



The Southport Golf Club Newsletter  
**Tee to Green**  
Autumn/Winter 2008

# High cost of mowers & machinery



Here's evidence of the mowers and machinery needed to keep our course up to its high standards.



**SOUTHPORT GOLF CLUB** prides itself on presenting the golf course in outstanding condition all year round. Two events held in March (the Easter Classic and the John Deere Golf Industry event) saw members from 36 different golf clubs in Queensland and New South Wales enjoy the Southport experience with overwhelming positive feedback on our course. To achieve this quality presentation the club, as pictured here, has about 30 different mowers, tractors and other machinery worth almost \$1 million.

Since this equipment is integral to maintaining the acclaimed outstanding presentation of our fairways and greens, every year the club must budget around \$100,000 for upkeep and replacement as necessary.

Achieving efficient aeration of our greens and fairways has necessitated replacement this year of a coring machine that had been in service for 17 years, and our fairway mower will have to be replaced in the coming 18 months at a cost of around \$80,000.

Also, as it is of paramount importance that we maintain the standard of our greens, the numerous mowers now in service need to be replaced every three to four years.

That's because, given their constant use, these mowers can not only break down but also develop oil leaks, which are a real problem and must be avoided because of severe detrimental effects to greens.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

"At a recent committee meeting, and obviously looking to the future, we've started to map out a strategic five-year plan centred on what we will need to replace – bearing in mind there's always more advanced machinery coming on stream," says club general manager Andrew Kirkman.

"During this financial year we've aimed to reduce machinery maintenance costs, and under the watchful eye of course superintendent Stuart Moore, along with the invaluable input of our outstanding first-grade, full-time mechanic John Ward and team of nine highly competent ground staff, this has been achieved – and we're now doing better than budgetary forecasts," says Andrew.

## NEW MACHINERY PROGRAM

As pointed out by club captain Jim Townley, one of the very difficult decisions facing any greens committee each year is the new machinery program. Quite clearly, greens machinery is expensive and the budget is finite; so any purchases recommended to the board have to be justified in terms of the age and effectiveness of the item being sold off and its expected selling price. Also to be taken into account is the cost of any new item, the expected performance gain, the priority to be accorded, and the enhanced productivity and flexibility available.

More detail – page 4.

# President's Report



Don Phelan

WHEN setting out to write this report I was obviously thinking back to how much has happened since the last Tee to Green, and there has been a tremendous amount achieved over the past few months.

If you were not part of the jazz on the balcony afternoon, you certainly missed out on something special. Occasions such as this and the Christmas and Australia Day events are fantastic to be part of, not only for the golf but also for the special camaraderie generated among participating members.

## New ideas

Another new idea from the match committee is the *Nine and Dine* played on the first Friday of the month over the summer period. This has been an outstanding success and as it overflows into our Friday night raffles and dining, it is a significant contributor wealth-wise to the club as well as having tremendous social benefit.

You will have noticed that the golf shop has undergone a refit and has a new golf operations manager in Tom Arnott, who comes to us with outstanding credentials and, after seeing him at his work, I can understand why. Welcome Tom.

## Sound financial position

I am happy to report that the club is in a very sound financial position – much better than at the same time last year. This is an outstanding achievement, considering the days lost so far this year through rain. So to all those who support our club this result comes with a thank you to all. It makes our job a lot easier.

## Sponsors

I would like to thank Peter and Carolyn Weston and all the sponsors of our pennant teams. Once again, your support is greatly appreciated.

To the Junior and Division 1 pennant players, whose season has now finished, thank you for taking the time to represent your club. I wish the results could have been different, but there is always next year.

Congratulations to our general manager Andrew Kirkman, who was recently voted by his peers as Queensland Golf Club General Manager of the Year. This is a tremendous honour, not only for Andrew but also for Southport Golf Club – so well done Andrew.

## Social activities

Finally for those members who have not participated in any of the club's social activities such as the special events or Friday nights – do come along and join us. I am sure you will not only make new friends, but also have a very enjoyable time.

Don Phelan

# Club Championship 2008



Nathan Baker (centre) pictured here with (from left) club captain Jim Townley and Bruce Lynton, whose BMW Group has generously sponsored the event over many years.

AFTER three play-off holes Nathan Baker and Corey Taylor were on level terms, but Nathan subsequently prevailed with a birdie on the first sudden-death hole to win this year's club championship, thus denying Corey a third consecutive title.

