



Development awaiting council approval

Our next major social event is a return of the

JAZZ Trio

on Sunday
28th September

...with a gourmet tapas menu once again provided by our caterers, David and Helen.

Members are welcome to bring their guests – make your booking through the office on 5571 1444, but be early!

AFTER a number of years of no major course construction the board has approved commencement of the next stage of the course master plan that will see the 13th and 18th holes developed in two stages over the next two years. This will result in completion of the entire back nine of the course and will provide major improvements to safety, playability, drainage, irrigation and grasses.



The 13th hole.

The board has approved the design and plans submitted by respected course designer Graham Papworth of GNP Golf Design Pty Ltd, and the required funds have been apportioned to a course improvement account. As some of the area of proposed works is flood plain and as the project will include movement of more than 1000 cubic metres of fill, the club has submitted the required development application to council for approval. This is currently under consideration.

When will construction commence?

The board has reviewed previous major course improvement projects over the past decade and also considered professional consultants' advice on the ideal timing of major course works. The objective being to complete major works in the smallest period of time to minimise inconvenience to members' golf and to do so to or under budget, the board has agreed that all construction must be commenced in the second half of the year and completed prior to Christmas.

The only factor that could stop this from occurring is adverse weather conditions, and therefore construction will commence in October 2008 *if* approval is received from council in time. If not, the 13th hole will be developed in the second half of 2009.

THE CHANGES

Final approved designs for the 13th and 18th holes are now on display in the foyer of the clubhouse for all members to view.

13th hole

The aim is to create a more pronounced dogleg and increase the *risk -v- reward* for longer hitters: the tee will be moved to the right rear of its present site and lowered in height, the fairway will be re-aligned to the left, the pond on the left-hand side of the fairway will be reshaped to create more fairway to the left, and a new pond situated 220m from the tee will be added to the right-hand side of the fairway.

18th hole

The aim is to increase the difficulty of the landing area for tee shots of longer hitters, particularly those who drive the ball 250m or more: the tee will be moved to the left of its present site, the fairway will be widened 200m from the tee, three fairway bunkers will be introduced and the fairway narrowed from the 235m mark to the 274m mark, and the pond on the left-hand side of the fairway will be reshaped 264m from the tee.

During this development opportunity will be taken to upgrade and improve drainage to these fairways, to replace and upgrade the irrigation system, and to re-grass both fairways with greenlees park couch. This will complete the re-grassing of the back nine and also deal with one of our major remaining flooding problems: the 18th fairway.

The board's strategic plan is to complete the course master plan by 2020 and to do so with the least possible inconvenience to members' golf, using accumulated cash reserves of the club and not borrow any funds, and with the aim of improving drainage, irrigation and playability.

All this will ensure that members continue to have the opportunity to enjoy their game on a quality golf course for years to come.

GOLF SHOP
SPECIAL



TRADE
IN
YOUR

OLD GOLF SHOES

GET
\$20
OFF



A NEW PAIR

President's Report

WELCOME to the final *Tee to Green* before the club's AGM scheduled for 7pm on Monday 3rd November.



Don Phelan

As most of you are aware, a few months ago our vice-president Chilla Dowling passed away. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge his contribution to our club. Chilla served for many years as a member of the club's board and on committees going right back to when our club was a nine-hole course. In fact he once told me about the many working bees held to construct the greens during development of the last nine holes. His knowledge and commitment at club and board level is greatly missed. He was a life member of the club, and the board has agreed to honour Chilla by naming the club's seniors championship trophy after him. A fitting tribute, I believe, to a member who not only achieved a great deal for all of us over many years, but also at the time of his death aged 80 still had a handicap of six.

As we near the AGM I do ask that all members take some time to consider running for positions on the club's board. Currently there are two members of the board who must retire from their respective positions in October 2009. It is very important to have continuity at board level and it would be advantageous to have more members who wish to and can contribute for some years to come.

Strong membership

The club's membership is still very strong in all categories, and overall ahead of where we were this time last year. Our financial position is excellent and we started the new financial year a long way ahead of the same period 12 months ago. This has enabled us to continue to improve club facilities for all members.

Development of the 13th hole is a top priority, and funds have been set aside to allow us to complete this project. At the time of writing this report we are awaiting approval from both the local council and Department of Natural Resources. If approval is received in time for construction to be completed prior to Christmas 2008 we will proceed. If not, we will wait until Spring 2009.

