

The Brassie

The aim of AGHS is to encourage the collection, research, recording and preservation of information and objects connected with the history of golf in Australia, to inform golfers, golf clubs and the community in general.

June 2015

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President's Report



Since last writing, much has been happening. Our Museum has had a "spring" clean in conjunction with the acquisition of new display cabinets. We have not only cleaned but have gone a long way into bringing our many books into order. The Museum Committee, with the help of our curator, Vicki Stanton, have put together a credible Golf and War Exhibition, coinciding with the 100 Years Gallipoli Anniversary, which is well worth seeing. The official opening of the Exhibition was held on 24 May at the Museum and a report covering this event appears in this issue.

It is also pleasing for me to announce that Tom Moore has returned to the Management Committee as the PGA representative. In respect of other Committee news Michael Sheret resigned as Captain and has been replaced by Ross Howard. We not only welcome Ross to this position but wish Michael well in his future endeavours.

The Annual Hickory match against The Golf Society of Australia (Vic) was played at the Wagga City Club with success again coming to the Australian Golf Heritage Society (NSW) team. Not only was it a pleasant day but perhaps the highlight was the open discussion with our Victorian colleagues about the future of both societies. Reciprocal membership was discussed in a positive vein with agreement to take the subject further.

Recent announcements about a National Museum were mentioned but it was agreed to wait and see what the Victorian and Federal Governments do regarding future funding. A warm thank you to Darren Watt, a Wagga City Club member and member of our Society, who did much to make our stay in Wagga an enjoyable one.

Membership of the Society continues to be an ongoing issue and I encourage members to make every endeavour to encourage their golfing colleagues to join our "worthwhile" Society.

Another incentive has been the upgrading of our website much to the efforts of Alan McDonald. Members are encouraged to avail themselves of this easy way to keep up to date with the activities of the Society.

John Buckley

President

May 2015

Captain's Report

"To the Fore"

Greetings to all, this is my first note to you as your "Capitan", and the reason I have chosen "To the Fore" is a little bit of family plagiarism, since this is the name of the golf column that my Dad, Al Howard, wrote under for over 30 years with *The Mirror* group of newspapers. I only hope some of my copy can at least be considered as showing "some promise".

Well, the year is flying by with the playing of the Dan Cullen Trophy at Long Reef in March, The Al Howard Memorial Trophy event at Wagga Wagga City Club on Sunday 19th April, the South Coast Hickory Championship at Kiama on Friday 1st May and JJ Paine event at Windsor on 4th May.

Full details of all those results are published on the new website. Have you visited the website recently? Congratulations to those involved in the new site, it is great! - and something the AGHS has been needing to showcase its activities.

2015 will hopefully be a year of consolidation and development of the ideals of hickory golf, and establishing a working plan for the next 5 years. Much has been done to date and a number of new initiatives are already on the table for further discussion and development.

I would invite members and readers of *The Brassie* to submit their ideas to me regardless of how fanciful you may think they are, we can all do with a little assistance in achieving our aims to develop the hickory scene.

Our next playing event is 9 holes stableford, 1 pm at Rosnay GC on Thursday 23rd July with Show & Tell afterwards. Please mark your golfing calendar.

Just a short note for my opening remarks and remember the following:-

The 3rd shot is the most important in golf, think about it-

- the par putt on the par 3
- setting yourself up for a par on a par 4
- and a birdie on a par 5.

Cheers for now, see you at Rosnay.

Ross Howard Captain

Golf & War' Exhibition Opens

After months of research, planning and effort, the Australian Golf Heritage Society's 2015 flagship Exhibition, 'Golf & War', was officially opened on Sunday 24 May 2015 at the Museum. In conjunction with initiatives being undertaken by many other museums, our Exhibition remembers the contributions that golfers, golf clubs and golf equipment manufacturers have made to the various conflicts in which Australia has been involved, from the Boer War to Vietnam.

The Exhibition uses artefacts and contemporary documents to tell the stories of golfers – women and men, amateur and professional – who served their country during the conflicts of 20th century. Notables from the history of Australian golf include Clyde Pearce, Mick Stafford, George Lowe, Eddie Anderson, Dan Cullen, and William Ellis Newton, VC. The stories of club golfers have been told using Honour Boards from the Bonnie Doon and Liverpool Golf Clubs.