Asked how he felt, Nathan made it clear he was exhausted and glad it was all over.

"It was nerve wracking and very close all the way.

"Take for example the 18th hole in the final round, when both of us were right up there for two shots and I had a two-stroke lead, but my three putts and Corey's birdie led to the play-off," said Nathan.

This year congratulations are also extended to Graham Tickle who won B-grade from Alan Purchase. Ray Jago continued his consistent form to again take out the C-grade championship from Alex Mojsish, and Braiden Marlborough was the junior champion.

## Club Championships 2008

Club Champion	Nathan Baker	Scr	69, 75, 70, 72	286
Runner up	Corey Taylor	Scr	72, 70, 72, 72	286
<b>B Grade Champion</b>	<b>Graham Tickle</b>	13	87, 88, 84, 88	347
Runner up	Alan Purchase	14	86, 91, 83, 88	348
<b>C Grade Champion</b>	<b>Ray Jago</b>	19	90, 90, 89, 90	359
Runner up	Alex Mojsish	21	96, 92, 95, 96	379
<b>A Grade Nett Winner</b>	<b>Jack Fox</b>	4	69, 68, 74, 74	285
Runner up	Brett Partridge	2	69, 76, 72, 71	288 (c/b)
<b>B Grade Nett Winner</b>	<b>Bruce Lynton</b>	18	69, 67, 81, 69	286
Runner up	Joel Lawson	16	76, 76, 66, 77	295
<b>C Grade Nett Winner</b>	<b>Michael Valitutti</b>	26	72, 65, 69, 70	276
Runner up	Paul Valmadre	25	72, 64, 73, 81	290
<b>Seniors 55-59</b>	<b>Tony Irvine</b>	5	78, 77	155
Runner up	Steve Davies	9	81, 81	162
<b>Seniors 60-64</b>	<b>Kuniaki Fujimoto</b>	9	80, 87	167
Runner up	John Morrison	10	82, 86	168 (c/b)
<b>Seniors 65-69</b>	<b>Les Coleman</b>	8	80, 86	166
Runner up	Brian Oberman	13	83, 87	170
<b>Seniors 70+</b>	<b>Ray Croxford</b>	5	84, 79	163
Runner up	Roy Wright	7	82, 84	166
<b>Juniors Gross</b>	<b>Braiden Marlborough</b>	2	72, 76	148
<b>Juniors Nett</b>	<b>Michael Valitutti</b>	26	65, 70	135

## Captain's Call

### JUNIOR & INTER-CLUB PENNANT

A NUMBER of last year's junior pennant and junior inter-club players were not available for selection this year, giving us the opportunity to expose some new players to this very strong competition. Not surprisingly then, our results were a little down on those of last year, but with the benefit of another year's experience should be up again next year.

In any event, all our representatives acquitted themselves with distinction. Congratulations and thanks for their participation in the junior pennant go to: Ben McArthur, Sam Morley, Jack Fox, Jeffrey Lin, Kenny Conomos, Braiden Marlborough, Ryan Noyes and Steven Mahoney; and for their participation in the junior inter-club pennant: Blake Johnson, Tommie Matthews, Dylan Lewis, Mitchell Lewis, Luke McGarrity, Joel Lawson and Ben Vincent. Thanks must also go to Steve Davies and Brad Dowling for their management of the respective teams.

### Division 1 pennant

This year, the Division 1 pennant team was also without the services of some of last year's successful team. However, under the leadership of their manager Michael Johnson the team acquitted themselves strongly, only very narrowly missing out on a place in the final for what would have been the fourth year in succession. Team members this year were: Lee Manning, Nathan Baker, Brett Baker, Brad Dowling, Gary Schofield, Brett Partridge, Daniel Paton, Ben Noyes and Braiden Marlborough. Thanks must also go to those club members who gave up their Sunday mornings to caddy for the team. These caddies included: Paul Beveridge, Peter Weston, Milan McArthur, Ben McArthur, Don Phelan, Ryan Noyes, Neil Paton and Paul Bunyan.

Many thanks to all of our sponsors, in particular Peter and Carolyn Weston from Vinnie's Restaurants, for their outstanding support.