Don Phelan

Treasurer's Report

I AM pleased to report that all sectors of the club's operations have increased in profitability, apart from areas affected by weather such as green fees, buggy rental and driving range fees. This result could not have been achieved without the dedication and efforts put in by all the staff of this club.

I consider it timely to bring to your attention that operating costs of your club approximate \$49,740 each week. Any capital expenditure is in addition to this, and the aforementioned amount does not include depreciation or provisions for long service leave etc. It is therefore of utmost importance that members support their club by using the great facilities provided and attending functions organized.

The main aim of the committee this year has been to accumulate a "nest egg" of funds so that any unexpected events do not put the club in an unsound financial situation. This has been achieved.

As you are aware, plans are under way to rebuild the 13th fairway as part of the master plan for the course. In addition to this, necessary expenditure on capital equipment items in excess of \$120,000 is planned for the next 12 months.

A more detailed report will be presented to the AGM.



Ken Window

Ken Window

Captain's Call



Jim Townley

MEMBERS who are familiar with the workings of golf club committees will be aware that the match and greens committees are very closely allied, as their work frequently overlaps. In the past at Southport this relationship was recognised by having the two committees meet one after the other on the same night, there being much the same membership for both committees although not necessarily the same chairman. This relationship has now been further strengthened, as president Don Phelan has formally combined the two committees into a single match and greens committee to be chaired by the club captain. To make more efficient use of time in board meetings, all members of the board will attend the meetings of this new committee.

Nine hole competitions

One member has written to the board suggesting that we should conduct nine-hole competitions for men during the week. The match and greens committee would like to gauge whether there is any other member interest in, and/or support for, such a competition. The practicalities are that such a competition would need to be allocated a separate time block, probably at the end of the 18 hole field, and at the expense of some 18 hole competition starting times off one or both of the tees. Please let any member of the match and greens committee, or the general manager, know what your views are one way or the other regarding such a nine hole competition.

Handicapping system

As I have advised in earlier *Tee to Green* articles, Golf Australia is reviewing the handicapping system. One outcome of that review is that as from 1st September 2008 the maximum Golf Australia handicap for men has increased from 27.4 to 36.4. This does not require any adjusting action on the part of members. Golfink will apply any increase as competition results are entered. Those members who currently have club handicaps in excess of 27.4, will have these handicaps recognised as Golf Australia handicaps.

However, this change will have an effect on the way we express the men's stroke play index on our cards. To keep things simple, the "two stroke" index for a hole will be 18 more than the "one stroke" index for that same hole. For example, the stroke index for the 8th is currently 12/27, meaning that players whose playing handicap is 12 or over get one shot on that hole, and players whose playing handicap is 27 or over get two shots on that hole. With the change in handicaps, the stroke index on the 8th will simply be shown as 12, meaning that players on a playing handicap of 12 or over will get one stroke, while only players on a playing handicap of 30, (12 + 18 = 30) or over will get two shots. This will bring the way the men's stroke play index is expressed into line with the way the women's stroke play index is expressed on our cards. There will be no change to the way that the match play index is expressed.

Jim Townley

Match & Greens Committee

THE match and greens committee recently reviewed the policy on members obtaining handicaps, and has decided that in future:

- members needing to submit cards for an initial handicap may now play in a competition field at SGC, any day other than a Saturday, in order to compile a card for handicapping purposes. However, such players will not be eligible to enter the competition;
- cards from other courses are acceptable for handicapping purposes, provided that the card has been marked by the holder of a Golf Australia handicap;
- a club handicap will be issued when three cards have been submitted;
- a member with a club handicap may enter any SGC competition, including a Saturday competition;
- a Golf Australia handicap will be issued once five cards have been submitted.

Some misconceptions seem to have arisen about the playing rights of limited playing members. As per the club's by-laws:

- each limited playing member is entitled to play six social games in any one financial year. These rounds may not be played in competition times and are subject to the normal \$2 course maintenance fee;
- they are also entitled to play six competition rounds per financial year on payment of

the guest-of-member green fee, plus the competition fee;

- limited playing members are not entitled to win honour board events;
- "rounds" in the above entitlements include both 18-hole and 9-hole rounds. That is to say, one 18 hole round cannot be traded off for two 9-hole rounds.