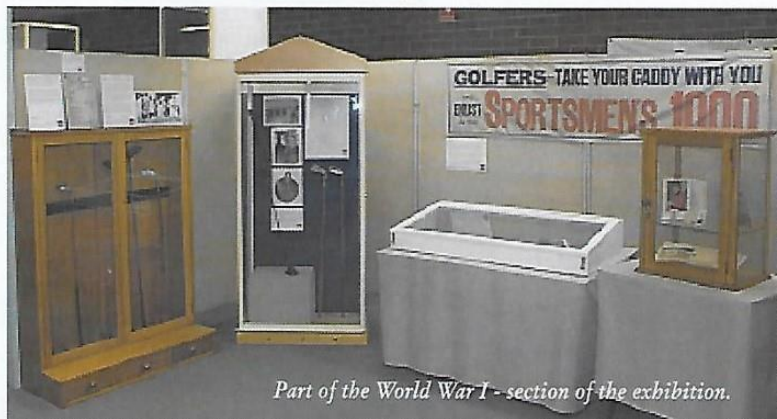
The AGHS welcomed special guests Scott Lloyd, Lord Mayor of Parramatta, Julia Finn, State MP for Granville, Paul McLaughlin representing Granville Diggers, Edgar Oakman, retired professional, and Alan Lowe, the son of early twentieth century professional Alex Lowe and the nephew of one of the featured golfers, George Lowe. The Lowe brothers both served in the AIF during the Great War.



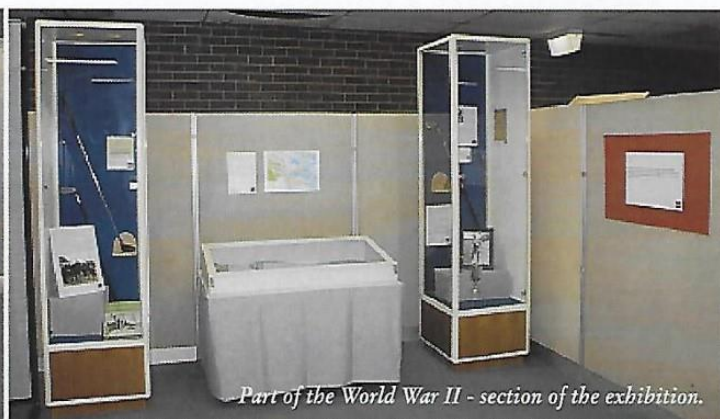
Alan Lowe at the exhibit dedicated to his uncle, George Lowe.

After opening remarks from master of ceremonies Tony Doggett and AGHS president John Buckley, Lord Mayor Scott Lloyd took the floor. He commended the Society on its efforts in putting the Exhibition together, and in the course of his speech said, "This Museum brings the history of Australian golf right up there. This display is really inspiring, and I'll highly recommend it . . . It's a marvellous effort."

Golf & War' Exhibition Opens (cont)



Part of the World War I - section of the exhibition.



Part of the World War II - section of the exhibition.

Representing Granville Diggers RSL, Paul McLaughlin added, *"I was amazed when I came in today and looked at this display. On behalf of all golfers and the RSL movement, I'd like to congratulate the Chairman, the Committee and the members of the Society who have put this wonderful display on here. I'm amazed at what is here - I didn't think these artefacts were still in existence."*

State member for Granville, Julia Finn, endorsed Paul McLaughlin's comments and added *"I'd really pay tribute to Vicki (Stanton) and the work she's done as the curator putting this Exhibition together. It's really quite interesting, and shows a different perspective on the ANZAC story and the recruitment story during World War One. Even when you study history at school, you know that a lot of the beautiful old recruitment posters were very much based on a sense of social obligation, but this is a new angle, targeting people through their sporting associations and people that they socialised with to bring forth that sense of obligation. It is a great tribute to the volunteers you have here today that you've got such a tremendous Exhibition, such tremendous artefacts that you've kept together, and you've been able to bring a different angle on everyone else's knowledge about World War One."*



Julia Finn, Paul McLaughlin, Scott Lloyd, John Buckley, Tony Doggett, Vicki Stanton

At the end of the speeches, Golf NSW representative Chris Allen was able to pass on the news that - after negotiation with the family of Kel Nagle - the trophy to be presented to the winner of the NSW Open championship will from this year be known as the "Kel Nagle Trophy".

