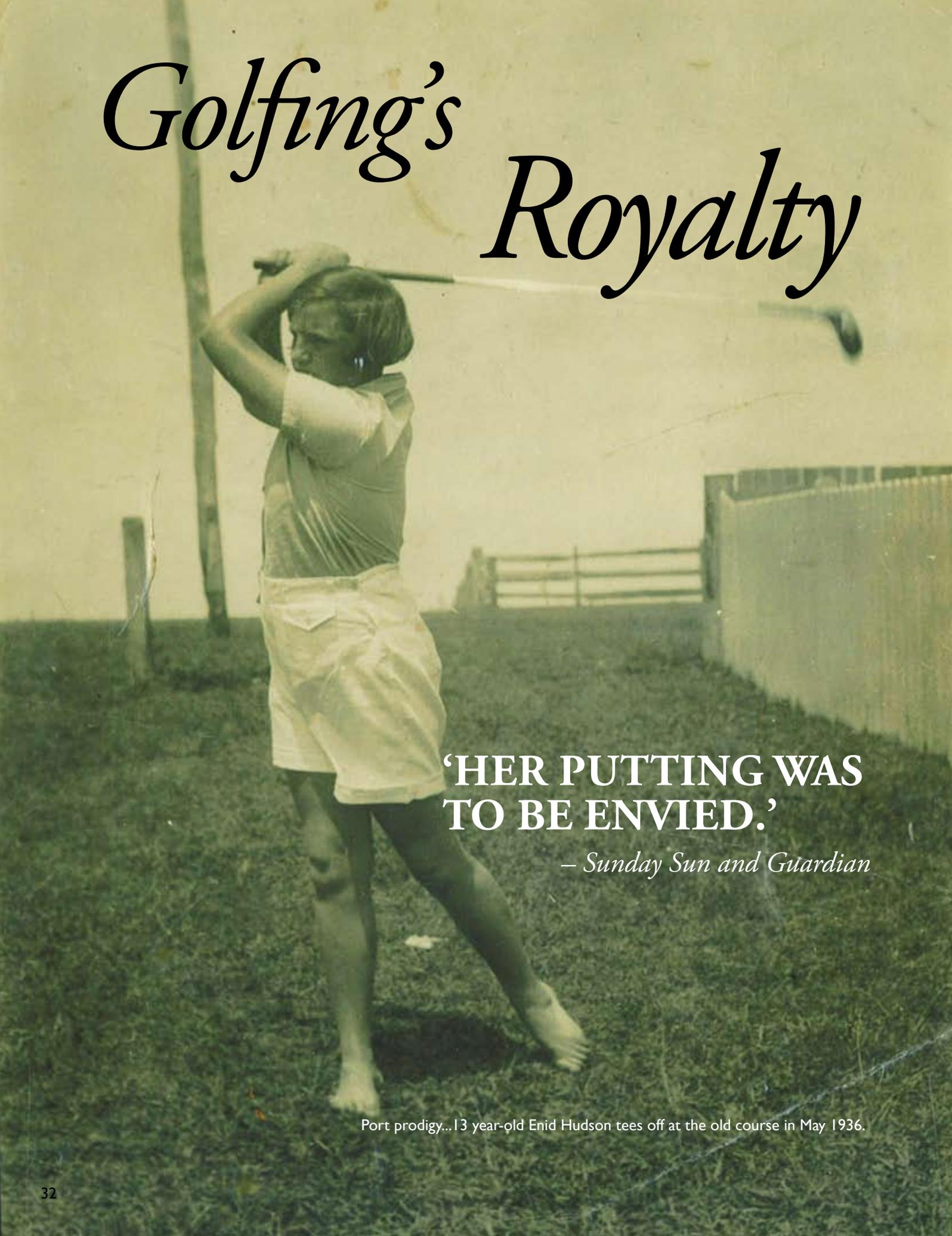


Bob Byrnes

BELOW: One of the Byrnes' Port Macquarie Hotels – the Macquarie



Golfing's Royalty



**'HER PUTTING WAS
TO BE ENVIED.'**

— Sunday Sun and Guardian

Port prodigy... 13 year-old Enid Hudson tees off at the old course in May 1936.

Enid Hudson

Arthur Bailey



ENID HUDSON (NEE BAILEY) WAS PORT MACQUARIE'S QUEEN OF GOLF. There can be no other description more befitting. When it came to accomplishments on the links, no other associate in the club's history came within a coo-ee of her. One can only wonder had she lived in Sydney would she have become a household name in the sporting pages of the newspapers or the Saturday afternoon sporting broadcasts on radio?

Indeed, a wonderful story is told about the 16-year-old Enid when she played Marie Clemenger in the final of the 1940 NSW Junior Championship on Royal Sydney's championship course. At the time Ivo Whitton, one of the greatest names in Australian golf (as winner of five Australian Open Championships between 1912 and 1931, a record for an amateur) was visiting the NSW capital from his home in Melbourne. He was alerted to the talent of the pair of teenagers and made a special effort to check them out. Whitton planned to watch just a couple of holes. But he was so enthralled that he followed them for 16 before Clemenger eventually won the absorbing battle 3 and 2.

Enid was born to be a golfer. Her father Arthur Bailey figured prominently on the old course in the centre of Port Macquarie. He won the Club Championship in four consecutive years (1932-35) and was later the club captain (1938 and 1943-44). Bailey introduced his daughter to golf when she was just five years old with a set of cut-down clubs. The prodigy hit her first hole-in-one when she was 11. It was quite possible that at that time she was the youngest female golfer to achieve this feat in Australia. At the very least, there are no records to prove otherwise. She went from strength to strength.

At 15, Enid turned out in the 1939 Country Championship at the Killara course in Sydney. In qualifying fifth, she shot rounds of 93 and 87 to win the 36-hole nett and the second-round 18-hole nett as well as the Country Silver Medal. She had never competed in match play before but in the first round of the finals she beat fellow Port Macquarie golfer Clara Byrnes 4 and 3 before losing to Campbelltown's Rose Payten 8 and 6 in their quarter-final. At 59 Miss Payten was the veteran of the field and one of the tournament's organisers.

The Sunday Sun and Guardian newspaper (the forerunner of the Sun-Herald) described the left-handed Enid: '[She] played with a slight draw to her long shots, her short game was very sound and her putting was to be envied.'

Many of the older associates had their noses put out of joint when humbled by the young star and a few did not hide their feelings. There was certainly sport in the family, with son Peter 'Huddo' Hudson and grandsons Wayne and Grant Hudson going on to figure among Australia's finest surfers and surfing teachers.

'Huddo' explained how in her early teens his mum had been hurt by some of the sticklers for the rules at the golf club: 'When she was about 13 or 14 she had shot the best score in the club championship. But the associates' hierarchy wouldn't give her the trophy because she wasn't old enough to even be a junior member. It cut deep. She never forgot that snub. I think that's why she encouraged me in my surfing, which was a young person's sport and in those days one frowned upon by the older generation. One year when we couldn't find a place to have our annual celebration she

invited all the surfers back home and put up with all our yahooing. She championed our cause. I know I am biased, but she was a fantastic woman.'

Even though she was initially denied the credit of that early victory, Enid was Port Macquarie club champion 22 times (between 1948 and 1973), Central North Coast champion 15 times and also won the Open Tournament Championship seven times, the State Open Northern Cup and a host of club and district foursomes and mixed foursomes titles. At the height of her career she had a handicap of five – the lowest possible at the time unless an associate played regularly on three different courses. It was a fact that no Australian lady

golfer managed a handicap of scratch before 1952 and only a handful were rated less than five.

Enid Hudson set a course record of 73 at Tacking Point on September 20, 1964. There were only 11 holes constructed at the time, so seven were played twice. The record for the present 18-hole layout is also 73, shot by Vikki Tutt.

'Huddo' believes a great deal of her success can be attributed to her determination. She was always practicing her golf – something that was not common in her day. And he tells of an interesting method of Enid's practice: 'We were living in Owen Street, just across from where the old golf course used to be. I remember, when I was about



Enid Hudson chips in.



Australia's greatest amateur golfer, Ivo Whitton, was enthralled by Enid Hudson.

six years old, how she'd grab a couple of buckets of golf balls and take me across into Oxley Reserve. She would tell me to stand still and then she'd use as me the pin on the green and hit golf balls at me, trying to see how close she could get the ball to stop at my feet. She never hit me. But when I got a bit older I gave as good as I got and used to dive and try to catch the golf balls. It sounds a bit weird but we had a lot of fun.'

Enid also figured prominently in the administration of golf. At the age of 17 she served as the Port Macquarie Gold Club Associates' secretary, treasurer and handicapper. She was later club president 14 times as well as handicap manager. With the Central North Coast Associates between 1950 and 1969, she was president five times, vice-president on 11 occasions as

well as handicapper. And she played a major role in setting up the interclub match play between Port and Kempsey, still a highlight of the associates' year. Enid Hudson was honoured with life membership of the Port Macquarie club in 1963.

After a long battle with cancer, she passed away on October 16, 1983, just four days after her 60th birthday. 'Huddo' explained: 'Earlier she had been given five years to live but proved the experts wrong, telephoning her surgeon when the five-year "sentence" had passed, pointing out how she was still going strong. You know, she was such a tough lady that, a couple of days after surgery to remove a brain tumour, she was out on the hospital lawn, all bandaged up, giving the surgeon a lesson on how to putt correctly. What a remarkable woman!'

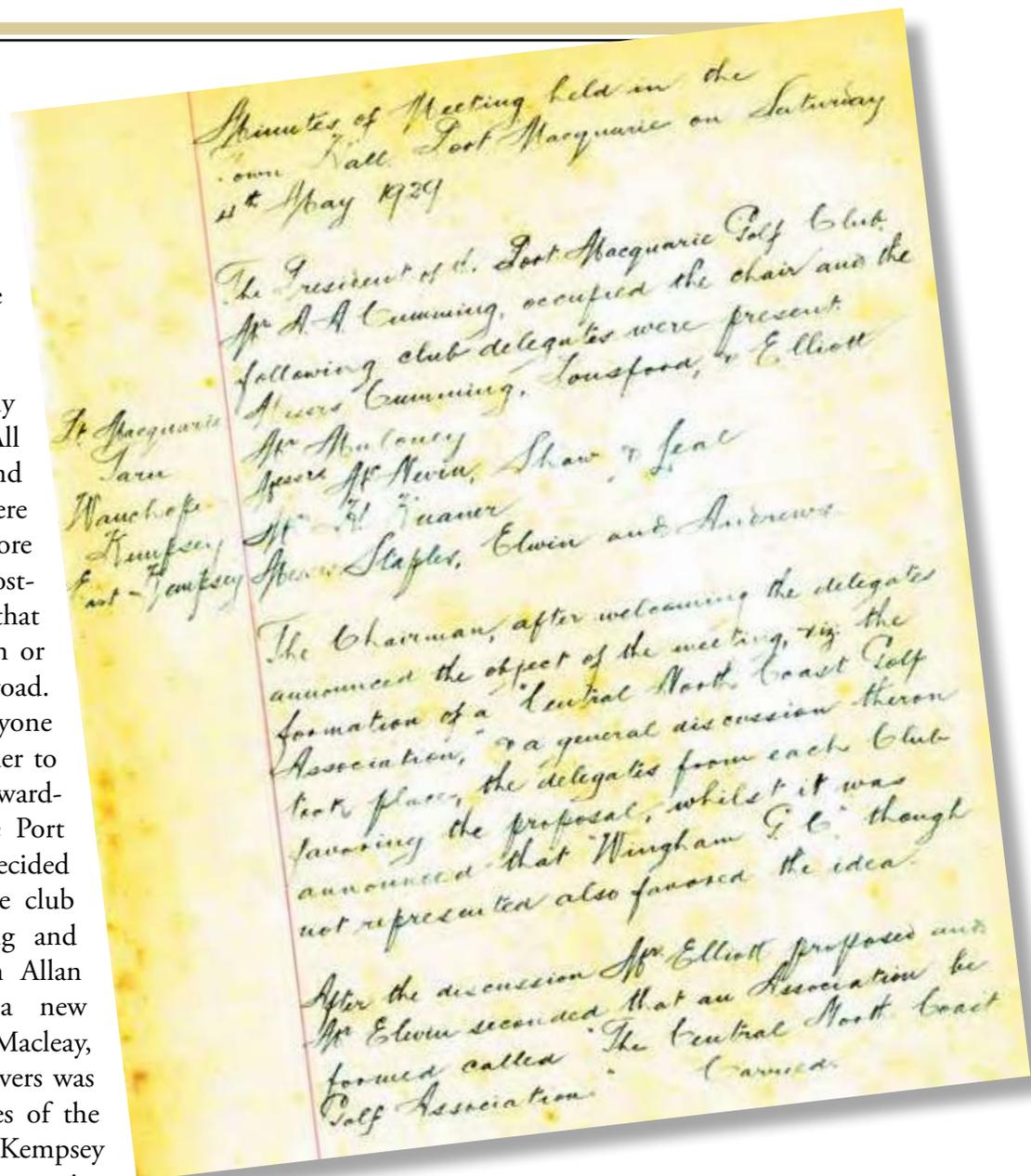
FOOTNOTE: One of Arthur Bailey's championship cups and several of Enid Hudson's hold pride of place among a host of surfing trophies in the family room of 'Huddo' in Port Macquarie.

By Leaps and Bounds

IN THE EARLY DAYS

the Port Macquarie club was affiliated with the North Coast District Golf Association which stretched from the Queensland border to Maitland in the Hunter Valley.

But it was hardly a viable situation. All the championships and association meetings were held in places such as Lismore or Grafton – and in the post-World War I period that meant a long trip by train or an even longer journey by road. As a result, rarely did anyone from Port Macquarie bother to attend. In 1929, the forward-thinking hierarchy of the Port Macquarie Golf Club decided to grab the initiative. The club president Allan Cumming and the secretary and captain Allan ‘Bull’ Elliot reckoned a new association centred on the Macleay, Hastings and Manning Rivers was the answer. Representatives of the Wauchope, Taree and Kempsey clubs were invited to a meeting at the Port Macquarie Town Hall on Saturday, May 4. There were 10 representatives of the area’s golf clubs – with Cumming and Elliot being joined by fellow Port member George



Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Central North Coast Golf Association.

Ponsford, Wauchope represented by Messrs Leal, TC McNevin and RN Shaw and Kempsey by RS Elwin, H Knauer and C Staples. Taree had a lone delegate, prominent civic figure and war veteran AA Maloney. He was by himself because the meeting clashed with a major tournament on the club's new links which had only been opened two years earlier, on 50 hectares of land bought from Maloney 3km out of town.

Elliot told the meeting how the association which was run from the far north was too unwieldy: 'The major drawback of golf in our area is that, outside local tournaments, there is little to hold the interest of the golfers. With a new association in the smaller area team matches could be instituted and this would be an incentive for us all to keep in form. And, as a bonus, it would bring us into closer touch with each other. An association based here would also provide an incentive for clubs to improve their courses, some of which are far too short.'

Maloney agreed. He pointed out that, as far as his club was concerned, Lismore and Maitland were too far away. Knauer, representing East Kempsey, passed on comments from a Mr Cliff from the West Kempsey club which planned to open its new links on the King's Birthday Holiday of June 3, the day it was proposed to stage the association's first official meeting and inaugural championship tournament. Knauer said he believed West Kempsey would have just as good an opening day on the following Saturday.

Elliot moved: 'That an association be formed; to be called the Central North Coast Golf Association.' The motion, seconded by Elwin, was carried unanimously. Each club would have one vote at the annual meeting and the area would at first only embrace the Macleay, Hastings and Manning areas. Elliot was appointed honorary secretary and treasurer. The president of the club which staged the annual championship would be the president of the association for that year.

The first championship was staged at Port Macquarie with 36 players, chosen almost equally from the five clubs in the association. Fittingly, the first winner was Elliot, who finished with a two-round total of 154, par for the course (or with bogie, as was still the terminology back then). Fellow Port golfer Tom Hallett won the handicap event, with 135 (157 less his handicap of 22). Heavy rain the previous week had made the course heavy in several places but this did not seem to deter Elliot or Hallett, who each won 'a silver cup, a smoker's stand and an outfit'. Other winners that day were – best morning round, Arthur Bailey (81); best morning handicap, WJ Sanderson (81 – 18, 63); best afternoon round Alf Byrnes (82); best afternoon handicap, RS Elwin (90 – 20, 70). Each received an open order for one guinea, although records do not show which business or businesses donated the open orders.

The club delegates met that night when they approved a draft constitution, agreed on an affiliation fee of two guineas (two pounds, two shillings) per club and decided on Taree as venue for the following year's championship. They also appointed a committee comprising Knauer, Elliot and a yet-to-be-decided Taree player to decide on the standard scratch score of each course in the association's area and draw up a standard system of handicapping for all clubs. Cumming expressed the hope that the association would progress 'by leaps and bounds'.

Today, seven decades after it was established, the association has 12 affiliated clubs – Bulahdelah, Camden Haven, Coombah Park, Forster-Tuncurry, Gloucester, Harrington, Krumbach, Port Macquarie, Tallwoods, Taree, Wauchope and Wingham.



Girls' night out! Lady golfers at a Central North Coast Golf Association get-together in Taree – (left to right) Enid Hudson, Hetty Leahy, Joy Spence, Betty Hicks, Sylvia Huddleston, Joyce Glen, Bessie Pike, Maudie Grant, un-named lady golfer, Rita Kay, Jean Kennedy and Maisie Dunn.

PORT MACQUARIE WINNERS OF THE LOWER NORTH COAST DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

(Originally Central North Coast Golf Association Championship)

| | | | |
|------|------------------|------|----------------|
| 1929 | AC 'Bull' Elliot | 1985 | Phil Pye |
| 1936 | Gordon Blair | 1988 | Brian Sams |
| 1954 | Neil Glover | 1990 | Phil Pye |
| 1956 | Neil Glover | 1993 | Phil Pye |
| 1957 | Neil Glover | 1994 | Steve Jeffress |
| 1959 | Bob Huddleston | 1995 | Brian Sams |
| 1965 | Bob Huddleston | 1996 | Phil Pye |
| 1972 | Bob Huddleston | 1997 | Lucas Main |
| 1973 | Brian Sams | 1999 | Terry Jones |
| 1974 | Brian Sams | 2000 | Brian Sams |
| 1977 | Brian Sams | 2001 | Brian Sams |
| 1981 | Phil Pye | 2002 | Phil Pye |
| | | 2009 | Sam Johnson |

A Gap in History

SADLY, THIS COMPILATION of the history of the Port Macquarie Golf Club cannot give full credit to much of the early work done by the ladies involved – the associates as they were then known. For some inexplicable reason all photos and details of their efforts and the minutes of all their meetings before 1948 were thrown away. No one knows just who was responsible for this vandalism.

But Elaine Moss managed to trawl through library records at the NSW Ladies Golf Union and piece together a few early facts. It would appear that efforts began in 1931 to put in place an association for lady golfers in the Macleay, Hastings and Manning area, culminating in a meeting at Wauchope on Saturday, June 11, 1932. The seven golf clubs in the area were represented. The delegates set up the Central North Coast Associates Golf Association (the forerunner of the current Women's Golf Central North Coast) to control ladies golf in the area. A Mrs Chadwick of Taree was elected president and Port Macquarie's Mrs Elliot, wife of the formidable war hero 'Bull' Elliot, was chosen as vice-president. An interesting name among those on the committee was 19-year-old Maisie Hayden of Kew, later to become Mrs Ned Dunn of Port Macquarie. She was destined to become one of the most respected golfers and golfing officials in the Hastings.

Coinciding with the inaugural meeting of the CNCAGA was the first district championship. A newspaper report noted: 'For the first time a District Championship was played on the



'Leo' Wray

new course at Wauchope. Mrs Murray of Port Macquarie whose long shots frequently found the rough were cleverly played back and her round of 92 gave her the Championship Cup.'

The meeting and tournament were held under the watchful eye of the woman dubbed 'The Mother of Australian Golf', Leonora Wray,

one of the founders of the Australian Ladies Golf Union in 1921 and at the time of the Wauchope get-together its vice-president. She was known to everyone in the golfing world as Leo and, according to her entry in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, had 'sharp eyes and a deep, booming voice'. She was said to inspire in younger players 'a mixture of fear and awe, respect and affection'.

No wonder, in a 1952 poem celebrating the Golden Anniversary of the formation of the association, Port Macquarie's Elaine Moss wrote: '...with Leo guiding them along, there'd be little chance that they'd go wrong.'

Leo Wray had won the Australian Ladies Amateur Golf Championship in 1907 (at Royal Melbourne), 1908 (at her home course in Sydney, The Australian) and 1929 (Royal Adelaide) and four NSW titles (1906-08 and 1930). Her record would have been much more imposing but for being struck down by typhoid fever in 1909. She was bed-ridden for a year and had to give up golf for a decade. When she won her first NSW championship in 1906 she was just 20, used only five clubs and played in a blouse with a high, stiff collar, a jacket tight at the waist and an ankle-length skirt.

A press report of her visit to the Hastings noted: 'Miss Wray made time to visit other nearby courses and spoke most enthusiastically of Port Macquarie as an ideal holiday resort and hoped to return for a long visit at some future occasion.'

Because of World War II, ladies golf at a district level was put on hold for eight years before resuming in 1948. Associates from Port Macquarie always figured prominently. Until 1986, Maisie Dunn attended every district tournament. Enid Hudson won the District Championship 14 times and the Open Tournament Championship seven times. She was also president of the association for five years

(1963 to 1967) and vice-president for 11 years during the period from 1950 to 1969. At one stage three ladies from Port Macquarie served in official capacities at the same time – Von Morris who was president or vice-president for a total of 11 years, Elaine Moss, secretary for 15 years and Maybelle Mettam, handicap manager for eight years. Port's Jeanette Stephens, Faye Gibbs and Addie Carberry are among others who were fine ambassadors of the sport.

Currently, Women's Golf Central North Coast has 24 affiliated clubs, stretching from Woolgoolga in the north to Bulahdelah in the south – a far cry from the pioneering seven that sowed the first seeds in 1932.

PORT MACQUARIE WINNERS OF THE CENTRAL NORTH COAST DISTRICT LADIES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

1932 TG Murray
1948 Enid Hudson
1948 Enid Hudson
1948 Enid Hudson
1952 Clara Byrnes
1953 Enid Hudson
1955 Enid Hudson
1956 Enid Hudson
1959 Enid Hudson
1960 Enid Hudson
1961 Enid Hudson
1962 Enid Hudson
1964 Enid Hudson
1965 Enid Hudson
1977 Jeanette Stephens
2001 Annemaree Roach

*(Enid Hudson also won the Closed
Championship in 1967 and 1968)*

GOOD TIMES, BAD TIMES... LAUGHTER AND TEARS

(A poem written by Elaine Moss on the Golden Jubilee of the Central North Coast Associates Golf Association in 1982)

They came from near and far that day
The game of golf to play
To Wauchope Town, a little place
Just south of the Macleay

The group was small but well equipped
With clubs and tees and ball
And Chadwick, Staples and Elliot turned up
When Byrnes the roll did call

Railton, Warlters and Hennessey
And there was Mrs Street
From Kew there came Miss Haydon
Who I'm sure you'd like to meet

And Miss Wray was rep for the LGU
Way back then in '32
For with Leo guiding them along
There'd be little chance that they'd go wrong

The years rolled by, the numbers grew
The tally came to sixty-two
But war came then and instead of clubs
The girls swung picks and manned the pubs.

And life was hard, the game was through
For other things they had to do
When peace returned, the men came back
And golf resumed with many a whack

Unknown for years then lies our past
Records gone, but then at last
'Bout fifty it goes on to say
The tournaments got underway



Elaine Moss

They played in drought and years of flood
Through the dust and out of mud
The championship – two pound, two shilling
An event open to those who were willing

At last the North Cup came our way
When in rain our Enid went out to play
Excitement and pride the great win brought
With Lamport and Derrin there to report

Jean rose and spoke to the gathering there
To leave a rough bunker was not very fair
And to replace divots was a must
In our fellow players we put our trust

And beginners could learn
When themselves they could beat
To then par the course
Was an easier feat

There are so many here who'll remember those years
The good times, the bad time, the laughter and tears
Of the greats who played and the hackers in dozens
Somebody's auntie, their friends or their cousins

*Now we're all gathered here for this celebration
Remembering those years with great jubilation
And we're grateful to those who worked hard in their day
For forming this great CNCAGA*

Whale Watching was Not Enough

IT WAS INEVITABLE that Port Macquarie would eventually outgrow its original golf course. What was suitable for the handful of golfers in 1910 when the population was around 1100 was no longer so 30 years later when it had grown to around 4400 residents. And they didn't know it then, but by the time the club celebrated its centenary in 2010 city folk looking for a 'Sea Change' would have poured into the Hastings at such a rate that the population of the area would top 70,000.

The golfers were, of course, originally reluctant to abandon the beautiful, relaxing views from their links. And who could blame them? As Charles Uptin explained so eloquently: 'It was a pleasantly spectacular recreation ground, if a nine-hole golf course can so be described. Play often halted so that golfers could watch a steamer make her way into the harbour, or to enjoy the sight of whales surfacing and blowing as they passed by.

'I recall being one in a crowd, back in 1937, watching a 50 to 60-foot (around 15 to 18m) humpback whale rolling and splashing about in close proximity to the seaward end of the south breakwall. People more knowledgeable than me in such matters said the whale was endeavouring to free its body of barnacles, rolling against rocks and the sandy bottom. The performance lasted an hour or more before the whale resumed its journey north.'

However it was, after all, a golf club and not a whale-watching association.

The club first saw the writing on the wall in 1944 and instructed its secretary to check on the availability of land to buy or lease for new golf links.

Several problems had surfaced. When the links were first laid out in 1910, the locals passed the course either on foot or by slow moving horse and buggy. As more and more people started driving cars there was a risk that the golf club committee would become liable for damages from balls hitting those cars. Replacement of broken windscreens and the repair of damaged duco was not a cheap exercise.

Others were eyeing the land on which the course was located. A group of greyhound owners wanted to build a training track. But they were headed off at the pass. The bowling and tennis club both wanted to expand and began hinting that maybe... just maybe... the golf club would like to find a more suitable location for their links.

The problems began to exacerbate.

There was the local council, who acted as trustees on behalf of the Department of Lands. Over the years relations with the council had been generally quite cordial. But in late 1947 and early 1948 tensions became obvious. It was not certain whether the council had a hidden agenda, but the golf club received a steady series of niggling complaints from the council – drainage problems, removal of rubbish dumped in the chasm and possible dangers to people and passing vehicles by errant golf shots. On one occasion council workmen just happened to damage one of the tees.

It all came to a head when the council officially advised the club it planned to impose much stricter 'conditions of use' for Oxley Park.



The die had been cast.

On May 27, 1948, the president Les Crisp called a special meeting to decide the club's future. Joining him at the crisis talks were Ian McLean (secretary/treasurer), Dr Eric Murphy (captain/handicapper), Ron Bailey, Les Cowles, Ned Dunn, Jack and Stewart Kennedy, Fred Rosendahl and Uptin. Also there as observers (and to offer expert advice) were Bill Joscelyne, the club's honorary solicitor, and Dan Cullen, a wartime air force hero and professional at St Michael's Golf Club at Little Bay in Sydney. Cullen, a director of the NSWPGA was in Port trying to get a proposed professional event (for a purse of £150) off the drawing board. His efforts were in vain, but he was able to offer sound advice about the proposed links. Cullen is still playing golf today at the age of 96.

The minutes of the meeting referred to a 'lengthy discussion' and a proposal to set up a sub-committee to approach the council 'to discuss the possibility of acquiring a site for a new golf course'. The committee would comprise Cowles, Uptin, and Dr Murphy. Sadly, not a lot is known about Cowles as he left the area a few years later. But there is no doubt that he was heavily involved in the groundwork necessary for the relocation of the golf links.

Uptin, who owned the local newspaper, the Port Macquarie News, is one of the most significant figures in the history of the club. Dr Murphy was also a prominent Port personality, working as a general practitioner from the 1930s to the 1960s.

One member described him thus: 'A very proper English gentleman, he was always immaculately attired in his "Plus Fours" when playing golf. He was often seen at working bees on the new course with sleeves rolled up but still with tie and waistcoat on, sweating it out right alongside others who were more appropriately dressed for the occasion.'

Indeed such was the awe the general population of Port Macquarie held him, that few knew his Christian name. He was always 'Dr Murphy'. Friends described him as a genius. He had degrees from the University of Sydney in law, architecture and medicine – all graduation ceremonies falling on the same day – but decided to concentrate on medicine. He remained a bachelor all his life, living with his mother and spinster sister.

A true golfing character!

Now you has Jas

THE GOOD BURGHERS OF ST ANDREWS IN SCOTLAND have for generations described their town as ‘The Home of Golf’. Granted, it is the location for the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, whose rules determine how the sport is played around the world. And its courses have hosted more British Open Championships than any other.

But for their role in propagating the game worldwide, golfers from another part of Scotland, Carnoustie, were most certainly more influential. Carnoustie is a pleasant town on the east coast, midway between Dundee and Arbroth. Today Carnoustie boasts a population of almost 11,000. But around 1900 it was only about a quarter of that size. That was the time a mass emigration of eager young golf professionals and club makers dubbed ‘The Carnoustie 300’. Most went to the United States to work as golf pros or golf course architects...the others to various parts of the British Empire, including Australia.

Among them were three friends, who settled in Sydney – 21-year-old Dan Soutar, Carnegie (Neg) Clark, who was a year older, and James (Jas) Herd Scott, 24. Once settled Down Under, Soutar won the 1905 Australian Open and was runner-up on another seven occasions, while Clark was successful in the same tournament three times (1906, 1910 and 1911), runner-up once and third three times. Clark arrived in 1902 and cabled the other two, who had planned to live in South Africa, to tell them of the opportunities on offer in New South Wales. So they continued on to Australia on board the same ship.

Scott immediately landed the job as the professional at Leura in the Blue Mountains west

of Sydney before having 18 years as the pro at the Royal Adelaide Golf Club.

Clark is today regarded as one of the greatest golf course architects in the history of the sport in Australia. Clark’s legacy included Royal Queensland, Moore Park in Sydney, Parramatta and scores of courses around the New South Wales bush. Soutar also made a name for himself designing golf courses, including Kingston Heath in Melbourne, Concord in Sydney and Indooroopilli in Brisbane. Both of his friends from Carnoustie had a great influence on Scott.

Good mates...
Neg Clark and Jas Scott (right)



The first attempt by Scott at making a name for himself was when, in 1926 (and with help from Clark), he designed a course for the NSW Golf Club in the Sydney suburb of La Perouse. But when the prospectus that featured the 27-hole layout received a cool reception from investors, the club turned to the legendary Scottish golf architect Dr Alistair MacKenzie, who just happened to be in Australia at the time helping design a couple of Melbourne courses. It is believed that the canny Scot MacKenzie pulled a few strings to ensure the potential investors were lukewarm to the Scott-Clark links lay-out.

Scott and Soutar joined forces to design the course at the Elanora Country Club on Sydney's north shore. Scott was responsible for the southern nine holes, and returned to the NSW capital to become Elanora's first pro. It was a job he held for the next three decades.



He achieved considerable kudos from the original design of Royal Canberra in 1945 and Monash Golf Course, adjacent to the Elanora course, five years later. He was also eventually (in 1958) to design Yowani Country Club in the Australian Capital Territory.

He was also ahead of his time by designing golf courses outside country towns, such as that at Cooma in what was about to become the hub of the great Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme.

'Golfers will soon be driving cars,' he would explain to the troglodytes. 'A couple of miles out of town now will be virtually in the town centre in a decade's time.'

Scott is known to have had that gift of the gab, with his Scottish brogue charming everyone he met, including the powers-that-be at Port Macquarie. He had a standard answer to everyone who approached him to lay out a course: 'We will have a course second to none.' And he was probably was right, with each design outdoing the previous.

Some golfing reference books have suggested that it was Clark who designed the new Port Macquarie links – but contemporary reports prove otherwise. There is no reference to Clark in any of the minutes of the Port Macquarie club nor is there in newspaper reports in the Port Macquarie News.

Charlie Uptin, who owned the newspaper at the time and was a major influence in the establishment of the new links, explained: 'Scott was available to us for a fee of £100 plus expenses.'

This shows that the golf course architect didn't come cheap. At the time, the basic wage was just over £6 per week and the median house price in Sydney was £5000.

However, as it turned out, the appointment of Scott proved to be a bargain...perhaps the bargain of the century!

GOLF CLUB RECORDS don't reveal what transpired at the meeting between the council and the subcommittee. Indeed, there is not even any indication that it ever even took place.

But, despite a lot of opposition from within the 100-odd golf club members it was decided in October 1948 that a prominent golf course architect should be found to choose a site for a new links – and, if the site was suitable, to be sounded out about designing the actual course.

The opposition was not unexpected. After all, at least half of the members lived within walking distance of the Oxley Park links, on Owen, William and Church Streets. They could not see a need to move elsewhere with a car needed to transport them to and from the links for their regular, relaxing rounds of golf.

As Uptin recalled: 'They were anything but helpful.'

There was also widespread resistance from some of the ladies involved with the club (Associate Members). They saw an 'out-of-town' course as one at which their golfing husbands could spend too much time. It was suggested that not only would the hubbies come home somewhat inebriated, but...shock, horror...they would be subjected to the wiles and temptations of unattached ladies. Six decades later one can have a quiet chuckle over this latter concern, but in 1948 it was a matter of genuine apprehension.

Uptin admitted he used the Port Macquarie News to help in his campaign: 'Each issue of the Port News enthused – an 18-hole golf course was the only way to go. And it would have tremendous benefit for Port Macquarie.' Little did he realise at the time just what an incredible benefit that would be – a lasting legacy for Port!

Slowly but surely most of those resisting the move were won over. But not all!

THE MAN CHOSEN TO CHOOSE THE LOCATION for a new course was a dour Scot, James Herd Scott...or Jas Scott as he liked to be known. Scott came north almost immediately to look at the possible sites suggested by the golf club hierarchy. At first there were five or six possible locations. Although the casual observer in 2010 would see them all within Port's residential confines, back in the immediate post-War years all but one were regarded by residents as being out of town.

- Settlement Point: This was quite large enough for an 18-hole course, but there were many problems, including periodic flooding of the Hastings River. Uptin explained: 'Dr Murphy and I had walked over what was then a vacant area, scrambling through mangroves and wading through streams which found their way into the back channel. Dr Murphy had an architectural mind that visualised a magnificent course in that area with, naturally enough, lots of water hazards. However, he agreed with me that construction costs would have been prohibitive. Mosquitoes and sandflies would also have plagued the golfers, detracting from whatever golfers get out of their game.' Scott didn't even bother to look at the site. He had looked at reports and realised it would have been a waste of time. 'Although conveniently situated to the town, it was very flat and subject to flooding,' Scott noted. 'Land fit for golf purposes was divided by swamp areas. I had no hesitation in rejecting Settlement Point.'
- Mustons Hill: This was the former site of the Mustons Red Oxide Mine. In the 1920s and 1930s Port Macquarie had been the site of arguably the biggest deposits of red oxide in the world, with this mine, named after its owner Arthur Muston, was the most important in the town. In the site's favour was its great drainage. The red oxide sediment was good for fairways, but top soil would have to be continually shipped in for the greens at huge expense. And unfortunately the area was far too small for an

18-hole course. This was quickly ruled out of the equation, too, before Scott had arrived. 'There was some good golf country and again it was convenient to town,' he explained. 'But I got the impression it might be rather costly to build a course there.' The site found future use as the location of the TAFE College.