### Staff matters

Darren Craig, who had been our golf operations manager for some five years, resigned earlier this year to pursue other career opportunities. Darren then took some well earned leave and celebrated by finishing third in the World Amateur Left Handers' Championship held over four rounds on a number of courses in the Queenstown area of New Zealand.

In Darren's place as golf operations manager we were fortunate to secure the services of Tom Arnott, who spent 2006 and 2007 at Club Pelican on the Sunshine Coast. We wish Tom and his family well and welcome them to Southport.

### Rules awareness

The rules night conducted in early April by Neil Peters and Bernadette Lance was very successful. Those who attended found it particularly informative as well as a good fun evening. While it may not have produced a whole new crop of rules experts (which was not its intention) it did serve to raise the level of rules consciousness among members, which can only be good for the standing of the club.



Jim Townley

## House Committee Report

PLANNING for the new financial year is well under way again, with budgets being discussed for the coming year. There are always priorities, and the highest on the present list is the course itself and in particular the 13th fairway – for safety reasons.



Max Crofts

Nevertheless the house also has its needs, and we are discussing major improvements such as new carpet with a real WOW factor, new outdoor furniture, and lastly air-conditioning.

Happily our club is trading very well and the golf shop renovations have been a great success – as I am sure you will agree. New golf operations manager Tom Arnott and his staff are to be commended on a job well done.

Of course Mary and Sam in the bar and all others on our staff make you feel very welcome in the clubhouse.

### Raffles

The Friday night raffles are very popular, but without the help of the ladies – and in particular Pat Ratcliff – the event would not be so successful. It has to be noted there are many people who are regulars, and special acknowledgment must be made of the ladies' table. As for the members' draw – surely some lucky Friday night attendee will soon carry off the spoils?

The social side of the club has been very successful, and in particular the *Nine and Dine* event held on the first Friday of our extended summer months October – March.

Congratulations and thanks to our caterers David and Helen for the delicious food served on these occasions.

### New members

Our club is constantly attracting new members, and before long our membership may reach capacity. This is great news and shows that Southport Golf Club is progressing well. Then there are those who for various reasons decide playing golf has lost its appeal. There are of course many reasons for this – but my question is what does a member do when he or she decides to put the clubs away? Indeed, do they just resign and walk off into the sunset?

We hope not! – the house committee would like to keep them coming to our clubhouse, so we propose enhancing house membership by offering the following:

(1) a special luncheon once a month, (2) newspapers every day, (3) guest speakers on a regular basis to talk about finance and other topics, (4) a putting competition, (5) playing bridge, and (6) travel.

Tell us what you think, and please offer suggestions.

Max Crofts – Chairman



**Mark McHugh**  
BODY WORKS

Prestige Automotive Body Repairs

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Jim Townley



Andrew Kirkman

## From the General Manager's Desk

AFTER 12 months at Southport Golf Club I am extremely proud of the efforts and achievements of the entire team. Staff and board members have all worked tirelessly to further strengthen our reputation as THE golf club on the Coast, whilst constantly exploring initiatives to improve the service and facilities offered to you, our members. Personally it has been a pleasure and honour to work with such a professional team of experienced and dedicated staff whilst also being warmly welcomed by the board and members.

### Our financial position

Over the last year, and despite difficult weather conditions, the financial position and performance of the club have continued to strengthen. We have budgeted for a net profit of \$271,007 in the current financial year, and are well ahead of budget with only a couple of months of trading to go. Our cash reserves have also improved throughout this period, and this added financial security has enabled us to consider commencing the next stage of the course master plan, namely the 13th and 18th holes. The concept is on display in the clubhouse foyer for all members to inspect, and we will continue to provide updates on any progress.

This major project is a vital part of the board's and management's implementation of strategies to enable us to proactively foster improvements in our club. Whilst there is always plenty of debate at the bar, it is vital that the long-term strategic direction of the club is based on maintaining and improving what we offer you. Obviously the golf course is a major part of this. Most members have joined our club because of the quality and playability of the course and the club's reputation (as well as many other factors), and it is our responsibility to ensure that the course, facilities and service all continue to evolve and improve.

The recent rains we have experienced have provided a significant illustration of the benefits on offer in continuing to upgrade our "older" holes. A recent two-inch downpour resulted in the 6th fairway being unplayable, but the 10th fairway beside it was not only playable but also could have handled motorised carts! As most members know, the 10th fairway was upgraded in early 2006, resulting in better quality grass and great improvement in irrigation and drainage.

