



~ Encourage the collection, recording and preservation of information that is connected to the history of golf in Australia,
~ Verify the authenticity of physical items associated with the history of golf in Australia and provide a means of storing, restoring and displaying these physical items,
~ Inform golfers, golf clubs, and the wider community of this information and display these items in a manner which tells their story, and
~ Promote hickory events as a celebration of the origins of the game.

August 2016

President's Report



The last twelve months have been a period of development and consolidation, and we are happy to report the following as the highlights of our financial year 2015-16.

Improvements to the Museum continue apace. The permanent displays are being progressively updated, while our major exhibition—Golf & War—and our special

exhibition celebrating the life and achievements of Kel Nagle, continue to attract interest.

We have signed an agreement with the Google Cultural Institute to display objects from the Society's collection as part of their 'Sports Launch, scheduled for late 2016 or early 2017. This launch will include the Bradman Museum, the national tennis and rugby museums and others, so we will be in exalted company. The GCI has millions of objects online, and involvement means great exposure for the Museum.

We have received the benefit of a Parramatta City Council Cultural grant which enables participation in the Museums & Galleries NSW National Standards Program. This program involves a series of self-evaluation tasks and external feedback from a committed Museums & Galleries NSW resource which jointly provide the museum with a fuller understanding of its strengths and weaknesses.

We continue to actively promote the Society via the Travelling Exhibition. This has travelled to Carnarvon, Georges River, Long Reef, Cromer and Castle Hill, and will soon visit Northbridge. Without exception, it has been favourably received.

We have completed our 'Women in Golf' Oral History project, and interviews with three outstanding ladies – Edwina Kennedy, Marea Hickey and Judy Perkins – have been recorded, archived, and posted to the website. This was partially funded by Arts NSW's Cultural Grant Program, a devolved funding program administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Government.

The Historians have taken golf history into the general community by presenting at seminars across the Sydney region. They have also worked tirelessly at dispelling some of the myths that have

been perpetuated about early golf in Australia. Their highlight of the year was the lecture presented at the Museum by internationally recognised historian Bill Gibson. Bill's program presented a new facet of the introduction of golf into Australia.

The hickory playing program has been expanded to around a game a month in both NSW and Queensland. New courses have been added to the program in NSW, and the Queensland Chapter have a three-day event planned for early November, with the Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship as its centrepiece.

The year was not without its sadness, with the passing of our Patron and long-time supporter Dan Cullen. When he was able, Dan was an enthusiastic and – not surprisingly – extremely competent hickory golfer. It was gratifying to see a record turnout for the Dan Cullen Trophy at Long Reef earlier this year. The Society has been lucky enough to secure the services of two outstanding golfing personalities – Frank Phillips and Charlie Earp – as patrons to replace Dan and the late Al Howard.

From a Committee point of view, we have also been lucky enough to appoint Phil Baird (Manly Golf Club) to fill a casual vacancy. He brings an enthusiasm and expertise which should prove invaluable over the coming years.

- John Buckley

The Australian Golf Heritage Society

Patrons

Margery McWilliam OAM
Frank Phillips
Charles Earp OAM (Queensland Chapter)

Management Committee

John Buckley — President
Ross Howard — Captain
Steve Doorey — Secretary-Treasurer
Tony Doggett
Phil Baird
Tom Moore — PGA Representative
Gerry Bush — Golf NSW Representative

Editors of The Brassie

Vicki Stanton Steve Doorey

In This Issue

President's Report	1
Captain's Report	2
Late News	2
Museum	3
Golf Course Architecture	4
Queensland Report	6
Historians	7
Vale John Fletcher	8
Hickory Events	9
Steel Centered Golf Balls	10
Classified Ads	10

Captain's Report

Since last we "spoke", a number of events have been played, with results and reports in the e-newsletter. Thankfully those days have been blessed with delightful Sydney weather.

In September, the Craigieburn Cup (Sunday 11th) and then our annual Championship (Friday 16th) are due to be contested. If you have not ventured to the Southern Highlands to play in the Craigieburn event, I suggest you make the effort. It is a great little course with the original 100-year-old layout intact and the nine greens "attacked" from 18 tees. Would love to see an increase of players to 20 plus this year. Please see the [website](#) for details and Championship entry form.