The Golf & War Exhibition will remain in place for the rest of the year, with changes and additions being made from time to time to accommodate additional material. The Museum is open 10:00am to 4:00pm every Sunday, or by appointment, and admission is free.

Steve Doorey Treasurer



One hundred years on from the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli, the Australian Golf Heritage Society honours those who have served in war.

Official Opening
Sunday
24th May

Golf & WAR

Golfers have enlisted in military and nursing units, raised funds and given up their courses for Australia's war efforts.

Yet, they found ways to continue playing and the game served as respite and rehabilitation from the experiences of war.



Golf Club History

BONNIE DOON GOLF CLUB

March 1, 2015 | Alan McDonald

Bonnie Doon Golf Club has changed names once and moved location twice in its history. Founded as Marrickville Golf Club (1897), the Club's course was situated on land graciously lent by our founding patron Frederick Gannon.

The area was situated at Tempe on land bounded by Union Street in the north, the Cooks River in the south, Cooks River Road (Princes Highway) in the east and Unwins Bridge Road in the west. But the land was only 'on loan' while development took place.

By 1907, development on our Tempe site had made playing golf a difficult task. A new site, close by in Arncliffe, was identified and the Club took a lease and constructed a new links. The Club later purchased this land. The airport expansion starting in 1948 included a diversion of the Cooks River which substantially reduced the land under our old title.

The green shading shows the area currently occupied by Kogarah Golf Club. This area comprises what was left of Bonnie Doon's freehold (yellow overlay) and the current leasehold which was subsequently acquired by Kogarah Council for the Kogarah Golf Club.



GOLF.

MARRICKVILLE GOLF CLUB.

A meeting held at Dr. Patrick's house, Marrickville-road, on Wednesday, 29th instant, it was decided to form a club, to be known as the Marrickville Golf Club. The following office-bearers were elected:—Patron, Mr. Fred. Gannon; president, Dr. Charles Patrick; vice-president, Mr. E. Doon; hon. secretary, Mr. E. W. Boake; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. T. Jones; committee, Messrs. J. L. Carter, and W. D. Miller. The club, through the kindness of Mr. Fred. Gannon, secured excellent links at Tempe, close to the railway station. The course is well turfed throughout, the soil is of a sandy nature, and some of the hazards, especially a cliff on the banks of Cook's River, are of decidedly sporting character.

NEW LINKS.

Steps are now being taken to get the new links of Marrickville Club into playing order. The project is that known as Bonnie Doone, situated on the northern bank of Cook's River, not far from Botany and about 10 minutes' walk from Arncliffe railway station. Bonnie Doone, a commodious house, is on the side of a large sandhill, and is surrounded by trees. There is a possibility that the club will eventually take its name from its new quarters. The club is disbanding, and it is likely several members thereof will join Marrickville.

BONNIE DOON G. C.

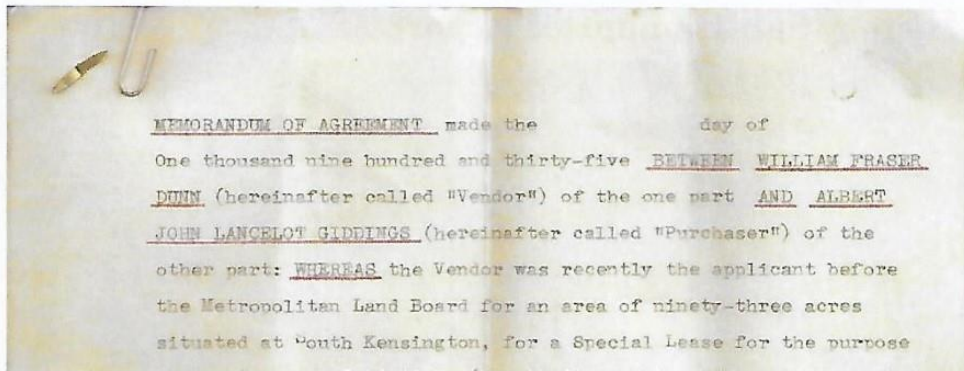
The Marrickville Club has changed its name to the Bonnie Doon Club.