Limited playing members are encouraged to use their playing rights to maintain their Golf Australia handicaps

In the previous *Tee to Green*, I outlined the works program that the greens staff would be undertaking during winter 2008. I can now report progress on those works as follows:

- the tree works scheduled for May/June have almost been completed after weather delays, which of necessity kept the heavy, branch-grinding truck off the course;
- mulching of garden areas has been completed, although this requires ongoing top-ups;
- drainage has been installed on the other side of the path to the left front of the 8th tee;
- painting of tee stations has been undertaken after weather delays;
- new drainage has been laid in front of the 12th green;
- a new tee for hole 2B has been constructed;
- construction of the safety roof over portion of the maintenance area should begin later in the year;

- the overflow carpark has been constructed; however, for the time being, it will not be surfaced. Its usage rate and surface condition will be monitored over the next 12 months and a decision made then about whether it should be surfaced.

Course renovations

As per the fixture book, the Spring renovation program is scheduled from Monday 22nd to Wednesday 24th September inclusive. This year, the scope of the work will include:

- coring and sanding the greens (including the practice greens) and collars;
- coring and scarifying the tees;
- scarifying and/or slitting a number of fairways;
- scarifying and top dressing those lower areas of the 10th and 11th fairways which lack any depth of top soil.

The committee appreciates the patience shown by members as the course recovers after renovations.

Finally, the committee would like to put on record its appreciation of the work done by our course superintendent, Stuart Moore, and his staff in keeping the course in such good playing condition through what has been an unusually wet winter.

Jim Townley
Captain

House Committee Report

IF confusion reigns regarding the dress code at our club, I would recommend a visit to our web site, where the requirements are set out very clearly.

It is interesting to note that although Friday night's major draw of \$4000 was recently won, the number of members rolling up is still high. The current jackpot prize – over \$2000 at the time of writing – is well worth winning, and all you have to do is be present at the draw.

Raffles

The atmosphere at the Friday night raffles is better than ever, and you could win a meat tray, wine or cartons of beer. I've had my share of luck, and so can you. By the way, enjoy dining in after the members' draw. Our caterers Helen and David always have a fine meal waiting for you. The menu varies from week to week and features à la carte, a carvery or a roast meal. It is wise to have a reservation as these nights are very popular.

Sportspersons' dinner

A few weeks ago we had a very successful sportspersons' night with Ian Healy, Greg Cornelson, Andrew Slack, John Brass, Bill Ross and jockey Larry Olsen. They gave freely of their time with all profit from the evening going to promote junior golf at our club. We were regaled with wonderful stories about a number of sports, including rugby union and horse racing, and Larry revealed how he won the Melbourne Cup. If you missed that one, try to be there next time – you will not be disappointed.

Thanks

Finally I must thank the ladies' representatives on our house committee, Sandy Mojsish and associates' president Del Herse. They bring a balance to our meetings and do a splendid job for both members and associates. Of course Phil Ratcliff, Graham Roberts and our relatively new member Robert Sayers all give freely of their advice. Suggestions such as installing a breathalyser and an ATM have been examined; remember though that any purchases have to stay within budget!

Are your golfing days over?

Our club is attracting many new members, which is great news as it shows we are progressing well. Of course there are those who, for various reasons, decide that playing golf is no longer for them – perhaps due to a physical problem such as back pain or golfer's elbow. My question is: what does a member do when he or she decides to stop playing? Do they just resign and walk away?

The house committee would like to keep them coming to our clubhouse through an offer of social membership which could include: (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 advice. Tell us what you think and please offer suggestions.

Max Crofts – Chairman



Max Crofts



Andrew Kirkman

From the General Manager's Desk

ANOTHER hectic period of the year has passed with plenty happening at your club. The 2007/2008 financial year finished very successfully. We have established a new benchmark for the financial position and security of the club, which has enabled us to commence the new fiscal year on the front foot.

Major improvements over coming months will include (1) purchase of new greens, rough and surrounds mowers that will improve the finished result, operational efficiencies and flexibility; (2) new outdoor furniture for the deck and balcony area of the clubhouse that will replace the current 13-year-old furniture; (3) cameras to be installed to monitor the 1st and 10th tees to provide live vision for the golf shop starter. These will be installed in October and will enable better monitoring and calling of players to their tees; (4) upgrade of the administration computer equipment and software that will increase efficiencies and effectiveness; (5) an upgrade of the point-of-sale system in the bar and the golf shop. This will occur in early to mid-2009 and will replace the current 13-year-old system; and (6) a new shed roof to be built over the washdown bay pad and equipment that will better protect this expensive infrastructure as well as members and staff.

Funds set aside

These works are all in addition to the funds set aside for the 13th hole development project that will see the start of an exciting period for the club during which we can continue to improve the course as per the course masterplan.