I encourage members and guests to attend the "Show & Tell" days. They are great fun and the items on show always produce amazing information and generate interesting discussion. After a busy September, our next one is at the Canterbury Golf Course on Friday 28th October—nine holes on a track eminently suitable for hickory golf, followed by a barbecue and 'Show & Tell'.

The Museum is continuing to show and reward the dedicated and considerable efforts of those directly involved. If you wish to spend a Sunday with the Museum team, volunteers are always most welcome.

In addition, the Australian Open will be played at Royal Sydney Golf Club from 17th to 20th November. As usual, the AGHS will have a display tent on site. Volunteers to "man" the tent are encouraged and I invite all members to attend and see the world's best golfers contest the Stonehaven Cup.

One of 2017 objectives is to hold a hickory day each month throughout the year, so if you wish to see a hickory event at your home course, please [let me know](#).

Unfortunately, I have to close on a sad note. Our dear friend and AGHS member John Fletcher passed away on 3rd August. John is remembered in the Vale report on page eight of this issue.

- Ross Howard



NOTES AND NEWS

A patient was admitted to the Too-woomba General Hospital suffering from the effects of having swallowed a golf ball. He was brought in from the Willowburn Mental Hospital, where he was a patient. The mental hospital adjoins the golf course. The ball was recovered.

Braidwood Dispatch and Mining Journal
Friday, 7 February 1936, page 2

2016-17 Membership

Annual membership renewal subscriptions are due as at 1 July each year. Any Society member who has not yet renewed their membership is still most welcome to do so. Membership is still only \$30-00 per annum, and payment options are:

By cheque:

The Treasurer
Australian Golf Heritage Society Inc.
299A Epsom Rd
CHIPPING NORTON NSW 2170

By EFT:

OR

Commonwealth Bank
BSB: **062-692**
Account Number: **25203687**
(Please include remitter name with your payment)

Museum

The NSW Women's Golf Oral History Project primarily funded by the Arts NSW Cultural Grant has been completed with the interviews of Edwina Kennedy, Marea Hickey and Judy Perkins uploaded to the website. The grant has now been acquitted, and the transcription of the oral histories is continuing albeit a very time consuming process.

Application to the National Library for the Museum's website to be included in the Pandora Archive has been successful. This means that the website will be made available to the wider public through the PANDORA Archive access portal and the Library's discovery service Trove.

Great progress is being made with the Google Cultural Institute project. A photography area has been set up and objects to be included in the exhibition and the online collection have been photographed. It has also enabled us to provide some tender loving care as the selected objects are examined, cleaned and rehoused as necessary. Some items have been taken off display to be rested due to their fragile state.



One of the items selected for the Google Cultural Institute

The self-review surveys for the National Standards Program have been completed and sent to Museums & Galleries NSW. Two reviewers will conduct a field visit to the museum on 8 September.

Among other things, the National Standards Program assesses how the Museum is administered and its policies and procedures. While these processes may seem burdensome at times, the Museum is striving to establish such procedures to enable it to run in a professional and transparent manner that is worthy of the funding it receives.

The travelling exhibition was moved from Cromer Golf Club to Castle Hill Country Club on 23 July and will be on display there until mid-September.

The Museum floorplan has been slightly revised to cater for the relocation of the three additional display cases which will accommodate new exhibits shortly. Thank you to Norman

Richardson for using his carpentry talents in constructing the case stands.

The permanent displays are in the process of being updated with items being rotated from display to storage and new items exhibited.

Two volunteers, Jennifer Doorey and Kate Stanton, have helped make in-roads into the substantial backlog of accessioning and their efforts are much appreciated.

The storage area continues to be reorganized to enable superior collection management and care. A new housekeeping schedule has resulted in improved museum presentation and collection management.

From a promotional point of view, our 'Lost Golf Courses of Sydney' posts on the museum's [Facebook](#) page—and shared onto the Lost Sydney page—are proving highly popular, with thousands of people viewing the posts each week.