- **The Flynn Property:** Located west of Flynn's Beach and Pacific Drive, the size was right but it would require a lot of costly, heavy earthmoving work. There were also a lot of watercourse problems that would have to be addressed. The site was also developing as a highly-prized residential area (especially with a burgeoning tourism industry) and, as a result, land prices were beginning to spiral alarmingly. The financial burden would have been far too great for the council, let alone the golf club members.
- **Clifton Estate:** This was just off Hastings River Drive. There was a ready-made clubhouse, the Hibbard family home (where the Lourdes Nursing Home later stood). This found favour among many of the golf club members. At first Scott was impressed. 'It has much in favour of its selection as the future home of Port Macquarie golf,' he said. But there were only 89 acres (220 hectares), not really enough on which to build a suitable course. And Scott felt the clay and stoney soil on the hill was not appropriate for a golf course, either. And the soils in the north-west area were constantly damp. It was close to town. But as an all-year-round proposition Scott considered it might be too hot for summer play. He was right – and unbeknown to the golfers it had already been sold and would not have been available anyway. Those who had suggested it as a possible location were apparently just trying to bide time in an effort to keep the Oxley Park links.
- **Tacking Point:** This area comprised two properties, owned by farmers EV 'Mac' McManus and Ernie Cunning, and was well out of Port Macquarie to the south, fronting

Lighthouse Beach. As history proved, the location had everything going for it – it was large enough and the soil, topography, contours and general outlook were ideal for the new links. Then there was the fact that a course at Tacking Point would not only be protected from the cold, westerly winds of winter but also fanned by the cool north-easterlies in summer.

'It wasn't the talk that did the trick. It was the bottle of over-proof rum which I took along, knowing Mac was partial to a drop of Nelson's Blood.'

Scott was in raptures: 'One can't ignore a suitable area near the sea. A thorough inspection on several occasions only served to emphasise my original feeling that in this area local golfers, together with legions of visitors, could enjoy all-the-year-round golf under ideal seaside conditions. Port Macquarie had something here that was particularly alluring – golf under conditions seldom encountered in New South Wales, which would appeal to all classes of golfing enthusiasts.'

Before any decision was made, Uptin travelled at his own expense to Grafton, Tweed Heads and Toowoomba, three towns whose golf courses were five to eight miles (eight to 10km) out of town. He wanted to gauge the impact on golfers needing to travel to enjoy their favourite past-time and he was encouraged by what he saw and was told.

He was also buoyed by the fact that Scott had told him that the golfers of Port Macquarie had the chance of choosing what would have been just another second-rate country course which they could finance without any assistance, or the prospect of establishing, with some outside help, the only first-class championship links between Newcastle and Brisbane.

BEFORE SCOTT HAD ARRIVED on his reconnaissance mission, the task of working with him had passed to a new subcommittee of Uptin, Crisp and Stewart Kennedy.

They already suspected what the famous golf course architect would tell them – that the 129 acres (320 hectares) at Tacking Point were perfect for a championship course. Uptin later noted: ‘Scott left no doubt that Tacking Point had readily available everything necessary for the construction of a magnificent course. He was particularly enthusiastic about the endless supply of sand, cheaply accessible for the filling and shaping of fairways and greens. Scott told me that if the same area was available in Sydney it would be worth a fortune.’

The trio had also been empowered to conduct discreet negotiations to obtain an option on any property that Scott believed suitable for the new course. But acquiring the two tracts of land was hardly an easy task. Neither owner really wanted to sell. And the pair also believed there must be some catch if the club wanted their land.

Cunning’s land was in its natural state and he had made no improvements. It was covered with ti-trees and banksia with scrubby gorse behind the sand dunes. It was a different kettle of fish as far as McManus was concerned. Some of his land was under cultivation, with thriving crops of peas and potatoes. There were also grape vines planted on parts of what today are the first, ninth and 10th fairways.

One night the trio, together with secretary/treasurer McLean, visited McManus at his home on the farm. Uptin recalled what happened: ‘We talked for hours before he agreed to sell. In my opinion, it wasn’t the talk that did the trick. It was the bottle of over-proof rum which I took along, knowing Mac was partial to a drop of Nelson’s Blood. When he saw we had won over McManus, Cunning also agreed to sell his portion, the sandy area east of the McManus higher land.’

The total 129 acres ended up costing the club £5050.

Twenty-nine of the members were present at a special meeting of the golf club on July 20, 1949 and they passed several resolutions – that the site of the links at Oxley Park was inadequate, the obtaining of an option on Tacking Point site be approved, the club’s management committee borrow or raise the necessary money to finance the construction of the new course, and a £500 deposit be paid from club funds immediately to secure the purchase of the land.

Predictably, the Port Macquarie News was enthusiastic in its description of the site, that stretched from Cathie Road to Tacking Point Beach: ‘[It] has on it everything needed for the establishment of the perfect links – access to the surf, gentle undulating country with elevations overlooking the ocean for clubhouse and water resource, permanent natural water, ideal soil for couch fairways, sand for bunkers, even peat – the best sub-soil for Bent greens. It is protected from the cold westerlies of winter and fanned by the cool northeasters in summer.’ It sounded a bit like Paradise!

Scott returned to plan the 18-hole lay-out. Everything was being done on a shoe-string budget, something the canny Scott well understood. The Byrne family, the then owners of the Macquarie Hotel), provided meals and accommodation for Scott during his two-week sojourn. Uptin drove him to and from the site and spent each day walking around the two farms as the Scot formulated his plans. Often the pair had to hack their way through undergrowth. Uptin explained: ‘The present 11th, 12th, 14th and part of the 15th fairways were all heavily timbered, almost forest-like. Wildlife abounded. Black wallabies, hares, foxes and goannas were plentiful...while there was no shortage of black snakes.’

Within days of first walking around the Tacking Point site, Scott drew up the plan of his layout for the new course. He estimated that the cost of

building the links, including a practice area, would be around £5300.

THE GOLFERS OF PORT MACQUARIE had their blueprint for the future. But where did they go from there? As Uptin noted: ‘We had no money to go any further with Mr Scott. What a mess we were in. Five miles out of town, we had a golf course to build, we had no one to do it, and we had no money.’

But what does the proverb tell us? Necessity is the mother of invention. Voluntary labour was the answer...and more than a little help from outside. At this time the mining company, Mineral Deposits Ltd had built a factory adjacent to the site of the new links to process sand it was mining from Lighthouse Beach at the back of what is now the 4th fairway and further south. Club president Stewart Kennedy had the contract to cart the bagged product, rutile, to Wauchope Railway Station where it was transported to Sydney and then shipped overseas. The manager of the factory, Charlie Rainbird, suggested to Kennedy that the club should approach Jack Millar, one of Mineral Deposits directors, and ask for help. Often, when there were big tides or rough seas, the company was unable to utilise its workers and machinery on the beach and Millar agreed that on those occasions they would help the club build its new course.

At the northern end of the links, the current 3rd, 4th and 5th fairways were given their shape and contours by the workers and machinery from Mineral Deposits moving in thousands of cubic metres of earth. Large quantities of ilmenite were also used. These days ilmenite, a jet black sand, is regarded as the most important ore in the production of titanium. It is also used in the paint and fertiliser industries. However, at the time of the construction of the new course, it had little, if any, market value and was regarded as no more than a waste product from the mining operation. The workers physically rubbed it into the greens.

Stones from Lighthouse Beach were used to provide drainage, fill the many swampy areas and provide the foundations for the greens and tees.

‘I just want to sit down and have a beer and a sandwich with all you people – that’s all the reward I need.’

THEN THERE WERE THE WORKING BEES. Every weekend, weather permitting, about 40 volunteers turned up keen to turn the rough bush into a championship golf course. Uptin described them as ‘happy hackers wielding brush hooks instead of golf clubs’. Farmers who were also keen golfers arrived with tractors to plow the rough terrain. Women and children resembled emus as they walked along, bending down every few metres to pick up stray sticks and stones.

The forerunner of today’s dam between the 11th and 12th fairways was built to provide the water needed for the upkeep of the fairways and greens. But water was required to fill the dam. At first the club had to rely on Mother Nature. Then Mineral Deposits Ltd discovered a source on the Cathie Plain to the south. They put down a bore and installed piping along the length of the course and allowed the golf club to tap into it. When the mining operation eventually wound down in 1964, they offered to sell the bore and piping to the club. Early financial worries were overcome and the bore has been supplying water to the links ever since.

The actual watering system for the greens was also installed on the cheap. Stewart Kennedy persuaded the Wauchope Butter Factory to donate about 1500m of 5cm galvanised iron piping. But the club members had to dig it up first. There was also some second-hand piping donated by the council. Once again it had to be dug up and restored. The system is still in operation today.

Pat Johnson, the daughter of a later president 'Ned' Dunn and life member Maisie Dunn, had fond memories of the efforts of the golf club volunteers: 'There were only 40 to 60 members at that time and every one of them was a volunteer in some way. There was a very strong sense of family and everyone had a lot of fun. While the men were out doing the hard physical stuff, the ladies and kids were there right alongside them, picking up roots of trees and tree branches, clearing away debris and stacking everything in rows for burning. We'd take lots of sandwiches and cakes. And my father often took a nine-gallon keg with plenty of ice to keep the contents cold. If it couldn't be finished on the Saturday, the men would go back on Sunday to do so. It was a great time!'

The council also assisted as much as it could. They provided trucks and grader at a nominal charge. The one proviso was that council drivers had to be used for reasons of insurance. Most gave their time for nothing. Stewart Kennedy recalled the reply from one of the drivers, Sid Hinton, when asked what he would charge for his work on the weekends: 'You are my mates and you pay your rates to keep me employed during the week. I just want to sit down and have a beer and a sandwich with all you people – that's all the reward I need.'

There were problems with some of the stock (both horses and cattle) from the old McManus and Cunnings farms wandering onto the new work and several greens were badly damaged as irate golfers chased the animals off the links.

AS THE NEW LINKS began to take shape, greenkeeper John 'Blue' Hicks divided his time between the two courses, but gradually he spent more and more time at Tacking Point. Early in 1953 the first six holes were completed and adjudged to be 'playable'. It was now time to move the clubhouse.

This proved to be a victory for ingenuity. Members described the transfer as 'a great

adventure'. Wooden piers were prepared on the new site ready for the relocation. A forestry float to carry the clubhouse on its journey south, was loaned to the club by Ian King.

The Port Macquarie News of July 15, 1953, explains how the clubhouse nearly didn't even make it away from the old links: 'There was considerable interest on Saturday last [July 11] in the removal of the golf club house from town to the Tacking Point site. After bogging when lowered on the float at its former site, the old building was stubborn to the last and bogged down again in a bunker before the float was able to get on the roadway.'

Electricians from the County Council accompanied the float on its drive to Tacking Point. At every intersection they would manually lift the electricity wires so the building could squeeze underneath. And they helped it by cutting off branches of trees that would otherwise have prevented the progress of the clubhouse. Mother Nature had smiled on the Port golfers. There had been no recent rain and the day of the move was fine. Otherwise there would most certainly have been difficulties in negotiating Cunnings Hill, where today Pacific Drive meets Kennedy Drive.

The 'removalists' breathed a sigh of relief. During the working bees...and later when the course was opened...Cunnings Hill provided a real test for drivers. Ted Townsend recalled: 'When it was wet we would have to really gun our cars (those who owned one) as we approached the hill and hope there was enough momentum to get over the top. It was not unusual to run out of power before getting there and to slide back down only to have to try again...this time in reverse gear.'

Much of the success of the day when the clubhouse was moved can be firmly attributed to the work of Maurice Lynch who cajoled everyone involved to provide help free of charge. Uptin described him as 'the main conspirator'.



The Latin proverb suggests that 'Many hands make light work'. Try telling that to the toiling golfers who carved the new course at Port Macquarie out of dense scrub. It was tough going from the start. Here are most of those involved in the weekly working bees in the early 1950s. They all came up trumps. (Back row, left to right): Ross Gordon, Arthur Hudson, Bill Toscellyne, Jack McLaren, Harry Bailey, Laurie Coulton, Forde Leathley, unidentified lady golfer (almost obscured), Joe Haggerty, Harold and Vi Dent, Alan Law, Rita and Geoff Warlters, Margaret and Ted Townsend. (Second row from rear): Enid Hudson, Margaret Smith, Hettie Leahy, Maisie Dunn, Judy Uptin, Joyce Moxley, Dolly Haggerty, Sis Denham, Lucy Joscelyne, Pauline Lynch, Dorothy Gentle, Linda Nowlan, Dorothy McNeill. (Third row from rear): Bess Pike, Lily Leathley, Toni Uptin, David Joscelyne, John Gentle, Ned Dunn, Dick Gentle. (Second front row, sitting): Glen Fowler, Ted Kirkwood, Bob Huddleston, Beila Ironfield, Stan Nowlan, Grace Pountney, Jim Reed, Frank Glenn; (Children at front): Peter McEwan, Peter and Margaret Joscelyne.

Little did the members know there was an obscure local government law that provided stiff penalties for removing anything from public park lands. In another move the golf club hierarchy was also probably breaking the law. In order to discourage golfers from continuing to play on the old course, the turf from the greens on the original links was removed. They borrowed a turf cutter from the Wauchope Golf Club and set about removing sods to a depth of 5cm and in 3m strips. These were rolled up and taken to Tacking Point and used to surface the new tees. It was a drastic measure but, not only was the group of dissidents discouraged, but the new course had tees that would have done the Carnoustie links proud.

ONE CAN ONLY WONDER how Port Macquarie golfers managed to make it to the new course for their weekend working bees. The municipality's boundary was at the southern end of Flynn's Beach. From then on the road south was really rough and ready – gravel with more pot-holes than you could shake the proverbial stick at! Once it reached what is today the junction of Pacific Drive and Orr Street, west of Miners Beach, it virtually petered out. Indeed, along this entire stretch of road there were just two houses and a small sawmill, so the council saw little value in its regular upkeep.

The access further south to the new links was no more than an irregular two-wheel track through the bush. In wet weather it was virtually impassable.



The layout of the new course in the days when there were only 11 holes, showing the location of the greens.

Indeed a 50-metre corduroy was needed on the road adjacent to the first green. A corduroy consisted of a couple of dozen logs laid side by side across a particularly boggy stretch of road to ensure that vehicles would not sink into the mud. And even at the best of times this section of the track leading to the new links was exceptionally swampy.

South of the site of the course the road was even worse, a sandy track along which many cars could not travel and with no bridge linking Lake Cathie, Bonny Hills and Laurieton to the primitive trail from Port. Not surprisingly, there were only a handful of hardy souls willing to live along the archaic excuse for a road and risk being marooned when bad weather rolled in.

THE LAST COMPETITION ‘IN TOWN’ was staged on July 4, a week before the clubhouse was moved. It was won by Jim Reed, still a member in the club’s centenary year. Playing off what some of his opponents claimed was a very generous handicap of 26, Jim carded 58! There seemed more

than a hint of jealousy by his fellow golfers. After all, every last golfer wanted to win on the final day and see their name in the history books.

The club scribe writing in the Port Macquarie News noted, hopefully tongue in cheek: ‘Jim returned a net 58, only six under par, and the best the handicappers could do was, “Down two strokes, Jim’.

Jim got some mighty drives away and played fairly consistent golf for his 41, 43, which gave him $84 - 26 = 58$.

“The next best was long-marker Roy Calvert, on the same handicap as Jim, with a net 61, a score good enough to win at most times. Glen Fowler, always a danger, was in good form for his farewell appearance. His 79 off the stick gave him a net 63, one under par. Glen was one of the three of the 47 starters who broke 80 on the day.”

Others to score well that day included Ted Townsend (64), Gordon Blair (66), Keith Uptin (67), Harold Dent (68) and Jack Kennedy (69).

SUCH WAS THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE MEMBERS

that the only weekend lost to golf was that on which the clubhouse was being moved. On Saturday, July 18, 1953, a record 85 players turned up to try their luck on the new links. And it was obvious that the new course was a real winner even though construction on only six holes had been completed. That day some of the early starters managed to play the course three times. But others had only time to finish 12 holes. So it was decided that the inaugural competitions would be decided on the scores at the end of two rounds of the six holes.

One golfer told the Port Macquarie News: 'The going was not easy, as in a number of places it was difficult to find the balls.' An age-old story!

Norm Bennett and Linda Nowland went into the record books as winners of the first mixed event – a 12-hole Canadian foursome – while Vic Johnston took out a 12-hole stroke event for members who missed out on the foursome. Jimmy Reed snared a unique double. Twenty-fours later he won the first stroke competition open in which all members were able to play to add to his victory in the final event at the old course.

The first club championships on the new course were held on the weekend of October 17-18,

AROUND THE LINKS

A record field of 85 local players crowded the new course on Saturday afternoon last for the first competition play. Norm. Barnett and Mrs. Linda Nowlan had the honour of winning the mixed event, whilst the honour in the men's stroke event went to Vic Johnston.

On Sunday, Jimmy Reed added further to his laurels by winning the stroke competition.

The greenkeeper, Mr. Jack Hicks, performed miracles in bringing the course to a playable condition, and appreciation was shown in the afternoon when a presentation was made to him.

The president of the club, Mr. Stewart Kennedy, presented "Blue" with a cash gift of £10/10/0, and assured him that a more lasting gift would also be forthcoming at a later date.

The president extended welcome to all the players taking part, and said he hoped to see them maintain interest and continue to play the game. He explained that there was a good deal yet to be done to bring the course to first-class playing condition, but in the not far distant future they would have a really first-class course. He spoke highly of the efforts of the greenkeeper on the club's behalf, and congratulated the winners on their successes.

Six Holes

Two circuits of six holes were played by most of the field, but the competition was confined to 9 holes so as to bring everyone into the result.

The going was not easy, as in a number of places it was difficult to find the balls. All the players are to be complimented on the uncomplaining manner in which they accept-

ed the newness of the course. A full week's mowing is being done this week, and with each mowing (and particularly when the green shoot comes in the grass), conditions will vastly improve.

Commented on a great deal by the numerous visitors at the week-end, as well as the local people was the excellence of the road to the new links, and the council and its engineer received much praise.

All too were impressed by the lay-out of the course and by what has been achieved to date. Golfers particularly readily appreciated the possibilities, and of course the lovely natural setting appealed to everyone.

A number of members and associates took their tea with them on Saturday, and a most enjoyable evening was spent at the new site; a huge log fire provided many a tasty grill.

The club committee deserves credit for the achievement of changing over from one course to the other without interfering to any great extent with the play, and particularly for what has been done by way of working bees.

A date is being arranged by the committee for the official opening so far as the town is concerned, and at a later date other clubs will be invited.

The Port Macquarie News of July 23, 1953, reported on the first weekend of golf at the new course.

1953. Competitors fought their way around three circuits of the six-hole course. The winner was Charlie Uptin who shot rounds of 78, 81, 78 for a 238, five strokes clear of Bob Huddleston with 82, 86, 75 (243). Joe Haggerty was one stroke further back in third place.

Predictably, Enid Hudson took out the associates' championship – a title she won 21 times during her career at Port. She and Charlie Uptin won the mixed foursome title and the men's foursome went to Huddleston and Stewart Kennedy.

The following month, November, saw another three holes completed under the watchful eye of 'Blue' Hicks. On November 28, the Mayor of Port Macquarie Alderman Ted Brownlow officially

opened the first nine holes by hitting the first ball. That first shot would have done Ben Hogan proud. According to the Port Macquarie News, 'the ball the Mayor hit was a beauty – straight and true down the centre of the fairway'. It was a red-letter day.

With the new holes, members now needed to go only twice around the course instead of the previous three times. Nevertheless, no one was going to sleep easily until the club had a championship course of 18 holes. This would take another 13 years.

IN APRIL 1967, the dream became reality. The last of the 18 holes – what is now the second hole – was completed and Port's golfers were able to properly test out their new championship links.





The 1962 Presentation Evening. (Left to right): Jack Kennedy, Jim Reed, Eric Marshall, Keith Uptin, Agnes Reed, Shirley Uptin, Heather Fowler, unidentified woman obscured, Jean Kennedy.

CHANGING THE FACE OF PORT

WHEN THE FINAL DEFINITIVE HISTORY of Port Macquarie and the Holiday Coast is written there will be a host of theories as to the most important event in turning the area from a tiny, out-of-the-way fishing community to the thriving holiday and retirement region it is today.

Some people will suggest it was the advent of the council water supply in 1957 to replace the population's reliance on rainwater tanks. Maybe it was the introduction of sewerage a decade later. Or perhaps the concerted tourism publicity campaigns that attracted visitors who would later decide that the area was a perfect place to spend their retirement years.

Most likely historians will have come to realise the incredible impact made when the golfers moved their course from the centre of Port Macquarie to west of Lighthouse Beach. This led to the upgrade of the road south to the golf course and beyond, from what was nothing more than a goat track to today's busy thoroughfare, and the introduction of running water and sewerage to the southern environs. These, in turn, prompted a rash of housing subdivisions on what was until then rural land, and a building boom in the townships of Lake Cathie, Bonny Hills, North Haven and Laurieton.

As the golfers of Port Macquarie toiled each and every weekend on their working bees they never realised the enormous legacy they were going to leave. They are the forgotten heroes of the Holiday Coast.

Red Letter Day for Port Golfers

ALTHOUGH THE LAST OF THE 18 HOLES of the links at Tacking Point was completed in April 1967, it was decided to delay the official opening for almost a year to enable the final four holes to be consolidated. The official function took place in the clubhouse on Saturday night, February 24, 1968, when Les Graham, president of the NSW Golf Association, presented the club with a ceremonial banner. Graham was

also the golfer who made the symbolic first tee shot on the newly-opened course the following afternoon.

The Who's Who of Golf of NSW golf also included the state amateur team, Alan Higgenbottom, secretary of the NSWGA for the previous 20 years, Central North Coast



Program for the official opening of the completed 18-hole course in 1968.

Golf Association president Aub Silver of Forster and vice-president Camden Haven's Ian Reid and Port Macquarie's president and secretary Jack Pike and Bob Huddleston. Cyril Landon, president of Port's sister club Beverley Park, was on hand and the Mayor of Port Macquarie CC 'Mac' Adams represented the ratepayers of the area.

On the Sunday afternoon, around 500 spectators turned to watch as the NSW representatives took on three sides from the CNCGA – but it was the local players who took the honours. The State side featured scratch marker at The Australian Club in Sydney Kevin Donohoe. He was a member of the Australian side that had beaten the United States to win the Eisenhower Cup (as the best amateurs in the world) in Mexico City, 18 months earlier.

He was also in the Eisenhower Cup side that finished fourth at Royal Melbourne later in 1968 and at Puerto de Hierro in Spain in 1970. The other members of the state team were Des Turner (The Australian) and Peter Headland (Monash), both off scratch, and two-marker Monty Fairhall (St Michael's).

But at the end of the day they trailed Alf Avery of Taree, who birdied the final two holes to finish with the best scratch score of one-over par 71. Port's Bob Huddleston snared a birdie on the 18th to take second place (72), one ahead of Headland. The other state representatives were not disgraced on the big day – Turner shot a steady 76, Fairhall 77 and Donohoe 79. A second Port Macquarie golfer finished in the top 12 – Jack Lewin, with 83 off the stick.



Later golfers reaped the reward of the hard work of members in the 1950s.

THE TACKING POINT 'PRISON FARM'

AS CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW LINKS GOT UNDERWAY, greenkeeper 'Blue' Hicks divided his time between the course in town and Tacking Point. But eventually the old course was abandoned and his efforts were concentrated on bringing the latter up to an acceptable standard. As he was the club's only employee it was a lonely job and 'Blue' confided to anyone who would listen that he had been condemned to a prison farm existence.

News of his loneliness reached the ears of committeemen at the Wauchope Golf Club. Two of them made a couple of weekday visits to try to persuade him to switch allegiances – but 'Blue' was loyal and remained at the new Port links until the day he retired. The folk from Wauchope had to look elsewhere.

Another surprise hurdle concerned a local licensing Sergeant, who regularly made the trip out to Tacking Point. Uptin recalled: 'We fed him well and kept his glass filled. However, he didn't like our two-pan cistern in the men's toilet. It regularly overflowed. The sergeant ordered the club to build a three-metre long urinal of galvanised iron and coated with tar. This would drain into one of several pans. There was no sanitary service from the council, and he didn't explain, in the absence of a 'night-soil man', how we would get volunteers to change the pans.'

But the golfers outsmarted the sergeant. They dug a deep hole underneath where the pan sat and drilled a hole in the pan to ensure all the 'number ones' disappeared into the abyss below.

THE LONE BANDIT

POKER MACHINES WERE FIRST LEGALISED in New South Wales in 1956 – although they had been manufactured for export three years earlier and some of these machines dropped off the back of a truck and into the arms of colourful personalities running illegal gambling clubs in Sydney.

Once they were legal, the Port Macquarie Golf Club owned the only pokie in the Hastings. It was a massive sixpenny (5 cents) machine and members vied to use it after their weekend rounds of golf. There was little, if any, interest in playing the lone pokie during the week, so it was lent to the RSL Club in town. Often members wanting a flutter on the one-armed bandit were disappointed – no one had thought to lug it back to Tacking Point on the Saturday morning. Eventually Ted Townsend put up his hand and volunteered to cart the precious money-maker back from the RSL Club each and every weekend.



Money makes the World Go Around

AFTER IT WAS DECIDED TO MOVE TO TACKING POINT money was needed to pay for the land on which the new links were to be built. And it was needed quickly. Only a deposit had been made. Local residents were encouraged to buy unsecured debentures paying three per cent interest. The bowlers' club members were keen to take over some of the old golf club land to pay for a second bowling green and heartily dipped into their pockets to buy the debentures. But, as time came to settle the purchase at Tacking Point, the golfers were still around £3000 short. The Commonwealth Bank offered a loan of £2500. The manager of the local branch was a keen golfer – and so was his wife. However, the bean counters at the bank's headquarters in Sydney wanted more than the manager's enthusiasm before outlaying the money. Guarantors were needed. So Dr Eric Murphy, Bob Byrnes, Les Crisp, Jack Kennedy and Charlie Uptin put their names to the loan contract.

Every penny was important. No fund-raising suggestion was dismissed. Raffles, Melbourne Cup sweeps (each with a small deduction going into the golf club coffers), card parties...anything that could raise money. Lloyd McNeil, a builder by trade, helped construct a mini-golf course on the Town Green. Golf club members either donated or loaned around 30 hickory-shafted putters which were kept in Uptin's home, a stone's throw from the Green, which in those days was quite primitive compared with today's neatly laid-out parkland. There was a roster of club members to run the mini-golf, which proved to be a good money-spinner. This was especially the case during the school holidays when Charlie's sons, Alan and Keith Uptin, became the 'entrepreneurs'. Their efforts raised so much money that the club granted them junior membership at no cost.

However, the club was far from out the woods. The council sent a bill for the annual rates – £147. Uptin recalled: 'The club was in parlous straits. A fraction of the members owned motor cars. The club was five miles (8km) out of town, the last 1½ miles (2.4km) a dirt track untrafficable after heavy rain. And there was never a bus service. I can think of nothing less attractive than the clubhouse, the two-roomed (plus

A young Keith Uptin tries out the mini-golf course on Town Green.



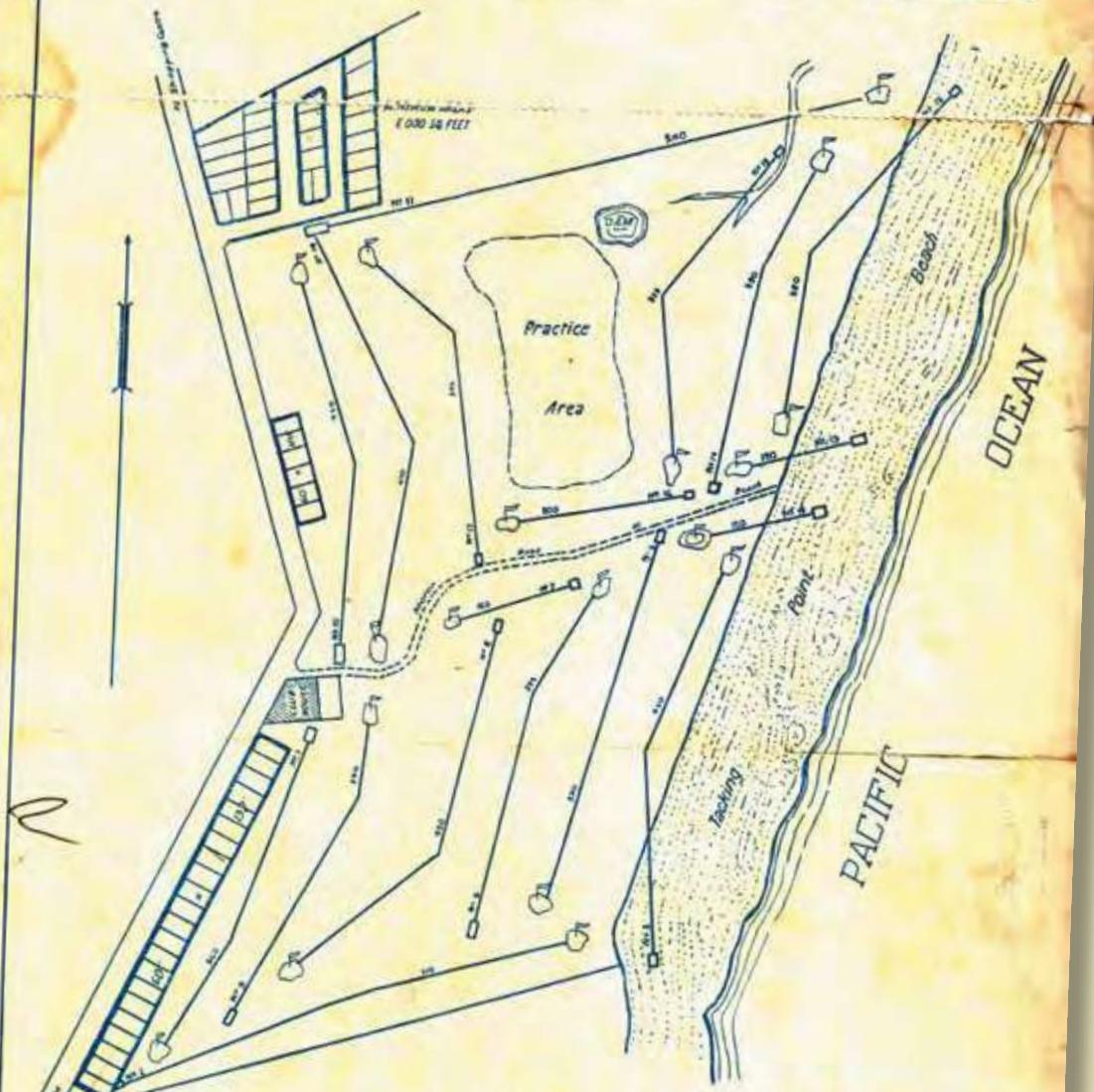
Blocks of Land are obtainable within the vicinity of Port Macquarie's Golf Links

Several blocks have been sold, but some excellent sites are still available, and anyone interested in purchasing a block should contact the Secretary of the Club, or its agents, R. V. Dulhunty & Son. The proposed through road, from Laurieton to Port Macquarie, passes by the golf links, and all land in that area will increase in value as the coast road develops.

PORT MACQUARIE NEW CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE

showing Excellent Building Allotments.

Adjoining the Links. Handy to Tacking Point Beach.
LOW PRICES. **EASY FIVE YEAR TERMS.**



— R.V. DULHUNTY & SON. —
 Sole Selling Agents. P.O. Box 2. Phone 175

If only in 1956 they knew what we do today. The proposed subdivision to help finance the golf course noted how the proposed 'through road from Laurieton to Port Macquarie passes by the golf links, and all land in that area will increase in value as the coast road develops.' Blocks were being offered at £150 and £175. The bargain of a century!

(For the record: The selling agents are Robert Dulhunty and his son Roger. The latter is a former club vice-president and patron. He and his wife Heather sponsor an annual mixed knockout competition.)

verandah) building moved out of town. Two dunnies – a single pan gents and ladies. Dream time was over. Reality was with us. We badly needed the one thing we didn't have – money.'

In 1954 the golf club bit the bullet and went to the council for help. The club asked the municipality to raise a £7000 loan. This would pay out the club's original bank loan (by that time reduced to £2300) with the remaining £4700 being spent on improvements to the course. The council would take over the ownership of the course and although nothing was put in writing it was assumed that the links would be returned to the club once the loan was repaid. The aldermen voted 6-3 in favour of the proposal but were a trifle worried about two provisos – that a properly-constructed, gravel road be extended to the links and that there would be no payment of previously-incurred rates. A later proposal to lift the loan to £8500 to extend the clubhouse was rejected out of hand.

Later the local council handed the club a long lease over the area on which the course had been built. As a consequence the club was able to purchase everything needed to complete the construction of the links and their subsequent upkeep through the council, without paying sales tax. There is little doubt that had the council not been so co-operative years (and the Commonwealth Bank more than supportive) the building of the 18-hole golf course would have remained a mere pipe dream.

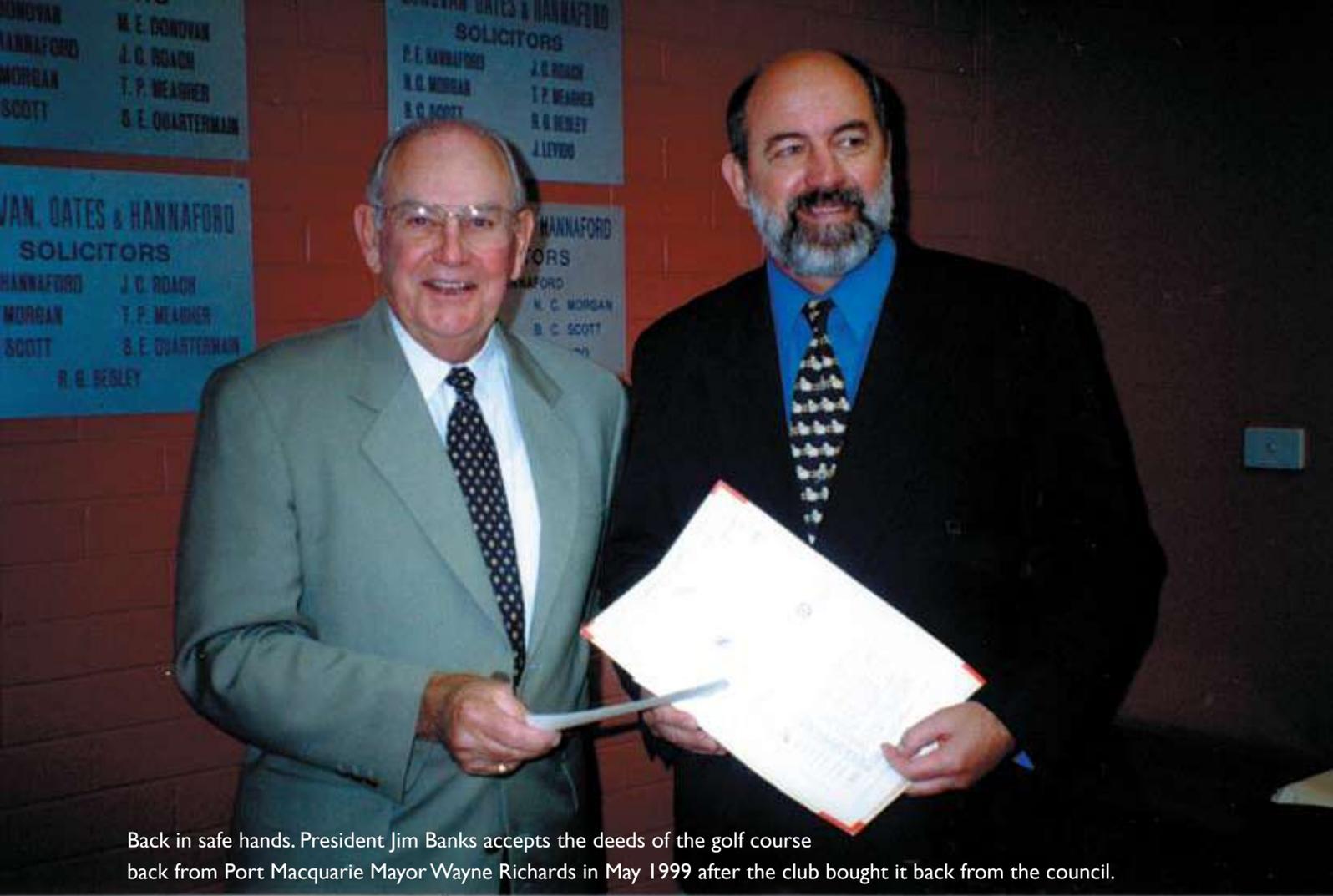
However, it was not until 1998 that the club was able to buy back its heritage at a cost of \$650,000. Again the council bent over backwards to help – the price only being the equivalent of what the land value had increased in real terms over the 44 years. There was no exploitation!