### Golf shop

The golf shop has undergone a major refurbishment, resulting in a number of new and improved services becoming available to members. The major step up has been acquisition of a state-of-the-art club fitting system and a loft-and-lie machine. These technological advances will assist all members in their choice of any individual club or entire set they may want, with the ability to purchase from their home club with a special 10 per cent discount.

Overseeing this service is our new golf operations manager, Tom Arnott, who has spent the last ten years developing his knowledge of the golf industry, with the majority of his experience gained at Royal Queensland Golf Club and more recently Club Pelican. We welcome Tom and his young family to Southport Golf Club.

### Support

Lastly I would like to thank all of those members who continue to support our club in their own way. Whether it be Peter Weston or Bruce Lynton for their outstanding sponsorship, or the many members who support the special golf and social events such as the Nine-and-Dines, the jazz afternoons and the Friday nights – thanks.

I look forward to seeing you on our beautiful golf course.

**Andrew Kirkman**

## Greens Report

### WINTER WORKS PROGRAM

WITH the approach of winter, the need for grass cutting eases and more manpower becomes available for other tasks around the course. Priorities in this year's winter works program include:

- Tree works including thinning of canopies that shade greens and raise dangerous under-storeys – May/June.
- Mulching of garden areas – May/June.
- Completing drainage works across path to left front of men's 8th tee – May.
- Painting all tee stations, including rubbish bins and ball washers – June.
- Completing overflow car park near 13th tee – June.
- Improving drainage at front of 12th green – July.
- Completing OH&S coverage of washdown area – July.
- Upgrading driving range sand bins and signage – August.
- Landscaping left side of drive in from Slatyer Avenue to mirror right side – August.
- Upgrading 1st tee retaining wall and surrounds – during September renovations.
- Filling in and grassing over of bunkers to right of men's 8th tee and right rear of 1st green – during September renovations.
- Building a new tee for hole 2A – during September renovations.
- Repairing approach to cart path around 3rd green by aerating, top dressing and re-turfing – after September renovations.
- Replacing drainage to left of 3rd green – September.

For the upcoming financial year, the major items being sought include:

- A new triplex mower to cut greenside collars, tees and, in an emergency, provide flexibility to cut greens. This mower will also be used to de-thatch and groom greens.
- A new surrounds mower to cut surrounds of greens, tees, fairway step-cuts and those areas of rough sown with Greenlees Park couch and not amenable to cutting by slashers. The machine offers productivity improvement by having a wider cut than the present machine, and can also be used as a back-up fairway mower.
- A new slasher to replace one of the existing ones for cutting roughs and tee carries.
- For future years the purchase of a grinding system for the bed knives and cylinders of our mowers is also being considered. This would enable us to do, in house, work that is currently contracted out; thus improving productivity by reducing down time of our machinery. Clubs that have such systems report improved playing surfaces as well.

**Jim Townley**  
Club Captain

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

TOM ARNOTT, who along with 44 other highly qualified applicants responded to the club's advertisement for a Golf Operations Manager, was selected because of his outstanding performance at the Pelican Waters Golf Club/Resort located on the Sunshine Coast over the past two and a half years.

Prior to that Tom – now aged 30, married and with three young sons – was associated with two other clubs, including eight years at Royal Queensland.



Tom Arnett

### Business administration

There, working under the guidance of Charlie Earp in the Pro Shop, he undertook his PGA traineeship and, after being promoted to assistant professional, completed a degree in business administration.

As to being out on the course: while he's played the Von Nida Tour here in Australia and in a number of Pro Ams, Tom claims that his most valuable experience was gained over a period of six years playing with amateur state teams representing Queensland.

He's also played for Australia on several occasions, and captained Queensland at both junior and senior levels.

### Highlights

*Since winning the Australian Junior Championship in 1993, have there been any other highlights?*

Yes there have; but despite several outstanding achievements his greatest thrill came seven years later in 2000 when he won the Gold Coast Open, which is staged annually here at Southport.

*So why did he respond to the club's advertisement for a Golf Operations Manager?*

"Well, after leaving Royal Queensland my focus was on gaining the sort of experience that could be had at Pelican Resort, but my ultimate goal was to be employed by a private members' club," says an emphatic Tom.

*Okay then, does he have any particular objectives?*

Yes: his main goal, he says, is to increase and improve services to members.