However, there is still much to do, and we are seeking the assistance of Society members to complete outstanding tasks. These tasks (and what they might involve) include:

- Cataloguing the Museum's collection (PC work using Mosaic Museum database software)
- Photographing the Museum's collection (using the Museum's digital camera, or your own if you prefer)
- Researching objects in the Museum collection
- Assessing and documenting the significance of objects in the Museum collection (your expertise)
- Cataloguing the Museum's library (PC work using Microsoft Excel)
- Updating the Museum's permanent displays
- General Museum housekeeping.

There are no set days or number of hours when this work can be done—we are happy to work around your schedule if possible. You don't even have to visit the Museum—researching objects in the Museum's collection and assessing and documenting significance could actually be done from your home or office.

If you have a particular specialty or area of expertise, we would like to be able to draw upon that knowledge by assigning specialized tasks.

Training and guidance will be provided wherever necessary, and anyone interested in helping out is encouraged to contact Vicki.

- Vicki Stanton
Collection Manager

Golf Course Architecture

Ross Howard remembers some of his experiences working with his father Al Howard.

Growing up through the 1950s and 1960s, many opportunities presented themselves for Dad and me to work alongside one another. This ranged from drying the members' clubs at Monash after a wet day, tending shop at Auburn, or the far more pleasurable outlet of golf course design and layout.

The latter was something I really enjoyed and having a similar ability to Dad's memory recall of holes and properties, I was to be his silent partner on many designs. I was the on-site "chain man", much like Dad had been for his own father Tom who designed courses in the 1930s and 40s.

For over 20 years from 1952 with Dad's first design engagement at Tuggerah Lakes (now Shelley Beach) until the mid-70s, we would attend site armed with our primitive tools of trade: a 66ft fabric tape (a chain), which I still possess; a bundle of 30 canes/bamboo rods; small hammer; small compass; notebook and pencil.

If available, we would start with an aerial photo and topographic plan to check the sun angles. Dad was always very concerned about sun angles and that regardless of the season players could see the ball in flight from the tee to green.

Courses with holes running north to south invariably have grass growth issues because of the lack of regular sunlight in forested areas. Dad tried to have holes running in an east to west direction so that no matter what month of the year the fairway would receive sunlight and hence promote grass growth. This is a reversal of the principle of tennis courts being a north to south orientation.

So under instructions from Dad such as "See that 'V' fork in the trunk of that tree" or "Head for the fence post 3 back from the corner of the paddock", I duly set off in the appointed direction with one end of the tape and the bundle of canes.

Whilst Occupational Health & Safety had not even appeared on any legislator's wish list, picture a seven-year-old in 1952 kitted out in



Al Howard at work in later years at Peats Ridge

riding boots, gaiters, long pants, long sleeve shirt and hat to guard against snakes, green ants, nettles, sunburn and other nasties. No, it wasn't child slave labour.

Once the tape pulled tight, a cane was hammered into the ground and on we went for the next 66 feet and a similar procedure was enacted. Meanwhile, Dad was picking up the previously hammered canes and when the end of the "designated" hole was reached, we counted the number of canes he had, made sure it tallied with those I had left and bingo we knew the length we had walked. In theory, we could measure a hole 550+ yards in length. The only change to this method we used for years was when open country was encountered.

If possible we utilised a tractor, marking the rear tyre appropriately and then proceeding to count the number of revolutions. Having previously established the circumference of the tyre, bingo, we again knew the distance travelled.

The on grounds data was then transferred to the plan and many evenings were spent with tissue paper laid over the top of the topographic plan, 2B pencils, art gum rubbers, protractors and set squares to measure and plot the many options that presented themselves. All done without theodolites, lasers or CAD software.



Abbey & Hockley 66ft fabric tape with leather case & brass rewriter

Many of the properties were completely virgin bushland areas with 18 holes to be designed and constructed; others were additional 9 holes or any variation in between.

One particular site that will forever remain in my memory was the second 9 holes at Wyong. The club had acquired additional land in the lower parts of the course adjoining the racecourse area and it was very marshy and wet. The first task was to define the boundary and to establish a datum point. So with an old Caterpillar dozer with winch and wire ropes running over the top of the machine to lift the blade (no hydraulics in those days), we set off to cut a path/boundary line through the scrubby timber.

A short distance after starting along the boundary line, the winch released. The blade fell and the first of many tiger snakes was neatly chopped in two. The dozer operator then proceeded to "hang" the offending pieces on a nearby paperbark as a "prize".