Off the course there has been plenty happening in the golf shop, with Bernadette Lance taking over as golf operations manager from Tom Arnott. Tom has taken up a position with Taylor Made in Brisbane that places him closer to his young family, and we wish him all the best in the future. Bernadette has impressed everyone at the club, and it is outstanding to see a long-term team member step up into this important management role. I am sure you will join me in congratulating and supporting Bernadette as our new golf ops manager.

Emergency intercoms

Bernadette has also been involved in the safety audit that we have undertaken over the last three months. Personnel from the golf shop, greens staff and the bar have successfully completed their first aid certificate with a number going on to complete their training in the use of the club's defibrillator. Many thanks for the assistance of member Dr Rob Rowley through this process. In addition, we have upgraded the on-course emergency intercoms on the 3rd fairway, 10th tee and 18th tee. These intercoms are to be used only in the case of an emergency; they are there for your safety, so we encourage you to make sure you are familiar with their locations.

Juniors

The efforts of Karen Caban, David McKean and many others in developing the juniors in our club thoroughly impressed me early last year when I arrived at Southport. Since then we have been implementing a number of strategies to assist in attracting, developing and retaining our juniors. The recent sportspersons' dinner attracted over 100 members and their guests who all helped in raising over \$1,000 for the juniors. Special thanks must go to member Greg Cornelsen who organised the outstanding array of speakers.

Our next major social event is the **Jazz Arvo** on Sunday 28th September and then the **Nine-and-Dine** returns on Friday 3rd October – so get those diaries out!

Andrew Kirkman

Dedication & Professionalism

OVER the past 12 years many members have observed that Bernadette Lance, who began working in the golf shop on a casual basis when just 16, was initially something of a shrinking violet; but as time has moved on, she has certainly bloomed in both confidence and ability.



Bernadette Lance

Born here on the Gold Coast and educated at Marymount College, Bernadette was involved in a range of sports including netball and surfing; but not long after leaving school in 1991 she became interested in golf.

Starting out at the Tally Valley course, Bernadette reduced her handicap from 34 to four inside two years; and in 1994, with her handicap down to three, she joined Queensland's state team, which in the following year was victorious in the annual interstate series.

Creditable performances

Continuing to play golf and with a number of very creditable performances* under her belt, Bernadette was eventually offered a full-time job in the golf shop in 2005; and her commitment was such that back in May this year she was appointed assistant operations manager.

Experience gained in this position led to her promotion following Tom Arnott's resignation due to his difficult family commitments.

Interestingly, Bernadette admits that not long after starting to work in the golf shop – and although always keen to be out on the course – as time passed she realised that she wanted a career in management within the golf industry.

Now, as well as the management aspects of her position, Bernadette still enjoys organising competitions and liaison with the club's other departments – even though time for playing golf is now a bit limited.

**Including club champion in 1994, 1995 and 2005; winner with Mollie Lutjens of the 4-ball matchplay knockout in 1993; and later, winner with Carol Sim of the foursomes championship in 2006 and captain of our A-grade pennant team, winners in 2006 and 2007.*

A warm welcome to our new members...

Grant Archibald	Stephen Cook	Barry Katz	Eric John Lomas	Corey Pettit
Angus Blaikie	Neil Cormick	Brandon Nicholas Kay	Michael Regan Malone	Peter James Reggler
Ian Christopher Booth	Cheyenne Cosier	Rod David Kemp	Beverley Ellen Neilson	Kristine Yvonne Rossiter
Ben Campbell	Neville Cox	Dianne Odette Kozik	David Nicholson	Serubi Sugahara
Patricia Chester	Christopher Gregory	Gary John Lisle	Bruce Graham Nunn	Robert Turner
Jeffery Norman Collins	Maria Gregory	Christine Lois Lohman	James Peters	Annette Joy Williams

A 'NEW' Green Keeping Team

"WITH the recent retirement of two long serving staff members we've increased our focus on recruitment of personnel who will strengthen the skills base of our ground staff team," says course superintendent, Stuart Moore.

First of five new ground staff is Michael Lawrence, who joined the club last December and whose brother Jon also came on board this year in July.



Michael Lawrence

Born in Cardiff in Wales, Michael migrated to Australia at age 18, but returned to the UK as a greenkeeper. It wasn't long though before he returned to Australia, because he'd had enough of the English weather.

After again arriving down under in 2004, Michael spent two years as a greenkeeper at a resort near Yeppoon, east of Rockhampton. Looking for a permanent residence though, he homed in on the Gold Coast – and secured a position at Southport Golf Club, exactly as he wanted. He's been impressed from the start with the club's policy of maintaining steady, ongoing development.