ONE EARLY MONEY-RAISING PLAN never reached fruition. Club member RV Dulhunty, a leading Port Macquarie surveyor, planned a small housing development fronting Cathie Road and with several blocks in the area of what is currently the 1st green. An area of 0.8ha was also set aside for

a new clubhouse. Prices for the building lots ranged from £125 to £175. Several members bought blocks in anticipation of a perfect location to enjoy their leisure hours. Can you imagine – walking out your back door and straight onto the golf course? However, the club did not have the finances to subdivide the development immediately. Before they did, new town-planning legislation was introduced by the NSW Government in 1965 and the plan was scuttled by the council. Of course, all that changed over the years and new developments have since sprung up within a walking distance of the golf course.

LACK OF MONEY WAS NOT THE ONLY PROBLEM that faced Port's golfers while the new links were being built. The well-known Foyster family – a couple of which were later to make names for themselves as millionaire racehorse owners, especially Lloyd Foyster who won the 1977 Caulfield Cup with Ming Dynasty – owned sand mining interests that had operated at various locations on the NSW north coast. And in the mid-1950s they and their executives began casting envious eyes over parts of the course. Suddenly one morning two employees turned up and, without permission, put down drill holes into what is currently the fourth fairway. The greenkeeper 'Bluey' Hicks rushed into town to alert Uptin to the threat and the pair confronted the intruders who just shrugged their shoulders and continued to take core samples.

Hicks turned to Uptin and, in a stage whisper, noted: 'Well, there's only one thing we can do. I'll go home and get my shotgun.' Within minutes the two interlopers had packed up, never to return. And in 1956 the NSW Mining Warden's Court eventually refused an official application to prospect for mineral-bearing sands on the golf course. But the battle was still not over. Lighthouse Beach had been savagely quarried in the past and now the miners wanted to do the same to the dunes fronting the golf links. Not only would the dunes disappear, so too would all the trees to the east of the course. After a series of protests the NSW Minister for Mines Wal Fife visited Port Macquarie to see for himself what the fuss was about. He agreed with the golfers and removed the dunes from the area allowed for mining.



Back in safe hands. President Jim Banks accepts the deeds of the golf course back from Port Macquarie Mayor Wayne Richards in May 1999 after the club bought it back from the council.



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Peter Besseling MP
Independent Member for Port Macquarie



Suite 6, 27 Grant Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444
phone: (02) 6584 0977 fax: (02) 6584 0978

CENTENARY OF THE PORT MACQUARIE GOLF CLUB

There can be no greater example of the tenacity, enterprise and community spirit of the people of Port Macquarie, than as evidenced through the wonderful story of the Port Macquarie Golf Club.

From its beginnings along Oxley Reserve, to the move to Tacking Point in 1953, right through to the course completion in 1967, this is a wonderful tale of fund raising, working bees and a can-do spirit that epitomises local initiative, and has resulted in a wonderful community asset.

Congratulations to all involved in the proud history of 100 years of the Port Macquarie Golf Club.



Winning Friends, Influencing People

A BROWSE THROUGH THE RECORDS of the Port Macquarie Golf Club and it soon becomes evident just what an influence Charlie Uptin had on the history of golf in the Hastings. A man of incredible foresight, Uptin used all of his considerable business and social clout to transfer the sport from its inadequate course in the town centre to a new site – now in the midst of Port’s urban sprawl, but back then a quite remote location. Indeed, the moving of the links had a profound effect on all aspects of life in Port Macquarie – something that almost six decades later is only just being understood.

Uptin’s enthusiasm was infectious and it was soon embraced by nearly all of his fellow golfers. Had they not followed his lead and worked tirelessly on the new links, there probably wouldn’t have been any centenary celebrations in 2010. The club would have given up the ghost.

Uptin spent his childhood in Mullumbimby, near the Queensland border, but it was in Port Macquarie that he was to make his name. He had been indentured as a newspaperman at the Mullumbimby Star, but finding himself out of work in the Depression, the 18-year-old Uptin had moved south in 1932 to work in the Port Macquarie barber’s shop run by his brother-in-law. He arrived with just a tennis racquet in one hand and a small bakelite suitcase containing all his worldly possessions in the other. He wasn’t a trainee barber for long, soon filling-in at the Port Macquarie News when Bert Pountney, the editor (and, more importantly, a cricket tragic), took a

break to watch a 1933 Ashes Test at the Gabba. Uptin continued to work there after Pountney returned – eventually buying the newspaper in 1945.

Like most young men Uptin was involved in all sport (especially surf life saving) but in 1933 he took up golf on the old Oxley Reserve location and it became his true passion. At the start he had only four clubs in his golf bag and often played in bare feet.

When, in the late 1940s, it became obvious that the golfers would soon need to find an alternative site for their golf links it was Uptin (club captain in 1949 and president in 1950 and 1951) that led the search, championed the move in the pages of his newspaper and looked after the renowned course designer Jas Scott while he ignored the snakes and traversed the eventual site in the bush south of Port Macquarie, deciding where each hole should be located. It was therefore quite fitting that Uptin should win the first club championship on the new links at Tacking Point (in October 1953). It was the only Port Macquarie men’s title win he managed to win during his golfing days. At the new course he was secretary in 1953 and again president for five years (1956-58 and 1960-61). He was also given the honour of hitting the first ball when all 18 holes of the new course finally came into operation in 1967.

Uptin wasn’t afraid to do things that others wouldn’t. In his autobiography he noted: ‘In those early days...it was me and my car that carried the



Charlie Uptin makes the presentation to Tom Minter (left) and Barry Holmes, winners of the Charles Uptin Knockout in 1995. It was the last time Uptin held centre stage. He passed away the following year.

‘Everyone who knew him called him Mr Golf. If they needed advice they went straight to Charles. He was a marvellous bloke – someone very special.’ – Jim Banks, Port Macquarie Golf Club president at the time of Uptin’s death in 1996.

ice and keg of beer to the new course each Saturday. And it was the greenkeeper [Bluey Hicks] and I who carried the lavatory pans deep into the blady grass where we emptied them, swilled them out, and put them in place for another assault’. What dedication!

On behalf of his Port Macquarie News, Uptin provided the trophies for the club’s new four-ball knockout competition in 1949. When he sold the newspaper in 1982, the News tournament was renamed the Charles Uptin Knockout. Sadly he died before the contest’s golden anniversary. But he had handed over the trophies for 47 straight years.

In 1967 Uptin became the first president of the newly-formed Port Macquarie Golf Veterans’ Association. Six years later he was honoured with Life Membership of the golf club. He passed away on August 21, 1996, aged 83.

An indication of his foresight was the motto he coined for Port in the year the golf course moved – ‘Australia’s First Resort’. He described Port Macquarie as the place that had given him the opportunity ‘to live, learn, labour, love, linger and languish’. Most residents would feel the same way and the maxim of ‘Australia’s First Resort’ would still be valid today. First... and Best!



Alan, Charlie and Keith Uptin.

Definitely the one to win

ONLY A HANDFUL OF MEMBERS have any real chance of winning the club championship. This is quite evident by the fact that in the 58 years since moving to the new course only 16 different players have managed to take out the title, with Brian Sams winning 16, Phil Pye 14 and Bob Huddleston 10.

It's a very different matter in the Charles Uptin Knockout. Theoretically any pair can finish on top in this fourball competition. As such it is regarded by most members as the club's premier event – the one to win. And that is why the winners get their names inscribed on the club's Honour Board.

The Uptin family are all on the list of winners. Charlie Uptin paired with Bill Raymond to win in 1957. His sons Keith and Alan followed in his footsteps. Keith won in 1960 with Tony Reed and again in 1968 with John Lassig. Alan's wins were in 1967 with Don Locke and in 1997 and 2000 with John Gibson.



The greatest of mates! Charlie Uptin and Bob Huddleston.

'Gentleman Jim' – Link with the old Links

IN THE CENTENARY YEAR OF THE GOLF CLUB 'Gentleman Jim' Reed remains the only member from before the 1953 move from the town centre to Tacking Point still regularly playing golf.

He wouldn't miss his regular Thursday rounds of golf for all the tea in China. And he is not known as 'Gentleman Jim' for nothing. Modesty is his middle name. The unassuming former Kempsey 81-year-old just laughs when anyone asks about the sporting career that filled up all of his spare time over the years.

'I just enjoyed myself,' is all he will say about his efforts in Rugby League, cricket, night tennis, with the local surf club, and, of course, in golf. Jim came from a sporting family. His father Tom played against the 1932 British Lions at Lismore. That was the touring team led by one of the greatest players of all-time, Jim Sullivan. Jim Reed's brother Tony, playing on the wing, scored a try against the 1958 Great Britain tourists who walloped the North Coast 56-15, also at Lismore, with the legendary Eric Ashton notching 29 points (four tries and seven goals). Jim has always been proud to show you photos of the two Reed Rugby League stars in their Kempsey jerseys.

He reckons he himself was a fairly good cricketer. So it seems, as he toured Tasmania with the Country Invitational team in 1949, batting at No 3.

'I had lunch one day at Wauchope with the famous former Test wicketkeeper Bert Oldfield [one of the victims in the infamous Bodyline Series of 1932-33],' Jim said. 'Bert had been impressed

with my batting and recommended to the State selectors that they have a look at me. But they didn't bother. They reckoned I was too old. What do you reckon they'd think now?' He was laughing before he finished the sentence.

The Reed family was very successful in business, running what is now no more than a piece of history...country general stores that sold anything and everything a family needed. First it was at Kempsey and then in Port Macquarie. Take a look at the building at the north-east of the junction of



Test cricket legend Bert Oldfield was impressed.

Horton and William Streets and you will see the sign 'Reed Building'. That's where they plied their trade. And they were well ahead of their time when realising what tourism would eventually mean to Port Macquarie, building the first high-rise tourist accommodation, the Sandcastle Motor Inn.

Yet 'Gentleman Jim' will always be best remembered for his efforts with the golf club. He made history at the time of the move from the centre of town. On July 4, 1953, the then 24-year-old Reed won the final tournament held on the old course on Oxley Reserve, carding an 84 which, with a handicap of 26, gave him a net 58. Two weekends later, on July 19, he won the Sunday stroke competition on the new course, just 24 hours after the first contest at Tacking Point. The stroke competition was the first competition in which all the men were able to play as individuals. The previous day many of the men competed in a mixed event. No one can take that unique double away from 'Gentleman Jim'.

Question him closely and he might even admit to success elsewhere. In 1957 he won the regional championship at Kempsey. He will smile, as in wont his wont: 'I also won the gross and stroke at the Wingham Open and 23 years later won the nett in the same event.'

So who cares if he never played Rugby League against the immortal Jim Sullivan or that other British great Eric Ashton?



Jim Reed

'If you call on God to improve the results of a shot while it is still in motion, you are using "an outside agency" and subject to appropriate penalties under the Rules of Golf.'

– Renowned British golf commentator Henry Longhurst

The Bamboo Curtain

ASK ANY GOLFER who has played on the Port Macquarie links about their defining memory of the course and they will almost certainly tell you 'the bamboo'. The menacing clump of giant bamboo sits behind the first tee and adjacent to the ninth fairway and over the years this natural hazard has proved the downfall of many a golfing enthusiast.

The bamboo shoots were planted in 1883 by 44-year-old pig farmer Patrick Welsh, a native of the Irish county of Tipperary, who was living with his wife Bridget and their offspring, Tom, Johanna and Honora, in a cottage just to the north. The three children were all born in the cottage, as was a third daughter, Maud, two years later. Little did Welsh realise how he was shaping history when he decided to grow the bamboo as a windbreak for his home.

According to Charlie Uptin, members of several other prominent Port Macquarie families later lived in the cottage – Waring, Absalom, McInhemey, Suters and Pim. Jonas Absalom is believed to have planted the historic Norfolk Island pine that is another highlight of the course, around 1892. After it was struck by lightning in 1978, it was lopped halfway up its trunk, but it has since continued to grow and towers over the fairway on the first hole. For the record: Absalom is also remembered by the street named after him in nearby Emerald Downs.

The pioneers who helped build the new course missed out on keeping another feature that would have added to the unique character of the Port Macquarie Golf Course. One of their first tasks was the removal of a concrete vat (about 1.1m

square and 1.5m deep) used to crush black Isabella grapes to be turned into wine. It was located near the proposed practice putting green and the keen golfers wanted to get rid of it as quickly as possible. Years later, realising the symbolic importance of the concrete cauldron the consensus is that it should have remained as a landmark...just like the bamboo. 'I can think of many uses for the vat at the golf course and it would have mutely conveyed an historic message,' a regretful Uptin noted in the early 1990s.



The Norfolk Island pine tree and the bamboos have always been a feature of the Tacking Point links.



For the Kennedy Clan it's Scotland the Brave

NO ONE COULD EVER DOUBT (Duncan) Stewart Kennedy's pride in his Scottish ancestry. Pride? There was a huge respect for and love of his heritage.

With good reason! Stewart's maternal family (from the Clan Bain) traced back to the town of Gariloch in the Scottish Highlands. And on the Kennedy side, the family seat was Culzean Castle overlooking the Firth of Clyde on the west coast of Scotland. David Kennedy, 10th Earl of Cassilis, built the castle between 1775 and 1790. Movie buffs would recognise it as the location for the ancestral home of Lord Summerisle (played by Christopher Lee) in the 1973 cult film *The Wicker Man*. Stewart Kennedy was also proud to discover that the castle featured on the reverse side of £5 banknotes issued by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

After he finally quit the last of a multitude of civic duties in Port Macquarie in 1976, Stewart and his wife Mary made the second of their pilgrimages to the 'Old Country' and he returned with a new suit tailored entirely from the Kennedy tartan as well as a kilt for formal occasions. There was tartan clothing for the rest of the family, too! When Stewart Kennedy died in 2003 he was buried in the suit that he had worn to virtually every official function after experiencing his roots first hand. A grandson pointed out: 'No one else could ever wear grand-dad's suit.'

The unique tartan outfit suited him to a tee. For he was...like every member of the Kennedy family...a true blue character of the Hastings. Most were fine golfers with Stewart, brothers Jack and Allan and sister Jean among the so-called

Culzean Castle, the historic Kennedy family seat, is featured on the back of Scotland's £5 note





Some of the Kennedy clan in the late 1930s – (left to right) Allan, sitting on bumper bar; Jack, at rear; cousin Betty; Jean; and Stewart.

‘Foundation Members’ of the club...those who had played from the start of the town new golf course at Tacking Point. Children and grand-children carried on the golfing tradition and now 12-year-old Oscar James, has become the first of the fourth generation to take up the sport, albeit in Sydney.

The family, whose name is commemorated in one of Port Macquarie’s major arterial roads, Kennedy Drive, is best-known for the 40 hectare fruit farm they ran near Shelly Beach from 1922 to 1966. There were 14 hectares of pineapples, three of bananas and two of grapes with the rest used to grow paw-paws, passionfruit, oranges and lemons.

During World War II the Kennedys worked for the government ensuring supplies of fresh food got to the Australian and American troops in the Pacific fight-back against the Japanese and Stewart would often make late-night flights to theatres of war such as Guam and the Philippines to make certain

the food was getting through while still edible. The family farm was eventually sold and today there are some 4000 homes built on the land.

As kids Stewart, Jack and Allan and their other brother, Colin, had an entrepreneurial streak in them, running a thriving night ‘Ghost Tour’ in Port Macquarie. One brother would take unsuspecting tourists on a tour of the site of the old colonial jail, demolished in 1917, while the others would hide at the bottom of a nearby well – and at the appropriate time would wail like lost souls.

Among the other stories told about Stewart was one about his efforts as a 19-year-old working on a Wauchope milk run. Often the residents would forget to put out the milk jug (or billy) to be filled. Never mind, Stewart would quietly open the back door – no one ever bothered to lock their houses in those days – and walk into the kitchens to get them.

And four of the Kennedy siblings at Stewart's 80th birthday party in 1990 – (left to right) Allan, Stewart, Jack and Jean.



'I knew where each family kept their jug,' he recalled decades later. 'In most cases they weren't too far away from the cake tin. The people were asleep, the cake tin was full so it was only right and proper that a hungry milk boy should test the cakes to see if they were suitable for human consumption.'

On the afternoon run – remember there was no refrigeration back then – Stewart would drop the news that he hadn't had any breakfast or lunch and would be rewarded with a second helping of cakes from unsuspecting housewives. At least that's the way he told the story.

At the end of World War II he turned his talents to local council affairs and when he stepped down in March 1976 he had been on the council for 31 years, becoming the longest serving alderman in Port Macquarie history. He served six terms as Mayor – 1955-56, 1961, 1964-65 and 1971.

Jack Kennedy started playing golf at the old links in 1933, the same year as club stalwart Charlie Uptin. Stewart followed in 1938. On the 50th anniversary of his first game, Jack Kennedy recalled how the fairways were mown by a horse-drawn

lucerne cutter and the greens were surrounded by wire fences to protect them from wandering cattle. There was no such thing as a time sheet: 'You usually arranged your Saturday game with someone you'd run into on the street the night before.' The annual membership cost 30 shillings and competition fees one shilling.

'It is a totally different game now,' he said in 1983. 'Back then you gave more thought to playing the game of golf. Today there is a tendency to play for trophies and saving your handicap.'

Stewart Kennedy has the unique distinction of being the president of the club during its last year at the old links (1952) and again for its first year at the new course (1953). He was also club captain in 1963 and shot three holes-in-one at Tacking Point. His daughters held various offices with the Port ladies – Wendy (Foreman), ladies captain in 1995 and vice-president in 1998; Anne (James), secretary 1997-98 and president from 2004 to 2007. Anne also snared a hole-in-one at Port in 2007.

Alan, whose second name was Bain after his mother's forebears (as was that of the other brother Colin), was awarded Life Membership in 1983.



Eat your heart out, Don Athaldo. Allan Kennedy (left) and brother Stewart show off their muscle-man physiques.

WAUCHOPE FOLKLORE has it that the Kennedy parents had opened their home to foster a young boy later named as Don Athaldo. As an adult, Athaldo was dubbed ‘The Pocket Atlas’ and made a fortune selling a course he claimed had turned him from a meek and mild, teenage weakling into the toughest man in Australia. Advertising promotions asserted his body-building methods could help young men overcome bad breath, naughty nocturnal habits, cancer, stuttering, pimples and a multitude of other problems. And those following his teachings would end up with a warm and friendly personality. Right on, Don!

Whether or not their parents looked after Athaldo as a toddler, the Kennedy brothers were most certainly devotees, swearing by their ‘brother’ Don. And as young men they were always willing to pose for photos showing off their ‘Don Athaldo’ physiques.

Bitou Bush no match for Dad's Army

THE UNSUNG HEROES OF THE PORT MACQUARIE GOLF CLUB were the members affectionately known as 'Dad's Army'. They were a dozen or so retirees who would get together once or twice a week and work on the course. Maybe it was erecting signs...perhaps planting trees and fighting to control noxious weeds such as Lantana or the invasive Bitou Bush foolishly introduced years before to combat the effects of the sand mining at Tacking Point...building retaining walls or pathways for the golf carts...perhaps just making

general repairs. The members of Dad's Army built up a unique camaraderie thanks to the immense pride they had in their work. With them, it was never a case of, 'Ah, that'll be good enough'. Only the best would do!

The fellows in 'Dad's Army' were very strict about the membership of their group. Long-serving club captain and life member Peter Schroder remembers how, when he retired from his job as a teacher at Port Macquarie High School,



he wanted to join the group: 'I assumed you just fronted up and worked your backside off. But, no, I was told that I had to prove myself. They told me that in due course they would invite me along to trial for a place in Dad's Army and then and only then would they decide whether or not to invite me onto the team. At first I was the dolly boy or gopher. It took a while before I was accepted as a true-blue member. I knew I had made it when I was told it was my turn to bring along morning tea for the whole group – scones and jam and cakes. The blokes in Dad's Army certainly loved their morning tea. They would work from eight in the morning to midday. It was hard yakka and there was no slacking. You've got to remember that most of these blokes were in their seventies and eighties, but they toiled like 20-year-olds.'

Among those in Dad's Army was the later life member Frank Roberts.



Frank Roberts was both C grade club champion and Patron's Match Play champ at the age of 85.

Roberts joined the club as a country member in 1968 so he could play when holidaying in the Hastings. He moved to Port Macquarie in 1974 and almost immediately became a full member and began his unpaid work. He served on the board from 1976 to 1991, at which stage he did not seek re-election. Roberts was rewarded that year with life membership. He has always been the complete handyman. It seemed there was nothing to which he couldn't turn his hand. Repairs around the clubhouse were simple. The gazebo for the practice green near the 1st Tee could have been created by a skilled European cabinet maker. His work as a gardener would have challenged the likes of Don Burke. How much has Roberts saved the club over the years by his volunteer handyman work? Most certainly, many thousands of dollars!



Aloha! Frank and Eunice Roberts celebrate at Hawaiian Night.



Dad's Army built the gazebo on the 10th.

From Fisherman to Golfer



TED TOWNSEND HAD NEVER HIT A GOLF BALL IN HIS LIFE when he moved to Port Macquarie. But when introduced to the sport he took to it like a duck to water. And he ended up one of the unsung heroes of golf in the Hastings – a driving force behind the move out of town and the creation of the course that so many of today’s golfers take for granted.

‘I stand in the clubhouse and look out over the links and I’m filled with enormous pride,’ the unassuming Townsend, now 84, explained. ‘I think to myself, “My hard work... my efforts...weren’t in vain. I helped build that course”. And I am even prouder when I hear golfers talking about it. Everyone who plays the course loves it. They don’t want a tough championship course that is too hard for weekend golfers. It’s a good social-cum-championship course. Not too hard for blokes like me – but daunting enough for the good golfers who love a challenge.’

Townsend was originally attracted to Port Macquarie soon after World War II (in which he served with the RAAF) because he was a keen fisherman. ‘It was a terrific little fishing village with only a few thousand people,’ he recalled. ‘You no sooner threw in a line than you got a nibble. Big snapper and tailor and bream...wonderful!’ A plumber by trade he was heartily sick of Sydney when one of his old workmates, Don Moore suggested he move to Port in 1951. Luckily his soon-to-be wife, Margaret, instantly fell in love with the town, too. Moore suggested he and Townsend set up a joint plumbing business. It was a bold move. There wasn’t a lot of work for plumbers. There was no sewerage in Port Macquarie and only a few septic tanks. Most of

the human waste was carried away by the ‘night soil’ collectors. There was no water supply, with every house serviced by a rainwater tank.

‘But we survived by doing odd jobs,’ Townsend noted. ‘If someone wanted a patio put on the back of their house, we did it. If a place needed painting, we did it. If something needed building [like the nurses quarters at the old Port Macquarie base hospital] we built it. When the council eventually put in water and then sewerage lots of Johnny Come Lately plumbers descended on the town. However, by that time, we were well-known and respected by the local residents and got lots of work. At one stage we had 24 fellows working for us.’

Moore was also a keen golfer – and a future president of the golf club. He persuaded his business partner to take up the sport on the old course at Oxley Reserve. Within a year of hitting his first golf ball Townsend was on the committee of the golf club.

‘You’ve got to remember there weren’t the huge number of golfers like there are today,’ he said. ‘We were just a small band of enthusiasts.’ And a band ready to move to Tacking Point. ‘There were a lot of people opposed to the move, but we really had no choice,’ Townsend added. ‘Eventually when they saw what we were achieving at the new course most of the knockers came around to our way of thinking and joined us in our endeavours.’

Those efforts were mainly centred on the weekend working bees. ‘It was hard work, but a lot of fun,’ he recalled. ‘Everyone enjoyed it. The hard



yakka was done by the men. The ladies and the kids were involved in “emu parades” picking up sticks and stones. Bob Byrnes from the Royal Hotel put on a 9-gallon keg of beer and there were soft drinks and tea for those who wanted it. As you cleared a fairway and built a tee and green you would open a new hole. Everyone was excited by what they had achieved. There was a real sense of camaraderie.’

Townsend paid special tribute to the council engineer, Jack Clark: ‘He was a staunch supporter of the golf club. Whenever he could, he helped funnel extra funds our way. When the road was built out to the course...basically where Ocean Drive is today... we dubbed it “Clark Highway”. That’s the way we felt about him.’

But overall, Townsend has always viewed the course as Charlie Uptin’s legacy : ‘Without Charlie Uptin’s foresight...without his determination... without his leadership...we wouldn’t have a golf course today.’

Townsend was forced to give up his beloved golf about five years ago because of a bad back. ‘I really miss it,’ he admitted. ‘I never aspired to be a champion, although I did manage to win the B Grade Championship one year. I just enjoyed the game. There was nothing better than to play 18 holes with a couple of mates and with a few cold cans secreted in my golf bag. For medicinal use only, of course!’

Eve Johansson – Can Skite a Bit

EVE JOHANSSON REMEMBERS some of the happiest days of her life were those when she was playing golf. And the 91-year-old reckons but for a ‘dicky knee’ she’d probably still be out on the fairways at Port Macquarie.

Even the snakes couldn’t put her off her swing: ‘And I can tell you there were a lot of them... especially on the 17th, over close to the ocean. Talk about extra hazards!’

With her saw-milling husband Jack, Eve took up golf just before the club’s move to Tacking Point. They lived less than a couple of good golf drives from the then golf links. ‘I had a couple of games on the old course at Oxley Reserve,’ she explained. ‘But then we had all that work at the new links. We would spend all Sunday morning clearing the land... picking up sticks and stones... so there would be proper fairways. We used to play 11 holes, but eventually the working bees bore fruit and we had a complete 18-hole course. I was particularly involved from the 12th and 13th holes onward. But it was all worth it. We had a real good crowd... about 20 ladies when we started...playing on Wednesdays and then later on Fridays. They were really happy days.’

Jack Johansson didn’t get quite as involved as his wife. He was a gun squash player as a few of the younger fellows around Port quickly found out. But Eve, who took up golf because she believed she was getting a bit too old for tennis, excelled on the Tacking Point links. Three times she won the NSW Ladies Golf Medal for Port Macquarie and in 1969 shot a 58 nett – the equal best during the year by

any woman golfer in the state. She treasures a silver presentation spoon presented to her as memento of her effort. ‘I was told I was a bit unlucky,’ she reluctantly admitted. ‘The woman who shared the award apparently played on a much easier course than Port Macquarie. I don’t care. I’m still able to skite a bit about it.’

She remembers exhibitions by the famous professionals Norman von Nida and Bruce Crampton and has no hesitation in naming Bob Huddleston as the best Port golfer she ever saw play. Of course, Enid Hudson was the best of the lady golfers.





PORT MACQUARIE GOLF CLUB
ASSOCIATES'
EVENT L.G.C.I. MEDAL GRADE BRONZE
DONATED BY _____
WON BY E. JOHANSSON
DATE 26-11-69. SCORE _____

Bread, Snags and a Lot of Fun

IT USUALLY TAKES ONLY ONE VISIT for people to fall in love with Port Macquarie. Many decide instantly that Port Paradise will be the place for them when it comes time to retire. Others make it their holiday destination, year after year after year.

Ken Innes was one of the latter. The secretary-manager of the Beverley Park Golf Club in Sydney first visited Port in 1953. Publican Bob Byrnes, the owner of the Macquarie and Royal Hotels in Port Macquarie and the Star Hotel in Wauchope, invited Innes to play a fourball with him at the new links at Tacking Point. Tacko McLaren and Lloyd McNeill made up the foursome.

When Innes again holidayed at Port Macquarie in 1957 he had persuaded the Beverley Park president Viv Davies to come with him. They enjoyed some fishing and plenty of general relaxation. But golf was at the top of the menu. The pair played in the Saturday competition and stayed on for a barbecue to coincide with the opening of an extension to the clubhouse – the same historic building that had been shipped out from the old course four years earlier. It was over some sausage and steak sandwiches and a few cold beers that the seeds were sewn for a permanent link between the two clubs.

At first, members of the Beverley Park Golf Club committee suggested only reciprocal rights. They thought the distance between Port and Sydney was too great for interclub visits. But Bob Huddleston would hear none of that. And Huddle



Beverley Park's Ken Innes ... and Vic Davies.

had Innes and Davies as allies. Eventually the trio's persistence paid off and in March 1950, some 27 Port Macquarie golfers made the trip south. A tradition had been born.

Jim Reed remembers that on that first visit the Beverley Park Golf Club hadn't planned far enough ahead – and had allowed their clubhouse to be booked for a birthday party. But as the 16th century proverb tells us – necessity is the mother of invention.

'They loaded a nine gallon keg on the back of a ute and drove south to the Royal National Park,' Reed explained. 'With a dozen loaves of bread, plenty of snags and tomato sauce we had a great barbecue under the stars. We probably had more fun than had we stayed at the club.'

A great tradition started that night. Plenty of singing syrup was consumed under the trees and

THE 27 PORT MACQUARIE GOLFERS
WHO MADE THE FIRST TRIP TO
BEVERLEY PARK IN MARCH 1960

Tony Boswell
Bob Byrnes
Roy Calvert
Bill Crozier
Laurie Coulton
Mick Dick
Glen Fowler
Dick Gentle
Dave Hibbard
Bob Huddleston
Stewart Kennedy
Don Locke
Maurie Lynch
John Mackaway
Jack McLaren
Don Moore
Athol Platt
Jack Pike
Ches Pilcher
Jim Reed
Tony Reed
Tom Rissell
Dick Spence
Ted Townsend
Alan Uptin
Charlie Uptin
Basil Young

Winning isn't everything

BY ROHAN CLARKE

For 42 years, Beverley Park Golf Club has made an annual pilgrimage to Port Macquarie to tackle the locals in a fourball best-ball contest. In recent years, more than 60 golfers have made the five-hour drive north from Sydney for a week of golf and fun.

Yet, the Sydneysiders have failed in every bid to win and on most occasions they have been like lambs to the slaughter. On one rare occasion in the mid-1980s they salvaged an honourable tie. It's a losing streak that has taken on epic proportions, with comparisons to the quest to win the America's Cup.

For the record, Beverley Park is one of the five most popular public courses in Sydney. I'm proud to say I've been a member for 18 years at a club that groomed the likes of Bruce Crampton and Bruce Devlin. David Graham and Greg Norman both spent some time in the pro shop in their early years.

For some time now, I've been asking why we've never beaten the locals in Port Macquarie. Given they have beaten us on home soil in the annual return leg, surely we must have some chance? As always I've received a bemused look from tour veterans.

Various theories exist as to why we have never won at Port. One is local knowledge, with

'It's a losing streak that has taken on epic proportions, with comparisons to the quest to win the America's Cup.'

Port Macquarie considered at least two strokes more difficult than Beverley Park. Another is that the local hospitality distracts the Park lads from their mission. This theory carries some substance, especially when you consider the trip's slogan is simply, "Shut up and drink."

So it was with a little trepidation that I joined the 43rd quest to defy history. Understandably so, when you're in the company of characters such as "The Facilitator".

I played my part, however, in the defeat, registering 41 points with our president, Ernie Davidson, as we succumbed to the 43 points posted by Port president Bill McDonald and stalwart John Gentle. The final score this time was 22 / 1 to 9 / 1.

But it was on the trip home that I started to agree with Brendan Bull, a Beverley Park club champion and veteran of 22 trips. Brendan, who celebrated his 43rd birthday in Port, summed up the situation perfectly; "if we actually managed to win at Port, then I think it would lose a lot of the mystique." It's then I realised winning isn't everything.

R Clarke



Australian
Golf Digest

Above: Golf Digest editor Rohan Clarke summed up the nature of the traditional exchange visits in the January 2003 issue of the magazine.

Left: When the Beverley Park golfers celebrated the 10th anniversary of their clashes with Port Macquarie, most of those from the two clubs who had competed in all the encounters during the first decade posed for a photo. (Back row, left to right): Athol Platt, Don Low, 'Tacko' McLaren, Bob Huddleston; Seated: Geoff Sharpe, Bill Crozier, Dick Gentle; (Front row): Viv Davies and Ted Townsend.



eventually a few golfers from both sides put on an impromptu show. The old sporting cliché tells us: ‘What happens on tour, stays on tour!’ But a couple of names have been mentioned in despatches – Port’s Athol Platt and Basil Young and Beverley Park’s Gus Boyle. The floorshows have since been a major feature of the inter-club visits. Some of the acts have been quite memorable, some best forgotten. These days the floorshows are highly organised. Whether they are any better is a moot point!

The Beverley Park golfers have never managed to emerge triumphant in Port Macquarie. The nearest they got was a draw in 1986. At the presentation ceremony that weekend Port’s captain Peter Schroder wore a black armband. Port Macquarie golfers have managed eight victories and four draws on their trip south to the ‘big smoke’. Their most recent win was in 2010.

WHEN THE BEVERLEY PARK MEMBERS made their pilgrimage north in November 1987, four months after the death of Bob Huddleston, the hosts seized the opportunity to unveil a plaque in memory of Huddle, the man who gave so much of his life to Port Macquarie golf and was largely responsible for the now-traditional link with the Sydney club. It was a moving occasion.



Beverley Park visit: 20th anniversary beer coaster.



On their inaugural visit, many of the Beverley Park golfers came to grief trying to avoid the iconic pine tree on the first hole. The next year when they came to Port, they threatened to chop down the cause of their troubles.



Four Port stalwarts on the 30th anniversary visit of the Beverley Park Golf Club members: (From left to right) Roger Dulhunty, Kevin Abrahamsen, Charlie Uptin and Jim Banks.



Celebrating the 30th anniversary clash between Port Macquarie and Beverley Park, the two club captains, Peter Schroder (Port Macquarie) and Vic Malouf (Beverley Park). Check out what Vic is holding. Is this why he was dubbed ‘The Camel’?



Above: East your heart out, Engelbert Humperdinck! Barman Jim Nuttal wows the audience during a Beverley Park visit.

Far Left: Hear ye, oh, hear ye! It's midnight and all's well!

Left: The King is Alive! Alan Woodhouse is all shook up during one of the regular visits by the Beverley Park golfers.



Remembering a mate! The night of the unveiling of the memorial to Bob Huddleston.

They're Young at Heart

THE AUSTRALIAN VETERANS GOLF ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED in July, 1965, mainly to ensure the country had affiliation with the World Seniors Golf Association. It was the brainchild of several prominent businessmen who loved to relax on the golf course. Among them were two celebrated amateur stars – Jack Barkel, the 1936 NSW Champion of Champions who could boast no less than seven holes-in-one during his long career in golf, and stockbroker Harry Hattersley, one of Australia's greatest amateurs and winner of the 1930 and 1947 Australian Amateur Championships, the first when he was just 22 years old.

But it wasn't long before scores of veterans were forming their own associations in their home clubs around the country. Among the first were the veteran golfers of the Hastings area. Club president Jack Pike convened a meeting of the more mature members on August 10, 1967 and the Port Macquarie Veteran Golfers Association became a reality. The renowned Charlie Uptin was elected its first president, Pike secretary-treasurer and Keith Campbell captain. Also at the meeting that day were Glenn Fowler, Bert Hall, Jack Kennedy, Les Nelson, Dick Sheridan and George Young. Membership was open to any golfer over 50 years of age (the age limit was raised to 55 in 1973) and the annual membership fee was set at \$1. Golfers from nearby clubs – Camden Haven, Crescent Head, Kempsey and Wauchope – were invited to join. Competitions were held on the first Tuesday of every month over 11 holes (the number at that time completed as the Port Macquarie course took shape) as long as 10 members turned up to play. Waltons of Kempsey sponsored many of the major

competitions until 1980. There were 50 members that first year – an incredible figure considering that three years later there were only 200 veterans in all of Sydney, by which time there were 68 in Port, at a time when there was only four times as many in Port Macquarie itself.

Allan Kennedy, Keith Campbell and Alan Cummins were particularly successful in the early years, but members were keen to downplay the competitive nature of their competitions and in 1971 rejected a move to have a veterans' championship. The Port Macquarie Ladies Veteran Golfers Association began in 1972 but there was a hint of sexism when the men said they had no objection to them playing on the same day 'as long as the ladies occupied their own portion of the clubhouse and not the members' section'.

In 1973 membership topped the 100 for the first time (in a year when there were just 370 in metropolitan Sydney) and by 1981 had reached 200.