After a number of these episodes I did not know where to walk, either in the tracks of the machine or elsewhere. Dad took pity on me and said, "Get up on the dozer." In the course of the next hour, the dropping of the blade and snake prize regime took place a dozen times or more. Hence why I remember Wyong so vividly.

One meaningful project was in 1966 at Mount Vernon on the eastern slope along Mamre Road near Bakers Lane. The course was on a property owned by Laurie O'Neill of quarrying fame, and was eventually called Mainline.

The property presented a number of issues with the actual ground surface—the land had been key line ploughed—creating a series of dips and rolls across the slope of the hill to prevent erosion.

After reviewing the problem I respectfully suggested we try using a heavy roller on the back of tractor running across the slope. Unfortunately, the ground was very dry on the first attempt but our prayers were answered within a fortnight and, with substantial rainfall, the second attempt proved effective on a small area.

Guess who then got the job of driving the tractor over the 18 fairways towing the roller? Going across the slope was fine, but some of the holes ran up and down the slope, slow uphill but exciting ride down. I then made an executive decision.

If the golfer we would attract to the course could not hit the ball 150 yards off the tee then they were going to have to deal with dips and rolls. The discussion with Dad was — to say the least— interesting and robust but my solution effectively reduced the work by over 60% after allowing for the par 3s.

After this successful project, Dad suggested I should consider becoming a partner in the golf business in both the pro shop and course design. After much discussion and thought, I resolved to continue my accounting studies so Howard & Son was never to be.

However, whenever possible I continued to assist with the onsite visits, design work and late night drawings on the table tennis table at home. Even in December 2013, with Dad's health failing, we worked on a minor consultation with Tasmania Golf Club.

Dad used to jokingly say he had the best job: "people provide the funds for me to build monuments to myself". How true is that!

- Ross Howard

MT. VERNON COUNTRY CLUB									
EVENT _____					HANDICAP _____				
PLAYER _____					MARKER _____				
HOLES	YARDS	PAR	Match or Stroke Play	STROKES	W +	L -	W +	L -	W +
					H 0	H 0	H 0	H 0	H 0
1	281	3	4	5		6			
2	535	5	8	10		8			
3	457	4	6	6		8			
4	368	4	17	4		9			
5	419	4	9	9		7			
6	540	5	3	9		11			
7	500	4	7	6		8			
8	187	3	16	4		5			
9	420	4	11	7		8			
OUT	3707	36							
Markers _____									
Players _____									
DATE _____									

HOLES	YARDS	PAR	Match or Stroke Play	STROKES	W +	L -	W +	L -	W +
					H 0	H 0	H 0	H 0	H 0
10	503	4	1						
11	388	4	14						
12	391	4	13						
13	498	5	18						
14	417	4	10						
15	499	4	5						
16	620	5	2						
17	205	3	12						
18	355	4	15						
IN	3876	37							
OUT	3707	36							
Total	7583	73							
DEDUCT HANDICAP									
NET TOTAL									

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St. Mary's

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NEW
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★
18-Hole Public Golf Course
Championship Length
★

Green Fees:

WEEKEND: PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: \$1.00 PER ROUND
75c NINE HOLES

WEEKDAYS: 60c PER ROUND
40c NINE HOLES

★
LOCAL RULES.
(To be read in conjunction with the Rules of Golf and Notice Board.)

1. All drains between yellow pegs to be treated as water hazards. Lateral water hazards marked by red pegs.
2. Ground under repair as marked by white pegs.
3. If a ball be embedded in the green it may be lifted and placed, or on the fairway lifted and dropped, not nearer the hole without penalty.
4. A ball must be lifted and dropped within two club lengths of ornamental trees as marked by white-topped stakes.
5. If a player's stroke be hampered by any seat, tree guard, staked tree, tee box, drinking fountain, water tap hole, pipes, etc., which is within two club lengths of the ball, the ball may be lifted and dropped within two club lengths from the obstacle, not nearer the hole, without penalty.
6. Mud adhering to a ball lying on the putting surface of a green may be removed.
7. Players may break for refreshments after the 9th hole.