Along with his greenkeeping duties, Michael is now also the ground staff's 3IC.



Mark Edwards

BACK in May this year Mark Edwards was appointed the club's irrigation technician.

Arriving here on the Gold Coast when just five, he completed his secondary education at Miami High School and after graduating took himself off to the UK with thoughts of finding a career. A happy chance found him labouring for a small irrigation company in England, when he became very interested in that field.

Back home in Australia his experience enabled him to take on employment with local irrigation companies, and there followed six months on a golf course irrigation project in Cairo, Egypt.

ALSO with us since May this year is 20-year-old apprentice horticulturist Josh Lee, who was previously at sea with the Australian navy for two years.

Surely though out there on the oceans a career in horticulture was not uppermost in his mind?

Well Josh, who was educated at Marymount College and now plays rugby league for Burleigh Heads A-Grade team, concedes that from early days although he was comfortable on water, he preferred dry land.

Indeed, Josh says that while at sea his observations in various ports-of-call stimulated an already established interest in exotic and native foliage.

Looking to another field, if his football team is a finals hope in the near future there may be a chance to be drafted into the Titans.



Josh Lee



Tim Whiting

OVER the next two years Tim Whiting, aged 16 and currently a student at the Coombabah State High School, wants to become a horticulturist and is working towards that goal through a school-based traineeship, doing an eight-hour stint one day a week under the guidance of the club's horticulturist, Aaron Goding.

"Everything is certainly going well, and it's great to see Tim's enthusiasm for his chosen career," says Stuart Moore, the club's course superintendent.

LATEST recruit Jon Lawrence and his brother Michael worked together over eight years as greenkeepers at the Southern Downs course located about a 20mins drive from Cardiff in Wales; so why are they now here in Southport?

Simply because, he says, it's a better way of life.

"I first came out here five years ago and was fortunate enough to land a job at Sydney's Balgowlah golf course, where I was soon appointed second in charge," says Jon, who had a few weeks' holiday in Wales during May before returning to join Southport's greenkeepers.

Why not go back to Balgowlah? "Well, the lifestyle up here is so much better; and more to the point, my brother is here with his family so it's a pleasure to work with him again and have opportunity to play golf occasionally."



Jon Lawrence

Behind the Scenes



John Ward

THOUGHTS of immediate employment were not on John Ward's mind as he passed Southport Golf Club several times in August 2004 while taking his daughter to school and searching for a property.

Given a bit of time on one return journey though, John drove into the club to enquire whether there were any vacancies for a mechanic's position.

Thirty minutes later this former Royal Air Force airframe technician drove out knowing he stood a good chance of being appointed the club's maintenance engineer, a position that had just been vacated.

Airframe fitter

John joined the RAF on leaving school, to train as an airframe fitter.

During his 13 years of service from 1977 to 1990 he went from Abingdon in Oxfordshire to Sek Kong in Hong Kong's new territories to service aircraft including Jaguar fighters, Nimrod AEW and Wessex helicopters.

Looking for a change of career during 1999/2000, he ventured into golf operations at Gowran Park Golf Club just outside Kilkenny in Ireland – and this was one of the reasons he was offered Southport's equipment maintenance position.

After successfully setting up from scratch and running the maintenance operations at Gowran, John with his wife Louise and daughter Anastasia moved to England, where he worked at the Pine Ridge course in Surrey.

Then in July 2004 the family emigrated to the Gold Coast so that Louise could take up a radiography post.

Day-to-day responsibilities

John's day-to-day responsibilities at Southport are many and varied, involving diesel and petrol engine servicing, auto electrical and hydraulic repairs, welding – and he's a dab hand at replacing light fittings and hanging clocks!

How though does John compare trends in golf course equipment maintenance overseas to what's happening here in Australia?

Growing trends

"Well, as reported in *Greenkeeper International*, although there remains a good number of golf clubs with pretty grim workshops, a growing trend has seen equipment housing and workshop facilities considerably improved in recent years," says John.

"There are no surprises here, because modern equipment soaks up a great deal of money; so correct set-up is vital, as is keeping ongoing maintenance at optimal levels.

"Sorry to say though, gone are the days when a quick weld and a length of wire could 'band-aid' you along for a while to get the job finished.

"These days most of our equipment has some kind of computer or electronic controller fitted.