In the late 1980s the veterans were on a collision course with the golf club board. The board was trying to streamline the veterans' competition, still conducted over 11 holes, to allow other members to play a round of golf on the same day. It was suggested that the vets reduce their then weekly competition to nine holes. In historical notes published a decade later the association noted about the features of vets' golf in 1990: 'This was strongly opposed by the Vets and there was AN UNHAPPY RELATIONSHIP with the board for some time.' However, as the 17th



century proverb tells us: 'He who pays the piper may call the tune.' And the board won the day.

In 1994, Bill Perry (a committee member from 1991, captain in 1993 and 1994, and president from 1995 to 2000) became the first life member of Port Macquarie Veteran Golfers Association. By the centenary year of the club he was still the only one so honoured.

That same year the Australian Veteran Golfers Championship was held at Port Macquarie, with Earl Golding winning the title on his home course.

He flew to Launceston in Tasmania the following year to defend his crown but had to be content with being runner-up. Two years later, in 1997, he won the NSW Veteran Golfers Championship at Dubbo.

To coincide with the Port Macquarie Golf Club's 100th anniversary, the Australian Veteran Golfers Championships will return to the Hasting area in November 2010. It will be held on three courses, the Port links at Tacking Point, the Wauchope Golf Club and the Camden Haven Golf Club at Kew. Around 1000 golfers are expected to compete in a variety of championship events.



The Hon. Kevin Greene MP

MINISTER FOR GAMING AND RACING
MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

I would like to congratulate the President, Board and Members of the Port Macquarie Golf Club (PMGC) on their 100th Anniversary. I am delighted that the PMGC has chosen to mark this milestone by commissioning the publication of 'Birdies, Bunkers & Bamboos', chronicling the Club's 100 year history.

The PMGC can take pride in being one of the oldest Golf Courses in New South Wales and a Club with great foresight.

I understand that the Club originally enjoyed the ocean views available in what is now the town centre of Port Macquarie. Fortunately for the club and its members, the President and his Board at the time, recognised the limitations of the existing site and commenced a search for appropriate land that would allow the Club to remain viable and grow into the future.

Choices such as these are never easily undertaken and require a great deal of trust in the decision-makers of an organisation. In Australia, the majority of decision makers in local sports clubs, like this Club, are volunteers who dedicate their time, knowledge and energies to ensure the future viability of the club not only for its members but for the community at large. For this, I congratulate all those who have and continue to provide their services to this club and recognise their invaluable contributions.

I am certain that the Port Macquarie Golf Club will continue to prosper into the future and provide the local community with a venue at which all people regardless of age or ability can enjoy social activities or a good competitive game of golf.

I wish the Port Macquarie Golf Club, and successive generations of members, all the very best for the next 100 years.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Kevin Greene, MP
Minister for Gaming and Racing
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Life Members were a Winning Partnership

JACK AND BESSIE PIKE ARE THE ONLY HUSBAND-AND-WIFE TEAM to have been honoured as life members of the Port Macquarie Golf Club. And deservedly so! The pair was a team who worked continuously for the club, participating in and supporting everything that the club did. Over several decades there was rarely a function that either or both did not attend.

Jack Pike was a public servant and it was probably because of his administrative work in local government that he was a stickler for the rules. And as one fellow golf club member observed: 'He was a quiet, behind the scenes person... a doer not a front man.'

He was a long-serving committee man, serving as the treasurer and later vice-president before assuming the role of president in 1967. He was again steering ship in 1970 and 1971. Sadly, one of Jack's greatest contributions to the club came to nothing. For many years in the 1960s he thoroughly researched the club's history. Three decades later all his historical sleuthing was inexplicably 'lost'. Even photos of him and Bessie 'disappeared'. All that remained was some background published in the Port Macquarie News at the time of the completion of the 18 holes at Tacking Point in 1968.





Should it be Huddle's hole?

IF EVER AGAIN THE POWERS-THAT-BE DECIDE TO NAME HOLES at Port Macquarie, there can only be one for the 'second'. Huddle's Hole! When the new links were being constructed at Tacking Point most of those behind the move from the course in town reckoned the entire area of the current second fairway was far too boggy to be of any use. The logical step was to bypass it completely.

Committeeman Bob Huddlestone – Huddle as he was affectionately known – refused to listen to the prophets of doom. He could see it as what it is today – arguably the premier hole of the whole course.

'It just needs some hard work – and hard work has never worried us in the past,' was his credo. And, with the whole-hearted backing of Jack Pike and Glen Fowler, he gradually persuaded the other

golfers of the wisdom of his ways. The 'second' was the last of the 18 holes to be completed.

But that was Huddle...dare we say it...to a tee! He was blessed not only with sporting ability, but with a foresight and persistence lacking in so many people in everyday community life.

Sporting ability? Just take a look at the Club Honour Boards and it becomes quite clear just what a golfing talent he was. As far as club members are concerned, many believe he was the best left-hander ever to hit a golf ball in Port Macquarie. Some suggest he may have been the best of all the golfers, including the orthodox right-handers. Seven times he was Club Champion. With various partners he won 12 Men's Foursomes and nine Mixed Foursomes. All told, 28 titles – a great record

The end of an era – the last appearance on a golf course for Bob Huddlestone, posing on the 1st tee before he and John Lassig won the quarter-finals in the 1987 Uptin Knockout (Left to right): Lassig, Huddlestone and beaten opponents Barry Catterall and Tom Ptolemy).



whichever way you read it. At District level Huddle won three Lower North Coast Championships and several foursomes titles. He was not a long hitter off the tee – far from it. But in chipping and putting, the part of the game that really matters, none was better. Mates suggested that if you were looking for someone to sink a vital two-metre putt, Huddle was the bloke you would hope was your partner.

He was also prominent in other sports. He was a long-time member of the Port Macquarie Surf Club, starting out when he was just knee-high to a grasshopper. And his efforts on the Rugby League field were legendary. He is still rated among the best local players to pull on a jumper since World War II.

Perhaps his greatest role – and one too easily overlooked – was that involving the move to Tacking Point. He was a committeeman at the time and devoted his life to the new links, at a time when the club was struggling financially. He was club captain five times and honorary secretary for three years. Even when the first club manager Wal Freeman was appointed in 1958 it was a tribute to the respect with which his peers held him that Huddleston was kept on as golf secretary for the next 12 years.

The regular competitions with the Beverley Park Golf Club in Sydney would probably not have happened without Huddle's persistence. The Beverley Park hierarchy wanted reciprocal rights. Huddle persuaded them there should be exchange



Charlie Uptin unveils the Bob Huddleston Memorial, commemorating the work of his close friend.

visits and for the past 50 years that is what has happened. The exchange visits remain one of the highlights on the calendar of both the Port and Beverley Park clubs.

Bob Huddleston teamed with Stan Ross to win the Charles Uptin Fourball Knockout in 1965. Huddle was poised to win another in 1987 when he and John Lassig won their way through to the semi-finals, with a good win over Tom Ptolemy and Barry Catterall. In those days teams had to play on the date and time specified or forfeit. Sadly on July 19, a week before the semis, Bob Huddleston died suddenly in Sydney. He was just 59 years of age.

John went into the semi-final on his own and went down fighting to that year's eventual winners Lindsay Potts and Ray Horton. Bob Huddleston would have liked that final gesture.

As the club newsletter noted, when reporting his untimely death: 'Above all else, Bob Huddle was a truly great bloke.'



In the good old days...Bob Huddleston and Roger Dulhunty enjoy a sport of a different kind.

A Classic Tournament

MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW. The 19th century proverb could very well apply to Port Macquarie's best-known golf tournament – the Seaside Classic.

When the 18-hole links were finally completed in April 1967 the far-sighted members of the golf club board were already considering how to stage a tournament worthy of the course. Even before the official opening of the course 10 months later they had sewn the seeds for the future growth of the club's reputation and made their decision to stage the Seaside Golf Championship over 27 holes on a Sunday in July.



Ashleigh Odgers, winner of back-to-back titles in 2005 and 2006.

The tournament would be restricted to amateurs – but it would need some good prizes to attract the best from the country areas of New South Wales and, hopefully, some stars from Sydney. Local businesses in Port Macquarie were button-holed for their support – and the response was enthusiastic. After all, a major tournament would attract extra visitors who would spend money in the Hastings.

All but one was still excited after the tournament was over. Warwick St Clair, co-owner of the Retravisation store in Port Macquarie, had been approached to offer a major prize for anyone making a Hole-in-One at the 7th Hole. He was a bit reluctant at first and asked the board: 'What are the chances of anyone shooting a hole-in-one?' The reply was instantaneous: 'Oh, about one million to one!' St Clair was satisfied and gave a top-of-the-range transistor radio valued at \$90 – an expensive prize in those days. The first golfer to tee off at the 7th that day was Des Lasker from Armidale. And he aced it. One million to one? Well, the American magazine *Golf Digest* once tried to ascertain the odds from a leading insurance company actuary. The conclusion was one in 12,750 for an amateur golfer – still very, very long odds. St Clair, watching Lasker's ace from behind the 7th green just shook his head in disbelief.

It was a big day for New England golfers. The winner of the inaugural Seaside Championship was another fine sportsman from Armidale, Ron Worling who shot 108, one over par. The event



Harry Berwick, winner of the 1974 Seaside Classic

continued in its 27-hole format on one day until 1977 and the winners included some of New South Wales' finest amateurs. They included Barry Baker from Sydney's Bonnie Doon Golf Club in 1972. Baker had previously won the 1964 Australian Amateur Championship at The Australian course in Sydney.

Another was St Michael's stalwart Harry Berwick, who during his career won two Australian titles (1950 and 1953) and four NSW Amateur Championships (1953, 1955, 1971 and 1973) and was the first (and, at the time he came to Port, only) Australian amateur ever to be invited to compete in the US Masters at Augusta. He declined because the former bricklayer didn't want to go cap-in-hand to the St Michael's members for a handout to cover his expenses. Berwick won the Seaside Championship at Port in 1974.

However the locals were well-served by 16-times Port Macquarie champion Brian Sams, who

took out the Seaside title in 1973 and 1978. On the way to his first victory he set a course record of four under par 67.

Sams has fond memories of the first victory: 'It was the first time I had played in the Seaside tournament. Surprisingly, the course measured longer then than it does in 2010 and, of course, the old small ball and wooden drivers were standard equipment of the day.

'I completed the first nine at even par 36, but heard the top Newcastle player Gary Tozer, a talented player with a big reputation, mention that he was one under the card. I decided I needed to make something happen if I was to stay in touch. Stay in touch I did, with birdies at 11, 13, 15 and 16 to come home in 31 for the course record 67. I went on to claim the title with a score of 107. This was a record score for the event. I equalled this in 1976 and the score will remain the 27-hole record forever.'

THE TOURNAMENT TRULY CAME OF AGE IN 1978. It was extended to 36 holes played over two days and renamed the Seaside Classic. It achieved added importance by being one of the events for amateurs to win points towards the prestige annual award – the Vardon Trophy. For such a tournament there had to be at least 16 amateur players with handicaps of four or less competing. This ensured a class field of golfers displaying their talents.

But the Port Club went further. They decided to host the 'Seaside Week of Golf', with different events each day. Today these competitions include the Ladies Seaside Classic staged on Tuesday and Wednesday. The golf-fest concludes with the Men's Seaside Classic on the Saturday and Sunday of the August Bank Holiday Weekend.

Among the stars who have won the Seaside Classic are:

- Colin Kaye, a member of Australia's team that competed in the 1974 Eisenhower Cup (the



Colin Kaye on his way to victory in the 1985 Seaside Classic.

virtual world championship) at La Romana in the Dominican Republic. Kaye won twice at Port Macquarie, in 1981 and 1985.

- Paul Sheehan, one of the current stars of the Asian pro circuit. The then 22-year-old Sheehan shot a 139 to win the 1995 Seaside Classic.
- One of Newcastle's favourite sons, Nathan Green, who took out the 1997 title when he was also only 22. He turned professional the following year and has since won the 2006 New Zealand Open and the 2009 Canadian Open.
- Yet another 22-year-old winner was Brendan Smith, from Pymble on Sydney's North Shore. His 2008 victory at Port Macquarie came just seven weeks after he had shot the best individual score in the Junior World Cup at Chukyo Golf Course on the outskirts of Nagoya in Japan,

when the Australian Amateur team finished third to Norway and Sweden.

- Nathan Goodchild, of Muree Golf Club at Raymond Terrace. He shot a course record round of 63 when winning the 2002 Seaside crown.

Port Macquarie's own Phil Pye (1983 and 1988) and Lucas Main (1998 and 2001) have both won the Seaside Classic on two occasions. Main's first win, while he was still at school, provided an incredibly exciting finish. A tie with the defending champion Green forced a playoff. The first playoff hole (the 1st) was halved. On the second playoff hole (the 9th) both decided on all-out attack. Each hit 3 woods for their second shots and flew over the bamboos. Green's shot finished just past the green while Main was short in the opening between the bunkers. Green chipped down and two-putted for a par. Main chipped close and one putted for a birdie...and the Classic title. When Cromer's James Thomas captured the 2009 event, shooting rounds of 71 and 69 to finish on 140, he was four strokes clear of Arundel Hills' Nathan Woods. Thomas was only 17, too young to get his driver's licence, and had to be chauffeured by one of the members to the course each day. Hometown hero Brian Sams, 36 years after his first Seaside victory, shrugged off the years to shoot 73, 72 (145) and claim third place behind Thomas.

In the Ladies' Seaside Classic, the most successful is Vikki Tutt, who won four straight titles between 2000 and 2003. Two others have also won four times – Julie Swanson (1991-92, 2007 and 2009) and Gloria Hickey (1994-95, 1998 and 2004). Jane Horne and Ashleigh Odgers each have two Classics to their credit. Brett and Ashleigh Odgers provide the only instance of a father and daughter winning the Men's and Women's Seaside Classic.

Putting something back into the game, Phil Pye and his company Pye Provedores are heavily involved in the sponsorship of the Seaside Week of Golf and the Junior Seaside Classic. How fitting for a player who was one of Port Macquarie's finest juniors.



Port Macquarie's
Sesqui-centenary
 1818-1968

Seaside Amateur

CHAMPIONSHIP

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JULY 13, 14, 1968

\$400 TROPHIES VALUED AT \$400



*Motel Golf
 Week*

*Monday, July 15
 TO
 Saturday, July 20*



Program for the inaugural Seaside Classic of 1968, which also coincided with Port Macquarie's sesqui-centenary.

WINNERS OF THE SEASIDE CLASSIC

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Winner</i> | <i>Score</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| <i>(Over 27 holes)</i> | | |
| 1968 | R Worling (Armidale) | 108 |
| 1969 | M O'Connor (St Michael's) | 108 |
| 1970 | C Partridge (Wauchope) | 108 |

| | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----|
| 1971 | H Liddle (Beverly Park) | 110 |
| 1972 | B Baker (Bonnie Doon) | 112 |
| 1973 | B Sams (Port Macquarie) | 107 |
| 1974 | H Berwick (St Michael's) | 111 |
| 1975 | C Partridge (Wauchope) | 114 |
| 1976 | B Sams (Port Macquarie) | 107 |
| 1977 | M Fairhall (Coffs Harbour) | 108 |

(Over 36 holes)

| | | |
|-------|------------------------------|-----|
| 1978 | G Jensen (Queanbeyan) | 148 |
| 1979 | G Power (Tamworth) | 148 |
| 1980 | N Bullen (Uralla) | 144 |
| 1981 | C Kaye (The Lakes) | 148 |
| 1982 | J Sheedy (Armidale) | 147 |
| 1983 | P Pye (Port Macquarie) | 149 |
| 1984 | B Odgers (Waratah) | 150 |
| 1985 | C Kaye (The Lakes) | 146 |
| 1986 | G Tozer (Belmont) | 145 |
| 1987 | C McKay (Muirfield) | 144 |
| 1988 | P Pye (Port Macquarie) | 145 |
| 1989 | C McKay (Muirfield) | 145 |
| 1990 | L Peterson (Bardwell Valley) | 145 |
| 1991 | L Peterson (Bardwell Valley) | 144 |
| 1992 | B Oliver (St Michael's) | 141 |
| 1993 | S Moriarty (Taree) | 139 |
| 1994 | T Ostler (Ryde Parramatta) | 145 |
| 1995 | P Sheehan (Bonville) | 139 |
| 1996 | S Cutmore (Ashler) | 143 |
| 1997 | N Green (Waratah) | 143 |
| 1998 | L Main (Port Macquarie) | 144 |
| 1999 | S Jones (Bonville) | 140 |
| 2000* | S Jones (Mollymook) | 68 |
| | & B McIntosh (Liverpool) | 68 |
| 2001 | L Main (Port Macquarie) | 142 |
| 2002 | N Goodchild (Muree) | 141 |
| 2003 | M Thomson (Castle Hill) | 143 |
| 2004 | J Arnold (Cronulla) | 141 |
| 2005 | N Gibson (Springwood) | 142 |
| 2006* | G Ellis (Oatlands) | 71 |
| 2007 | G Scott (Nelson Bay) | 149 |
| 2008 | B Smith (Pymble) | 139 |
| 2009 | J Thomas (Cromer) | 140 |

* In 2000 second round rained out; in 2006 opening round washed out.

Golfing Garbo

WAS LESTER PETERSEN THE ONLY 'GARBO' to become an international golfer? Twice winner of the Seaside Classic (in 1990 and 1991), Peterson was working on a garbage truck when he was winning top tournaments in Australia and overseas.

Players on the practice green at the start of the 2009 Seaside Classic.



Lester Petersen in action at the 1990 Seaside Classic.

In fact, his was an intriguing life. As well as emptying the rubbish from people's bins in the early hours of the morning, at the same time he also worked as a charter pilot on many afternoons of the week.

'When I left school I worked as a garbo so I could spend each day playing golf,' he explained at the time. 'I had thoughts of turning pro, but I wasn't good enough.' But the fine golfer from Bardwell Valley Golf Club, just off the F5 Freeway in Sydney's south-east, was certainly good enough to win many a major amateur tournament and represent Australia in the international arena for more than two decades. His successes included the 1984 NSW Amateur Championship, which he won just 10 weeks after falling off a garbage truck and breaking an arm, the 1987 Malaysian Amateur, 1988 Australian Amateur and 1989 New Zealand Amateur.



After his back-to-back wins at Port Macquarie, Peterson was to add two victories (in 1992 and 1994) in Australia's second oldest amateur tournament, the Riversdale Cup at Mont Albert in Melbourne, and the 1995 Lake Macquarie Amateur Championship, regarded as among the top 100 amateur contests in the world. Now in his mid-fifties, Peterson is still playing good golf with wins in the 2008 NSW Mid

Amateur and the 2009 Hong Kong Mid Amateur Championships to his credit. And when one of the players in the Australian team competing in the 2009 Four Nations Cup (against Canada, Japan and New Zealand) at Laval-sur-le-Lac in Quebec was an 11th hour withdrawal, Peterson, the side's manager, stepped into the breach and won one of his three singles events and halved another.

I'm Mrs Thew

from Australia

OH, TO HAVE BEEN A FLY ON THE WALL when Jeannie Thew went to St Andrew's Golf Club in Scotland. It is generally accepted by golfers all over the world as being the spiritual home of their sport, which has been played there for more than 600 years. And the true believers are determined to visit their Mecca at least once in their lifetime.

There are actually seven courses at St Andrew's, on the North Sea coast south-east of Dundee. They include the Old Course which a fortnight after Port Macquarie's golfing centenary, hosted 'The [British] Open' for the 28th time. All courses are open to members of the public as long as they book far enough in advance and have enough money to pay the hefty green fees. But the historic clubhouse of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club founded in 1754 by 22 noblemen, university professors and wealthy landowners is another matter. You have to be invited inside.

To celebrate her 80th birthday Jeannie Thew made the pilgrimage to St Andrew's and before leaving Australia, she wrote to the club explaining her many years in golf and how much it would mean to be allowed into the hallowed halls of the clubhouse. No worries. In due course, she received a letter from St Andrews inviting her to have a look around.

At the entrance, she found herself behind a large American fellow who brusquely greeted the doorman with 'I'm from the States and I've come to see your club'. The doorman smiled politely: 'I'm sorry sir, this is a private club and only available to members.'

The doorman then turned his attention to Jean, who in her quiet unassuming manner introduced herself: 'I am Mrs Thew from Australia and I have a letter of introduction from your club's president.' The boisterous American was flabbergasted as Jean was ushered inside and taken on a tour that included a peek inside the trophy room. As she was leaving the doorman asked if she would like him to take a photo of her outside the clubhouse. To this day that photograph hangs proudly in the Port Macquarie Golf Club ladies' locker room.

The story sums up the character of Jeannie Thew, a very special lady and a truly great Australian. She was a former nursing sister who later worked for years in the hospitality business and only gave up work when she was 84 years old. A veteran of the original links she worked hard at fund-raising to pay for the new course and at working bees once the move to Tacking Point had been made.

She was a tough golfing opponent, but that didn't deter her from having fun. She would always insist on having a rum and orange before teeing off. She figured in much of the vaudeville entertainment at golf club functions with a classic portrayal of 'the tramp on the park bench' still the benchmark for those who have followed in her wake.

Jeannie was made a Life Member in 1978. She won her last trophy in 1989 when she was 91 and gave up her beloved sport soon after because of back problems. She passed away on May 20, 1994, aged 95.

MEMBERS OF
ROYAL & ANCIENT
GOLF CLUB
ONLY



Jeannie Thew continued playing until late in life.



At the home of golf – the clubhouse at St Andrew's in Scotland.

Who needs Sydney?

BETTY HICKS NEVER REALLY WANTED to come to Port Macquarie. After all, as young girl she had never been away from her home in the inner-city Sydney suburb of Canterbury. To her Port Macquarie might as well have been Timbuktu in the deserts of West Africa or Whitehorse in the Arctic wilderness of the Yukon in Canada. A long, long way away! But Betty had no choice. It was 1947, she was just out of Teachers College and in those days every young teacher had to spend at least two years in the country.

‘I had never heard of the place,’ she explained. ‘I had to look up the map to find out where it was. I tried everything to get out of it. It was to no avail and after a 12-hour train trip to Wauchope and a bumpy bus ride to Port, here I was ready for my new job as a primary school teacher in what was little more than a village.’

How quickly her attitude changed.

‘I was the new girl in town and all the young men wanted to meet me. I was a good ballroom dancer and that helped. And I got involved in all types of sport...hockey, tennis, the surf club...I think if you are involved in sport it’s a lot easier to meet people.’

It was little wonder that when the Education Department moved her back to Sydney, she didn’t want to leave. She stuck it out for a year in Sydney before throwing in her job and returning to Port Macquarie. As luck would have it, a vacancy occurred in the primary school and she snapped it up. Six decades later she is still living in the Hastings.



Betty took up golf in 1956 and, while getting her handicap down to 22, never threatened to win the club championship which was the almost-exclusive domain of Enid Hudson. However, Betty certainly showed her leadership qualities, taking over from Enid in 1963 for two years as president of the lady golfers. A year as club captain (1963) followed before a record 22 years as handicap manager.

‘I was always good at Maths,’ she said. ‘And in the days before computers, the handicap manager always had to have a head for figures. I took to it like a duck to water. I really enjoyed it.’



It's Good News Week. Betty Hoggan, Joy Spence, Coral Elliott, Rae Lassig and Betty Hicks on the day Betty was nominated for life membership.

Below: Betty Hicks is named the Golf Club Ball's Matron of Honour.

She is particularly proud of what the lady golfers did for the juniors: 'In the early years, the associates committee paid for lessons given to them by the pro, Ron Stead, and later by Terry Moore, on Saturday mornings. After the lessons they paid 10 cents and played a seven-hole competition for the prize of a golf ball. In the school holidays they played nine-hole competitions. The most outstanding was Gai Hollis who, in 1971, won the Het Leahy Memorial Trophy for the greatest reduction in her handicap during the year. She cut it from 33 to 17. No one has since been able to match Gai's effort.'

Betty is also proud of the fact that after three attempts from 1963 to 1970 the lady golfers – of which she was quite vocal – were able to persuade the board to allow them to wear slacks. But at the time the slacks were still only allowed on the golf course and not in the club house.

Betty Hicks, now 83, played her last game of golf in 2002. She was rewarded for all the time and effort she put into the club when made only the fifth lady life member, in 1988 – after Enid Hudson (1964), Bess Pike (1974) and Jean Thew and Maisie Dunn in 1978. In the centenary year she flies the flag for the lady golfers as their only surviving life member, with Peter Schroder and Frank Roberts representing her male counterparts.



She also flies the flag for Port Macquarie. When asked why she's still living here, her answer is simple: 'Who in his or her right mind would want to go back to Sydney?'

Who indeed!

BETTY HICKS never saw herself as a champion golfer. She just enjoyed the fun of a round of golf with her friends. But one time in 1995 she did go close to winning the Monthly Medal. Alas, she faltered. This prompted fellow lady golfer Marea Worner to pen the following poem.

A NEARLY MONTHLY MEDAL

This is the sad and sorry tale
That made us all quite sick;
We've all been down this street before
And we feel for Betty Hick[s].

What nearly was her crowning moment
Before her golfing days are through
'Twas on that fateful day last year
She had a 72!

With pars and birdies she couldn't believe
'Twas the best she'd ever played;
A Monthly Medal was within her grasp
She was sure to win her grade.

A brilliant round all things considered
It mightn't happen again;
But she blew it on a par of 5
She jolly well had a 10.

And on another instead of 3
Which on reflection would've been heaven
If only she'd had a 5 or 6, but no
She had a bloomin' 7.

In all those years of playing golf
She thought the scales she had tipped;
Imagine how she felt that day
When for the Medal she was pipped.

So we can't let the occasion pass
When she nearly proved her mettle,
And we'll pin upon her heaving breast
A Nearly Monthly Medal.

So if you'll now come forward
And tell us, once again
How close you came to winning gold
If you'd had a 9 instead of 10.

How one lousy putt would have made your day
Instead of giving you the pip,
Had fallen in the hole instead
Of sitting on the lip.

Or that great approach shot
The best you've ever seen,
Caught the bloomin' bunker
Instead of running up the green.

We all know how you must have felt
At the presentation;
And you forced a smile and said 'Well done'
And you joined the approbation.

But here among friends it's okay
As you sit there in your seat;
It's okay if you bang your fist
Or stamp your little feet.

We understand, and you wouldn't tell
Even if you cried,
Cos what it meant to you
And just how hard you tried.

So when the weather's cooler
After March of 96
Let's see you back again to win a Real Monthly
Medal
In the year of Betty Hicks.

Those magnificent men in their Flying Machines

BOTH COURSES USED by the Port Macquarie Golf Club over the past century have played host to small aircraft – the old links because they provided the most suitable landing strip in the town and Tacking Point because of an emergency.

On Saturday, February 5, 1921, the first aeroplane in history to fly into Port landed on what is today Oxley Oval. It was an Avro 504K biplane piloted by a Lieutenant Roberts* of the Australian Flying Corps, which eight weeks later would become the Royal Australian Air Force. The plane had arrived from Britain the previous May as one of the first five of 100 surplus World War I aircraft given to Australia as part of the so-called Imperial Gift of 1919. The British Government had an ulterior motive for the Imperial Gift. It had far too many planes and, by giving them to member nations of the Commonwealth, the defence chiefs were saved the embarrassment of having to destroy them. In an interesting sidelight, 21 months after the aircraft landed in Port Macquarie, another Avro 504K was to become the first plane operated by Qantas to carry a paying passenger.

The people of Port were ready to dig deep into their pockets. Lieutenant Roberts offered the residents an opportunity to take a short joy ride. It wasn't a cheap exercise for the locals, who had to pay £2/10/- for the privilege of a few brief minutes skimming low over the town, Hastings River and the ocean. But a large number quickly parted with their 'fifty bob' and, as the Port Macquarie News, noted: 'It was evidently a fascinating experience, and all who ventured were delighted with having a chance to fly before reaching the angelic state of existence.'

We assume there was no golf tournament that day!

SEVERAL AIRCRAFT LATER DROPPED IN on the old course at Oxley Reserve, but it was to be 88 years after the first landing that Port's golfers had their peaceful existence disturbed by the landing of an aircraft on today's Tacking Point links. It was Friday, September 11, 2009 when a seaplane en route from Forster to Port Macquarie encountered engine trouble as it was making its descent to the Hastings River.





It was Ladies Open Day, with many golfers from other clubs among the 159 playing on the course. Faye Gibbs, captain of the Port Macquarie Lady Golfers, was playing the 17th hole when she first saw the plane.

‘At first I just thought it was some idiot flying low along the beach.’ It wasn’t. Heading for the 18th Faye noticed the plane again, this time coming in very, very low. ‘Look at that!’ she shouted to her playing partners. ‘He’s going to land on the 12th fairway.’

By that time the seaplane’s engine, which had been spluttering had completely cut out. The plane banked, zipped over the bamboos and the 12th tee and despite having only floats and no wheels landed perfectly on the 12th fairway, pulling up after about 40 metres. Miraculously, the aircraft missed one group of ladies on the tee and another group halfway up the fairway. All of them rushed to the stricken plane to make sure the pilot and his passenger weren’t injured.

The pilot later noted: ‘I was very concerned about the group on the tee. My motor had cut out

and was gliding in to land. So the ladies wouldn’t have heard me coming and wouldn’t have seen me until I was a few feet off the ground. Landing on the golf course was a much better option than landing on the beach, where the floats would have dug into the sand and the plane would have probably flipped over.’

Port members Pat Smith and Marge McLaren were two of the ladies on the tee when the drama unfolded, playing with two visitors. Marge was cool as a cucumber. The competition’s accuracy drive was being played on the 12th hole and, after the plane had been removed, Marge calmly played her tee shot and won.

One of the visiting lady golfers summed it all up: ‘You people at Port certainly know how to put on something special for your Open Day.’

** There is no record as to which of the four Aussie World War I flying aces with the same surname was the Lieutenant Roberts who flew into Port Macquarie. Was it Eric, Frank, John or Ken? We’ll never know.*

The Father of Invention

ONE CAN ONLY WONDER how the mind of Alan Cumming worked. He would look at everyday tasks and think of an invention to make each of those tasks easier to fulfill. Perhaps there was a touch of Leonardo de Vinci lurking in the back of his brain. Like Leonardo many of his inventions never came to fruition and Cumming would have understood 'The Master' who noted: 'Although human subtlety makes a variety of inventions...it will never devise an invention more beautiful, more simple or more direct than does nature.' But, then again, Leonardo never played golf at Tacking Point where human subtlety gave nature a chance to bloom.

Part of a family that had its roots in Port Macquarie in the late 19th Century, Cumming was a member of the surf lifesaving team which won Port its first R&R Championship. He was also a talented Rugby League player.

Cumming carved out a career as a designer of Ford motor vehicles (notably station wagons) in the Victorian city of Geelong. As a young man he enlisted during World War II and was staff officer to Air Vice-Marshal Thomas Hurley, the chief of medical, dental and nursing services for the RAAF. Cumming's inventive mind was already at work and he conceived and supervised the construction of the world's first steel ambulance. It was not long before almost all ambulances in Australia – both military and civilian – were built to Cumming's design. And much of the rest of the world followed suit. For his efforts he was eventually awarded a British Empire Medal.

Three years earlier he had returned to his home town, where he was soon actively involved in the golf club, bringing in fresh ideas which led to such changes as a new system of accounting, a new constitution and the introduction of postal voting.



From 1979 to 1982 he was president of the club, but he would play down his own efforts: 'It is the hard work of the members who physically assisted the development of the course that count. The efforts of these people often are unsung. Yet it is obvious that there was more support from other members many more improvements could be achieved...and in a lot less time.'

Cumming only stepped down from the presidency because he decided to retire to Nerang on the Gold Coast.

Retire? Well, he still continued looking for more inventions. What about an all-plastic, mobile golf bag and buggy that would fold up like a suitcase and fit into the boot of a car? Why potential manufacturers never seized on his invention we will never know!

Bricks and Mortar



The clubhouse from the old links found a new home at Tacking Point.

TO SUGGEST THAT THE FIRST CLUBHOUSE on the Oxley Reserve was quite primitive is no exaggeration. It was little more than a shed with two basic toilets. But it was essential to have a clubhouse – and that’s why such a major effort was carried out to move it from in town to Tacking Point. Within a year, the men’s toilet had to be extended and a year later the first timber and fibro extension for what could pass as a ballroom – and a four-sided brick barbecue – were built. Luxury!

It was only a temporary measure and plans were soon underway to build a completely new clubhouse. Several proposals were considered.

One, by the architect who designed the Macquarie Hotel next to the Port Macquarie Town Green, was ideal and the final structure would probably have still been in operation today had the plan been accepted. But, unfortunately, the club’s finances were insufficient to accept the proposal.

In late 1958, the Sydney firm Laurie & Heath Architects presented sketch plans of a possible clubhouse. They fitted the bill and the company was told to go ahead and draw up working plans for the new two-storey brick building. It was a bold move as the club had budgeted only £18,000 for the clubhouse and president Charlie Uptin and board member Ted Townsend were aware that all

that money – and more – would be spent on the construction, leaving nothing for furniture and fittings. Hopefully the members would find a way to overcome that hurdle – just as they had dealt with financial problems in the past.

The first hurdle was getting a loan. The council supported the club in principle.

Nevertheless the loan application looked to have little chance of success when the council made a submission to the Australian Loan Council. It was only some heavy lobbying to Pat Hills, the NSW Minister for Local Government who used to spend his annual holidays at Port and was intriguingly described as a ‘country member’ of the golf club, that eventually bore fruit. The Port Macquarie Golf Club later made him an honorary member in recognition of his assistance. It’s not a case of what you know, it’s who you know!

In June 1959, local builder Darby Olsen signed a contract to build the new clubhouse at a cost of £18,120. And, with a close eye on the construction from Townsend and Dick Gentle, by December 19 the building was ready for use. Club member Ken Mason, a licenced builder, helped reduce costs. He pointed out a few changes to the original plan that would improve the final product and make savings of around £1400. He also officially supervised work free of charge – saving some £550 that would normally have been paid to the architects. On top of Olsen’s fee, £2500 was spent on fittings. The Associates donated the money for cooking equipment, tables and chairs. The final cost was around £20,000.

Port Macquarie Mayor (and former golf club president) Les Crisp officially opened the new clubhouse in April 1960.

IT WASN’T LONG BEFORE THE POPULARITY of the golf club – both among members and visitors – forced the board to start thinking about extensions. In 1965 the club hierarchy bit the bullet and decided to seek a loan for the work.

Basically it meant an extension of the lounge area to the north, a new verandah on the eastern side and the provision of store room on the ground floor. This would later become the pro-shop. The council agreed to the extensions and supported the loan to finance them. A sub-committee comprising Townsend, Gentle, Jack Pike and Bill Crozier agreed to sketched plans presented by local builders and club members Frank Johnson and Hastings Hicks, who suggested the work be done on a cost plus basis. The extensions (\$34,000 for construction work and \$3000 for carpet, furniture and fittings) were officially opened by the then president of the NSWGA Don Dwyer at a dinner-dance attended by 180 people on February 22, 1966.

There were more dramatic changes in 1978. After the council granted a new 25-year lease on the golf course, the club borrowed \$150,000 from the Commonwealth Bank and, with finance already put aside, refurbished the whole clubhouse at a cost of just over \$286,000. The construction work was again done by Olsen. Among the highlights were an impressive new entrance and foyer, new stairway access to the ground floor and golfing area, a 30-metre extension to the north of the lounge area, a new dining area, kitchen and snack bar, new bar area and dance floor and a more spacious layout downstairs. There was also striking, landscape work around the outside of the clubhouse. The new-look clubhouse was opened by the NSWGA president Lionel Barnett on November 11.

Refurbishment and fine-tuning has continued over the years. This has included the building of a special balcony on the clubhouse in 2007 following laws that prohibited smoking in restaurants and bars. Members and visitors wanting to smoke cigarettes needed some place to gather.

Smokers or not – how many clubs can boast the magnificent panorama than those enjoying the Port Macquarie clubhouse do each and every day? We rest our case, Your Worship!

Right: The reconstruction of the clubhouse was a 'tall' order.

Below: Building a bigger and better clubhouse.



Some Enchanted Evening.



Sewerage Proposal On The Nose

EVERYONE REALISES THAT THEIR HOMETOWN NEEDS A SEWERAGE SYSTEM, but none of us ever want the treatment plant anywhere near where we live, work or play. So it was predictable that when, in May 1975, the Port Macquarie Council proposed using part of the golf course as a sewerage treatment works the members would be up in arms.