Even if it was downhill, an opening par 3 of 281 yards is a big ask. As is a par 73 course that measures 7583 yards (6934 metres)

Queensland Report

Royal Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship

The 2016 Royal Queensland Golf Club Hickory Shaft Championship was contested over the Club's Hamilton links on the afternoon of Friday 22 July 2016. Played as an eighteen hole Stableford event, the Championship was contended in 28 degrees Celsius heat; an exceptionally warm winter's day, even by Brisbane standards.

For the numerically-minded, the event was played from Royal Queensland's white tees: to a length of 5747 metres—with a scratch rating of 70.0 and slope rating of 119.

For the second year running the Champion golfer was Royal Queensland Golf Club Captain Andrew Corrigan, who scored 31 points off a handicap of 12. Andrew is the first multiple winner of the Carnegie Clark Trophy—a hickory-shafted driver made by the illustrious Carnoustie-born golfer, club-maker and golf course architect, who was also the designer of Royal Queensland's original 1920 layout.

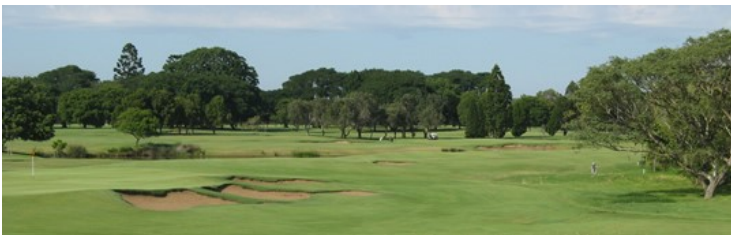
This year's runner-up, with 29 points off a handicap of 8, was former AGHS Secretary and former RQGC Vice President, Rob King-Scott. In third place, with a score of 28 points off a daily handicap of 1, was former RQGC Captain Chris Cooper.

The concurrent AGHS event was won by Andrew Corrigan with 31 Stableford points, followed by Rob King-Scott with 29 points on a count-back from AGHS Secretary Ross Haslam. The event was followed by presentations and a brief AGHS AGM.

Queensland Hickory Shaft Championships

Planning has been all but completed by the Queensland Chapter for a weekend of hickory golf centering on the 2016 Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship.

The weekend will begin on Friday 4th November with the 2016



Royal Queensland Golf Club

Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship itself. This will be 18 holes of stroke play, with the player recording the lowest gross score to be declared State champion. A handicap event will be held in conjunction, with the player recording the lowest net score to be declared the winner and presented with The Captain's Trophy. The day will round off with dinner and presentations in the Silver Boomerang Room.

Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship:

The Royal Queensland Golf Club

Friday 4 November 2016—11.30am for 12.30pm tee-off.

Presentations and dinner at 18:00pm.

Cost (including dinner) is \$55, to be paid in cash on the day.

On Saturday, players will have the opportunity to play a round at the Nudgee Golf Club. The event will be a fourball over 18 holes of the Nudgee South Course, a relatively flat and short layout with a par of 69 which is easily played in a little over three hours.

Nudgee Golf Club

Saturday 5 November 2016—12.30pm for 1.00pm tee-off.

Light luncheon available at 12:00pm.

Cost (including luncheon) is \$25.50, to be paid in cash on the day.

The weekend of hickory golf will finish with the inaugural Queensland Hickory Shaft Foursomes Championship. This will also be 18 holes of stroke play, and the players recording the lowest gross score will become the first State champions. A handicap event will be held in conjunction, the players recording the lowest net score declared the winners, and presented with The Secretary's Trophy.

Queensland Hickory Shaft Foursomes Championship:

Brisbane Golf Club

Sunday 6 November 2016—7.00am for 7.30am tee-off.

Presentations and light luncheon at 12:00pm.

Cost (including luncheon) is \$35, to be paid in cash on the day.

A number of basic hickory sets are available for loan on all days, but will need to be booked early. Period golfing attire is encouraged.

Entries for all events will close Tuesday 1 November 2016, and players are encouraged to register as soon as possible with Andrew Baker at andrew@andrew-baker.com.

When doing so, you will need to advise:

- Your acceptance to play in the events you nominate
- Your *Golf Link* number
- Your intention to attend the dinner or luncheon
- Partner names if playing in the foursomes event (partners can be arranged for individual players)
- If you require a loan set of hickories.