"Indeed, modern machinery requires highly technical maintenance procedures. Also, since it's imperative to keep machinery downtime at a minimum, maintenance work has to be done correctly first time," says John emphatically.

OUT & ABOUT

Cape Canaveral – an exciting experience

SINCE childhood Bob Hagley, who joined Southport Golf Club in 1988, has pursued most of his recreational and competitive interests on the water, with participation in races such as the annual Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

Yet he says his most exciting experience was in the air at Cape Canaveral in Florida, where he was a guest in 1967 to watch the lift-off of Apollo 8 – the space ship launched one year before the moon landing.

This came about because of a very close friendship with Doctor J R Maxfield, a Dallas-based medico and specialist physician to the US astronauts based at Cape Canaveral.

“Being able to watch the launch was just awesome,” says Bob, who was raised in Greenwich on Sydney’s north shore where, from an early age, he spent most of his time on Sydney Harbour.

Initially he sailed in two-man VJs, and after graduating to 16-footers won several NSW and Australian championships with long-time friend Ken Beashel, whose son Colin has represented Australia in the last four Olympics.

Eventually Bob opted for 18-footers and did very well winning three World championships in 1963, 1965 and 1966.

During this time span Bob, then employed by Qantas, accepted a transfer from Sydney to take over as the company’s sales manager in San Francisco, where he sailed on the Bay for many years, then a subsequent transfer took him to Dallas, where he was sales manager for the southern states.

Landlocked

Because he was then land-locked, Bob had to find another recreation – so he took up golf and his first ever game was with Australian professional Bruce Crampton, a near neighbour whose interest and advice saw Bob’s love of golf begin.

“During 1969 I moved to the west coast and I decided to branch out on my own,” Bob recounted, “and established Australian Travel Service, which even now continues to be a very successful tour wholesaler, packaging Australia and New Zealand from the USA.”

Sydney to Hobart

Well known among the yachting fraternity, Bob was invited by

owner Tony Fisher to come aboard his new 74-foot yacht *Helsal* as a helmsman in the 1973 Sydney to Hobart.

Named after Tony’s daughters Helen and Sally, *Helsal*, with a crew of 22, crossed the line in Hobart to break the course record after three days, 13 hours and 31 minutes.

“The following year *Helsal* finished fourth behind the American boat *Kialoa*, which broke our record – but nowadays the record is around two days.

“Anyway, in 1975 we entered *Helsal* in the Melbourne to Hobart race and took line honours; then we later focused on the annual East Coast races including the Brisbane to Gladstone race along with the Gold Coast races,” said Bob, who around that time was asked to go to Japan to join the Travelodge Corporation, then involved in a joint venture with Mitsubishi.

What began as a three-month arrangement turned into a 12-year stint, and along the way Bob became fluent in Japanese.

Enormous financial growth

Returning to the Gold Coast in 1986, at a time when Japanese interests were fuelling enormous financial growth in our region, he was contracted to make up part of the pre-opening management team to establish the Gold Coast International Hotel, part of Daikyo’s Gold Coast investment. Not long after he joined our golf club, Bob took on the position of Conrad Jupiter’s Director of Marketing for 12 years.

Apart from golf, Bob’s interest these days lies in working with Guide Dogs Queensland.

“This all started 8 years ago when we lost our 14 year old border collie and didn’t seriously consider having another dog, but out of the blue we were invited to take a puppy destined to become a guide dog.

“Looking back, we’ve taken on raising, training and caring for 14 prospective guide dogs and I must say my wife and I find a great deal of satisfaction in seeing them go on to become successful working dogs.”

“Among those that have made the grade is Lily, now four years of age, who went to a home in Brisbane. Her owner phoned us recently to tell us that she had taken him to Adelaide by train to meet up with his relatives.”



Bob Hagley



Erica Hudson

THERE’S no doubt that Erica Hudson is constantly out and about, and has been since childhood.

Starting in March and going right through to September this year, for example, she and her husband Bill have taken time just about each weekend to fly to either Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide or Perth – as well as sometimes driving to the ‘Gabba in Brisbane.

That’s to see to see their son Ben playing as a ruckman for the Aussie Rules team Western Bulldogs which, on performances so far this season, is likely to reach this year’s grand final.

Erica, whose nickname is ‘Huddo’, says her family is very proud that, while Ben’s goal always was to play Aussie Rules, he also had the brains to pursue a degree in physiotherapy; and it’s most likely that when he hangs up his boots in a year or so he will find an opportunity to continue his association with sport using his physio skills.