The system would cater for the growing number of residents in the Lighthouse Beach area and future housing developments south of the golf course. The council planned to use a timbered area surrounded by the 2nd, 6th, 7th and 8th fairways – land that had been earmarked by the club for a future practice area. It was planned that the treated effluent be pumped into holding ponds to be used later as irrigation around the course. By building the plant on the golf links the council would eventually save ratepayers some \$350,000.

To try to smooth the ruffled feathers, the council hired two small planes and flew members of the golf club board to Lismore to view a similar system which had been landscaped like a peaceful public park with lush lawns that attracted an abundance of bird life. The most telling feature of the Lismore plant was the lack of any smell.

The board had little, if any, bargaining power. The council owned the course and the club was there on a relatively short lease. In a secret ballot at a meeting the following April, 67 members agreed to the council's proposal with three dissenters asking that their names be recorded in the minutes. Sadly

the plant never ended up like the pristine treatment works at Lismore and had a fair share of problems over the years. There were troubles with the smell, unwanted leakage and the high salt content in the treated water deemed it unsuitable for use on the greens.

But in return for the support the council helped in other ways. It extended the club's lease for 25 years, organised a \$150,000 loan for extensions to the clubhouse, resumed some land adjacent to the course to extend the playing area and connected the club to both the town water supply and sewerage systems. The council also agreed to pay for all maintenance and running costs for the club's pumping stations used in the irrigation of the fairways and greens.

In the centenary year, the technology used in the sewerage treatment works is now long out-of-date and hopefully it will soon be decommissioned. The debate over the proposal is now just a memory – but the ugly scar of the treatment works remains.



Water, Water Everywhere

GOLFERS ARE SOMETIMES INCLINED TO TAKE FOR GRANTED the lush fairways and greens on which they play their favourite sport. It is only when water restrictions suddenly stop them from watering the front lawns of their homes that they realise how important are the sinking of bores and the instillation of automatic watering systems at the golf course. Without them, at times it would be akin to playing on the Nullarbor Plain.

There is no dustbowl at Port Macquarie thanks largely to Gilbert Watt and Alan Kennedy whose labour of love resulted in the instillation of the watering system in the mid-1970s. 'I took time off from my building work for five months to do the job,' Watt recalled years later. 'The Von [Alan Kennedy, who got his nickname from the famous Sydney golfer Norman von Nida] and I laid 52km of pipe. We were paid \$40 a week pocket money with a free lunch.'

The system was officially opened by club stalwart Charlie Uptin in 1974 in a ceremony at the 9th green. But before that Watt recalled: 'It was the happiest moment of my life when the water was first turned on and we found only six leaks.'

Well, one of the happiest! Another was his arrival in Port Macquarie in 1950, the culmination of a concerted effort to migrate from his native Scotland. A ship's carpenter he wrote no less than 70 letters to Australian authorities seeking an assisted passage Down Under. The letters eventually bore fruit when he and his new wife were sponsored by Alan's brother Stewart Kennedy. It cost the couple £20 – they were two of the so-called ten quid migrants. Watt settled in Port and started a building business and eight years later, when the

company was firmly established, he was ready to follow the Kennedys onto the golf course.

'Stewart instructed me in the rudiments of the game,' Watt explained. 'He wouldn't let me play until I had been given lessons on the grip, stance, swing and, most importantly, course etiquette.' He started with a handicap of 36, which he reduced to 18 in just six months and several years later to a very respectable 8.

Over the years he served as the golf club's handicapper as well as being a member of the course and match committees and responsible for checking the score cards to determine 'ball winners' in the



Gilbert Watt and Peter Coombe keeping the course up to scratch.

Thursday competition. He was also heavily involved in planting blue couch grass on many of the fairways.

Watt's daughter Sheena Gunn continued the family golfing tradition. She won the Ladies Championship three times (in 1997, 1998 and 2008). She also won the mixed foursomes title three times, with Paul Hanson in 2000, with her son William six years later and with Terry Davis in 2009 and the ladies foursomes with Bernice Ellis in 2006. She also worked tirelessly as one of the organisers of the Saturday business women's competition.

PORT MACQUARIE GOLFERS HAVE BEEN BLESSED by the fact that there was never a shortage of bore water for the 18 holes at Tacking Point. It all goes back to the time, around six decades ago that the company mining rutile in the area needed a good supply of water to separate all the components of the aggregate that was dug up. The first bore was located adjacent to the mining company's plant in what is now the site of a caravan park. However, within three months this proved inadequate. Residents at the caravan park still use this bore water today as they do not need the quantity the miners required. Test drills located a suitable bore to the south – and this bore is still in use.

When the company decided to close its plant the firm's hierarchy offered the bore and the pipeline to the golf club. But for some inexplicable reason, the club's board declined the offer. Maybe they thought that Port received enough rainfall to keep the course, then only 11 holes, in good condition. It wasn't long before the board members realised their error. They needed more water. But by that time the mining company had removed about half-a-kilometre of the piping – a condition of them being allowed to operate the bore on Crown Land. The golf club hurriedly replaced the 500m of pipe.

Today, the whole pipeline is located under now-mature trees, scrub and swamp wetlands. Some of the massive trees that have grown over and alongside the pipeline have given the golf club plenty of grief over the years with roots causing ruptures and blockages.



The rutile mine bore pump.

A new bore was sunk in 2001 and, with a new submersible pump, it is possible to extract some seven litres of water per second – plenty for the needs of the course. But that is just a part of the upgrade. During the past three years the club has spent around \$800,000 upgrading the watering system and much more is planned to combat the ravages of time as pipes begin to leak and break. There is a new state-of-the-art pump and a high-tech computerised sprinkler system.

BUT ALL THE WATERING WOULD BE OF LITTLE USE if it wasn't for the dedicated green keepers and associated staff over the years, notably 'Bluey' Hicks, Pat Trotter, Peter Coombe and Steve Brennan. Golfing folklore has it there is no such thing as a rough at Augusta, the home of the US Masters, one of the four Grand Slam titles. Well, the people of the Hastings have a different slant on the Augusta tale: 'I wish my lawn was as good as the rough at Port Macquarie Golf Course.'

John Lassig – Never an unkind word

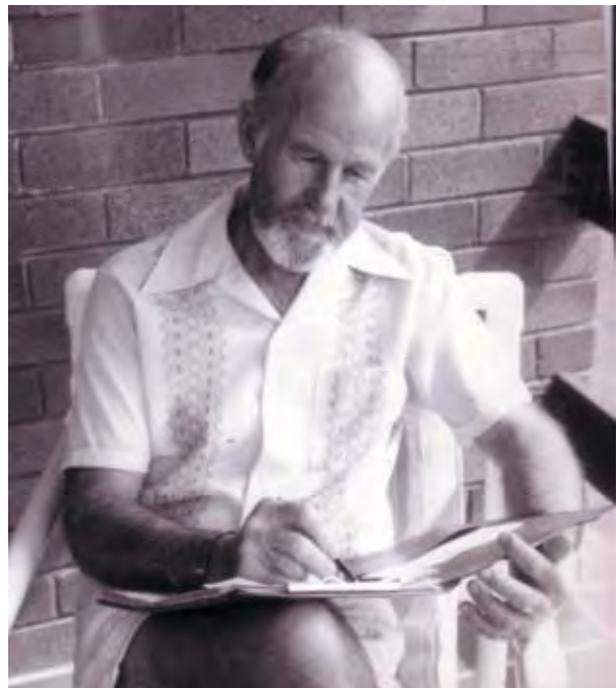
JOHN LASSIG WAS A MAN OF FEW WORDS.

His philosophy was that you only talk when you have something to say. So when Lassig opened his mouth everyone stopped to listen. After all, he had seen more of life than most people.

The Brisbane-born accountant was just 17 years old when he enlisted as an Able Seaman in the Royal Australian Navy to fight in World War II. Less than two years later, on July 23, 1943, he was on board the HMAS Hobart in the Solomon Islands when the cruiser was hit by a Japanese torpedo meant for the flagship HMAS Australia. Thirteen crew members and a US Navy officer who was on board were killed. Lassig was unhurt but never forgot that day.

After he was discharged from the Navy in 1946, Lassig studied accountancy by correspondence. He worked as an accountant at Dunwich on North Stradbroke Island for Titanium and Zirconium Industries (TAZI, now part of Iluka) which was mining the beaches and dunes in south-east Queensland's Moreton Bay. He moved to the Hastings in 1960, as chief accountant for the Herons Creek Timber Mills, owned by one of the companies that now make up the giant Rio Tinto group.

Upon arrival he joined the Port Macquarie Golf Club and was soon elected to the committee. He was club captain for three years from 1967 and, when he retired three years later, he utilised his talents as club treasurer for seven years. He was very shrewd with investments and was a genius with figures. Nothing on the books escaped his scrutiny. On the other hand, he never shirked the hard yakka. One



John Lassig in a pensive mood

Port stalwart noted: 'At the time of John's arrival we had a rugged 11-hole course. John did his share, and more, in the hard physical work that was needed at the time to get the place into reasonable shape.'

In 1988 he was rewarded with life membership of the club. He died six years later after a battle with cancer. A member, who wished to remain anonymous, explained: 'John Lassig was a mild mannered, quietly-spoken man who loved life. He never had an unkind word to say about anyone.'

Bob Cains – A Port Prophet

ONE OF THE UNSUNG HEROES OF GOLF IN THE HASTINGS was Bob Cains. When he passed away in the club's centenary year, there were more than a few golfers who openly wondered why he had never been honoured with life membership.

What is it they say? 'A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country.' There is no doubt Cains gave his all for golf in the town where he was born. He was a graduate of Kempsey High School and, like so many others involved in the centenary of local golf, became a teacher. He was sent to teach in the Werris Creek area across the Great Dividing Range from Port. There he was persuaded to take up golf by another teacher who made his mark on that sport in the Hastings, Jack Lewin.

Cains was transferred to Port Macquarie Primary School in 1958 and later transferred to Port Macquarie High School where he taught as History Head Teacher. As soon as he arrived back in his hometown he joined the fledgling golf club and was soon elected to the committee, on which he served for 11 years. In addition, for seven years (in three separate spells) Cains served as president of the club (1972-73, 1977-78 and 1983-85). He was not afraid of confronting controversy. He was in the hot seat at one stage when the clubhouse was extended amid fierce opposition. The rebuilding went ahead but the furore cost him his job as president. There was no doubting his love for the club as witnessed by his staunch opposition to the use of the course by the council to install the Pasveer sewerage system for Port Macquarie residents. But he was pragmatic. When the negotiating stopped he knew he had no option but to bow to the council's wishes.



Perhaps his lasting legacy was his push for the Sunday mixed competition. It is now regarded as one of the strongest mixed competition on the North Coast

Bob had a profound love of the game and was at the club every day, heading out to Tacking Point after a hard day's work. If his official duties allowed it, he would grab a few holes of golf to wind down. His efforts on behalf of the lady golfers were to be expected because his wife Yvonne shared his enthusiasm for golf. She and Marj McLaren are among the female members of the club who have the most years of regularly participating in Port Macquarie.

Concentration: The Name of The Game

ALL THE GREAT SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN will tell you the secret to success is concentration. The celebrated Olympic 400m hurdles champion Edwin Moses, who strung together a record 122 consecutive race victories between 1977 and 1987, put it simply: ‘Concentration is why some athletes are better than others.’ Golfing legend Arnold Palmer also swore by concentration: ‘What do I mean by concentration? I mean focusing totally on the business at hand and commanding your body to do exactly what you want it to do.’

High school teacher Jack Lewin, the winner of seven straight Port Macquarie Club Championships between 1967 and 1973, certainly knew how to concentrate. In a short biography written after he suddenly transferred to Springwood in the Blue Mountains in 1976, an anonymous fellow club member noted about Lewin’s golf: ‘He was not the sweetest swinger. But he made up for that with loads of what most golfers lack – concentration. He was also something of a wizard with the putter, from off the green as well as on it.’ Lewin wasn’t always such a wizard. As he noted about a two-year stint at Monaro High School in Cooma during the decade before he moved to Port Macquarie: ‘It was there I picked up an annoying attack of the putting yips which persisted for almost two years.’

Lewin was a natural sportsman, doing well as a youth in Rugby League, cricket and tennis. While attending Sydney Teachers College in the late 1940s he excelled as a middle-distance runner with the Western Suburbs Athletics Club, helping Wests to success in the 1947-48 Sydney A-Grade Championship. When given his first appointment as a teacher, at Curlwaa Public School, on the Murray River near Mildura, Lewin tried his hand at yet another sport, Australian Rules football, and reaped his reward when the local team won the 1949 Premiership.

He turned to golf with a passion when he moved to the New England town of Werris Creek in 1953 and within a year had lowered his handicap from 27 to 8. He attributed his success to learning from the good players – but it was undoubtedly his powerful concentration that was behind the incredible improvement.

After moving to Tamworth in 1960, Lewin overcame his putting problems and in doing so lowered his handicap to 4. It was in Tamworth that he married Vi (nee Porter) and the couple



was later to become parents to Kathryn, Megan and Belinda. Lewin introduced golf as a school sport with considerable success. One of his pupils, Terry Hayes, went on to become professional at the Tamworth Golf Club for three decades. Hayes was also later the coach of another of Lewin's schoolboy protégés, Mark Hensby, who in 2005 won the Scandinavian Open (at 22 under par), finished tied for third in the US Open (at Pinehurst, North Carolina) and tied for fifth in the US Masters (at Augusta, Georgia).

Lewin also started golf as a school sport in Port Macquarie, with 14-time club championship winner Phil Pye as one of those he mentored. Lewin won his first Port title after finishing square with Bruce King over 72 holes of stroke play in 1967 before winning the 18-hole play-off. His run of successes was halted by Brian Sams in 1974, the year Lewin served as club captain. Lewin's last 'major' victory was in 1979 when he and Neil Richardson won the Springwood Country Club Foursomes Championship. But Lewin continued playing into his eighties.

***FOOTBALL NOTE:** At Tamworth, Lewin coached a group of talented youngsters in Rugby League through high school, as they grew from the 7st 7lb weight division to the 9st 7lb. They won all their competitions at schoolboy football carnivals. But when they reached the Open Weight division, he was passed over as coach in favour of a newcomer to the Tamworth teaching staff. It is history how 'Lewin's Lads' won the prestige University Shield as the best school side in NSW, catapulting their new coach Roy Masters into a career that eventually saw him at the helm of Western Suburbs and St George first-grade sides.*

For the Good of the Community

IT IS A CRUEL FACT OF LIFE that sporting clubs – big and small – cannot survive without the support of sponsors. In the case of the large clubs and the sporting tournaments they stage, the sponsors are only in the picture for the publicity they can generate out of their financial assistance. But for organisations such as the Port Macquarie Golf Club the sponsorship is usually much more than that. It is a commitment to the local community or members opening their wallets to thank the club for what they have given the sponsor personally.

In the early days, local businessmen and women sponsored events. The fruit growers were prominent. Later other golf club members were generous. The Port Macquarie News, owned by Charlie Uptin and his family, were always involved. Then there was the John King Day. King, who owned a pharmacy in Horton Street next to Blairs Newsagency, was patron of the club for many years and put up the prizes for a trophy day that started in the late 1950s and continued until King sold his business in 1972. The event continued for a total of 31 years under a series of sponsors including Merv Green and the Commonwealth Bank.

What about the Rex-Rob Knockout? It was an event instituted when the 18-hole course was opened. A line-up of 32 qualified from a stroke play contest for a final match play count-down. It was named after the two members who subsidised the competition, Rex George and Brian Robertson. From 1972 it was the Rex-Colt knockout. When Laurie Coulton joined George as a co-sponsor. The tournament has continued over the years since

1986 under different names. It is now the Port Tyreworld Knockout.

Then there have been the charity days – the most successful of all, the so-called Cot Fund Day. It was instigated in 1959 with the redoubtable trio of Dick Gentle, Ted Townsend and Max Starr to the forefront as the organisers. At first, half the money raised went to the now-defunct Camperdown Children's Hospital – its facilities were later transferred to Westmead and Randwick – and the other half to local Port Macquarie charities selected by the Rotary Club. In those early times the equivalent of \$12,000 in today's currency were raised on one day through entry fees, raffles, auctions and games of chance.

Old Port golfers remember Gentle's efforts with pride. He was a former miner who became the proprietor of a hardware shop in Horton Street, opposite the stairs up to the Catholic Church. Customers would go in to buy some nuts and bolts or maybe a screwdriver and come out with a pocket-full of raffle tickets as well.

'Dick Gentle must have been the greatest seller of raffle tickets in the history of Port Macquarie,' laughed one golf club member. 'He had the gift of the gab and would persuade you to part with your last quid. He'd tell you that you didn't need it but the sick kids at the Children's Hospital did. How could you refuse?' And over the years some 50 local charities received financial support from that special day on the Port Macquarie calendar.

The annual Coca-Cola Sporting Fund Day has been another major charity event. It began in 1998 at the behest of the then-mayor Wayne Richards. The aim was to raise money for the Mayor's Sporting Fund which sponsored youngsters in their efforts to make a mark in state and national sporting events. After Richards' death Coca-Cola stepped into the void. More than 30 teams usually take part with celebrities roped in to add colour to the occasion. For example, in November 2009 the winning team was David Relf's T-Shop team that included former Rugby League Test forward Paul Sironen, current young Parramatta star Daniel Mortimer and larrikin jockey Allan Robinson. The day usually raises in excess of \$10,000.



Don Moore

DON MOORE, PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB BETWEEN 1962 AND 1966, was instrumental in forging an on-going partnership between the golf club and the Port Macquarie RSL Club, of which he was also president for many years. He wanted more than the ad hoc relationship that had seen Port's lone poker machine (owned by the golf club) transferred between the two clubs each week. In 1965, he persuaded the RSL Club

to put up money for the construction of the 12th Hole as a memorial to Australia's servicemen who never returned from battle. For many years it was dubbed the 'Kokoda Track', but that seems to have been forgotten. Perhaps in this centenary year, the name should be revived.

A dozen RSL Club employees started what evolved into what is now the Panthers Social Golf Club in 1970. Because they were never all off work on the same day they would shoot a round whenever it was possible – with the victory going to the best stableford score of the week. The following year it was put on a permanent footing by the Port Macquarie RSL Sports Council, with up to 120 members playing each Sunday. The first president was Dennis Farnham, captain Ian Bain, secretary Ken Lucas and treasurer Hank Steel. It grew rapidly and today it is regarded as one of the most successful...if not the most successful social golf club in New South Wales...probably because it is run like a real golf club and is not just a few friends getting together to play 18 holes.

Also spawned in the RSL Club was the Legacy Golf Day. A group of young men – not ex-servicemen – who drank in the club wanted to make a worthwhile contribution to the Legacy cause. They started the Port Macquarie Junior Legacy Group and began running raffles in their club. Most were golfers so the natural progression was to organise a fund-raising golf day. This was first held in 1968 and has continued annually to this day, with a small hiccup one year when it was twice washed out. Two events are run – a competition for social club members in the morning and one for members of the golf club in the afternoon. The major prize is the Pat McDade Memorial Trophy for the best stableford score of the day. The trophy honours the work of a local ex-serviceman who played a major role in the early days of Junior Legacy. All funds raised go to the Hastings Legacy Club to help in the welfare of widows and wards in the district. One of Junior Legacy's major projects was the purchase of land between Home Street and Oxley Crescent for Legacy Village.

TEACHERS HAVE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE in Port Macquarie golf. Currently two of the three surviving life members – Betty Hicks and Peter Schroder (captain for a record 19 years) – are retired teachers. Captain in the centenary year is another former ‘chalkie’ Keith Heap. So, too, was the club’s most successful golfer, Brian Sams (16 times club champion and winner of two Seaside Classics). Jack Lewin also won seven club championships. The teachers have been sponsors of the Saturday competitions for many years.



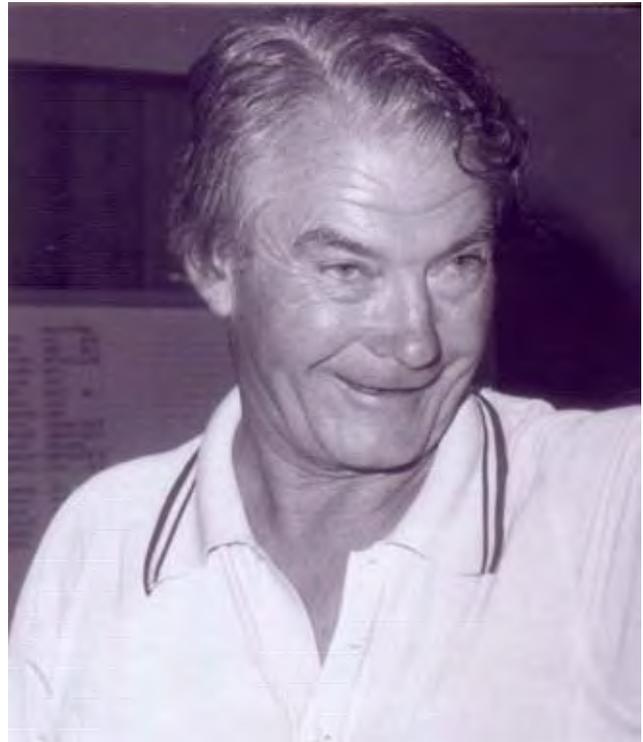
Three of the Kennedy brothers in their cricket club blazers – Jack (rear), Stewart (front left) and Allan (front right) – with good friend Geoff Haywood. The Dodge delivery truck for the family’s Port Macquarie pineapple plantation was a familiar sight in the Hastings. The Kennedys and other local growers were major sponsors of the golf club in the early years at the new links.

The Price of Freedom

JOHN PUFFETT TRULY KNEW THE MEANING OF FREEDOM and democracy. In the late 1960s he gave up everything for the sake of his family's life. At the time he owned a successful farm in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). But the British colony was wracked by a civil war between groups led by two autocratic black leaders, Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo. The white minority government of Ian Smith was about to make its Unilateral Declaration of Independence. And the United Nations looked certain to impose Draconian sanctions. Puffett tried to sell his farm. But who in their right mind would want to buy something the warring factions had said they were going to confiscate if they came to power – and Mugabe eventually did seize them all when he was triumphant.

The Puffetts left with just a handful of change in their pockets...and ended up in Port Macquarie. What a contrast it was – from turmoil to tranquility! Puffett first ran a motel before getting a job with the Department of Main Roads and, as he had played golf back in Rhodesia, soon joined the golf club here, throwing himself into the life of the club with abounding enthusiasm. A quiet, unassuming man, he served as handicapper and vice-president for a period of 13 years before taking over as president in 1991 and 1992. He was especially fond of the Sunday mixed events for which he processed the cards over many years. His work ensured the success of these events.

After 'Puff' retired from the board he was awarded life membership at the 1993 annual meeting.



John Puffett



Puffett escaped the despot Robert Mugabe



Winning isn't Everything

PETER SCHRODER WOULD GET ON WELL with Jack Nicklaus. Both have expressed a similar philosophy towards their beloved sport of golf. Basically that winning isn't the be all and end all!

Nicklaus, the legendary American golfer who won 18 Grand Slam events and another 96 professional tournaments, noted: 'This is a game. That's all it is. It's not war.' And, on another occasion: 'It's great to win, but it's also great fun to be in the thick of any hard-fought contest against opponents you respect, whatever the outcome.'

Schroder, a record 19 times club captain at Port Macquarie (1974 to 1992), pointed out in the club's newsletter *Golf Talk* in May 1983: 'It's not winning that really matters. It's great if the bounce of the ball favours you and you go on to win. But it's more important to me to have the fellowship this great game provides. If you fail today, there's always tomorrow. After all golf lasts a lifetime.'

The quiet, unassuming science teacher arrived in Port Macquarie from the north-western NSW town of Boggabri in 1963 and within days had joined the golf club. Almost every afternoon he would head from the high school, ironically on the site of the old links, out to Tacking Point. But as *Golf Talk* pointed out it was not to practice, or play a few holes, but rather to see how things were going. Maybe it was a chat to the Associates or the juniors, with whom he was closely involved for a quarter of a century. Or just to check something on the course.

He was a leading light for almost four decades in the Lower North Coast Golf Association – president for 19 years (1983-2002), treasurer for 26 years (1973-99) and elected Life Member in 1993. He was also a Country Zone delegate to the NSW Golf Association from 1982 to 1987.

His efforts at Port have been tireless. In June 1974 he was among the prime movers in launching a new format for the Thursday fourball competition, with balls being distributed on single scores. He also played a prominent role in the organisation, marketing and sponsorship of the Seaside Classic from its origins in 1967 to the eventual Seaside Week of Golf. In 1974 he was involved in organising the club's first Pro-Am event.

Schroder was responsible for the contents and production of the program book for 23 years (1970-93). It was on Schroder's initiative that *Golf Talk* was launched in 1982 to keep members up to date on what was happening in their club. And he was heavily involved with the match committee to organise slots for those Associates who were businesswomen among the men's Saturday morning time slots. And, together with Alan Woodhouse, Schroder was instrumental in designing the time sheet nomination form and rules. This is still used 18 years later. Schroder was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000.

He explains his whole philosophy: 'I've always believed people get out of life only what they put into it.' If that's the case, Peter Schroder must have got an awful lot out of his life so far!



Peter Schroder has always been a stickler for golf etiquette – letting others play through, maintaining dress standards and, most definitely, the replacement of divots. As he explained to fellow golf club members: ‘How often have you cursed and blamed the other fellow when your ball lies in a divot hole on the fairway? But is someone else to blame? Have you thought that if you carried a bucket of sand between holes and filled in just a few divots this situation might be avoided?’

It is more than Just a Job

WHAT IS IT THAT WORKING AT PORT MACQUARIE GOLF CLUB makes people never want to leave? The location in one of the most beautiful places on earth? The Holiday Coast's laid-back life-style? The climate? The ambience? The camaraderie of the members? How the club's forefathers would have envied what is available today! Just take a look at how few secretary-managers there have been. After a four-year period from 1958 to 1961 when the duties were shared between bar manager Wally Freeman and golf secretary Bob Huddleston, there have been only four in charge over a period of almost half-a-century – Bert Hall, Don Gibbs, Alan Woodhouse and Trevor Haynes. And each, in his own way, contributed to the incredible success of the club.



Wal Freeman

THERE IS AN OFT USED QUOTE ABOUT GOLF – ‘Born to golf. Forced to work.’ Well, in the case of Alan Woodhouse, secretary-manager of the Port Macquarie Golf Club between 1980 and 2000, he was certainly born to golf. And when it came to work, he found it in his chosen sport.

The love of golf coursed through his veins. It was no wonder. His father, Mick Woodhouse, had been assistant manager at Keysborough Golf Club, a south-eastern suburb of Melbourne near Dandenong, and it was there in his teens that Woodhouse Junior showed immense promise. At 14 he could boast a handicap of just 3. He had hoped to become a professional golfer and go on tour. But Jack Harris, the golf pro at Keysborough for 17 years, talked him out of it. Harris was a handy player, with six victories in the Victorian PGA Championship (the winner's trophy is now named after him), including a home-course success in 1960 over a field that included British Open winners Peter Thomson and Kel Nagle and Australian Open champions Frank Phillips and Eric Cremin. But Harris always seemed to be in the shadow of another great Aussie golfer Ossie Pickworth and needed the club pro's job to earn a decent salary.

So, on Harris' advice, Woodhouse took a different tack for his career. At the age of 15, he got a start as a steward at Keysborough. And by the time he came to Port Macquarie at the start of 1980, with his wife, Judith, and then teenage children Debra and Gary, Woodhouse had been involved with golf clubs for 24 years, the most recent being



The Four Musketeers get down to business: (From left to right) Secretary-manager Alan Woodhouse, president Bob Cains, captain Peter Schroder and treasurer John Lassig in 1987

Spring Valley and Cheltenham clubs in Melbourne. And despite his workload and part-time studies in business management he was still able to keep his handicap down to 8. He was to stay in the job for a record 21 years until his retirement in 2000. And he made sure of playing every Thursday to gauge the mood of the members. 'Constructive criticism is always welcome,' he said.

Alan Woodhouse's enthusiasm for golf in Port Macquarie continued well after his retirement – playing a major role in the research of the golf club history for this book.

BERT HALL CERTAINLY HAD ALL THE CREDENTIALS needed for his job. Not only was he related to a couple of legendary figures from the early years of the club, nephew of Clara Byrnes and cousin of her son Bob, but he was also a former successful publican – and knew how to pour the best beer in the Hastings. Just ask any old-timer: 'When Bert was in charge it was as if we were in

one of his pubs. He was the perfect host. And he definitely knew his beers. We had the best "Old" and the best "New" of any pub or club within 200 miles.' You can't argue with that.

Bert was the first secretary-manager, serving from 1963 to 1973. Times were difficult, but Bert was an asset as he managed the finances so well, helping the club progress during a period that saw the completion of the new club house and the last of the 18 holes that made the course more than just a knockabout recreation facility.

He was a keen student of the game, especially experimenting with his golf swing. As a result, at his prime, he was an excellent B-grade golfer and was rewarded with many handicap victories including success in the C-grade Championship in 1976, three years after his retirement.

Bert and his wife Mona lived in a house on the course, located on what is now part of the

car park near the exit gate. So it was little wonder that she treated the golf course as her own 'special' backyard. She planted trees around the clubhouse and tended gardens full of colourful flowers. They were not only for her enjoyment. With these blooms she would create beautiful flower arrangements to decorate the club on special nights. Club members say they were better than any professional florist could have produced.



Don Gibbs

DON GIBBS WAS THE SECOND SECRETARY-MANAGER of the Port Macquarie Golf Club. He loved his golf and used his accountancy skills to help in the progress of the club. But, according to his wife Gloria his proudest achievement was the progress made socially.

'While he was at the helm, the social aspect of the club gathered momentum— and that pleased him greatly,' Gloria explained.

He was a diligent worker. He left Parramatta Boys High School at the age of 16 and joined the Department of Main Roads as a cost clerk, while studying accountancy. World War II intervened and he enlisted in the RAAF, rising to the rank of Leading Aircraftman before his discharge after the end of hostilities, in 1946. He was restless on his return to the DMR when stationed at Lithgow and in 1949 joined the Commonwealth Bank where he did a variety of jobs including that of a relieving manager – an important role in the bank in those days.

'There is something very special about golfers. When you mix with them you feel part of a family.'

– *Centenary club general manager
Trevor Haynes.*

Away from work he enjoyed his golf and was captain of a small club which he helped establish near Windsor – the Bungool Golf Club. Bungool was later to become the subject of headlines for its music festival, grandly titled 'The World's Biggest New Year's Eve Party', which featured such stars as Sherbet and Daryl Braithwaite. The golf club itself was later to undergo a transformation to become the Riverside Oaks Country Club. Gibbs was later captain of the North Ryde Golf Club before accepting the secretary-manager's job at Port in 1973.

While at the helm he oversaw the opening of a new course watering scheme, several course improvements, the saving of the iconic Norfolk Pine adjacent to the 1st tee after it was hit by lightning and the construction of the new-look clubhouse.

In late 1979 Gibbs left to pursue a new career in real estate with a local firm owned by Merv



Trevor Haynes sums up his life in the Port Macquarie News.

Green, who over the years had been a keen supporter of golf in Port Macquarie. After 13 happy years in the real estate business, Gibbs decided to call it a day in 1993 and, with 45 years of marriage behind them, he and Gloria joined the 'grey nomads'. They drove around Australia towing a caravan seeing all the places and doing all the things they had put off over the years. Don passed away in 2005, aged 80.

AS A YOUNG MAN TREVOR HAYNES SUFFERED FROM WANDERLUST. He'd grown up in Fremantle but wanted to see the rest of Australia especially the east coast – from Cairns in the north to the southern tip of Tasmania. His

first visit to Sydney coincided with his finances drying up. At the time, his dad was working as a barman for a firm that supplied staff for the city's racecourses and Trevor signed up to bankroll the next leg of his journey.

'Every time my money ran out I'd head back to the racecourse to build up a kitty,' he recalled. 'Eventually when it was time to settle down I realised there was a good career path in the hospitality industry.' A succession of clubs followed as he climbed the ladder – the Royal Motor Yacht Club at Wooloware, the St George Motor Boat Club at San Souci, South Sydney Leagues Club at Redfern and then the Woy Woy Bowling Club on the Central Coast where he had his first stint as a secretary-manager.

In 2000 Haynes moved to the Port Macquarie Golf Club to replace the long-serving Alan Woodhouse. And Haynes reckoned it was best move he had ever made. 'There is a sensational environment,' he explained. 'There is something very special about golfers. When you mix with them you feel part of a family. I suppose it has something to do with golfing etiquette. There is no other sport where a participant will disqualify him or herself when he or she realises a rule has been broken. Etiquette is so important.'

Trevor found out about this very quickly. His only golf before moving to the Holiday Coast had been 'half-a-dozen nine holes after work, with a six-pack and mates telling lies'.

'The first time I went out for a game at Port, I was wearing black socks and shorts with a drawstring to keep them up...I must have looked a real yobbo,' he explained. 'No one said anything until I had finished my round. Then a senior member of the club quietly pulled me to one side and explained the facts of life. Every time I think about it I am embarrassed. But it was handled with such discretion. Is it any wonder I love my job!'

Arson Cost Club Dearly

A MASSIVE FIRE THAT RAZED THE THREE-YEAR-OLD MACHINERY SHED to the ground provided a traumatic start to 1985 for the golf club. Three fire brigades fought the midnight blaze on Friday, January 11, but within two hours the shed was no more than a burned-out shell of twisted metal and rubble. The damage bill was more than \$200,000 – but it could have been much higher but for quick thinking by members and firemen who saved dozens of golf carts, bikes and sets of clubs belonging to the club’s veteran golfers and the electrical control box for the automatic watering system – vital for irrigating the course.

The golf equipment had been saved because of a bizarre situation. At the height of the blaze a tractor suddenly careered out of the shed, smashing its way through a roller door in its path. Apparently the

tractor had been left in gear the previous evening. The heat short-circuited the starter motor and sent the tractor on its short but eerie journey. Through the opening in the demolished door firemen were able to stop the fire from destroying the golf equipment.

The control box was a different kettle of fish. When course superintendent Peter Coombe and secretary-manager Alan Woodhouse arrived at around 1am the fire was burning fiercely – but Coombe urged fire fighters to hose down the wooden box, located just outside the eastern wall of the shed. And it was saved.

At first it was thought that the fire could have been started by spontaneous combustion. But Coombe’s suspicions were aroused a few days





The damage suffered in the 1985 fire that destroyed the club's machinery shed is only too evident.

later when he was sifting through the rubble and discovered some tools were missing – a set of metric ring spanners, a hacksaw, fencing pliers and a set of drill bits. He alerted police and arson squad detectives drove up from Newcastle to investigate. A month later a 20-year-old Port Macquarie man was charged with arson and break, enter and steal.

Now came the urgent task of replacing the machinery destroyed by the fire. Wauchope Golf Club loaned a greens mower. 'The Wauchope officials were wonderful with their help,' said Woodhouse. 'Nothing was too much for them.' Hastings Municipal Council loaned two mowers to cut the fairways. By the end of January a new diesel rough cutter had been purchased (at a cost of \$14,500) and a second-hand surrounds mower bought off the Sydney Cricket Ground (\$2900). In February a new gang mower pulled by a new tractor

was in action (\$40,000) as well as a \$2750 machine for spraying fungicide to counteract dollar spot carried on a small utility bought second-hand for \$1,800. And in March a greens mower (\$13,270) and turf cutter (\$3270). Oxley Motors donated an arc welder. All were housed in a new shed identical to the one destroyed (\$29,700).

There were a host of donations, many of prizes for raffles. Not the least of the donations was \$1560 from the veteran golfers.

THERE WAS AN UNUSUAL SIDE-EFFECT of the fire. The heat generated inside was such that it caused the tractor's engine to start by itself. The driverless tractor then took off and crashed through the roller-doors before coming to a halt outside.

Hogan was His Hero

THEY ARE SOME UNWRITTEN RULES IN THIS LIFE. ‘Never lay a hand on a chef’s knives’ is one. ‘Don’t borrow a golfer’s clubs’ is another. Disobey either and you will have to accept the dire consequences.