Bogey Competition.

Mills (hcp. 6), 4 down.
Vicars (hcp. 11), 6 down.
Stewart (hcp. 13), 6 down.
Captain Chapman (hcp. 6), 7 down.
Aitken (hcp. 3), 8 down.
S. Collie (hcp. 12), 8 down.
Smith (hcp. 7), 9 down.
W. Johnson (hcp. 7), 9 down.

NEW GOLF CLUB FORMED

Mr. Allan P. Morgan has been elected first president of the New Metropolitan Golf Club, which was formed recently, and will have its headquarters on the new course at Pagewood. The vice-presidents are Messrs. P. G. Sharpe and H. Eldon. Mr. George Johnson is captain. Mr. Lance Giddings is the honorary secretary of the new club, and will supply particulars regarding membership. His address is Pagewood, South Kensington; or 117 Pitt-street, Sydney. The clubhouse will be completed about the end of August. The club has decided to commence operations at once, and hold competitions regularly.



Meanwhile, in 1935, Albert John Lancelot Giddings, who was a member of Bonnie Doon Golf Club, acquired a special lease over land in Pagewood with the intention of constructing a new golf course.

The new golf course, initially called The New Metropolitan Golf Club, was laid out by Lance Giddings and constructed by Bill French. The clubhouse was designed by Eric Apperly. It is most likely that Lance and Eric were friends as well as business associates so Eric may well have had some input into the course layout.

New Metropolitan was a brave venture. The Club worked hard at making it work on its own but it must have seemed a natural outcome for Bonnie Doon and The New Metropolitan to merge. There was a strong association between Lance Giddings and Bonnie Doon and Bonnie Doon would need alternative accommodation when their land was resumed.

Eric Apperly and Prosper de George Ellis, two people whose names are prominent in golf history in Australia, played a significant role in the development of Bonnie Doon and have not received nearly enough credit in our history.

Eric Apperly was commissioned to design and construct two club houses for Bonnie Doon. The first one on the Arncliffe site (1928) and, by coincidence, our current clubhouse which was commissioned by Lance Giddings for New Metropolitan Golf Club at Pagewood (1937). He was also possibly involved with Lance Giddings in laying out Lance's new course at Pagewood (1935). Finally, he was commissioned by Richardson & Wrench to provide a valuation of the Arncliffe course for the purpose of negotiation of resumption (1948).

Prosper de George Ellis joined Bonnie Doon as a schoolboy while attending Newington College. At the age of 17 (1912), he won the LE Gannon Trophy, a stroke event. His golf course design work throughout NSW is extensive and included remodelling The New Metropolitan prior to the amalgamation with Bonnie Doon. He shared Secretary Manager duties with Norm Calder during the amalgamation and wrote a column for the Sydney Morning Herald - "On the Fairways". He was three times Pymble Club Champion and, in one year, both he and his wife held their championships together.

It is a shame that he unfortunately never won the Club Championship at Bonnie Doon and thus never left his name on our Honour Boards. But he did present the Club with a perpetual trophy for a 4 Ball competition which was played for some time.

Alan McDonald



History Sub-Committee Report

Since February, the History Sub-Committee have been involved with four major areas of work.

1. Tempe House celebrations
2. Promotion of Golf Club history
3. A new section of the AGHS website and dealing with "setting the records straight"
4. Oral History

Tempe House

AGHS has donated material for the permanent exhibition in the Tempe House Interpretation Museum Room. The material outlines the important part played by Alexander Brodie Spark in the earliest known golf played in Australia in 1839. There was an unveiling ceremony, and putting on the lawn with replica featheries and authentic putters of the time was enjoyed by many visitors. Two AGHS 1839 golf banners were strategically displayed and there was a display of "a gentleman's set of clubs" typical in 1839. Interestingly, of the several organised activities for the weekend, AGHS was the only with a connection to Alexander Brodie Spark, for whom Tempe House was built in 1836. Tempe House was open to the public during this weekend as part of Australian Heritage Week, 11 to 19 April, 2015. Many thanks to Tony Doggett and Norm Richardson for the loan of golf artefacts.