AFTER a three-month trial Trevor Honnery, who joined Southport's ground staff in May 2005, has been appointed the club's deputy course superintendent following the departure in February of Ryan Mulcaster to pursue a career with golf and agricultural equipment manufacturer John Deere.



Trevor Honnery

Before joining Southport's ground staff Trevor, originally hailing from the NSW country town of Warialda, spent 13 years with Royal Pines' ground staff.

He took up employment there 12 months after the course opened in 1992, and from 1997 was third in command of more than 50 employees engaged in course maintenance and landscaping assignments.

"One of the responsibilities that put enormous pressure on us was the annual Ladies' Masters," says Trevor, pointing out that the Ladies' Professional Golf Association largely dictated preparation of the course.

"We also had to put up with some extraordinary behaviour, and a typical instance was one year when we were accused by many competitors of preparing the course especially for big hitters like Laura Davies."

*Was there any particular reason for moving on to join Southport?*

"Yes, I wanted a change. First up though, given the small army at Royal Pines it came as quite a surprise to see how Southport's ground staff team of 11 manage green keeping and course maintenance responsibilities.

"Admittedly, Southport is a smaller course and at Royal Pines there are 27 holes to look after, but it came as no surprise to me that in 2004 Southport was named by the Queensland Golf Union as the Sunshine State's best presented regional golf course," says Trevor.

"It's also been great to see the club presented with the PGA's annual environmental award in February last year, and another prestigious award in July from the Australian Golf Course Superintendents' Association for the club's machinery wash down bay."

## Associates' News

OUR opening day was a great success despite the heavy, soggy condition of the course. Captain Dawn was quietly ecstatic when her team won the event this year from a very determined President's team. The opening day luncheon was very well attended, and everyone enjoyed catching up with friends after our summer break.



Petah Oberman

### An exceptional performance

Congratulations to India Matthews on her great win in the Indigenous Championships at Murgon in March. India came from eight shots behind to force a three-way play-off for the title and won on the first extra hole. India, who is just 13, now plays off a 10 handicap.

We also applaud Courtney Massey, who competed in the four-day Qld Women's Stroke Play Championships in Townsville at the end of April, coming in fourth with an impressive aggregate of 297.

### Honour board events

The first of our honour board events, the single matchplay knockout, was held during March and the eventual winner was Annette Grimsdale, who defeated Wendy Townley 3/2. Annette was very excited, as this was her very first honour board win.

Upcoming honour board events include the four ball matchplay knockout, Appel Cup and club championships – one of our major events of the year, in which we hope to see the participation of as many ladies as possible. The committee will be accepting nominations from Wednesday May 7 until Wednesday June 4.



Happy single matchplay knockout winter Annette Grimsdale (right) is congratulated by (centre) president Del Herse and (left) runner-up Wendy Townley.

### Open days

The Silver and Bronze II open day was held on Monday April 7 when Sunny Moon from Gold Coast Burleigh won Silver division and our own Southport belle Roberta Speirs won in Bronze II with a score of 37 points. Silver players Carole Sim, Glenys Ramsbotham and Pat Adam, and Bronze II players Pam Harse and Beryl Davidson were all trophy winners.

Our Bronze I open day held on Monday April 21 was played in brilliant sunshine, although the course was quite heavy following the weekend downpour. Angela Lane of Helensvale club won the day with 39 points; Southport's honour was upheld by Stella Butler as runner-up with 37 points, Nancy Stenton featured twice in the NTPs with great shots on the 2nd and 12th, Jan Dando won on the 7th, and best front nine went to Amanda Garrard.

I certainly chose the right partners in Stella Butler and Amanda Garrard to win the teams event with an aggregate 99.

### Charity report

Surfers Paradise Surf Lifesaving Club reaped the benefit of our fund raising last year with a donation of \$12,000, and our charity this year is the Animal Welfare League, which relies heavily on donations – so they would be grateful for anything they can sell to raise money.

Ladies, please remember to let your committee know if any of our company is hospitalised or on the sick list.

**Petah Oberman – Vice President**

# OUT & ABOUT



Tony Stenton

FOR more than 50 years Tony Stenton has played and followed a range of sports; but while sometimes socialising with golfing friends at various courses on weekends, he did not play.

That according to Tony is because there's always the possibility that those left to run a business are often suffering while key personnel are playing – which hardly sets a good example of work ethics.