As a 12-year-old growing up in the western suburbs of Sydney, Brian Sams learned the folly of disobeying the latter. He borrowed his Dad’s golf clubs and hacked a ball around a nearby park. Luckily, the worst that happened was a dressing down. Deep down Sams Senior was apparently quite pleased his son might take up the game he so loved.

Brian Sams didn’t just take it up. He started with a set of ‘beginner’s clubs’ and was to go on to become one of the finest golfers in the history of the game on the NSW north coast and, in more recent years, one of Australia’s leading amateurs in the senior ranks.

In early 2010, an American visitor to the Port Macquarie clubhouse looked at the honour board and noted to the author of this history: ‘Hey, buddy, this Sams fella musta been some sort of golfer. His name’s everywhere. It looks like he was champion about 14 or 15 times. And he’s still going strong.’ A record 16 times to be exact (between 1974 and 2007)!

One of his grandmothers had given him a copy *Power Golf*, a book written by the legendary American Ben Hogan, who in 1953 won three of the four grand slam tournaments, but couldn’t enter the fourth as its start clashed with the end

of the third, The (British) Open Championship. Hogan’s book is regarded as a must for golfing beginners – and from it Sams taught himself all the fundamentals of the game. He couldn’t have picked a better ‘mentor’.

When his Dad joined the nearby Ryde-Parramatta Golf Club, Sams started caddying, sometimes accepting two bags per Saturday. Ryde-Parramatta was a private course, but as a caddy he was allowed to play on Mondays. Nevertheless he would have to wait until he was 16 before he could join the club as a junior member. When Sams did join in 1966, his handicap was 10. Within two years he had reduced it to 3.

He soon made his mark, representing Ryde-Parramatta Golf Club in junior and senior pennants. He was a member of the junior pennant team which made the NSW State finals in 1970, only to be defeated 3-2 by Marrickville. Sams was one of the two winners for Ryde-Parramatta – the other was future Australian Open champion Jack Newton, now a world-renowned television commentator.

Sams moved to the North Coast in 1972 as a young teacher, immediately joining both the Camden Haven and Port Macquarie Golf Clubs. The following year, representing the former, he won the Lower North Coast District Golf Association’s Champion of Champions tournament as well as Port’s Seaside Tournament, setting a course record of 67 in the process.

And, in the words of the cliché, the rest is history.

He won a second Seaside Classic in 1976 and went on to win the Port Macquarie Club Championship 16 times (1974-79, 1981-84, 1988 and 2003-07). He also won six foursomes titles (in 1982, with Phil Pye; 1989, partnering Peter Heath; and 1997, 1999, 2003 and 2006, with Terry Jones) as well as eight mixed foursomes (1995 and 1996, with Michelle Smith; 1999, as Robyn Beecher's partner; and 2003-05 and 2007-08, when he teamed up with Annemaree Roach).

Sams has the distinction of shooting the lowest score on the Tacking Point links, a nine under par 62, posted on April 21, 2007, when he was 57 years old. This is not a course record as it was shot in a par event and not a stroke event. But his scorecard holds pride of place in the trophy cabinet in the club house. Sams also has the record for the most consecutive sub-par rounds on the course – eight in the period from February 10 to March 29, 2007, His scores were 65, 70, 69, 69, 67, 68, 67 and 68.

Sams on his way to victory in the 2010 NSW Seniors Championship at Port Macquarie.

The Port veteran won the Lower North Coast crown five times and Champion of Champions on seven occasions. Over the years he won at open days at every club in the Lower North Coast District.

One of his best efforts was in the 1982 NSW (Matchplay) Championship, in which he came up against Tony Gresham, arguably Australia's greatest amateur golfer of the modern era. Gresham came from behind to birdie the 35th and 36th holes to beat Sams one up.

Sams excelled in the senior ranks winning a host of state titles including the New South Wales, Victorian and Western Australians Championships each on two occasions and the Queensland Championship once. The first NSW victory was in 2005 at the Howlong Golf Club on the Murray River and the latest in 2010 on Sams' home turf at Port Macquarie.

He has represented Australia in events at home, and in China, the Philippines, Malaysia and New Zealand, the most recent being in the Land of the Long White Cloud in 2010.

And one can rest assured he's not yet finished!



Living the dream

BRIAN SAMS MAY HAVE THE BEST RECORD of any player on the Port Macquarie course. But Sams has little doubt who is the best player to have come out of Port – Steve Jeffress.

And it was no wonder that Jeffress, a regular on the Australian and Japanese professional tour in recent years, made his mark in golf. Although born in Taree, he grew up in Port Macquarie and the family home was just a stone's throw from the golf club. He started playing in 1986 when he was 10 years old, but he also enjoyed tennis.

'I soon realised that to become a professional sportsman you can only concentrate on one sport... so golf it was,' Jeffress explained. 'By the time I was 16 I was playing off a handicap of scratch and representing both the Port Macquarie Golf Club and the Lower North Coast region. I knew what I wanted to do when I left school...so you can imagine that in my final years of high school there was not

a lot of homework being done. At 17, I was selected in the state squad which was a great thrill for a boy from Port.'

Jeffress moved to Sydney where he joined the Bonnie Doon Golf Club, playing Division 1 pennants and NSW golf events on weekends, while working as a storeman at Harvey Norman to help pay the bills. In 1996, he moved back to Port Macquarie to start a golf professional traineeship under the tutelage of head pro Peter Bennett.

'I had many trainee wins and passed all exams with flying colours,' Jeffress recalled. 'I found the job easy, because I loved what I did and it didn't really seem like work. In 1999 I became a full member of the Australian Professional Golf Association. I was living the dream, playing professional golf.' He joined the Australian PGA's Von Nida tour in 2004 and so far his best effort has been a win in the 2006 Victorian PGA Championship. He has finished close in several other events on the tour – second in the 2004 Toyota Classic and 3rd in the 2004 and 2005 Queensland PGA Championships. He also won the 2008 Morobe Open in Papua New Guinea.



Steve Jeffress

DATE: 21/04/07 Sponsored by Holed Out Golf
 EVENT: Men's Single Par. ID No. H/CAP Individual Score First Tee Scratch

PLAYER 1: _____
 PLAYER 2: _____

| MEMBERS | PLAYER | | H O L E | | MARKER | LADIES | |
|---------|--------|----|---------|-------|--------|--------|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 2 |
| 475 | 5 | 9 | | 1 | | 430 | 5 |
| 365 | 4 | 1 | | 2 | | 331 | 4 |
| 340 | 4 | 2 | | 3 | | 320 | 4 |
| 378 | 4 | 3 | | 4 | | 380 | 5 |
| 135 | 3 | 18 | | 5 | | 112 | 3 |
| 309 | 4 | 14 | | 6 | | 290 | 4 |
| 166 | 3 | 16 | | 7 | | 160 | 3 |
| 338 | 4 | 11 | | 8 | | 336 | 4 |
| 504 | 5 | 7 | | 9 | | 465 | 5 |
| 3010 | 36 | | | OUT | | 2824 | 37 |
| 328 | 4 | 12 | | 10 | | 315 | 4 |
| 331 | 4 | 6 | | 11 | | 323 | 4 |
| 506 | 5 | 10 | | 12 | | 425 | 5 |
| 168 | 3 | 15 | | 13 | | 151 | 3 |
| 366 | 4 | 4 | | 14 | | 360 | 4 |
| 338 | 4 | 8 | | 15 | | 306 | 4 |
| 165 | 3 | 17 | | 16 | | 137 | 3 |
| 314 | 4 | 13 | | 17 | | 264 | 4 |
| 358 | 4 | 5 | | 18 | | 360 | 5 |
| 2874 | 35 | | | IN | | 2641 | 36 |
| 3010 | 36 | | | OUT | | 2824 | 37 |
| 8884 | 71 | | | TOTAL | | 5455 | 73 |
| ACR | 71 | | | H/CAP | | AWCR | 73 |
| | | | | NETT | | | |

MARKER'S SIGNATURE: _____ VERIFIED: _____
 PLAYER'S HOME CLUB: _____
 PLAYER'S SIGNATURE: _____



Sams in his Australian representative blazer and his card when shooting 62, the best score in history on the Port Macquarie course.

Lady Golfers in from the Cold



The three lady golfers who have served on the board: (from left to right) Jan Cains, Glenys Clark and Myra Hollis.

TRIVIA BUFFS WOULD BE INTERESTED in the fact that the first major golf tournament in Australia – and one of the first in the world – was restricted to women. In August 1894 CB Mackenzie won the first Australian Ladies' Amateur Championship on her home course at Geelong in Victoria. And to prove it was no fluke she won three of the next four, twice at Geelong and once at Royal Melbourne.

The men only staged their championship four months after Miss MacKenzie's first success. So it seems ironic that it was not until 1921 that the women golfers were able to wrest control of their affairs off the men with the formation of the Australian Ladies Golf Union.

In Port Macquarie it was be another 68 years before women were able to become full members of the golf club and have an official say in the day-to-day running of the links on which they had played from Day One. Previously they were only allowed to be associate members with no voting rights.

On Monday, May 1, 1989, all that changed. The rules had been altered to allow full membership for the women. And some 83 lady golfers took advantage, paying the extra membership fees and turning up for their first vote at an annual meeting. There was another piece of history that night. Myra Hollis, who had worked for 12 years as the golf club's office manager, became the first woman elected to the board, polling the second highest tally of votes of the 16 candidates who stood for the six places on the ruling body where they joined president Jim Banks, captain Peter Schroder and treasurer Geoff Workman. Myra was to serve for three years.

Myra had campaigned fiercely for more than a year before her election, but refused to accept the credit. 'I do not feel it is a personal victory but an acknowledgement to women in general,' she told the *Port Macquarie News* the day after her success. She stressed the role of other lady golfers in the fight for full membership and predicted other women would stand for election in the future. She was right, with two others – Jan Cains and Glenys Clark – later serving terms on the board.

A Match for Aussie Icon

WHEN SEVEN-TIME CLUB CHAMPION AND SCHOOLTEACHER Jack Lewin persuaded the powers-that-be at Port Macquarie High in the early-1970s to introduce golf as a school sport little did he realise how soon success would follow. In 1977, four years after taking up the sport under Lewin's tutelage, one of his pupils Phil Pye, by this time being groomed by another teacher and later golf club life member Peter Schroder, won the North Coast Combined High Schools Match Play Championship.

But all that paled into insignificance the following year. Port Macquarie High School entered a team in the 1978 NSW Combined High Schools Championship (with Schroder as the team manager). Every school was allowed four in its team and each round the side was able to discard the worst score. However, Port could only find three golfers of the standard required – Pye, Peter Heath and Ian O'Connell. That meant that if any of the three Schroder protégés had a bad round, his score would still count. It mattered not. The Port Macquarie trio took out the title against the finest schoolboy golfers in the state. O'Connell shot 161 for the 36 holes, Heath 163 and Pye 164.

It was the start of a successful involvement in golf for Pye. In 1980 he won the first of 14 club championships as well as the Lower North Coast Championship. The following year he moved to Sydney and played little golf. But while on holiday in Port he took out the 1982 men's foursomes (with Brian Sams) and the following year excelled once again while on holidays in 'Port Paradise', winning the first of two Seaside Classics.



Port Macquarie High School's winning NSW Schoolboys Championship team: (From left to right) Peter Heath, Phil Pye and Ian O'Connell.

Back home in 1985 he began making his mark on the club record books, despite a year off golf in 1987 to help look after the new addition to the Pye family, Amanda. His winning of his second Port Macquarie Golf Club Championship and the Lower North Coast Championship in 1986 earned him a start in the NSW Champion of Champions tournament at Mona Vale in Sydney's north. It was highlight of his years in golf. He faced, among others, the veteran Tony Gresham, one of the greatest amateurs in the history of Australian golf. Gresham had won the 1977 Australian Amateur Championship, twice reached the semi-finals of the British Amateur Championship (1979 and 1981) and twice beaten the top professionals, in the 1975 NSW Open and the 1978 South Australian Open. In the former Gresham's 13 under par was the lowest score in 40 years. In addition he had represented Australia a record seven times in the Eisenhower Cup, the unofficial World Cup of amateur golf.



At Mona Vale, Pye shot two great rounds of 73 and 74. Gresham holed a difficult downhill putt of five metres on the last hole to tie the result. There was no play-off. The win earned Pye a berth in the NSW Open the following year.

Pye won his second Seaside Classic in 1988 and between 1989 and 2002 missed out on only two club championships (1993 and 1997). All told, Pye won six Wingham Opens in addition to nine

Port Macquarie foursomes (with partners Sams, NSW Medal winner in 1959 and former Eastern Suburbs Rugby League star Kevin Abrahamsen, Steve Strong and Earl Golding) and seven mixed foursome titles (all with Faye Gibbs, club captain in the centenary year).

IAN O'CONNELL WAS A FINE GOLFER no matter what his stance. He was a natural left-hander and as such reduced his handicap to 6. But he reckoned there were no great golfers who were left-handed, which was largely the case in those days with only New Zealander Bob Charles having managed to win one of the world majors, although some stories suggest the legendary Ben Hogan played as a left-hander as a youth. Ian switched and played as a right-handed golfer. And he was able to achieve a handicap of 4.

Keith a Key Figure

NO MATTER HOW FAMOUS a sportsman may be, it pays to heed local advice. Former England Test cricket captain soon found this out when he came to Port Macquarie in January 1979. At that time Greig was captain of the World XI that took on Australia and the West Indies in Kerry Packer's breakaway World Series Cricket competitions. Port Macquarie was the only venue outside the capital cities that staged a match in the innovative one-day International Cup.

Although Greig was not playing that day, he was in charge of selecting the World XI. He took a look at the wicket at Oxley Oval and reckoned it would spin like a top. Keith Heap, who was a member of the organising committee, begged to differ. Keith didn't need a key to dig into the pitch to come to his conclusion. He told Greig that he'd played on Oxley Oval the previous weekend and there was very little turn. Greig shook his head and decided to play English spinner Derek Underwood. To the delight of the cricket fans of the Hastings, the Windies batsmen gave Underwood a pasting.

The great Viv Richards was particularly severe on his way to an unbeaten 83, putting one ball three-quarters the way up one of the pine trees behind the sight-screen and another onto Oxley Beach, the fate of many a golf ball when the locals had in the early years of the century played the 'Chasm Hole' on the old links.

Greig should have listened! After all, Heap, club captain in the golf club's centenary year, was knowledgeable in a number of sports – hence his life membership of both the Port Macquarie Rugby League Club (the Sharks) and the Port Macquarie Leagues Cricket Club.

Heap, Newcastle born and bred, came to the Hastings in January 1962. He was just out of teachers' college. His job at the Port Macquarie High School was his first appointment and as history shows, he stayed in Port forever. He was a successful coach of school teams in athletics, cricket, tennis and rugby league.



Keith Heap and mates during a visit by the Beverley Park golfers: (Left to right) Garry Painter, Heap, Bob Brown and Lionel Hollis.

In 1972 he coached the North Coast Schoolboys in Rugby League – a side that unearthed a star of the future from Wauchope, Ian Schubert. The blond winger toured England and France later that year with the unbeaten Australian Schoolboys team and he broke into the Australian Test side three years later. He is, of course, these days better known as the NRL's salary cap auditor.

Heap would have known the odds on Schubert succeeding because in his spare time he was an avid punter and owned a share of a bookmaker's business. Indeed his nickname was Perce. It wasn't from the newspaper comic strip of the 1950s *Perc the Punter* but simply one of his Christian names that was seized upon by Rugby League teammates. During his life Heap also owned a few forgettable racehorses.

He joined the golf club in 1963 and almost immediately was co-opted to the match committee and took over as handicapper. He served on the board for three years before taking a back seat while pursuing his other sporting interests. He later had another couple of spells on the board and two periods as club captain and was on the

committee that rewrote the club's constitution in the early 2000s. Since 1997 Heap has been the club's publicity officer.

Friends sum him up succinctly: 'He has three real loves in life. He loves his golf, he loves a punt and he loves a beer!'



AT ONE STAGE WHEN THE CLUB HAD NO PRO, Keith Heap was one of those who used to start the field. And he has never forgotten one particular Saturday: 'There was no time sheet. If you wanted to play you just turned up. As starter, I was at the end of the bar. This guy came up and paid his money, it was four shillings back then. I asked him his name and he told me it was Willie Fennell. I just shook my head and told him to pull the other leg.'

Bob Huddleston was standing nearby and set him straight: 'Keith, this IS Willie Fennell. He visits Port regularly.'

And for those too young to know the gentleman in question, Willie Fennell was a famous comedian, actor and writer for Australian radio, television and movies. He was best known for the radio series he wrote and played the starring role, *Life With Dexter*, which ran from 1945 to 1967. He played various parts in many of the top-rating television shows of the 1960s such as *Homicide* and *Skippy*.

Punching above his weight

BILL MacDONALD RECKONS A CAREER IN AMATEUR BOXING helped him on the golf course. Now before one conjures up visions of Bill trading blows with other golfers on the fairways and greens it should be explained that the help came in the mental approach to the sport by the centenary president of the Port Macquarie Golf Club.

‘It is the personal challenge of golf that appeals to me,’ he noted. ‘Just like in boxing you have control of the end result. It’s not like in a team sport. In golf it’s you against the course and the other players. In boxing it’s you against that other fellow in the ring.’

MacDonald was a pretty handy boxer, winning the Victorian amateur middleweight championship and getting close to selection in the Australian team for the 1972 Munich Olympics. And to this day he still cherishes the friendships forged in the ring with such gladiators as Rocky Mattioli, now 56, who held the WBC world light-middleweight title for three years in the late 1970s. MacDonald was also a handy Australian Rules player: ‘I had a couple of practice matches with Footscray, but quickly found out I was neither tall enough, nor good enough for the VFL [now the AFL].’

That was when he decided to take up golf. And drawing upon his mental strength he got his handicap down to five within two years. At the time he was an electrical engineer at the giant Yallourn Power Station complex in

Victoria’s Latrobe Valley. He became a director of the Yallourn Golf Club in 1974, its captain a decade later and vice-president in 1985. In the meantime he and wife Irena used to holiday every year in Port Macquarie. He was offered (and accepted) redundancy when the government began considering the eventual privatisation of the power complex and moved to Port in 1986. It was there that he switched to the business of real estate. And he has since used his studies in business and management to good effect for the golf club – as captain in 1993 and 1994 and president for the past nine years.

‘I am big on golf etiquette and respect,’ he said. ‘And I certainly respect what the members did for us when they moved out of town in 1953. They had the dream and they set the standards that were carried on until this day. They also picked the right course designer [Jas Scott]. He used the topography of the area so well. It is regarded as a short course, but thanks to him few golfers, even the top professionals get out and tear the course apart. When I heard he was from Carnoustie it all made sense. I’ve played there and know what a tough course that is... tougher than even the so-called home of golf, St Andrew’s.’

Hey, Hey, Hey . . . *Satisfaction*

THESE DAYS MANY GOLFERS TAKE THE CLUB PRO FOR GRANTED. He's there in his pro shop, sending everyone on their way to tee off in the weekly events and major tournaments. So you've hit too many balls into the water – well there's more where they came from in his pro shop. And, of course, the most important task is curing your hooks and slices after he has scrutinised all those faults that have crept into your game.

Current golf pro at Port Macquarie Ben Hamilton has always reckoned he would never swap his job for any of those who come to seek his advice.

'I get an incredible satisfaction from what I do,' he explained. 'They come to me. I teach them to

play golf and usually they succeed. To see their success when I've put in so much time and effort... and they have tried so hard...well, it's a great feeling. I have a wonderful job.'

But there wasn't always a professional available to Port Macquarie golfers. Between the two World Wars, English-born professional Arthur Le Fevre, one of the few players to win the Australian Open and the Australian PGA in the same year (1921) and club professional at Royal Melbourne, used to regularly visit Port Macquarie. He would pay for his holidays by staging golf clinics. In the 1940s and 1950s, Dan Cullen used to come up from Sydney at regular intervals to help fine-tune the locals' swings.



Pro Ron Stead drives off on the makeshift practice area in front of the clubhouse.

Then in January 1966 Ron Stead, a golf professional at Armidale Golf Club in the New England tablelands, and his wife Fay came to Port Macquarie for a holiday. Like so many people in many walks of life before and after them, the Steads fell in love with 'Port Paradise'. Who wouldn't? Back in Armidale, Stead realised where his future lay and telephoned Bert Hall, the Port Macquarie secretary-manager, to broach the subject of moving to the coast. An interview with Bert and vice-president Dick Gentle followed a month later and, in the words of the cliché, the rest is history. Stead started his new job in June and for more than a quarter of a century was a fixture at the Port Macquarie links. Tutoring in those early days was difficult because of the lack of practice facilities, but Stead reckoned his greatest legacy was helping several of the club's juniors become low handicap golfers.

After he retired in February 1993 he was succeeded by Peter Bennett, four years later by Wayne Brenton and, briefly by Tony Atwell then, eventually, in 2004 by Ben Hamilton.



Peter Bennett

newly-elected National Party MP for Lynne and later to be Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile. But the committee knocked back his request as it did not want the golf club to be politicised.

**'To see their success when I've put in so much time and effort...
and they have tried so hard... well, it's a great feeling.'**

– Club pro Ben Hamilton on Port Macquarie golfers.

Bennett, who was 28 years of age when he came to Port Macquarie, learned his trade at Belconnen golf course in Canberra and was later teaching professional at Yowani Country Club, also in the Australian Capital Territory, before moving on the Bermagui Country Club on the NSW far south coast.

He was particularly keen on fostering young golfers, visiting schools to conduct coaching clinics and staging live-in camps for the juniors from all clubs on the Lower North Coast. Bennett was also a fine rugby union halfback and was extremely interested in politics. At one stage he asked for permission to act as the campaign manager for the

Kempsey born-and-bred Brenton returned to the Lower North Coast in October 1977 after honing his trade as a golf professional in Perth. When he left in 2000 local retailers Geoff and Naomi Dudgeon took over the pro shop and employed Tony Atwell. When he in turn departed, the Dudgeons asked Hamilton to return to the town where, in his teens, he had learned to play golf. Although he was born in Sydney his family moved to the Hastings when he was nine years old. At first he was into tennis, but his mates liked to play golf at Emerald Downs. There, as a 14-year-old, he was nurtured by pro Steve Poulter. At 17 he joined the Port Macquarie Golf Club.

‘The turning point in my life was in the 1999 Championship,’ he recalled. ‘I was leading and within a whisker of victory. It wasn’t to be. Phil Pye got up to beat me by a shot. No one remembers that. No one ever remembers the runner-up. However I did. That was when I decided golf was going to be my career.’

That year he started as a trainee golf pro under Bennett. In May the following year he moved to the NSW Club at La Perouse. Four years later he was back in the Hastings and, when the Dudgeons decided to leave the golf shop, he was given the chance to take over and stamp his mark on Port Macquarie.

‘I had played the Pro-Am circuit,’ Hamilton explained. ‘But the only way to make a living was to win every week. I still had to work at the NSW Club a couple of days a week and have weekly corporate days to make ends meet.’

‘Now I have the best of all worlds. However it is a bit of a cycle. I try to help people – but I always hope for some loyalty from the members in return.’



Ben Hamilton

A rare white magpie was born on Port Macquarie golf course in 2009. He’s still there making new friends every day.



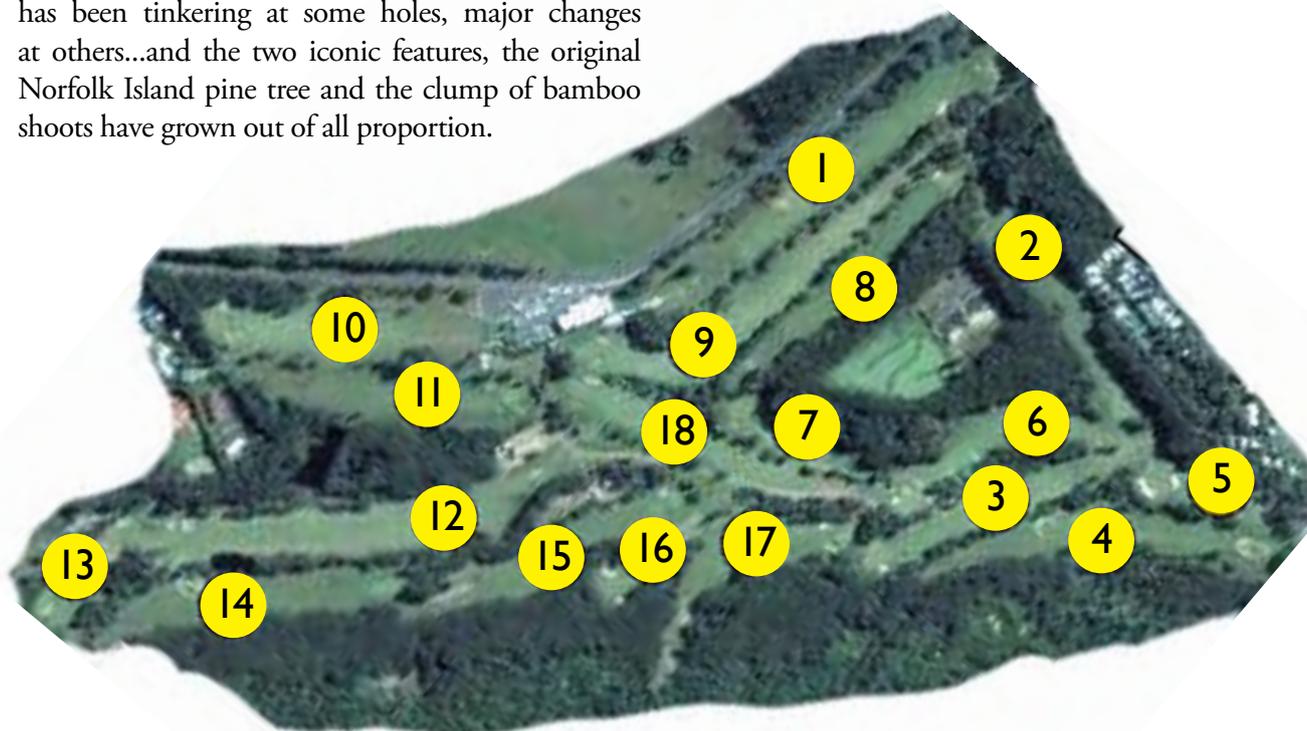
A word of advice *Avoid the Bamboos*

“AN EASY THREE AND AN EASIER SIX.”
– golfing great Billy Dunk on the 17th Hole.



IT'S TAKEN DECADES OF HARD WORK, but from the relatively primitive first layout of the links at Tacking Point there is now a course that is the envy of golf clubs around Australia. One can only wonder at what the original designer Jas Scott would think of today's beautiful, but challenging layout. There has been tinkering at some holes, major changes at others...and the two iconic features, the original Norfolk Island pine tree and the clump of bamboo shoots have grown out of all proportion.

So what does it take to play this breathtaking course? Ben Hamilton, the resident pro in the centenary year, helps explain how members and visitors alike should attack each and every hole.





A rare shot from the first fairway of the then sparse bamboos, the iconic pine tree and the old clubhouse.

THIS HOLE, AND THE ADJACENT NINTH, was where farmer Patrick Welsh used to grow grapes. He planted the bamboos in 1863 to serve as a windbreak for his nearby homestead. And there was the other feature – the Norfolk pine on the western side of the fairway. In the early days golfers had to hit their tee shot between the bamboos and the pine, saved by a tree surgeon in 1978, after a series of lightning strikes. Now a par 5, it was originally a par 4. Over the years the hole has undergone many changes some more subtle than others, with a complete redesign

by Ross Watson in 1984. The old green is still visible adjacent to the 9th tee. And these days the golfers don't have to contend with the bamboos when they start their round. That comes later!

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'This is a tight driving hole for any level of golfer. Steer clear of the fairway traps, one on the left with your tee shot and one on the right with your second shot. Watch for the second hidden bunker on the left of the green. The green is long and tricky and it helps to be on the same level as the pin.'

HOLE ONE





HOLE TWO

THIS WAS THE LAST of the 18 holes built, largely by the weekend efforts of club members. It was finished in October 1966, 13 years after the move to Tacking Point, and used for the first time the following year. It had taken so long because of the marshy conditions, with piping to drain the area only completed in 1965, the same year the fairway was seeded. Many people suggested the hard-working club members would never fashion this into a golf hole – pointing the number of times bulldozers got bogged. But using vast quantities of fill from the rutile mine, the golfers proved the cynics wrong.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'This is the most difficult hole on the course. Placement of your tee shot must be up the left side of the fairway to avoid the water and the trees. Most players play short of the pond which takes the out of bounds to the left out of play. The approach shot needs to be near the hole on this big green which has multiple levels and slopes front to back. Don't be long of the green.'



HOLE THREE

GOLFERS COULD NEVER SEE THE GREEN

from the tee. So originally, a telegraph pole was erected behind the green and later a pine tree was planted. But trees along the fairway have so flourished that soon no one could see the pole and today the pine tree is barely visible. The green was designed by Cooper & Nagle.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'A very tough tee shot on a hole which can play directly into a southerly wind. The landing point of your drive is important as the fairway slopes left to right for short hitters and right to left for medium and long hitters. After a good drive you should have a mid to short iron in to this long green which has a big slope back to front. Avoid the channel through the middle of the green try to be on the same level as the flag.'





HOLE FOUR

THIS HOLE USED TO BE KNOWN as the 'Rutile Hole' because the rutile mine used to be in that corner of the course. To this day there are problems with drainage and the cultivating of grass as the discarded tailings from the mine have created an impervious layer in the soil. The hole is another designed by Ross Watson.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'This hole requires a well placed drive. The fairway dog-legs to the right and you need to watch out for the fairway bunker in driving range on the right hand corner. A fade from the tee is preferable. The approach shot calls for a high flight to avoid the front left bunker. A long narrow green sloping slightly back to front makes it necessary to have the correct club from the fairway as the wrong club could result in a long putt.'



HOLE FIVE

FOR YEARS A LAKE which was completed in September 1982 was a feature of this hole. The hole was rebuilt in 1995 to Ross Watson's plan.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'This is the shortest hole on the course, and it's a straight-forward hole with no real dangers. The large green surrounded by bunkers with a gentle slope back to front.'





HOLE SIX

THE TEE AND FAIRWAY WERE FORMED on working bees in 1964 but the green has undergone many changes since then.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'The only dog leg-left hole on the course, this relatively-short hole requires you to put your tee shot out to the right of the fairway to have a clear approach to the slightly elevated green. It is not a large green but it has severe slope left to right and is protected by trees to the left and short and greenside bunkers on both sides.'



HOLE SEVEN

THIS WAS ALWAYS A ‘WATER HOLE’. The dam was enlarged many times, especially when the council built the sewerage works in 1975. The latest enlargement was finished as recently as 2007. An interesting piece of trivia – the green was redesigned in the early 1970s – not by professional consultants but a group of the club’s low markers.

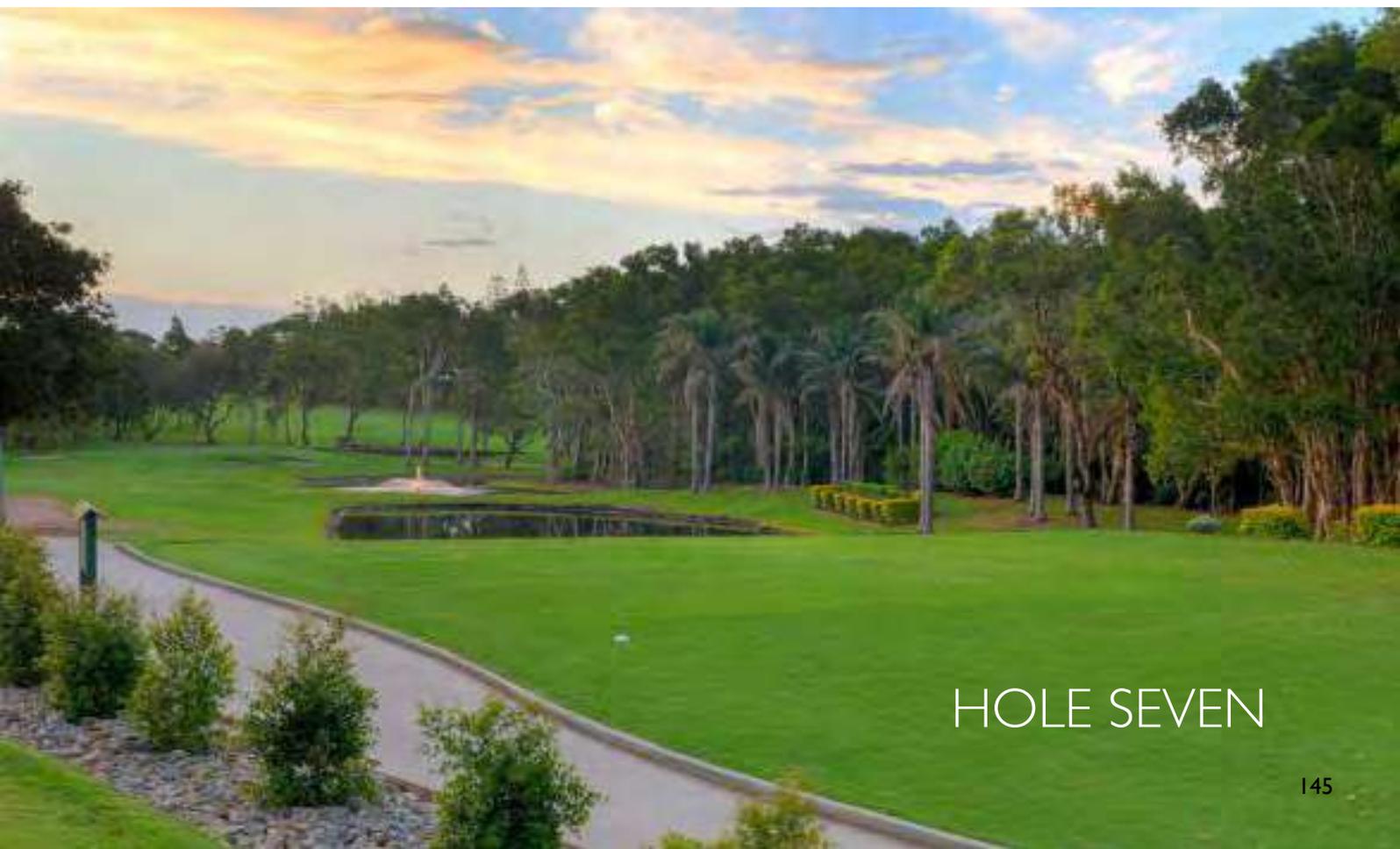
Ben Hamilton’s advice: ‘This is the feature hole on the golf course. There are two large dams to the right of the hole which you should avoid to the left as the green opens up from the front left to back right. Don’t be over the back. The long narrow green slopes back to front. The bunker front right makes landing the ball difficult to a back right pin position. Par is a good score on this hole.’



The 7th Hole before the days of the fountain...flooded in April 1988.



The 7th Hole before changes made in 2000.



HOLE SEVEN



HOLE EIGHT

THIS HOLE WAS ONE OF THOSE ADDED when the course was increased from 11 holes to 18. It was built on very swampy land and a lot of fill was used. That is why it drops off to the right of the fairway.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'A short par 4 with no immediate danger. Place the ball to the left side of the fairway. The hole has a big green which slopes back to front, with a heavy slope at the front of the green.'



Where should we put it? Bob Huddleston, Glen Fowler and Jack Pike deciding on the exact location for the present-day eighth green.

HOLE NINE

THIS IS THE MOST CELEBRATED HOLE ON THE COURSE. It was the second hole from Day One until the time when the golfers played over 11 holes. The original green remains. The hole is the one remembered by every visitor because of the clumps of bamboo on the right of the fairway that have been the downfall of so many golfers over the years. To ensure they would challenge golfers in the future, five new clumps were planted north of the originals in August 1969.

The bamboos failed to stop former Eisenhower Cup star Colin Kaye in the 1985 Seaside Classic. He and Gerard Power were involved in a play-off for the tournament. The 9th hole was used as the second for the play-off and Kaye's second shot landed in the middle of the bamboos. It was an almost unplayable lie but that didn't faze Kaye. He calmly knocked it out and onto the green for a simple two-metre birdie putt for victory.



Colin Kaye and Gerard Power after Kaye had won the play-off for the 1985 Seaside Classic.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'A long Par 5, this is an easy driving hole. Try to aim for the left side of the fairway to open up the corner of the dog-leg and avoid the bamboos on the right hand corner. The third shot is up the hill to the club house with a gently sloping green from right to left. Avoid the bunkers in the front left corner of the green.'