For further information, phone Andrew Baker 0412 990 356 or Ross Haslam 0417 762 506

Historians

The lecture on golf in Sydney in 1839 was given to the **Kogarah Historical Society** by myself on 14 April at the Kogarah Community Hub. Twenty five people, of whom about one third were golfers, attended. The post-lecture Q&A was lively with questions from both golfers and non-golfing historians. In keeping with the way the lecture was structured, there were questions about the research process in addition to those strictly about golf.

At tea after the lecture the three historic putters from the Museum were available to try out on the carpet. This was an extremely busy part of the proceedings. As usual, people were astonished about how good a putter the Schenectady putter is, how reliable the croquet-style putter is on short putts and how much skill was required to make a long-nosed scare-necked putter. Various documents were laid out for people to take away. All the fact sheets for the putters were taken.

The lecture on 18 April at the AGHS Golf Museum by visiting golf historian **Bill Gibson** went very well. Bill is a very thorough historian and presented a lot of new and fascinating material. Two highlights follow.

The first was highly appropriate, with the Golf and War exhibition still on display in the Museum. It concerned New York during the American War of Independence, 1775 - 1783. For most of the war New York was occupied by the British forces. Bill has researched the officers who were members of golf clubs in UK and who were serving in the war. Captain John Peebles of the Black Watch, 42nd Regiment, kept a diary. The entry on the 31 March 1781 reads: *A very fine day, warm in the mid hours ... play'd Golf in the manoeuvring [sic] ground, broke two Clubs at 10/- a piece.* It's a nice piece of evidence that golfers will usually find the time and the place to play a few holes no matter what the circumstances.

Even after the British departed at the end of the war, golf clubs and balls were still being advertised for sale as late as May 1785. After that the evidence for golf in New York fades away.

The second highlight was new evidence giving a strong hint that golf may have been played in Australia at an early date hitherto unknown. There are some puzzling aspects of this evidence. Bill has given a lot of material to the History Sub-Committee to follow this up and try to get a more complete picture. Norm Richardson and I are working on this, but so far not much in the way of solid evidence has been uncovered.

After the lecture there was a lively Q&A session. It was also a good opportunity for Bill and members of the audience to see the Museum before *Golf Mart*, who provide AGHS with the premises, had to close at 7 pm. The Museum layout and displays have come along by leaps and bounds in the last couple of years, and the Museum now has a large flat-screen TV permanently mounted on the wall which can be set up for PowerPoint presentations.

Apart from the lecture and the Museum visit, the AGHS History Sub-Committee arranged an interesting day for Bill. It started with a visit to Royal Sydney to view the Robertson Collection. This was followed by lunch at The Lakes for deep discussions on golf history with Norm Richardson and myself – always interesting to get a trio of golf historians together. To complete Bill's day, he experienced the joys of crawling through Sydney traffic to get from place to place.