Why then did Tony, founder of the very successful Gold Coast-based World Carpets, join Southport just on three years ago to take up golf with his wife Nancy?

“Well, over many years World Carpets has been buying a huge amount of underlay from Dunlop and Bridgestone.

“Going back six years World Carpets was named Bridgestone's retailer of the month, and part of the award was a set of Precept golf clubs.

“That prize was accepted and a second set was purchased for Nancy.

“Since neither of us had ever picked up a golf club before, we went along to a TAFE course to find out what we had been missing.

“Family members had moved up into some key roles in the business, leaving Nancy and myself with more time to pursue our new sporting interest.

“So we hacked around for three years and eventually decided it was time to join a major club – and Southport was our choice.

“Because of our continued bulk purchasing from Bridgestone, we are provided with a regular supply of golf balls and enjoy the pleasure of sharing them with fellow members,” says Tony.

## Terrors of the blitz

Born in Sheffield a year before prime minister Neville Chamberlain went to Germany in what proved to be a futile attempt to prevent the outbreak of war, Tony still recall the terrors of the blitz.

“I vividly remember a night when, as a three year old and with my brother and sister, we were rushed into a cellar as bombs rained down around our house,” says Tony who, after peace was declared in 1945, became addicted to soccer and cricket during his school years.

On leaving school at age 15, Tony's mother wanted him to become a hairdresser; but believing that would be a bit 'teasy-weasy', he agreed on the basis of cutting men's hair only.

## Short back and sides

Given parental agreement, his next move was a three-year apprenticeship with a barber at Attercliffe, right in the centre of Sheffield – where steel workers settled for short back and sides as well as shaves with cut-throat razors.

Not long after becoming a qualified barber, Tony – now nearing 19, married and with the first of three sons on the way – was called up for two years of compulsory national service at Catterick in North Yorkshire, where he trained as a driver of Centurion tanks.

When demobbed from the army Tony, always ambitious, went to work with his father-in-law as a carpet fitter and after two years went out on his own installing carpets with three teams of fitters.

Three years later, advertisements placed in Sunday newspapers by

Australian building company Leighton Homes offering to sponsor families to Australia led to the great adventure of emigrating down under.

## Ten quid pommies

“As ten quid pommies we set sail on the 'Fairstar' with my family and other relatives, disembarking in Melbourne on June 6 1965.

“Leighton Homes were very good to us and it wasn't long before we rented a house at Preston, then soon after bought our own residence in Moomba Park, Fawkner.

“Already we had been to see J G Guest, a Melbourne-based company involved in furniture and carpets, for whom we started installing carpets.

“Interestingly one of the carpet layers working with us who took his holiday breaks on the Gold Coast spoke so much about the attractions that my family and I took off to the same destination.

“We were so impressed that, after spending a week looking for real estate, we returned to Victoria, put our house on the market and within a short period made the move to the Gold Coast, arriving here in June 1967.

“Long hours were put in to laying carpets all over the Gold Coast, but we made good money and, rather than buy a house, we invested our funds in a business known as Classic Carpets situated on the Gold Coast Highway at Miami.

“Before selling Classic Carpets in 1969, and after taking a hard look at carpet manufacturing, we established premises in Christine Avenue – and were delighted when then premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen and a cabinet minister officiated at the opening of our mill.

## Premier opens larger factory

“The new business was very successful, leading to an offer of assistance from the Queensland Department of Industry to establish a larger factory at Molindinar; and once again the premier flew down by helicopter to open the new mill in front of more than a hundred dignitaries.

“Obviously, knowing that the premier would be landing in heavy rain, we rolled out a long carpet from the helicopter to the enclosed rostrum.”

*PS: World Carpets is now based at Labrador. Tony has not only donated carpet for the club's upgraded Golf Shop, but also distributes dozens of golf balls to members and over the past three years has sponsored Associates' functions to the tune of \$2000 annually.*

Pizza Pasta Ribs Take Aways Deliveries	
1 Stevens Street, <b>SOUTHPORT</b> QLD 4215 5532 3522	Oxley Plaza, 455 Oxley Drive <b>RUNAWAY BAY</b> QLD 4216 5529 0305
	
Pizza Pasta Ribs <b>Vinnie's</b> Italian Restaurant BYO	
Peter, Carolyn & Craig	

# OUT & ABOUT



Nancy Stenton

NANCY STENTON (nee Lane) is one of a small percentage of Gold Coast residents who can trace their lineage to the first immigrants who settled in the Logan and Coomera area.