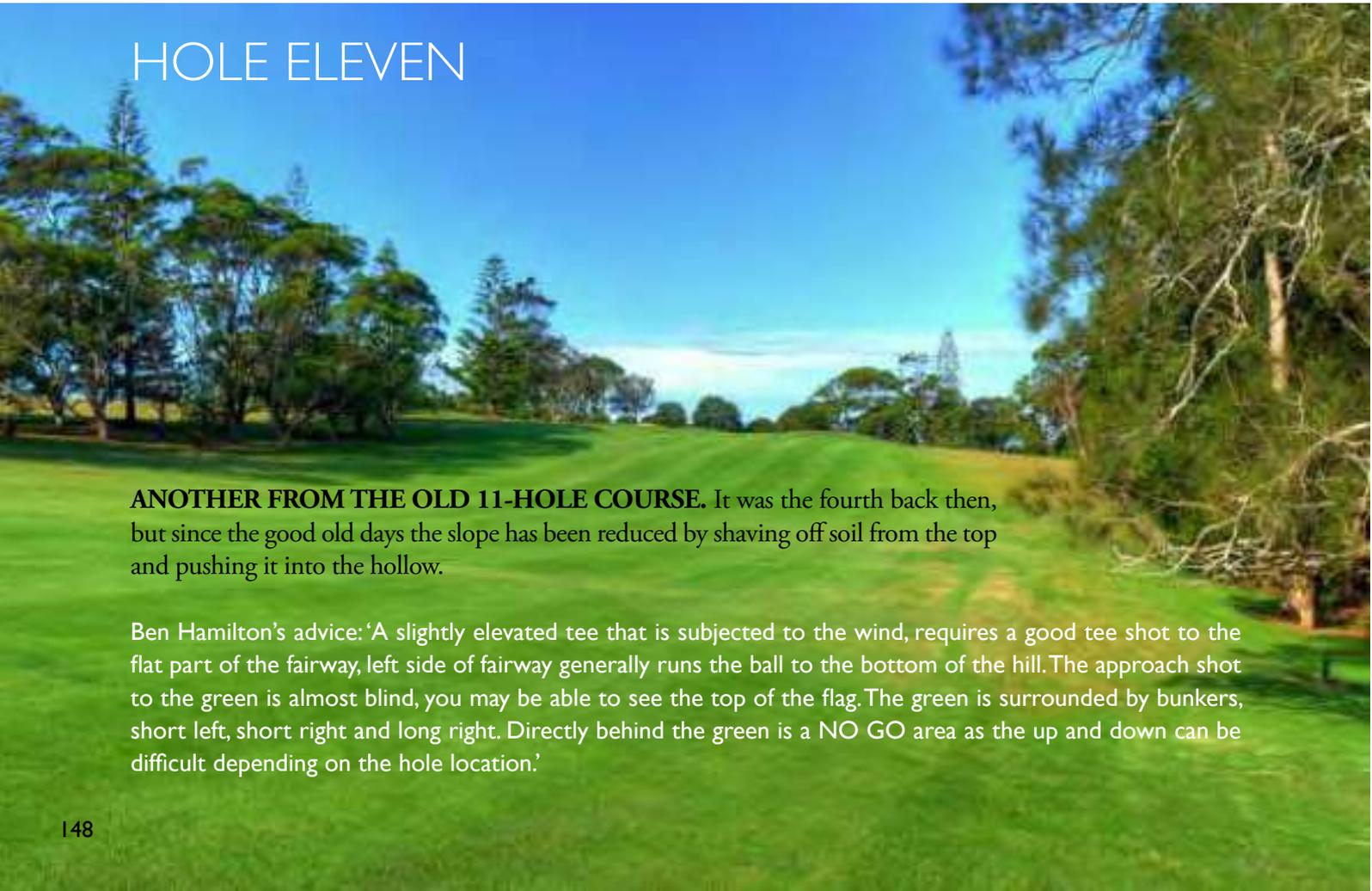


HOLE TEN



THIS WAS HOLE 3 ON THE OLD 11-HOLE COURSE. It also has a place in history as the first to have fairway bunkers. But the traps, on the left-hand side have since been filled in.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'For the start to the back nine this is a straight forward opening shot, but the approach shot to the green requires a well placed shot to the right centre of this well protected green. You cannot afford to be over the back of the green.'



HOLE ELEVEN

ANOTHER FROM THE OLD 11-HOLE COURSE. It was the fourth back then, but since the good old days the slope has been reduced by shaving off soil from the top and pushing it into the hollow.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'A slightly elevated tee that is subjected to the wind, requires a good tee shot to the flat part of the fairway, left side of fairway generally runs the ball to the bottom of the hill. The approach shot to the green is almost blind, you may be able to see the top of the flag. The green is surrounded by bunkers, short left, short right and long right. Directly behind the green is a NO GO area as the up and down can be difficult depending on the hole location.'



HOLE TWELVE

THIS HOLE WAS FIRST PLAYED IN COMPETITION in October 1966. The bunkers were completed in August 1970 and the lake on the hole in September 1982. A temporary green, short of the water, was constructed in 2005 to allow for the building of new holes to the south. The lake was cleaned and its size enlarged the following year.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'The longest hole on the course, with a gentle dog leg to the right. Big hitters can hit over the corner allowing for an opportunity to go for the green. Depending on the wind direction the green may be reachable in two shots, this hole can be an easy birdie, but beware of the water hazard on the left side of the fairway about 100m from the green.'



Early days at the 12th.

HOLE THIRTEEN

THIS HOLE WAS FIRST PLAYED in competition in October 1966, too. Mounds were added in 1982 to make it more difficult by using soil from the construction of the lake on the 12th.



Ben Hamilton's advice: 'A tough par 3 with a raised green, bunkers left and right and don't go over the back of the green as you will find a steep slope and moderate rough. The green slopes back to front with a heavy slope on the front of the green. This hole requires good club selection as the wind can make hitting the green difficult.'





HOLE FOURTEEN

THIS IS THE ONLY HOLE ON THE COURSE WITHOUT A BUNKER. It came into use in October 1966. It was originally low-lying. But the fairway was raised in 1975 as part of the Regional Employment and Development (RED) scheme, implemented by Gough Whitlam's Federal Labor Government to help finance build and improve sporting fields, swimming pools, senior citizens and youth centres et al.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'The second hardest hole on the course and the tee shot is critical. The left side of the fairway is protected by a water hazard and the right hand side is lined with trees. Once you get the ball in play from the tee, the green is large and slopes slightly back to front, don't go long, but short, right and left is okay.'

HOLE FIFTEEN *Next page.*

THE FIFTH OF THE HOLES THAT WERE UNVEILED in October 1966. Originally it had a championship tee – still visible to the right of the 14th green – that was abandoned after members claimed it made the hole much too difficult.

In 2000, the Newcastle golfer Ed Stedman who had turned professional only months before was in fine form in the Pro-Am. As he walked to the 15th tee Stedman enquired as to how he was going. 'You're two in front,' came the reply. That should have been enough for the young pro, but he hit his tee-shot into the trees on the right. Looking at the lie, he realised he was faced with an almost impossible shot – he needed to get through a miniscule gap in the trees. But fortune favours the bold. His audacious shot sneaked through the gap and sat up on the green for a three-metre putt. He was down in par and the first of two Pro-Am was his.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'Placement is important on the tee shot, to give yourself a shot at the green. Trees guarding the right hand side of the fairway, make it almost impossible to get to the green for two if you are in the wrong position. Left side of the fairway opens out to the left tree line, it is still possible to hit the green from here. A bunker on the front left of the green, green slopes right to left. It is ok to miss the green short, long and right, but don't miss this hole left.'

Water, water, everywhere... the 15th is drowning.





HOLE SIXTEEN

THIS HOLE HAS UNDERGONE SEVERAL RE-DESIGNS in the search for perfection. The current design, by Cooper and Nagle, lengthened the distance.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'A straight-forward par 3. Don't miss this green long as the steep slope makes the ball run into the trees. Bunkers left and right are ready to catch an errant shot. The green is large and has a few tricky positions. Make sure you take time to read your putt.'

HOLE SEVENTEEN

Next page

DURING HIS MEMORABLE CAREER renowned tournament professional Billy Dunk broke more course records than any other golfer in Australia (setting a new mark of 66 at Port Macquarie in 1975) and won more than 100 tournaments (including five Australian PGA Championships). He described this hole as 'an easy three and an easier six'.

Centenary Year captain Keith Heap recalled an instance of the former when Jack Lewin won one of his seven-straight club championships. It was final round and Lewin found himself in the trees on the right of the fairway with only a few centimetres of clear vision to the hole. 'Charlie Uptin was with me and reckoned Jack was the only golfer in Port Macquarie who had any hope of getting out of trouble,' Heap recalled. Get out

of trouble? Lewin slammed the ball through the narrow gap. It hit the fairway, popped over the bunker and landed on the green for a relatively easy three-metre putt. 'That shot won Lewin the championship,' Heap noted.

'I've looked at life from both sides now.' These two sepia photos below taken in the early 1980s are of the dog-leg 17th fairway looking to the tee...and to the green.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'Many a good round is destroyed by this 90° dog-leg right hole which is rated Number 17. Long hitters may be able to reach the green from the tee, or play safe to the corner of the dog-leg with a long iron or fairway wood. The green slopes heavily from the back left corner to the front right corner. The length of the tee shot is critical, particularly if going over the corner, as there is danger through the fairway.'





HOLE EIGHTEEN

THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD show that the final preparation for the 18th green was completed in 1963, about the same time as the old clubhouse was demolished and removed. It was the final hole on the old 11-hole links, with the green rebuilt. The green was later extended by adding a lower level.

Ben Hamilton's advice: 'The final hole on the course stretches up the hill to an elevated green. From the tee, try to hit the fairway. From there you have a good look at the green. Beware that the green is two-tier, sloping from back to front. Try to take a look at the hole's location after you complete the 11th hole or from the club house. Being on the same level as the flag will make putting a lot easier.'



The times they were a-changin'...this was the 11th Hole back in the early days of the course but is today part of the 18th. It is interesting to also note the change in clothing attire of the lady golfers over the past half century.

THANKS A MILLION, BEN. But, as history has shown, playing the Port Macquarie golf course is easier said than done.

Bragging Rights for Vintage Port



GOLF CLUBS IN AUSTRALIA have been in pennant competitions since the late 19th century. Golfers love them because in such contests they can be part of a team – and there is the added attraction of competing one-on-one against an opponent in match play. In each district around Australia they are the symbol of club supremacy. Port Macquarie, of course, competes for the pennants conducted by the Lower North Coast District Golf Association.

Pennants are played in four divisions. Division 1 is for those with a low handicap, Division 2 (handicap of 8 to 12), Division 3 (13 to 18) and Division 4 (over 18). There are also pennants for Masters (over 50 years of age) and Juniors (under 18). The format for pennants has changed several times over the years on the Lower North Coast. For many years a club entered a team of eight players and all clubs went to a particular course where they would take on the others in stroke play. The aggregate of the best seven scores decided the four semi-finalists who would compete in match

play on a neutral course before the final, also at a neutral venue. Later there was a system in which the association's area was split into two zones. There would be a round-robin in each zone with the winners meeting in the final. The current format consists of a round-robin of match play involving all competing clubs. There are no semi-finals or final. The winner is first past the post. All games are played on neutral courses. For example, in 2010's Division 1 pennant, Port Macquarie played Forster-Tuncurry and Wauchope at Camden Haven and Taree and Camden Haven at Tuncurry.

Naturally enough, Division 1 is the pennant that carries the real prestige...the one that gives the club 'bragging rights'. Sadly many of the records of Port Macquarie's efforts in past pennants are missing. But Port has a proud recent record in Division 1. Port's victory in its centenary year was its fourth on the trot. As well as these four victories, the club also won in 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1991, 1992, 2001 and 2005.

Thanks for The Memories



A rare 1988 photo of seven of Port Macquarie Golf Club's then 11 verified life members, six men and five women: (From left to right) Charles Uptin, Maisie Dunn, Allan Kennedy, Betty Hicks, John Lassig, Jeannie Thew and Dick Gentle. Three others have since been honoured. But many more unsung folk played their part in the rich 100-year history of the club. Credit is due to every last one of them.

Sorely Overlooked

CHARLIE UPTIN, ONE OF THE LEADING FIGURES behind the move to Tacking Point, had one major regret – the way the history of the old links and the people involved were quickly forgotten. And he had a point. So many details about the early days are sketchy to say the least.

In his autobiography, *Port Macquarie Growing Up*, Uptin pointed out how the sportsmen and women of Port had figured prominently in the setting up of an association to oversee golf in the Hastings.

‘Thus the golf links and golf club [were] demolished and forgotten in 1953,’ wrote Uptin. ‘I often think it was neglectful not to carry over some semblance of the existence of the nine-holer into the new Port Macquarie Golf Club when the move was made to Tacking Point. A few blown-up pictures of the nine-hole links and one or two personalities would be a worthy addition to the present clubhouse.’

Passing the baton. Life member Frank Roberts shakes hands with Justin Hunter, more than 70 years his junior, after their match in the C grade 2009 Patron's Match Play Championship.



The Face of the Future



Ten-year-old Lily Baker, winner of the 2010 Girls Seaside Classic, powers her way into Port Macquarie Golf Club's second century

Port Macquarie Golf Time Line

1883: The bamboo shoots, which grew to be an iconic feature of the golf links at Tacking Point, were planted in 1883 by pig farmer Patrick Welsh, who at that time owned the land.

1892: The Norfolk Island pine tree, another historic image at the same course, was believed to have been planted this year by prominent Port Macquarie businessman Jonas Absalom

1905: First photograph of Port Macquarie golfers still in existence shows Nora Flynn from the famous local family that gave its name to Flynn's Beach and three unidentified women posing with their clubs.

1910: Port Macquarie Golf Club formed at a meeting on July 2, 1910. First president was builder and businessman Jacob Healey. Store owner, auctioneer and shipping agent Bill Spence was appointed secretary-treasurer. A friendly contest with fledgling Kempsey Golf Club took place on August 1.

1913: Captain Jock Baird won first Port Macquarie Golf Championship.

1921: Captain Baird set a course record for the original 9-hole links with a two under bogie (par) 41 off the stick.

1929: It was decided at a meeting on May 4 in Port Macquarie that the Central North Coast Golf Association (now Lower North Coast District Golf Association) be formed. The inaugural meeting of the association and its first championship were staged at Port on June 3. Port Macquarie's Alban 'Bull' Elliot won the tournament.

1932: At a meeting at Wauchope on June 11 delegates from seven golf clubs in the Macleay, Hastings and Manning area set up the Central North Coast Associates Golf Association (the forerunner of the current Women's Golf Central North Coast).

1948: Around this time all records of the history of the lady golfers at Port Macquarie disappeared.

1953: On July 4, Jim Reed won the last competition on the Oxley Reserve links, carding a nett 58. The following Saturday the clubhouse was taken on

The links at Oxley Reserve in the 1930s.





It was a rough old drive out to the course before the road was sealed.

a low-loader from in town to Tacking Point. On July 18, Norm Bennett and Linda Nowland went into the record books as winners of the first mixed event on the new course, while Vic Johnston took out the competition for those men not involved in the mixed event. The first club championships on the new course were held on the weekend of October 17-18. Competitors fought their way around three circuits of the six-hole course. The winner was Charlie Uptin. Enid Hudson took out the associates' championship. Mayor of Port Macquarie Ted Brownlow officially opened the first nine holes of the new links on November 28.

1956: The NSW Department of Lands banned all mining on improved areas of the golf course.

1959: Wally Freeman was employed as manager of golf club. The first of the now traditional annual contests between the Beverley Park and Port Macquarie Golf Clubs was staged at the former's home course. By 2010 Beverley Park had yet to

win at any of the competitions in Port Macquarie, although one was drawn.

1960: Port Macquarie Mayor (and former golf club president) Les Crisp officially opened the new clubhouse in April.

1961: The sealing of the road from the outskirts of Port Macquarie to the clubhouse was completed.

1962: Pat Trotter was employed as green keeper to succeed 'Bluey' Hicks. Charlie Uptin was awarded life membership.

1963: Minute books for the golf club board for 1960 to 1963 disappeared. Bert Hall was appointed secretary-manager to replace Wally Freeman. A residence for the manager was built. The original clubhouse building was demolished and removed. Enid Hudson became the first lady golfer to receive life membership.

1965: The RSL Club met the cost of a memorial fairway and green (on the 12th Hole).

1966: Extensions to the clubhouse were officially opened at a dinner-dance on February 22. Jack Pike agreed to compile a history of the golf club. He duly did so but all his work – many hundreds of hours of painstaking research – was thrown out by person or persons unknown in the late 1990s. In June, Ron Stead began as the club's first full-time professional.

1967: With the completion of the 2nd hole, the course was finally finished, 14 years after the move from the centre of town. On April 11, the first 18-hole event was played, with Charlie Uptin given the honour of being the first to tee off. The Men's Veteran Golfers Association was formed in August.

1968: The 18-hole lay-out at Tacking Point was officially opened in February. In July the first Seaside Golf Championship (later the Seaside Classic) was staged over 27 holes. It was won by Armidale's Ron Worling.

1970: The Port Macquarie RSL Social Golf Club was formed, with 12 members. The first president was Dennis Farnham. It went on to become the biggest social golf club in New South Wales.

1972: The Lady Veteran Golfers Association was formed in March.

1973: Bert Hall retired and Don Gibbs was appointed his successor as secretary-manager of the club. Dick Gentle was honoured with life membership.

1974: Charlie Uptin opened the new course watering scheme in a ceremony at the 9th green. Brian Sams won the first of his record 16 Port Macquarie Championships (most recent in 2007). First Pro-Am event was staged, in July. Bessie Pike was rewarded for her work with life membership.

1975: Bob Huddleston and Jack Pike honoured with life membership.

1977: Iconic Norfolk Pine adjacent to 1st tee was hit by lightning and was in danger of dying.

1978: A tree surgeon saved the pine tree by lopping of the damaged top branches and section of trunk. The first 'Seaside Week of Golf' was held, featuring the 36-hole Seaside Classic. After a complete refurbishment and extension, the new-look clubhouse was officially opened on November 11. Jeannie Thew and Maisie Dunn joined those honoured with life membership.

1980: Alan Woodhouse took over as secretary-manager of the club from Don Gibbs, who had finished in October the previous year. Phil Pye won the first of his 12 club championships (the most recent was in 2002).

1983: Allan Kennedy was honoured with life membership.

1985: An overnight fire in January destroyed the machinery shed. A local resident was charged with arson.

1987: Club stalwart Bob Huddleston died in September.

1988: A massive flood in April left the 2nd hole under water. John Lassig and Betty Hicks were each awarded life membership.

1989: The size of the golf club board was reduced from 13 to nine. Eighty-two lady golfers took advantage of the change in rules to become full members and vote for the first time at an annual meeting. On May 1, Myra Hollis became the first woman elected to the board.

1991: Frank Roberts was made a life member.

1992: A bore was sunk and a pump installed on the 11th hole. Each hole was given a 150m marker.

1993: Peter Schroder, club captain for a record 19 straight years (1974 to 1992), was rewarded for his work with life membership. So, too was John Puffett. Peter Bennett was appointed club professional.

1994: Port Macquarie hosted the Veteran Golfers Australian Championship, with Earl Golding taking out the title on his home course.

1996: The 'Father of Port Macquarie golf', Charlie Uptin died. The board agreed to erect a memorial to honour his efforts over six decades. It was designed to include flagpoles. Every state was represented when Port Macquarie hosted the Australian Schoolboys and Schoolgirls Championships. The former was won by Queenslander Dylan Campbell, later to win several tournaments on the Canadian Pro Tour. The girls' event was won by 16-year-old Nikki Campbell (no relation), who went on

to star on the Japanese professional circuit. Dylan equalled the Port Macquarie course record of 68 while Nikki broke the ladies course record with a round of 74.

1997: Peter Bennett resigned as club professional and was replaced by Wayne Brenton. Practice nets were installed. A special meeting agreed that the golf club should buy back the course from the council. This was done the following year at a cost of \$650,000. Port Macquarie's Earl Golding won the NSW Veteran Golfers Championship at Dubbo.

1998: Port Macquarie hosted the NSW Veteran Golfers Championship.

2000: Alan Woodhouse retired as secretary-manager. He was replaced by Trevor Haynes. The first stage of the clubhouse update was completed.



Myra Hollis ... first woman on the board.



Dylan Campbell ... Schoolboys Champion.

2001: The club held a special function to celebrate its 90th anniversary. It was only after it had been held that it was realised the commemoration was 12 months late.

2003: The club fell victim to an armed robbery. A new entrance to the course was built.

2004: Steve Brennan, from Bankstown Golf Club, was appointed course manager. The golf course design company Peter Williams & Associates was engaged to draw up plans for the future development of the club and the course.

2005: The Peter Williams review was completed, with three new holes to the south on top of the agenda.

2006: The dam on the 11th hole was enlarged. Two water fountains were installed. They immediately looked likely to join the Norfolk Pine and the bamboo clump as recognisable features that

visiting golfers would talk about when back at their home clubs.

2007: A concept for the possible redesign of the links over the next 25 years was unveiled to the members. It would deliver a more challenging par-72 course with a length of 6306m (for men) and 5390m (for ladies). New laws forced a special balcony to be built on the clubhouse where members and visitors wanting to smoke cigarettes could gather.

2010: The NSW Seniors Championship was staged at Port Macquarie. Playing on his home course, iconic Port golfer Brian Sams notched a comfortable victory with rounds of 73, 70 and 75 (for 218) – his second round effort being the only sub-par round by any player during the tournament. A former Port Macquarie Golf Club member Ian Read (from Indooroopilly in Brisbane) was the Over-65s winner, with a 54-hole total of 226.



LIFE MEMBERS

The awarding of life membership in credit of services to the Port Macquarie Golf Club was only instituted in 1962. But, before that, when the club was at the old links in the centre of the town, there was provision for its equivalent – honorary membership. Sadly there is no list of honorary members in existence, although it is known that both Captain Jock Baird and Alban ‘Bull’ Elliot were both given the coveted award. By the centenary year there had been only nine men and five women granted life membership



Legends of the Port Macquarie Golf Club – four life members with president Kevin Cain: (left to right), John Lassig, Cain, Charlie Uptin, Allan Kennedy and Dick Gentle.



The three surviving life members of the club in the centenary year: (L to R) Peter Schroder, Betty Hicks and Frank Roberts.

MEN – LIFE MEMBERS

| | | | |
|------|--------------|------|-------------|
| 1962 | CT Uptin | 1988 | JK Lassig |
| 1973 | R Gentle | 1991 | F Roberts |
| 1975 | JG Pike | 1993 | PC Schroder |
| 1975 | R Huddleston | 1993 | JK Puffett |
| 1983 | AB Kennedy | | |

LADIES – LIFE MEMBERS

| | |
|------|--------------|
| 1963 | Mrs E Hudson |
| 1974 | Mrs BM Pike |
| 1978 | Mrs NM Dunn |
| 1978 | Mrs J Thew |
| 1988 | Mrs B Hicks |

A Century of Local Golfers

OFFICE BEARERS AND TITLE WINNERS

PRESIDENT

1910 J Healey
 1911 J Healey
 1912 G Lindsay
 1913 G Lindsay
 1914 G Lindsay
 1915 G Lindsay
 1916 PG Hampshire
 1917 PG Hampshire
 1918 Capt J Baird
 1919 Capt J Baird
 1920 Dr R Sproule
 1921 Dr R Sproule
 1922 Dr R Sproule
 1923 Dr R Sproule
 1924 Dr R Sproule
 1925 Dr R Sproule
 1926 Dr R Sproule
 1927 AA Cumming
 1928 AA Cumming
 1929 AA Cumming
 1930 AA Cumming
 1931 AA Cumming
 1932 AA Cumming
 1933 AA Cumming
 1934 AA Cumming
 1935 AA Cumming
 1936 AA Cumming
 1937 AA Cumming
 1938 C Sexton
 1939 C Sexton
 1940 Dr NE McLaren
 1941 Dr NE McLaren
 1942 Dr NE McLaren
 1943 C Sexton
 1944 C Sexton
 1945 TR Rosenbaum
 1946 TR Rosenbaum
 1947 AL Crisp
 1948 AL Crisp
 1949 AL Crisp
 1950 CT Uptin

1951 CT Uptin
 1952 DS Kennedy
 1953 DS Kennedy
 1954 E Dunn
 1955 E Dunn
 1956 CT Uptin
 1957 CT Uptin
 1958 CT Uptin
 1959 E Dunn
 1960 CT Uptin
 1961 CT Uptin
 1962 D Moore
 1963 D Moore
 1964 D Moore
 1965 D Moore
 1966 D Moore
 1967 JG Pike
 1968 G Fowler
 1969 G Fowler
 1970 JG Pike
 1971 JG Pike
 1972 RP Cains
 1973 RP Cains
 1974 RG Lonard
 1975 RG Lonard
 1976 RG Lonard
 1977 RP Cains
 1978 RP Cains
 1979 AM Cumming
 1980 AM Cumming
 1981 AM Cumming
 1982 AM Cumming
 1983 RP Cains
 1984 RP Cains
 1985 RP Cains
 1986 KX Cain
 1987 KX Cain
 1988 KX Cain
 1989 JK Banks
 1990 JK Banks
 1991 JK Puffett
 1992 JK Puffett

1993 JK Banks
 1994 JK Banks
 1995 JK Banks
 1996 JK Banks
 1997 JK Banks
 1998 JK Banks
 1999 JK Banks
 2000 G Bain
 2001 G Bain
 2002 W MacDonald
 2003 W MacDonald
 2004 W MacDonald
 2005 W MacDonald
 2006 W MacDonald
 2007 W MacDonald
 2008 W MacDonald
 2009 W MacDonald
 2010 W MacDonald

CAPTAIN

1910 WA Spence
 1911 WR Stacey
 1912 WR Stacey
 1913 PG Hampshire
 1914 PG Hampshire
 1915 PG Hampshire
 1916 Capt J Baird
 1917 Capt J Baird
 1918 GW Wiltshire
 1919 GW Wiltshire
 1920 Capt J Baird
 1921 Capt J Baird
 1922 Capt J Baird
 1923 G Lindsay
 1924 G Lindsay &
 AC Elliot
 1925 G Lindsay
 1926 G Lindsay
 1927 AC Elliot
 1928 AC Elliot
 1929 AC Elliot
 1930 AC Elliot

1931 AC Elliot
 1932 AC Elliot
 1933 AC Elliot
 1934 AC Elliot
 1935 AC Elliot
 1936 AC Elliot
 1937 PH Hallett
 1938 A Bailey
 1939 PJ O'Brien
 1940 PJ O'Brien
 1941 PJ O'Brien
 1942 PJ O'Brien
 1943 A Bailey
 1944 A Bailey
 1945 F Rosendahl
 1946 F Rosendahl
 1947 PJ O'Brien
 1948 Dr EL Murphy
 1949 C Uptin
 1950 Dr EL Murphy
 1951 H Warlters
 1952 F Johnson
 1953 J Haggerty
 1954 R Huddleston
 1955 N Glover
 1956 G Blair
 1957 N Glover
 1958 G Fowler
 1959 G Fowler
 1960 G Fowler
 1961 G Fowler
 1962 G Fowler
 1963 DS Kennedy
 1964 G Fowler
 1965 G Fowler
 1966 G Fowler
 1967 J Lassig
 1968 J Lassig
 1969 J Lassig
 1970 R Huddleston
 1971 R Huddleston
 1972 R Huddleston

1973 JF Lewin
 1974 P Schroder
 1975 P Schroder
 1976 P Schroder
 1977 P Schroder
 1978 P Schroder
 1979 P Schroder
 1980 P Schroder
 1981 P Schroder
 1982 P Schroder
 1983 P Schroder
 1984 P Schroder
 1985 P Schroder
 1986 P Schroder
 1987 P Schroder
 1988 P Schroder
 1989 P Schroder
 1990 P Schroder
 1991 P Schroder
 1992 P Schroder
 1993 WB MacDonald
 1994 WB MacDonald
 1995 DR James
 1996 DR James
 1997 DR James
 1998 DR James
 1999 DR James
 2000 KN Heap
 2001 KN Heap
 2002 KN Heap
 2003 K Tremayne
 2004 G Gunn
 2005 G Gunn
 2006 G Gunn
 2007 G Gunn
 2008 KN Heap
 2009 KN Heap
 2010 KN Heap

SECRETARY

1910 WA Spence
 1911 Const WH Harrison
 1912 Const WH Harrison
 1913 Const WH Harrison
 1914 Const WH Harrison

1915 Const WH Harrison
 1916 Const WH Harrison
 1917 Const WH Harrison
 1918 Const WH Harrison
 1919 Canon Morrish
 1920 Canon Morrish
 1921 Canon Morrish
 1922 AC Elliot
 1923 AC Elliot
 1924 AC Elliot
 1925 AC Elliot
 1926 AC Elliot
 1927 AC Elliot
 1928 AC Elliot
 1929 AC Elliot
 1930 AC Elliot
 1931 AC Elliot
 1932 AC Elliot
 1933 AC Elliot
 & AG Munro
 1934 AC Elliot
 1935 AC Elliot
 1936 AC Elliot
 1937 HL Larcombe
 1938 HL Larcombe
 1939 HL Larcombe
 1940 PJ O'Brien
 1941 PJ O'Brien
 1942 PJ O'Brien
 1943 PJ O'Brien
 1944 R Fardell
 1945 PJ O'Brien
 1946 PJ O'Brien
 1947 F Avern
 1948 I McLean
 1949 I McLean
 1950 C Chapman
 1951 C Chapman
 1952 C Chapman
 1953 CT Uptin
 1954 C Chapman
 1955 R Huddleston
 1956 R Huddleston
 1957 R Huddleston
 1958 R Huddleston

1959 R Huddleston
 1960 R Huddleston
 1961 R Huddleston
 1962 R Huddleston
 1963 R Huddleston
 1964 R Huddleston
 1965 R Huddleston
 1966 R Huddleston
 1967 R Huddleston
 1968 R Huddleston
 1969 R Huddleston
 1970 P Schroder
 1971 P Schroder
 1972 P Schroder

MANAGER

1958 W Freeman
 1959 W Freeman
 1960 W Freeman
 1961 W Freeman
 1962 HO Hall
 1963 HO Hall
 1964 HO Hall
 1965 HO Hall
 1966 HO Hall
 1967 HO Hall
 1968 HO Hall
 1969 HO Hall
 1970 HO Hall
 1971 HO Hall
 1972 HO Hall
 1973 DJ Gibbs
 1974 DJ Gibbs
 1975 DJ Gibbs
 1976 DJ Gibbs
 1977 DJ Gibbs
 1978 DJ Gibbs
 1979 DJ Gibbs
 1980 AA Woodhouse
 1981 AA Woodhouse
 1982 AA Woodhouse
 1983 AA Woodhouse
 1984 AA Woodhouse
 1985 AA Woodhouse
 1986 AA Woodhouse

1987 AA Woodhouse
 1988 AA Woodhouse
 1989 AA Woodhouse
 1990 AA Woodhouse
 1991 AA Woodhouse
 1992 AA Woodhouse
 1993 AA Woodhouse
 1994 AA Woodhouse
 1995 AA Woodhouse
 1996 AA Woodhouse
 1997 AA Woodhouse
 1998 AA Woodhouse
 1999 AA Woodhouse
 2000 AA Woodhouse
 2001 T Haynes
 2002 T Haynes
 2003 T Haynes
 2004 T Haynes
 2005 T Haynes
 2006 T Haynes
 2007 T Haynes
 2008 T Haynes
 2009 T Haynes
 2010 T Haynes

CHAMPION

1910 Not played
 1911 Not played
 1912 Not played
 1913 Capt J Baird
 1914 WA Spence
 1915 PG Hampshire
 1916 GW Wiltshire
 1917 GW Wiltshire
 1918 GW Wiltshire
 1919 G Lindsay
 1920 G Lindsay
 1921 AC Elliot
 1922 Capt J Baird
 1923 Capt J Baird
 1924 AC Elliot
 1925 AC Elliot
 1926 TA Hallett
 1927 AC Elliot
 1928 AC Elliot

1929 AC Elliot
 1930 AC Elliot
 1931 AC Elliot
 1932 A Bailey
 1933 A Bailey
 1934 A Bailey
 1935 A Bailey
 1936 G Blair
 1937 PJ O'Brien
 1938 PJ O'Brien
 1939 H Parker
 1940 G Blair
 (Championship suspended
 – World War II)
 1946 RB Byrnes
 1947 RB Byrnes
 1948 R Byrnes
 1949 G Blair
 1950 RB Byrnes
 1951 A Kennedy
 1952 J Haggerty
 1953 CT Uptin
 1954 RB Byrnes
 1955 G Blair
 1956 N. Glover
 1957 N Glover
 1958 R Huddleston
 1959 R Huddleston
 1960 N Barnett
 1961 R Huddleston
 1962 R Huddleston
 1963 R Huddleston
 1964 R Huddleston
 1965 R Huddleston
 1966 B Worth
 1967 J Lewin
 1968 J Lewin
 1969 J Lewin
 1970 J Lewin
 1971 J Lewin
 1972 J Lewin
 1973 J Lewin
 1974 B Sams
 1975 B Sams
 1976 B Sams
 1977 B Sams

1978 B Sams
 1979 B Sams
 1980 P Pye
 1981 B Sams
 1982 B Sams
 1983 B Sams
 1984 B Sams
 1985 I O'Connell
 1986 P Pye
 1987 G Pevy
 1988 B Sams
 1989 P Pye
 1990 P Pye
 1991 P Pye
 1992 P Pye
 1993 G Collis
 1994 P Pye
 1995 P Pye
 1996 P Pye
 1997 T Jones
 1998 P Pye
 1999 P Pye
 2000 P Pye
 2001 P Pye
 2002 P Pye
 2003 B Sams
 2004 B Sams
 2005 B Sams
 2006 B Sams
 2007 B Sams
 2008 B Poulter
 2009 J Hutchison

PATRON'S MATCH PLAY CHAMPION

1998 B Sams
 1999 G Flynn
 2000 T Davis
 2001 D Bagust
 2002 P Pye
 2003 B Sams
 2004 G Ferguson
 2005 J Hutchison
 2006 M Swift
 2007 J Geisker

2008 D Bagust
 2009 T Harris

MEN'S FOURSOMES

1974 B Robertson/G Allan
 1975 B Huddleston/A Stephens
 1976 B Huddleston/A Stephens
 1977 I Read/D Tipping
 1978 B Huddleston/A Stephens
 1979 B Worth/D Frazer
 1980 D Tipping/P Schweitzer
 1981 H Davenport/A Stephens
 1982 P Pye/B Sams
 1983 K Abrahamsen/A Pye
 1984 K Abrahamsen/A Pye
 1985 K Abrahamsen/P Pye
 1986 B Catterall/P Gasnier
 1987 J Banks/G Collis
 1988 H Bennett/T Elford
 1989 P Heath/B Sams
 1990 B Catterall/P Gasnier
 1991 G Huender/G Strong
 1992 S Morrison/A Van Zeeland
 1993 P Pye/S Strong
 1994 P Pye/S Strong
 1995 P Pye/S Strong
 1996 J Morris/K Tremayne
 1997 T Jones/B Sams
 1998 C Golding/P Pye
 1999 T Jones/B Sams
 2000 G Strong/S Strong
 2001 M Button/G Pellow
 2002 P Pye/S Strong
 2003 T Jones/B Sams
 2004 D Bagust/J Hutchison
 2005 J Hutchison/P Moon
 2006 T Jones/B Sams
 2007 J Chiles/B Poulter
 2008 M Swift/B Duncombe
 2009 D Heagney/ D Rounsevell

MIXED FOURSOMES

1974 D Tipping/J Johnston
 1975 A Stephens/J Stephens
 1976 A Stephens/J Stephens
 1977 A Stephens/J Stephens

- 1978 A Stephens/J Stephens
- 1979 C Woodbridge/J Price
- 1980 A Stephens/J Stephens
- 1981 P Gasnier/K Naylor
- 1982 A Stephens/J Stephens
- 1983 W Smith/N Masterton
- 1984 D Horton/C Berry
- 1985 P Pye/F Gibbs
- 1986 P Pye/F Gibbs
- 1987 G Collis/C Berry
- 1988 P Pye/F Gibbs
- 1989 W Smith/V Cole
- 1990 G Strong/A Carberry
- 1991 P Pye/F Gibbs
- 1992 M Ryter/F Gibbs
- 1993 P Pye/F Gibbs
- 1994 S Jeffress/M Smith
- 1995 B Sams/M Smith
- 1996 B Sams/M Smith
- 1997 L Main/M Smith
- 1998 P Pye/F Gibbs
- 1999 B Sams/R Beecher
- 2000 P Hanson/S Gunn
- 2001 P Pye/F Gibbs
- 2002 T Smith/J Toogood
- 2003 B Sams/A Roach
- 2004 B Sams/A Roach
- 2005 B Sams/A Roach
- 2006 W Gunn/S Gunn
- 2007 B Sams/A Roach
- 2008 B Sams/A Roach
- 2009 T Davis/S Gunn

**CHARLES UPTIN
KNOCKOUT**

- 1974 K Campbell/H McGee
- 1975 W Monger/R Ison
- 1976 B King/R Heath
- 1977 C Woodbridge/B Hewlett
- 1978 C Woodbridge/B Hewlett
- 1979 W Saunders/G Weston
- 1980 N Conridge/L Venier
- 1981 G Boggs/D Lumby
- 1982 M Newnham/T Tchan
- 1983 P McKinnon/L Riley
- 1984 K Abrahamsen/N Conridge

- 1985 C Hoare/T Vaughan
- 1986 P McKinnon/W Rogers
- 1987 R Horton/L Potts
- 1988 G Smith/W Smith
- 1989 W MacDonald/L Raishbrook
- 1990 J Purnell/S Strong
- 1991 J Purnell/S Strong
- 1992 W King/W Stacey
- 1993 T Doyle/T Etherington
- 1994 M Carter/C Toms
- 1995 B Holmes/T Minter
- 1996 K Heap/P McKinnon
- 1997 J Gibson/A Uptin
- 1998 W Bate/I McKinlay
- 1999 P Dawson/P Moon
- 2000 J Gibson/A Uptin
- 2001 T Davis/D Murray
- 2002 J Hadfield/D Garvey
- 2003 D Tydd/S Manton
- 2004 R Bourne/H Gray
- 2005 R Bourne/H Gray
- 2006 A Smith/G Staines
- 2007 S Ratnor/W Keech
- 2008 I McKinlay/W Norman
- 2009 B Hawkins/H Bennett

**ROGER & HEATHER
DULHUNTY KNOCKOUT**

- 1991 M Mansfield/V Cole
- 1992 J Roods/C Berry
- 1993 A Uptin/G Uptin
- 1995 A Uptin/G Uptin
- 1996 R Berry/V Roods
- 1997 J Roods/C Berry
- 1998 P McKinnon/M Hollis
- 1999 R Thorncraft/J Thorncraft
- 2000 T Etherington/J Etherington
- 2001 G Reay/B Dunn
- 2002 B Saunders/C Dickson
- 2003 G Norman/S Norman
- 2004 G McLaren/R McLaren
- 2005 T Walch/M Walch
- 2006 G McLaren/R McLaren
- 2007 G Linn/R Linn
- 2008 G Dudgeon/R Roden
- 2009 J Heslin/Y Heslin

JUNIOR CHAMPION

- 1986 R O'Connell
- 1987 J Harmer
- 1988 G Bollard
- 1989 P Dawson
- 1990 S Morrison
- 1991 S Jeffress
- 1992 S Jeffress
- 1993 S Jeffress
- 1994 J Simpson
- 1995 K Proberts
- 1996 D Watson
- 1997 L Main
- 1998 J Main
- 1999 B Beecher
- 2000 J Main
- 2001 J Prowse
- 2002 J Lawrence
- 2003 J Prowse
- 2004 J Prowse
- 2005 J Prowse
- 2006 W Gunn
- 2007 A Cecil
- 2008 B Poulter
- 2009 K Hunter



Roger and Heather Dulhanty.