Dr Bob Spark puts a featherie on the lawn in front of Tempe House with a putter not far removed from the one his great-great grandfather used in 1839. The 'Captain General of Royal Blackheath Golf Club' looks on.

The opening of the event was officiated by The Mayor of Rockdale - Shane O'Brien (left). AGHS member, Dr Michael Sheret (right) shares the A. B. Spark story of golf's beginning in Australia.



Golf Club History

Two events promoting individual Club history were organised. At Bonnie Doon Golf Club, during dinner after Twilight Golf on a Friday evening, the audience were treated to a brief of Club history which has otherwise been overlooked in the Club's own history book. The content of this history is included elsewhere in this issue.

At The Lakes Golf Club, a similar evening was treated to a short talk reminding members of an international event their club hosted of a short life but one which held promise of being a major event for Australian Golf, The Lakes International Cup.



Kel Nagle with the restored Lakes International Cup. Kel played in the Cup in 1952 and 1954.

stands proudly in the Club's foyer.

Both these events were highly successful, members showing great interest. They hold promise for other Clubs wishing to do the same thing. A piece of club history can be researched and documented, presented to a captive audience and the Club is left with banners or other records of the story to present again at other times or include in Club news.

For the Windsor Golf & Country Club celebration of their history, our two Grose Farm 1839 banners were on display. Local historians were able to ask questions about the golf in 1839 and consequently learn about the life of Alexander Brodie Spark.

New History Sub-Section on the Website

Your attention is drawn to a revised area on the AGHS website where the Sub Committee have collected together updated articles previously researched by Sub-Committee members and given them higher visibility on the AGHS website.

An interactive timeline has been commenced showing how events, across this research, are related and gives much needed perspective against a backdrop of other historical events.

Upcoming Events

During the Winter, the Sub-Committee members are organising visits to some Golf Clubs which already have a mature archive of their history and active archivists. We shall be making the visits with a view to providing case studies of these activities. It is hoped that a better knowledge of what's required will assist other Clubs from thinking that the task is too enormous to even start. Keep an eye out for these case studies in the eNewsletters to come.

Oral History

The recently published oral history of Dave and Alex Mercer was a great success. Histories are now being taken from Frank Philips Bruce Nairn OAM and our lady patron Margery McWilliam OAM. They will also be posted on the website as soon as they are compiled.

Dr Michael Sheret

Myths and Legends in Golf History

Dr Michael Sheret *writes about what goes into researching and publishing accurate golf history and puts out a few caveats about believing everything you read or are told*

The Australian Golf Heritage Society is dedicated to the research and reporting of the history of golf in Australia. This objective is embedded in our overall aim as published on the front of this newsletter. It can be taken for granted that AGHS is talking about accurate golf history. This short article will discuss what constitutes accurate golf history and what does not. Unfortunately, much published golf history contains history that is not only inaccurate but borders on fantasy and sometimes is genuine fantasy. This article discusses how to recognise the myths and legends of golf history.

Good science, good administration of justice, good medicine and good government – to name but a few professions – are all based on reliable evidence. Good history is no exception. What makes evidence for history more difficult to find is that historians deal with evidence from the past, often the quite distant past.

When golf history is published, evidence is generally presented as a reference list at the end of the text or is sometimes contained in the text. Evidence can be placed into two categories. The best is primary source evidence and then there is secondary evidence. Historical primary evidence usually takes the form of a contemporary document. Good examples in golf history would be the archived minutes of a golf club, the preserved letters of a participant in a golf event, the diary of a reliable witness to a golf event. For various reasons much golf history relies on newspaper reports written at the time of the event. Primary source evidence need not always be a written document. For example, fairly recent history might rely on a recording of a televised event or an interview with a reliable source. Unlikely, but a properly conducted archaeological dig just might find a deteriorated featherie golf ball in

your backyard and you could then claim your back yard as a pre-1850 golfing site.

Then there is secondary source evidence. Examples of secondary source evidence are most books and magazine articles on golf history. Commonly, these examples would either not reference their sources or simply reference other books or magazine articles. Often these articles are opinion pieces based on shaky evidence or no evidence at all. Good historians would not generally cite these as sources of evidence. If, however, books and magazines can lead back to primary sources they can be useful in locating and testing the primary sources. Websites describing the history of golf can be useful, but many are at best based on secondary sources and can be very misleading. Readers can let themselves be taken in or they can learn the signs of good or bad history.