“That will be good news, because sometimes seeing him play makes me physically ill, because I’m so nervous he’s going to get hurt,” says Erica, who was born in Ottawa, Canada.

Back to infancy

During 1950 her family moved over to the UK and then to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe); but after some time there her father, concerned for the welfare of his three daughters and uneasy about the situation developing in Zimbabwe, took his family back to England.

Not long after their return Erica’s father, a chemical engineer, secured a position with the CSIRO in Melbourne and so in 1958 the family of five travelled to Australia as first class passengers aboard the steamship *Iberia*; but due to violent bouts of *mal de mer*, Erica spent most of the journey below decks.

After living in Melbourne for a while, a family visit to the Gold Coast led to takeover of the originally Southport-based Sky Fabricare laundry that had transferred to Kortum Drive in the developing commercial area of West Burleigh.

OUT & ABOUT

(Continued)

As time has moved on Erica attended Melbourne University where she gained a degree in pharmacy, and these days she spends Mondays and Thursdays with the Hinterland Pharmacy in Nerang.

Since her husband Bill and another son, Justin, own both Newey's and Hoffman's dry cleaners, there was some talk about also acquiring a pharmacy; but that idea was definitely shelved because Erica did not relish the demands of being responsible for a 24/7 business.

So what brought her into golf?

"Well, Bill and I agreed we didn't have enough interests in common, so since our sons had left home and Bill had been playing golf for years, I decided to have a go too. From a starting handicap of 32, I'm now playing off 19.

"Even though I have a bit of an aversion to the bunkers, Southport is a really beautiful course. I play here on Wednesdays and Fridays, and usually fit in a game at Robina Woods on Tuesdays; but in summer we're also out boating."

Home interests for Erica include gardening, fixing plumbing and recently painting the entire interior of their riverfront house at Carrara – including high cathedral ceilings.

Why does she take on such heavy duty chores?

"Well," says Erica, "I don't like paying professionals when I can do it myself, no matter what other everyday jobs need to be done around the house."

Marking her 60th birthday earlier this year, Erica and Bill were out and about to Hawaii – a very enjoyable trip, albeit a little disappointing.

"Having been there before, we did find Waikiki a little tired, and certainly not what it used to be.

"Looking back, it would probably have been better to stay here on the Gold Coast, especially since our golf courses are far superior to and a lot less expensive to play than those in Hawaii," says Erica.

Email reminder

Would members please update their email address on the website by making any necessary additions or changes on the "Update Details" page.

www.southportgolfclub.com.au



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Associates' News

IT has been a very busy time for the associates since our last newsletter. The club championships were held late in June, with the matchplay final decided on 2nd July. This year's club champion is Courtney Massey; Bronze 1 champion Jill Millhouse; and Robin Williams took out Bronze 2.



Petah Oberman

Our matchplay champions were Courtney Massey, Lyn Roden in Bronze 1 and Lesley Walke in Bronze 2. Congratulations to all who participated, it was a very successful event. Our sincere thanks go to major sponsor Bruce Lynton BMW, ably represented by Beric Lynton and his assistant, Emma. Thanks also to our other sponsors, Helen and David of Poinciana Catering (Poinciana Plate), Judy Bennett (Mary Scott Trophy) and Laney Look (Senior Salver).

Charity fundraising

More than 90 ladies enjoyed our charity card day held on 7th July, when \$786 was raised for the Animal Welfare League.

Surfers Paradise SLSC, beneficiary of last year's charity drive, presented the associates with a plaque commemorating our fantastic fund raising effort. Unlike many other surf lifesaving clubs on the coast, Surfers Paradise has always been short of cash; indeed, they save more lives in Australia than any other club – and they normally go out on surfboards! This 'rubber ducky' is their first rescue boat, and at long last it arrived to be shown off at our club before being put to good use. As shown in the photo, it is well signed with our name and logo.

Guest day – a great day!

Guest day was held on 30th July, and what a great day it was. We had 124 players in the morning field and 107 in the afternoon field. Our thanks go to Ralsport for their very generous sponsorship. The morning field had the pleasure of watching our beautiful associate models show the new season Ralsport Golf clothes. Again, many thanks to Nancy and Tony Stenton of World Carpets for their continued support – we all love those golf balls!

Thanks also to Bett Stevens and her team of hard workers on our 'Christmas in July' stall; we appreciate all their efforts, and thanks to everyone who supported the stall with donations of goods and by purchasing. All the animals at the League will benefit from the \$931 raised at the stall.