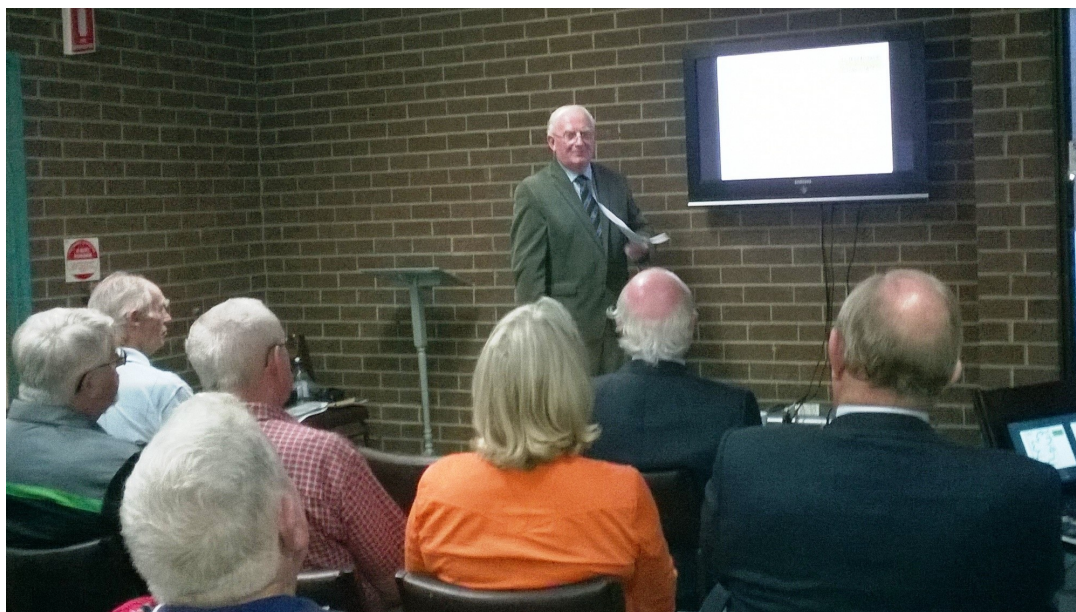
- Michael Sheret

History Nuggets

History Nuggets, published on the AGHS website and on the Golf NSW website under Publications/ Drop Zone, has been running for a year now.

The author is having a break after this month and will resume early in 2017.

The webmaster of the Golf NSW site reported that the May issue had 2343 hits.



Bill in action with an attentive audience

Vale



John Fletcher (10 October 1943—3 August 2016)

Our dear friend "Fletch" passed away recently after a long illness. Those of us who have known Fletch—whether it be for many years, or simply in passing—will pause and remember his always smiling face, and unique laugh.

John was a long-time member the Golf Collectors Society/Australian Historic Golf Trust/Australian Golf Heritage Society, an attendee at the official opening of the Society's Museum in 2001, a past Treasurer of the Society, a winner of a number of events over the years, the author of a volume on the history of Woollooware Golf Club, and a friend to anyone who had the good fortune to make his acquaintance.

Everyone has at least one Fletch story. Regardless of who they are, they will invariably mention his unfailing self-effacing manner, his wicked sense of humour, and his laugh that everyone could enjoy. This article originally started as a piece written by one person, but—like I said—everyone has at least one Fletch story . . .

"It was my privilege to meet John on the NSW Team trip to Victoria in 2002 to play against our Victorian friends. During that trip our group played a number of courses on the Mornington Peninsular, and my memory of playing in John's four was his unerringly ability to find each and every bunker on Portsea. Many were the times since we relived that trip, and Fletch's Sahara like experience.

John won the Dan Cullen Trophy with Des Froneman in 2004 and repeated the result with myself in 2005. John was also the handicap winner in the 2003 Australian Hickory Championships.

John was a great enthusiast of horse racing and cricket, a father to three children and grandpa to seven. I had the privilege of attending his farewell service, and there standing in the chapel were his golf clubs. The Order of Service had a picture of Fletch in his red plus fours—an image that is likely to remain with all those in the AGHS who were lucky enough to make his acquaintance."

Ross Howard - AGHS Captain

"Fletch and I played together in the Hickory Championship one year at Rosnay. He was off his game, and I was really on mine.

Late in the round I started to lose focus and—he told me later—

he said to himself, "I've got to look after Barry and get him 'home', because I think he can win."

I don't know what he did, in fact I didn't think he did anything. The Rules forbid advice or guidance. He possibly kept me calm, talking about the clouds or the grass, I have no idea. I think I was 3 or 5 better than my handicap, and won the handicap division. I won because of John."

Barry Leithhead - AGHS member

"In 2003, the Golf Collectors Society (later the Australian Golf Heritage Society) met the Golf Society of Australia at The Royal Sydney Golf Club for the Al Howard Trophy. At the 8th hole, Fletch was in the rough, with a really tough shot to the green.

The shot as played flew high and caught a tree near the green, bounced off five or so branches, and then took nearly 30 seconds to drop . . . on to the green. Fletch sank the putt, won the hole . . . and didn't stop laughing from the time the ball left the club in the rough!"

Peter Read - AGHS member

The Australian Golf Heritage Society extends sincere condolences to John's wife Sandra and the Fletcher clan — our thoughts are with you at this difficult time. Always remember to "keep smiling" and to treasure the wonderful memories of life with our friend "Fletch".

Requiescat in pace.