Her maternal great, great grandfather Carl Frederich Huth, a tailor who embarked from Hamburg in Germany aboard the 'San Francisco' with his family on August 8 1863, arrived in Queensland on November 28 that year and settled in the Logan area.

Nancy's paternal great grandfather Solomon Lane arrived in Moreton Bay aboard the 'Parsee' on February 9 1857 after having been at sea for 87 days. By 1873 Solomon and his family had taken up residence in a slab hut by Wonga Wallen Creek.

Born at a hospital close to where Australia Fair now stands, Nancy was brought up with her four siblings on the original 187 acre property in the Wonga Wallen Valley near Coomera.

When just under five years of age, Nancy was enrolled at Coomera Upper Primary School as one of only 30 pupils, and after completing her formal education stayed at home for approximately six months before going to work for Paula Stafford's swimwear and leisure clothing business in Cavill Avenue.

## Lifestyles

"During frequent visits to my 91 year old mother, we often reminisce about our lifestyle on the farm," says Nancy.

"We were probably regarded as being poor as church mice, but most of our neighbours were in the same predicament so as children we were unaware of the hardships faced by our loving parents.

"Certainly there weren't any real luxuries, except perhaps that the whole valley was our playground where we could roam at will, pick fruit from the trees, fish and swim in the creeks and feel welcome to visit any of the valley residents.

## Comforts

"Among our comforts were a wood stove, a kerosene fridge and a generator for lights. We made a living milking our cows by hand then separating the milk to supply cream to the Kingston Butter Factory, and we grew a few small crops and bananas. Because of ill health my father sold the farm in 1964 and we moved to Main Beach, into the house where my mother still lives today amongst all the high rise buildings.

"As the years pass and the population continues to grow in south-east Queensland, these days it's the traffic that gets to me more than high rise buildings, although I do find it disturbing and disappointing that many historic links have been lost in areas such as Benowa\*, which was settled by a branch of the Huth family.

"Apart from the primary school, post office and Spotlight Theatre many historic links have disappeared to make room for retail and housing development.

"These include sites where cotton as well as sugar cane were grown, milled and shipped overseas," says Nancy, who finds Southport Golf Club very welcoming.

"Moreover the Associates are terrific company and I find that golf is very challenging."

Before taking up golf her main sporting passion for more than 15 years was squash, in which she played open grade, position one on the Gold Coast and became involved with both local and state squash association committees.

Squash had its romantic edge too: she met Tony, to whom she has now been married for 23 years, at the squash courts. Between them they have six children and 19 grandchildren.

Nancy breaks out laughing when she says the whole family looks forward to a very big turkey when they all decide to come home for a traditional Christmas lunch.

\*Incidentally, Benowa is derived from 'boonow' the Aboriginal name for the red bloodwood tree and Wonga Wallen means 'place of pigeons and water'.

## Division 1 Pennant

### All good things come to an end

ACCORDING to our pennant team manager Mike Johnson, there's no point in whingeing or debating what could or should have been; but after having chalked up three consecutive pennant wins he's disappointed that the team did not make the finals this year.



Mike Johnson

All the best intentions and a wish list do not make up for effort and preparation; and reflecting on this season compared to others, these may well have been the factors that were lacking just a little – albeit that every player's contribution was 100 per cent.

"Add to this the fact that we missed the input of a couple of key players from last year's squad, this may explain some of the reasons for our performance.

"Anyway this year we had opportunity, but we didn't prepare as in the past and tended to lack the necessary intense commitment," says Mike.

So how does he see the future?

Mike says he would like to be a player in next year's Division 1 pennant series, but is also considering the club's offer to again undertake the team's management.

"Another disappointment is that calls for caddies and supporters have fallen on deaf ears, and the reflected complacency has been our team's worst enemy," says Mike.

"Looking on the brighter side though, there's been the fantastic support from Bob Binks during his association with Surfside Ford and now Peter Weston of Vinnie's Italian Restaurants, who has been our major sponsor over the past two years.

"I must also convey appreciation to Jim Townley, who in my opinion is a sensational captain – and the same accolade applies to the club's president Don Phelan, who also has captained our team."

PS: Mike has been associated with Division 1 pennants as a team player and manager for more than 25 years.