Pennant teams

Ladies' pennant rounds started on 28th July, when our Grade 3 team just missed out on a win in their first match. All

grades then played on 4th August, when Grade 1 won 3/2 over Surfers Paradise, Grade 2 won 3/2 over Twin Towns and Grade 3 once again just missed out. We wish all our teams good luck in their remaining matches; finals will be played out at Murwillumbah on 15th September.

Thanks as always to Anne and Bob Binks for their sponsorship of the ladies' pennant teams.

Petah Oberman
Vice President



David McKean

TEACHING PRO'S CORNER

What you see is not necessarily what you get!

DURING a recent demo day one of our members tried a leading brand fairway wood, liked it and so placed an order. When his new club was delivered though, he couldn't even get it to lift the ball off the ground.

So why did this happen?

The new club was not the same as the demo model.

Sound familiar? Has anybody else experienced this?

It definitely happens: quality control of clubs coming out of factories is appalling.

That's not unusual, a fact verified by two USA golfing professionals who've released a DVD that reinforces my views about buying clubs.

The burning question here is: given that technology, including development of golf balls, has advanced so much over the past 20 years, why haven't golf handicaps improved at the same rate? The average handicap is 18, the same as it was 20 years ago.

Certainly over the past 10 years there hasn't been much improvement with irons, but definitely with the so-called hybrids, rescues and drivers – although the experimental square-headed drivers will soon disappear.

That's one reason why the Royal & Ancient has deemed it necessary to set new boundaries on equipment development, given that companies are conning golfers at every level by launching all manner of supposedly wondrous innovations that are not necessarily all they're cracked up to be.

Indeed, that is validated in the USA pros' DVD, which contains an eye-opening lesson that should be communicated to all golfers.

The message is that when buying clubs, especially irons, you should get them all tested to see if you are getting what you are paying for – and what you actually need.



Pictured here is Phil Jennings, the Ashmore-based production manager for Henry-Griffitts the global leader in exclusive custom-fitted clubs that now offers testing with the patented SST PURE shaft alignment technique.

"Inconsistent shot making is not always the player's fault," says Phil. "Every tested and re-aligned shaft comes with a detailed explanation of its characteristics."

Take into account too that you should buy only if new clubs can improve your game – in many cases it's far better to spend the money on lessons instead. Get something that works for you and learn more about playing the game.

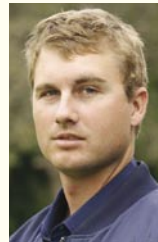
Having said that, if any member wants his or her clubs tested please bring them to me.

We will have them tested free of charge and issue a full report.

Also, if anyone would like to borrow the DVD I have copies available.

BACK TO NATURE

with Course Horticulturist Aaron Goding



UNTIL recently very few, if any, black swans were sighted in local waterways; but now, for the second consecutive year, two swans flew in to take up residence on the banks of the waterway between the 5th and 6th fairways, where their fenced-off nesting area attracted much attention.

Increasing presence of black swans could be due to the ongoing development of land for residential and commercial purposes either side of the motorway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

While the pugnacious white swan was introduced to Australia, the black swan is a native – and its squawking, according to explorer George Bass*, "resembles the creaking of a rusty ale-house sign on a windy day".

Anyhow, the individuality of the trumpet-like calls appears to be important in swans' social organisation, particularly between a mated pair but also among adults and cygnets.

Breeding

Black swans are ready to breed at the age of 18 months, and most mate before the end of three years.

Young birds about to breed for the first time may form a pair only temporarily; and should a clutch be produced, either partner may leave the other to incubate the eggs and raise the young alone.



During one year a nest may be used three or four times by the same bird or several in turn. Both sexes incubate three to nine eggs for 39-43 days, and care for the young, who fledge between 113 and 160 days after hatching. Picture from Gavin Stevens.

The deserting partner usually mates again to rear another brood, and there may well be as many as four clutches laid by one female in the one year. Among older birds pairing is generally permanent, but if a male is lost the pen will quickly find another mate.

The nest is usually comprised of sticks, leaves, rushes and other aquatic plants piled into a mound – and if one is deserted, neighbouring swans may manoeuvre any abandoned eggs into their own nests to incubate.

Every year between September and February black swans moult, becoming flightless, and during that period they gather on open lakes in flocks that can number thousands.

**A surgeon in the British Royal Navy who explored and gave his name to Bass Strait.*

TEE TO GREEN is a regular publication for members of Southport Golf Club. It is edited, written and produced by Ken and Pam Yarwood.

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