Fletch on the way to winning the Dan Cullen—Long Reef 2005

Photographs courtesy of Mr Barry Leithhead

Hickory Events

Show & Tell—The Coast

Seven hickory participants fronted The Coast on a beautiful winter's day for 15 holes of Stableford competition. Why 15? A commercial for "lamb" was being shot on holes 13 to 15. Watch for the release.

Barry Meares, Paul Gladwin and Geoff Martin played a three ball with Neville Rider, Denis Sundin, Andrew Wilson & Ross Howard completing the field. Scoring was varied, with Barry Meare's 29 being a very creditable winner for 15 holes. Highlight of the day was Barry holing a 2 iron on the uphill par 5 6th for a 4 a 4.



Coastal golf specialist—Kiama's own Andrew Wilson—in action at The Coast.

Upcoming Hickory Events

Further Details Available on [the Website](#)

Sun. 11th September	Craigieburn Cup
Fri. 16th September	Australian Hickory Shaft Championship
Fri. 30th September	Queensland Chapter Monthly Event
Fri. 28th October	Show & Tell
Fri. 28th October	Queensland Chapter Monthly Event
Sun. in October	Reg Marchant Nine
Fri. 4th November	Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship
Sat. 5th November	Nudgee Fourball Event
Sun. 6th November	Queensland Hickory Foursomes Championship
Fri. 25th November	Queensland Chapter Monthly Event

Andrew Wilson, who had travelled from Kiama for the day showed a variety of photos and articles dealing with the history of Kiama Golf Club since its start in 1933 as 9 holes to 18 holes in late 1950s. It was interesting to compare the photo from early 1960s showing virtually a large open field with few trees to one from the current day with wonderful stands of trees fringing the 18 holes

Denis Sundin then showed three clubs that he had purchased from an old wares store on the Northern Beaches. The brassie had Peter Merrilees name stamped in the head. Peter was a North Berwick pro who arrived in Australia in 1909 and had a most varied career before departing our shores in 1939 for the U.S.A..

The second club was an old putter branded "Auchterlonie" with no markings on the face but a surprising amount of loft—definitely a club of interest. Discussion was held about the old stymie rules and the need for putters to have "loft" to putt on the green surfaces of old.

The third club was a mashie, branded/stamped "Made in Scotland, Warranted Hand Forged, STAR emblem, SPECIAL with Tom Howard Concord in oval outline". Also "5" punched in the sole. The club appears to have a minor fracture line around the socket and needs a professional restoration job.

The last item tabled was a trophy from the Howard family collection for the "1937 Roseville Gold Mashie Runner-Up, A C Howard 65", in original condition. A C Howard was the father of AGHS Captain Ross Howard (see article on page 4).

All in all, a beautiful winter's day, enjoyable golf and delightful company. Be sure not to miss the Show & Tell event at Canterbury in October.

Steel Centered Golf Balls

Almost as soon as Coburn Haskell introduced the rubber cored golf ball at the end of the nineteenth century, manufacturers started attempting to improve on the design by making the centre of the ball out of different material. These materials included small sacks of white lead, oil, water, compressed air, steel balls and even honey. Walter Hagen—the great American champion—put his name to a ball with a honey centre which was marked either “Honey Bee” or “It’s A Honey”.

The Museum was delighted when Greg Breden of Mosman contacted us to say he had two pristine boxes each with 12 Japanese made ‘Sky Beam’ 1.68” size steel-centred balls that he wished to donate. Balls with steel centres were introduced to the Australian market around 1960. They did not prove very popular, and were soon discontinued.



The AGHS Museum's box of Sky Beam steel centered balls.

Greg suggested that one dozen should go to the Society's Museum in Sydney, and the other dozen to the Golf Society of Australia collection in Melbourne. His offer was accepted, and our Captain Ross Howard presented the GSA with their dozen when we went to Melbourne in May 2016 to contest the Al Howard Trophy.

- Tom Moore

Classified Ads



The Australasian
Saturday, 22 July 1933, page 48



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The Museum is located above Golf Mart at 4 Parramatta Rd, Granville

Telephone 9637 4720 * Email museum@australiangolfheritage.org.au

Website www.australiangolfheritage.org.au

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

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



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