Lady Golfers



Leadership team of the lady golfers in the centenary year: (From left to right) Captain Faye Gibbs, president Pamela Jones and secretary Betty Dunn.

PRESIDENTS

1918-28 Not known
 1929 Miss N Flynn
 1930-32 Not known
 1933 Mrs AC Elliot
 1934 Mrs AC Elliot
 1935 Mrs AC Elliot
 1936-52 Not known
 1953 Mrs E Hudson
 1954 Mrs E Hudson
 1955 Mrs E Hudson
 1956 Mrs E Hudson
 1957 Mrs E Hudson
 1958 Mrs E Hudson
 1959 Mrs E Hudson
 1960 Mrs E Hudson
 1961 Mrs E Hudson
 1962 Mrs E Hudson
 1963 Mrs B Hicks
 1964 Mrs B Hicks
 1965 Mrs E Hudson
 1966 Mrs E Hudson
 1967 Mrs I Plevy
 1968 Mrs E Hudson
 1969 Mrs E Hudson
 1970 Mrs R Pearson
 1971 Mrs R Pearson

1972 Mrs R Pearson
 1973 Mrs G Barker
 1974 Mrs G Barker
 1975 Mrs G Barker
 1976 Mrs M Mettam
 1977 Mrs M Mettam
 1978 Mrs G Barker
 1979 Mrs T Neilson
 1980 Mrs T Neilson
 1981 Mrs B Jacobs
 1982 Mrs B Jacobs
 1983 Mrs B Jacobs
 1984 Mrs B Jacobs
 1985 Mrs B Jacobs
 1986 Mrs B Jacobs
 1987 Mrs M Worner
 1988 Mrs M Worner
 1989 Mrs M Worner
 1990 Mrs N Read
 1991 Mrs N Read
 1992 Mrs N Read
 1993 Mrs J Cains
 1994 Mrs J Cains
 1995 Mrs J Cains
 1996 Mrs M Hollis
 1997 Mrs M Hollis
 1998 Mrs M Dalton
 1999 Mrs M Dalton

2000 Mrs M Dalton
 2001 Mrs C Scott
 2002 Mrs C Scott
 2003 Mrs C Scott
 2004 Mrs A James
 2005 Mrs A James
 2006 Mrs A James
 2007 Mrs A James
 2008 Mrs L Kerr
 2009 Mrs P Jones
 2010 Mrs P Jones

CAPTAIN

1918-33 Not known
 1934 Mrs AJ Reid
 1936-62 Not known
 1963 Mrs J Spence
 1964 Mrs J Spence
 1965 Mrs B Hicks
 1966 Mrs R Pearson
 1967 Mrs R Pearson
 1968 Mrs U Robertson
 1969 Mrs U Robertson
 1970 Mrs U Robertson
 1971 Mrs U Robertson
 1972 Mrs U Robertson
 1973 Mrs J Spence
 1974 Mrs V Morris

1975 Mrs V Morris
 1976 Mrs V Morris
 1977 Mrs V Morris
 1978 Mrs T Neilson
 1979 Mrs V Morris
 1980 Mrs V Morris
 1981 Mrs V McGee
 1982 Mrs V McGee
 1983 Mrs V McGee
 1984 Mrs V McGee
 1985 Mrs E Goddard
 1986 Mrs E Goddard
 1987 Mrs H Purse
 1988 Mrs H Purse
 1989 Mrs H Purse
 1990 Mrs J Cains
 1991 Mrs J Cains
 1992 Mrs J Cains
 1993 Miss F Gibbs
 1994 Miss F Gibbs
 1995 Miss F Gibbs
 1996 Mrs A Broomby
 1997 Mrs A Broomby
 1998 Mrs A Broomby
 1999 Mrs A Broomby
 2000 Mrs W Pfeill
 2001 Mrs W Pfeill
 2002 Mrs W Pfeill
 2003 Mrs P Reading
 2004 Miss F Gibbs
 2005 Miss F Gibbs
 2006 Miss F Gibbs
 2007 Miss F Gibbs
 2008 Miss F Gibbs
 2009 Miss F Gibbs
 2010 Miss F Gibbs

SECRETARY

1918-32 Not known
 1933 Mrs BH Pountney
 1934 Mrs BH Pountney
 1935 Mrs BH Pountney
 1936-40 Not known
 1941 Miss E Bailey
 1942-62 Not known
 1963 Mrs M Stafford
 1964 Mrs M Stafford
 1965 Mrs M Stafford
 1966 Mrs M Stafford
 1967 Mrs J Spence
 1968 Mrs J Spence
 1969 Mrs J Spence
 1970 Mrs J Spence
 1971 Mrs M Mettam
 1972 Mrs M Mettam
 1973 Mrs M Mettam
 1974 Mrs N Sims
 1975 Mrs N Sims
 1976 Mrs R Ball
 1977 Mrs R Ball
 1978 Mrs R Ball
 1979 Mrs D Bennett
 1980 Mrs I Brumpton
 1981 Mrs I Brumpton
 1982 Mrs I Brumpton
 1983 Mrs E Moss
 1984 Mrs E Moss
 1985 Mrs C Berry
 1986 Mrs E Moss
 1987 Mrs E Moss
 1988 Mrs E Moss
 1990 Mrs H Hayman
 1991 Mrs M Hollis
 1992 Mrs P Sanderson
 1993 Mrs P Sanderson

1994 Mrs P Sanderson
 1995 Mrs L James
 1996 Mrs L James
 1997 Mrs A James
 1998 Mrs A James
 1999 Mrs B Dunn
 2000 Mrs B Dunn
 2001 Mrs B Dunn
 2002 Mrs B Dunn
 2003 Mrs C Carter
 2004 Mrs B Dunn
 2005 Mrs B Dunn
 2006 Mrs B Dunn
 2007 Mrs B Dunn
 2008 Mrs B Dunn
 2009 Mrs B Dunn
 2010 Mrs B Dunn

CHAMPION

1918-24 Not known
 1925 Mrs BH Pountney
 1926 Mrs LW Perry
 1927 Mrs BH Pountney
 1928 Mrs BH Pountney
 1929-34 Not known
 1935 Miss J Condon
 1936-46 Not known
 1947 Mrs AG Bynes
 1948 Mrs E Hudson
 1949 Mrs E Hudson
 1950 Mrs E Hudson
 1951 Mrs I McLean
 1951 Mrs E Hudson
 1952 Mrs E Hudson
 1953 Mrs E Hudson
 1954 Mrs E Hudson
 1955 Mrs E Hudson
 1956 Mrs E Hudson
 1957 Mrs E Hudson
 1958 Mrs E Hudson
 1959 Mrs E Hudson
 1960 Mrs E Hudson
 1961 Mrs E Hudson
 1962 Mrs J Moxey
 1963 Mrs E Hudson
 1964 Mrs E Hudson
 1965 Mrs E Hudson
 1966 Mrs E Hudson
 1967 Mrs E Hudson
 1968 Mrs E Hudson
 1969 Mrs E Hudson
 1970 Mrs E Hudson
 1971 Mrs E Hudson
 1972 Mrs J Abberton
 1973 Mrs E Hudson
 1974 Mrs J Stephens
 1975 Mrs J Stephens
 1976 Mrs J Stephens
 1977 Mrs J Stephens
 1978 Mrs J Stephens
 1979 Mrs J Stephens
 1980 Mrs J Stephens
 1981 Mrs J Stephens
 1982 Mrs J Stephens
 1983 Mrs E Cameron
 1984 Miss F Gibbs
 1985 Mrs J Stephens
 1986 Mrs E Cameron
 1987 Mrs J Stephens
 1988 Miss F Gibbs
 1989 Miss F Gibbs
 1990 Miss F Gibbs
 1991 Miss M Smith
 1992 Miss F Gibbs
 1993 Miss F Gibbs

1994 Miss F Gibbs
 1995 Miss M Smith
 1996 Miss M Smith
 1997 Mrs S Dunn
 1998 Mrs S Dunn
 1999 Miss F Gibbs
 2000 Mrs E Beecher
 2001 Mrs V Marsh
 2002 Mrs A Roach
 2003 Mrs A Roach
 2004 Mrs A Roach
 2005 Mrs W Price
 2006 Mrs J Toogood
 2007 Mrs G Lavender
 2008 Mrs S Gunn
 2009 Mrs G Lavender

LADIES FOURSOMES

1974 J Stephens/R Leeson
 1975 F Green/E Andrews
 1976 P Rolph/V Morris
 1977 J Stephens/R Leeson
 1978 K Naylor/D Price
 1979 G Barker/D Price
 1980 J Stephens/F Green
 1981 K Naylor/V Miles
 1982 V Arnold/ E Cameron
 1983 E Cameron/P Woolston
 1984 E Cameron/A Carberry
 1985 C Le Page/ H Purse
 1986 C Berry/E Cameron
 1987 A Carberry/F Gibbs
 1988 C Berry/E Cameron
 1989 F Gibbs/H Purse
 1990 A Carberry/F Gibbs
 1991 M Bateman/M Smith
 1992 F Gibbs/A Saunders
 1993 D Campbell/A Jackson
 1994 A Carberry.F Gibbs
 1995 C Berry/E Cameron
 1996 A Carberry/F Gibbs
 1997 A Carberry/F Gibbs
 1998 R Beecher/M Smith
 1999 R Beecher/M Smith
 2000 R Beecher/M Smith
 2001 A Roach/M Smith
 2002 J Campbell/M Smith
 2003 A Roach/M Smith
 2004 A Roach/F Gibbs
 2005 J Toogood/H Smith
 2006 B Ellis/S Gunn
 2007 G Lavender/ D Campbell
 2008 H Smith/J Toogood
 2009 J Sibbons/ L Guild

LADIES SEASIDE CLASSIC

1991 J Swanson
 1992 J Swanson
 1993 B Andrews
 1994 J Horne
 1995 G Hickey
 1996 G Hickey
 1997 D Campbell
 1998 G Hickey
 1999 J Horne
 2000 V Tutt
 2001 V Tutt
 2002 V Tutt
 2003 V Tutt
 2004 G Hickey
 2005 A Odgers
 2006 A Odgers
 2007 J Swanson
 2008 A Kendler
 2009 J Swanson

2010 Golf club

Members

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Preferred_Name Surname | Eve Baumgart | Craig Brown | Ted Coffey | Valerie Dawson |
| Terry Abbott | Peter Baumgart | Kenn Brown | Bruce Coleman | Rick Day |
| Richard Abel | Maree Beecroft | Kim Brown | Irwin Collett | Wayne Debenham |
| Jay Abrahamsen | Neil Beecroft | Michael Brown | Denis Collins | Terry Degnan |
| Paul Adams | John Beers | Philip Brown | Ed Collins | Harry Denley |
| Peter Adams | Neville Bell | Ian Browning | Joan Collins | Jan Dennis |
| June Aiken | Hayden Bennett | Ron Buckley | Michael Collins | Denis Denton |
| Keith Aitken | Ron Bennetts | Raymond Budnick | Greg Collis | Sandra Denton |
| Rodger Alden | Mark Bensley | Jim Bultitude | Col Collyer | Les Derby |
| Joe Aliprandi | James Benson | Warren Burke | Peter Connor | Kevin Dessaix |
| Margaret Aliprandi | John Beresford | Peter Butler | Cyril Connors | Steven Dever |
| Gary Allen | Terry Bernutt | Janice Cains | Kath Connors | Bob Devine |
| Keith Alpen | Colleen Berry | Rohan Cains | Ashley Cooper | Jennifer Devitt |
| Gordon Ambrose | Ron Berry | Yvonne Cains | Lea Cooper | John Dickens |
| Rosemary Ambrose | Barry Best | Ron Callaghan | Mark Cooper | Christine Dickson |
| Ian Anderson | Robert Best | Dawn Campbell | Shane Coppin | Jan Ditton |
| Diane Andrews | Ruth Best | Don Campbell | Marjorie Cotterill | Chris Dixon |
| Hazel Archer | Harold Bicknell | Ted Campbell | Phil Cotterill | Craig Dixon |
| Greg Armstrong | Gerald Billing | Ian Campbell | Michael Couper | Gay Dixon |
| Maureen Armstrong | Chris Bittar | Janice Campbell | Anne Coutts | Phil Dixon |
| Jim Arthur | David Bittar | Noel Campbell | Eric Coutts | Jean Donald |
| Paul Atkin | John Black | Blake Cannavo | William Cowdery | Greg Donnelly |
| Adam Atkins | Neil Black | Adeline Carberry | Don Crawford | John Dorrington |
| Heather Atkins | Jane Blackburn | John Carby | Stephanie Crawshaw | Peter Doyle |
| Bill Atkinson | Joan Blackburne | John Carroll | Martyn Crick | Jeff Dudgeon |
| Garry Attewell | John Blackburne | Christine Carter | Judy Crick | Jenny Dulhunty |
| Marilyne Attewell | Simon Blain | Mark Carter | John Crosscombe | Bruce Duncombe |
| Graham Austin | Michele Blayden | Robert Cash | Lynette Crosscombe | Ian Dunlop |
| Bruce Avery | Terence Bolger | Linda Castle | Mark Crowe | June Dunlop |
| David Bagust | Gavin Bollard | Barry Catterall | Tracy Crowe | Betty Dunn |
| Gordon Bain | Geoff Bollard | Alexandra Chapman | John Cullinane | Patrick Dunn |
| Margaret Bain | Paul Bollen | David Chappell | Shirley Culliton | Sue East |
| Chris Baker | Robyn Bollen | Kevin Chapple | William Cumberland | Darren Eather |
| Dan Baker | Franco Bortoli | David Cheers | Dave Curran | Peter Ebert |
| Geoffrey Ball | Max Boss | Robyn Cheers | Mike Cusato | June Edward |
| Clifford Bamford | Andrew Bourke | Glen Chesher | Brian Cutcliffe | David Edwards |
| Jim Banks | Bernie Bourke | Jim Chiles | Matthew Cutcliffe | John Elliott |
| Patti Banks | Rick Bourne | David Christensen | Sylvia Cutler | Warren Elliott |
| Paul Banner | Warren Bowley | Dianne Christensen | David Dale | Wendy Elliott |
| Garry Bannister | Roy Boyle | Clarice Christie | Loris Daniels | Bernice Ellis |
| Joe Barbaro | Craig Boys | Greg Christie | Bob Daniels | Wayne Ellis |
| Rod Barnaby | John Boys | Helen Christie | Andrew Davis | Barry Elphick |
| Aaron Barr | Helen Bradley | Arthur Clapoudis | Col Davis | Pauline Elphick |
| Mason Barrie | Laurie Bradley | Dimitris Clapoudis | Jeff Davis | Julie Etherington |
| Betty Barrow | Warren Brentnall | Glenys Clark | Stuart Davis | Terry Etherington |
| Dave Barsley | Julie Bright | Greg Clark | Terry Davis | George Evans |
| June Barsley | Peter Briscoe | Noel Clarke | John Dawson | Pat Every |
| Monica Barter | John Brockenshire | Maree Clews | Paul Dawson | Deborah Falvey |
| Bob Bassett | Marcus Brockhouse | Dennis Clift | Ron Dawson | Graeme Falvey |
| Margaret Bateman | Graham Brooks | Bernice Cobbett | Russell Dawson | James Farr |
| Howard Batt | Ann Broomby | Sid Cochran | Sarah Dawson | Marlene Farr |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Don Farrell | John Hadfield | John Hudson | Ray Laws | John McPherson |
| Sharon Farrell | Les Halbisch | Jeanette Hughes | Ronda Laws | Susan McPherson |
| Anne-marie Farrelly | Justin Hall | Bill Humphreys | David Ledgerwood | Steve McVicar |
| Bruce Farthing | Kevin Hall | Gary Humphreys | Marianne Leonard | Zoe McWhirter |
| Vicki Farthing | Richard Hall | Jo Humphreys | Ian Lett | Gordon Medaris |
| Kevin Fellows | Mike Halpin | Bob Hunter | Gwen Lever | John Meehan |
| Kathleen Felstead | Richard Hamill | John Hutchison | Bill Lever | Margot Meehan |
| Anthony Fenton | Phil Hands | Gordon Hutton | David Lewis | Geoff Metcalfe |
| Graeme Ferguson | Lyn Hands | Dale Hyde | John Lewis | Jenny Metcalfe |
| Maurie Ferry | Danny Hanlan | Jo Ireland | Kerry Lewis | Judy Mika |
| Carole Field | James Hanlan | Peter Irons | Margaret Liddy | Neil Miles |
| Peter Field | Margaret Hanlan | Annette Jackson | Peter Liddy | Patricia Miles |
| Barry Filshie | Paul Hanson | Ian Jackson | Graham Linn | Jan Miller |
| Gordon Finlay | Nigel Harding | Anne James | Robyn Linn | Ken Miller |
| John Fisher | Colin Hardwick | David James | Chris Lippold | Shannon Miller |
| Peter Flanagan | Lorna Harmer | Lyn James | Michelle Lloyd | John Mills |
| George Fleith | Ron Harmer | Richard James | Louris Loughland | Robyn Mills |
| Arthur Fletcher | Jeff Harper | Jaak Jarv | Chucky Lowe | Rick Milton |
| Judy Fletcher | Dave Harris | Joan Jarv | Colin Lucas | Grant Mitchell |
| Gary Flynn | Tim Harris | Karen Jeffery | Ken Lucas | Peter Moody |
| Wendy Foreman | Brian Harrison | Geoff Jhonson | Ken Lumby | Neville Moon |
| Barbara Foster | Wayne Harrison | Brian Johnson | Jeff Lynch | Paul Moon |
| Fred Fouche | Lena Harty | Brian Johnson | Mark Lyons | Henry Moore |
| Arch Fowler | Irene Harvey | Gordon Johnson | Geoff Lysaught | Peter Moore |
| Jenelle Francis | Mark Hatherly | Ian Johnson | Sandra Lysaught | Jamie Moors |
| Denise Franklin | Mark Haverfield | Neale Johnson | Irena MacDonald | Pearl Moors |
| Brian Fraser | Brad Hawkins | Phil Johnson | Bill Macdonald | Bill Morgan |
| Elizabeth Fraser | Robert Hawkins | Suzie Johnson | Hank Macinnes | Beverley Morris |
| Peter Gannon | Greg Haydon | Beryl Jones | Ann Mackay | Jim Morris |
| Darren Garvey | Van Hayes | Pamela Jones | Steve Manton | John Morris |
| Paul Gasnier | Gordon Hayes | Paul S. Jones | Andrew Mapstone | Ray Muffett |
| Colleen Gates | John Hayward | Bob Jones | Mark Marino | Mark Mulligan |
| Robert Gates | Bronwyn Heagney | Terry Jones | David Martin | Terry Mullin |
| Val Geary | David Heagney | Wayne Jones | Graeme Mason | Corrina Munro |
| John Geisker | John Heagney | Chris Jourdant | Joan Mathewson | Robin Munro |
| John Gentle | Keith Heap | Kerrie Jourdant | Michael Matthews | Gary Murcott |
| Richard Gentle | Peter Hearle | Kevin Jubelin | Ron Matthews | Marg Murcott |
| Ken Gentles | Bruce Heath | Bill Keech | Mary McCarthy | Chris Murphy |
| Barry George | Darren Henderson | Adam Kelly | Steve McCarthy | John Murphy |
| Bob Gerdes | Di Henry | Garry Kelly | Jim McClellan | Les Murphy |
| David Gerke | Robert Henry | Robyn Kelso | John McClure | Craig Murray |
| Faye Gibbs | Stephen Henry | Garry Kemp | June McClure | Dale Murray |
| Collette Gilmour | Mairead Henson | Noel Kent | Connie McCracken | John Murray |
| Wal Gilmour | Michael Herbert | Bernie Kepars | Paul McCrohan | Derek Napier |
| Anne Goedde | Peter Herbert | Barry Kerr | Richard McCrohan | John Nebauer |
| Walter Goedde | Ronald Heslin | Lyn Kerr | Darren McCudden | David Neville |
| Pam Goodwin | Yvone Heslin | Richard Kerr | Jim McEwen | Allan Newcombe |
| Peter Goodwin | Bede Hewlett | Trevor King | John McFadden | Margaret Newcombe |
| James Gordon | Sue Hey | Gordon Kitchener | Peter McFarland | Don Nicholas |
| Trent Gordon | Betty Hicks | Kath Knowles | Ian McGinnigle | Graham Nichols |
| Wendy Gordon | Bob Higham | Faf Kok | Kay McGrath | Ron Nichols |
| Russell Gorrie | Ann Hilberts | Peter Koppers | Tim McGrath | Forrest Niven |
| Andrew Goulding | Greg Hildebrand | Peter Kuhn | Joy McHugh-Abel | Margaret Nolan |
| Doris Gray | Chanel Hill | David Lacey | Grant McKeand | Robert Norman |
| Hugh Gray | Don Hillier | Roy Ladlay | David McKeown | Sue Norman |
| Kim Gray | Laraine Hillier | Bill Laing | Pat McKeown | Warren Norman |
| Margaret Gray | John Hincks | Greg Laing | Anthony McKern | John Nugent |
| Neville Gray | Guy Hingston | Robert Laing | Iain McKinlay | Margaret Nugent |
| Mel Gray-Thompson | Terry Hoare | James Lang | Phillip McKinney | John Oakey |
| Dennis Green | Fay Hocking | Bill Lang | John McKittrick | Anthea Oates |
| David Greentree | Ian Holborow | Cheronne Langan | Barry McLaren | John Oates |
| Leslie Gregson | Kath Hollins | Roland Langan | Graeme McLaren | Kris O'Brien |
| Louella Guild | Rob Hollins | Joy Lankester | Lesly McLaren | Reg O'Brien |
| Mark Guild | Jolon Homewood | Maurie Lankester | Marj McLaren | Rob O'Brien |
| Anil Gulati | Bob Hood | Elke Lappan | Ron McLaren | Barry O'Donnell |
| Grahame Gunn | Michael Hounslow | Laurie Lardner | Ros McLaren | John Okrasa |
| Patricia Gunn | Rhonda Howard | Margaret Lassam | Paul McLean | Tim Olsen |
| Peter Gunn | Steve Howard | Graham Last | Sue McLeod | Michael O'Neill |
| Sheena Gunn | Ken Howell | Greg Latimer | Pat McLoughlin | Alan Organ |
| Helen Gwalter | Dale Hubbard | Gerry Lavender | Don McManus | Loretta Organ |
| Tim Gwyther | Di Hubbard | Ron Lavender | Len McNeill | Greg O'Rourke |
| Bill Haddow | Brent Hudson | Dean Lawler | Pat McNeill | Arthur O'Sullivan |

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|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Doreen Otto | Lee Reynolds | Les Smith | Annette Tremayne |
| Mel Ovey | Dave Richards | Neil Smith | Kel Tremayne |
| John Oxley | Linda Richards | Pat Smith | Paula Truelsen |
| Mary Oxley | George Richmond | Paul Smith | Torben Truelsen |
| Wendy Oxley | Gerd Riedler | Warren Smith | John Turner |
| Keith Paff | Lionel Riley | Brian Somers | Michael Turner |
| Neil Page | Max E Riley | Lyn Somers | Mike Turner |
| David Pain | Max Riley | Peter Sorensen | Robert Turner |
| Patricia Parsons | Alan Ripper | Benny Sprague | David Tydd |
| Ian Paterson | Dave Ritchie | Robert Sprague | Jeff U'Brien |
| Ken Paton | Annemaree Roach | Janice Spurrier | Gerry Uptin |
| Gaylene Pattinson | Rosemary Roach | Ray Spurrier | Clark Valler |
| Jeffrey Pattinson | Ray Robbins | Julianne Stace | Stuart Vaughan |
| Bill Patton | Frank Roberts | Geoff Staines | Michael Vella |
| Eric Pead | Jim Roberts | Maxwell Starr | Maureen Walch |
| Rita Pead | Kerry Roberts | Darran Stephen | Terry Walch |
| Grahame Pellow | Michael Robinson | Allan Stephens | John Waldron |
| Bill Perfrement | Vic Robinson | Jeanette Stephens | Ian Walker |
| Jeffrey Perkins | Robyn Roden | Peter Stephens | Steve Wallace |
| Margaret Perkins | Vera Roods | Luke Stevens | Alf Wallis |
| Richard Perkins | Eadie Ross | Neil Stevenson | Michael Walsh |
| Gwyn Perry | Ian Roughley | Bryan Stewart | Anthea Walters |
| Bill Perry | Darin Rounsevell | Ray Strover | Doug Walters |
| Wendy Pfeil | Bill Rourke | Joan Sullivan | Rod Ware |
| Anne Pickering | Paul Rouse | John Sullivan | Tom Warner |
| Col Pickering | Simon Rouse | Margaret Sullivan | Glyn Watkins Mbe |
| Brian Pickert | Adrian Ryan | Patrick Sullivan | Dane Watson |
| Vic Piraner | Arthur Ryan | Tom Sumsky | Ken Watson |
| Russell Pirie | Robyn Ryan | Janet Sutton | Norm Watson |
| Mark Plunkett | Kay Sallaway | John Sutton | Sandra Watson |
| Glen Pollard | Murray Sallaway | Mark Sutton | David Weatherley |
| Edward Pollock | Roger Salter | Kay Swift | George Webb |
| Lorraine Pollock | Judy Salter | Lorraine Swift | Max Webb |
| Michael Pollock | Brian Sams | Michael Swift | Tony Weber |
| Ron Polson | Nik Sandeman-Allen | Nigel Swift | Karin Welsh |
| Margaret Pople | Roberta Sandeman-Allen | Lance Sykes | Peter Welsh |
| George Porter | Lee Sanders | Nola Sykes | Henryk Wesierski |
| Neil Porter | Peter Sargeson | Bede Tancred | Jeff Wheate |
| Phillip Porter | Margaret Sass | Jacqui Tancred | Von Whillock |
| Suzanne Porter | Barry Saunders | Joan Tate | Vic Whitby |
| Brian Potts | John Scaysbrook | Rob Tate | Allan White |
| Steve Powell | Marlene Schroder | Betty Taylor | Carol White |
| Mark Preece | Peter Schroder | Brian Taylor | Janice White |
| Simon Preece | Frances Scutts | Graham Taylor | Marlene White |
| Alan Pretty | Jessie Seago | Ken Taylor | Ray White |
| Glenis Proberts | Kenneth Seago | Peter Taylor | Nancy Whiteley |
| John Proberts | Col Seaman | Robert Taylor | Fiona Wicks |
| Kieran Proberts | Julie Seaman | Garrie Teasdell | Gordon Wicks |
| Neil Proctor | Ron Searle | Gwenda Teasdell | Graham Wiggins |
| Shauna Proctor | George Searson | Bede Tebbutt | Val Wiggins |
| Peter Proud | Richard Semmence | Peter Tetfong | Donald Williams |
| Barry Prowse | Lyn Sentance | Alan Thompson | Ed Williams |
| Helen Prowse | Bill Shepard | Barbara Thompson | Fred Williams |
| Margo Prowse | Vivien Shields | Colin Thompson | Guy Williams |
| Michael Prowse | Jan Shoemith | Joy Thorncraft | Heather Williams |
| Tom Ptolemy | Jim Short | Ron Thorncraft | June Williams |
| John Puddick | Jan Sibbons | Anthony Thorne | Noelene Williams |
| Stephen Purcell | John Sibbons | Colin Thornhill | Bob Williams |
| Phil Pye | Peter Siepen | Brian Tierney | Peter Willoughby |
| Joan Quilliam | Graeme Sim | Michael Tierney | Ken Wilson |
| Graeme Quinn | Noel Slattery | Barry Tink | Richard Wilson |
| Ross Radford | Tony Smith | Graeme Tink | Gwenda Winter |
| Graeme Radley | Arthur Smith | Kevin Tipper | Neville Wolrige |
| Judith Raishbrook | Dennis Smith | Michael Titmus | Diana Wood |
| Kaarlo Rastas | Frances Smith | Cliff Toms | Alan Woodhouse |
| Scott Rayner | Gregory Smith | Harry Toogood | Lorraine Worrell |
| Stuart Rayner | Helen Smith | Judy Toogood | Brian Worth |
| Glen Reay | Ian Smith | Martin Tosio | Lesley Worth |
| Jim Reed | John Smith | David Toulson | Lawrence Young |
| Peter Reed | Ken Smith | John Tracey | Jade Zaicew |
| David Relf | Laurie Smith | Dorothy Treasure | Vic Zuccon |
| Greg Relf | Leon Smith | Ted Treasure | |



Message from the President of Beverley Park Golf Club

Our heartiest congratulations to your club in the centenary year and especially to your Foundation Members, former and present Directors and Management, past and present Members, Professionals and Sponsors of Port Macquarie Golf Club who have attributed towards achieving such a wonderful milestone in sport and hospitality.

A century to be proud of and one that we at Beverley Park Golf Club cherish having shared the past 51 years of a reciprocal association enjoying the competition and camaraderie of a wonderful and sincere golfing fraternity. To all, enjoy the celebrations for such a momentous achievement.

Frank R. Bates
President
BPGC



In reaching its centenary, the Port Macquarie Golf Club becomes a club within a club. A very exclusive club at that. Of the 1,500 registered clubs across NSW, only a handful have existed for 100 years. It is an achievement that is well worth celebrating, and I congratulate Secretary Manager Trevor Haynes and his board for their decision to document the centenary with this wonderful book.

Author Malcolm Andrews has chosen to focus his literary skills on the wonderful characters that over the past 100 years have represented the Port Macquarie Golf Club. It is clear from the first page that this club is not about the four walls that surround it. Nor for that matter is it about the magnificent views of the Pacific Ocean from the adjacent Lighthouse Beach. Instead Port Macquarie Golf Club is about the people the four walls surround. And oh what people; war heroes, golf prodigies, blue collar and white collar workers. All linked by two things, a love of golf, and a love of their club.

Congratulations to the Port Macquarie Golf Club and all its members, those of today as well as of yesteryear, who have helped carry this wonderful club to its 100 year of being.

Peter Newell OAM
Chairman ClubsNSW

About the Author

Malcolm Andrews is a respected Australian author and journalist. In his 45-year career, he has worked for such media organisations as *The Australian*, the *Daily Telegraph* (Sydney), the *Daily Express* (London) and the Nine Network's current affairs program, *Today*. In the early 1970s, he spent five years in Munich working for the US State Department at Radio Free Europe, which broadcast news behind the Iron Curtain.

For five years in the 1980s, he was a daily columnist on the *Telegraph*. His first column, which ran for three years, was 'On The Spot', a half-page look at a particular personality or human-interest story. Indeed, it was he who dubbed Port Macquarie character Harry Thompson 'The Mayor of Shelly Beach' when he wrote about him in 1983. During the other two years, Andrews wrote 'Sydney Diary', a pithy collection of gossip and stories about people making headlines and others vainly trying keep their names out of them.

As a freelance based at Port Macquarie, Andrews writes extensively on a wide variety of subjects for a whole spectrum of newspapers and magazines. In sport, he writes more words annually on Rugby League than any other journalist in the world, mostly for British publications. For almost 30 years he was also a regular columnist in *Turf Monthly* magazine and won several awards for his newspaper coverage of horse racing. In golf he has interviewed a host of stars – from the greats of the past such as Norman von Nida, Peter Thomson, Kel Nagle and Arnold Palmer, to more recent legends such as Greg Norman and Jack Nicklaus. In fact the first story he ever sold overseas was to the American publication *Golf Digest*.

Andrews has written 26 books. There are light-hearted looks at Australian life, *Great Aussie Stuff-ups*, *Great Aussie Trivia*, *Great Aussie*



Sports Heroes and their sequels. Others include *Encyclopaedia of Australian Sports*, *Australia at the Olympics*, *Encyclopaedia of Australian Cricket*, and the quaintly titled *Another Bloody Sports Book*.

He was commissioned to write *Tappy*, the memoirs of racecaller John Tapp, *Quest for Gold*, which chronicled the efforts of a group of Aussie medal hopes at the 2000 Olympics, *The Fabulous Fairstar*, a nostalgic history of the famous cruise liner which sailed into the sunset after 35 years of plying the sea lanes of the world, and *Kostya – From Russia With Gloves*, the ghosted pictorial autobiography of world boxing champion Kostya Tszyu, which made the top five in the non-fiction best-selling lists.

He jumped at the chance to write the history of golf in Port Macquarie because he wanted to give something back to the community that so readily accepted him when he moved north from Sydney eight years ago.