## Golf Shop News!

Behind closed doors there has also been a significant upgrade to the golf shop workshop.

This has meant that the golf shop's repair capabilities have dramatically improved, and the shop now offers a wide range of repairs including

- club refurbishment
- re-grips
- re-spikes
- re-shafting
- loft-&-lie adjustments.

Please see the golf shop team for all enquiries.



David McKean

## TEACHING PRO'S CORNER

### Proper shaft alignment makes a difference

SINCE Pdraig Harrington won the British Open at Carnoustie last year more than 200 professionals have followed his example to ensure proper shaft alignment.

It's now known that every golf shaft has irregularities.

Put simply, wayward shots can often be caused by a faulty shaft rather than the frustrated golfer hitting them.

Inconsistent shot making can be due to shaft movement at impact, as American club maker Dick Weiss discovered some eight years ago as he examined golf shafts from many equipment manufacturers and found them to be completely different.

Now the patented 'SST PURE' shaft alignment process uses proprietary computer analysis to pinpoint the most stable orientation for each shaft, thereby eliminating bending and twisting during the swing and at impact.

Henry-Griffitts is the only company in Australia licensed to apply the PURE golf shaft analysis and alignment.

This involves removing the shaft from the club head for computer analysis and realignment. A unique printout detailing the shaft's characteristics is provided.

Certainly shaft alignment has made a difference on the PGA tour – now it can make a difference to any golfer.

For more information visit the PURE website at [www.sstpure.com](http://www.sstpure.com) or contact Henry-Griffitts on 1800 809 325 or 5597 3088.

## Discourse on chemical applications



Stuart Moore

WE have every reason to be proud of our course maintenance operations, especially in relation to environmental aspects and community responsibility.

These days all chemicals – ranging from fungicides, herbicides and insecticides to other required substances – must be registered for use in the turf industry; over the past 10 years many chemical products have been deregistered and are no longer applied to any surface at our club.

Indeed, over recent years Southport Golf Club has been recognised nationally for its commitment to environmental responsibilities, and we will continue to abide by all legislation enacted to ensure protection of members and our personnel.

### Poison?

Obviously there are questions about our practices.

For instance, many members wonder whether they could be poisoned when masked and suited ground staff operators are out on the course spraying chemicals.

The answer is simply that golfers in the vicinity of any spraying have nothing to fear.

Why then, one may well ask, should our ground staff wear safety equipment?

That's because initially the various poisons have to be handled in their concentrated form at the work sheds; but before being sprayed, the mixture is diluted within the spray unit from tanks located just below the operator's feet.

Another question is whether these products are safe to use around our course.

First up, all products we use must be turf registered at a national level and certified safe for the environment; but most importantly, they are not harmful to golfers out on the course at the time of their application.

Also the spray unit used on our course is enclosed, thus preventing any drift of spray from the target area.

**Stuart Moore – Course Superintendent**



## BACK TO NATURE

with Aaron Goding – Course Horticulturist

TREE branches have been brought down by high winds more often over recent months as summer heat and heavy rains contribute to growth of heavier foliage.

Put another way: over the past six years as drought has prevailed, leaves on the gum trees have been brittle and light – but now the canopy is a healthy dark green.

It's also heavier, to such an extent that branches are falling more frequently. Also, some trees' roots have rotted away, bringing them down in recent heavy rainfalls; a case in point was a huge melaleuca located left of the fourth green.



*Over the past six months gum tree branches have been crashing to the ground more frequently than over the past six years. That's because continuing rainfalls have generated new growth and the canopy of leaves becomes so heavy that branches can snap suddenly under the weight.*

### Nature's damage

Other concerns are lightning strikes, the effects of climate extremes and infestation of borers that can cause huge branches to hit the deck without warning.

Although our ground staffers are continually on the lookout for possible dangers members too should take extra care – especially in high winds.

Indeed if you mis-hit into the rough, do be careful – especially in windy weather and if your ball is anywhere near a eucalypt, because branches can snap off without any warning.

Be careful too if standing near to palm trees.

Incidentally, as previously reported, future planning is that other trees foreign to this neck of the woods are to be removed and replaced by carefully selected native species.

TEE TO GREEN is a regular publication for members of Southport Golf Club. It is edited, written and produced by Ken and Pam Yarwood. Editorial and advertising enquiries should be directed to the General Manager.

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