How do you separate good history from bad history? Good history will cite primary sources of evidence in a manner that enables them to be checked. Good history will not draw firm conclusions from inadequate evidence. Bad history, often looking too good to be true, makes bold statements without the necessary evidence to verify if they have any basis. Members of the AGHS History Sub-Committee have had some success in correcting inaccurate golf history on the internet and in print. Unfortunately, not all authors or publishers are willing to make corrections even when it is abundantly clear that their claims are based on dubious evidence or no evidence at all.

The AGHS History Sub-Committee can be contacted through the website. The History Sub Committee welcomes questions on golf history and will do its best to answer these in a professional manner.

Coming Events

2015 Fixtures

Thursday 23 July – Show and Tell

Rosnay Golf Club, Auburn - 1 pm hit-off

9 holes Stableford handicap

Post-match food and a chance to show off your golfing treasures

Tuesday 25 August – Bobby Locke Trophy Qualifying

Cabramatta GC - 12 noon hit-off

18 holes Stableford, eight to qualify for knock-out Match Play

Both qualifying and matchplay are now handicap events

Sunday 13 September – Craigieburn Cup

Peppers Craigieburn Resort, Bowral - 12 noon hit-off

18 holes Stroke scratch and handicap

This date is provisional, details will be announced later

Friday 25 September – Australian Hickory Shaft Championship

Carnarvon GC - 12 noon hit-off

18 holes Stroke scratch, in conjunction with the

President's Putter on handicap

Sunday 25 October – Liverpool Friendly

Liverpool GC - 3 pm hit-off

9 holes casual

A pressure-free beautiful way to spend a Sunday afternoon

Notes

AGHS events are played with pre-1940 original wooden shafted clubs. Original clubs restored or repaired in the manner of the hickory era are allowed. Replicas are not allowed.

About two weeks before each event Members will receive an email flyer giving details of the event. Time and energy permitting we will try to send the flyer by post where we do not have a Member's email address.

Queensland Chapter

The Queensland Chapter of the Australian Golf Heritage Society has begun the 2015 playing schedule with picture perfect weather, a championship course in immaculate condition and scores of the highest calibre.

The end of 2014 saw the retirement of our foundation Captain Peter Monks and Secretary Rob King-Scott after several years of outstanding stewardship. Royal Queensland member Andrew Baker and Nudgee compatriot Ross Haslam were elected into the roles of Captain and Secretary respectively, and are keen to build on the tremendous work that Peter, Rob and all of the Royal Queensland and Queensland AGHS members have established over the years.

Along with the traditional Royal Queensland 9 hole hickory event (3 pm on the last Friday of each month) AGHS members in Queensland now also have the option

of a second hickory event at Nudgee Golf Club on the At the time of writing, the most recent Royal Queensland event was held on the afternoon of Friday 24 April - a day described by ABC TV weather presenter Jenny Woodward as "postcard weather" - and thirteen Australian Golf Heritage Society members assembled for a nine hole stableford competition over the front nine at Royal Queensland Golf Club. The event was won by AGHS Secretary Ross Haslam with 20 stableford points off a handicap of 11. Runner-up with 15 points off a handicap of 1 was Chris Cooper, on a countback from Ross Bishop with 15 points off a handicap of 10.

Any members interested in either Royal Queensland or Nudgee hickory days can contact Andrew Baker on 0412 990 356 or Ross Haslam on 0417 762 506.



Left to right: Peter Monks, Arthur O'Shea, Lew Draper, Ross Bishop, John Greenhalgh, Rob King-Scott, Vince Creagh, Ralph Heading, Trevor Kidd (kneeling), Andrew Baker, John Hains, Chris Cooper, Ross Haslam.

The Golf Museum at Granville is proudly sponsored by Golf Mart and supported by
Golf NSW, PGA of Australia and
Museums & Galleries New South Wales

The Golf Museum (located above Golf Mart), 4 Parramatta Rd, Granville

Telephone 9637 4720 • www.australiangolfheritage.org.au

Open on Sundays from 10am to 4pm. Admission FREE.

The Museum can give advice on collecting, restoring and preserving old or antique golf clubs and other golfing artefacts.