

LEONGATHA GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

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June 2008

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *by Daryl Pease*

In order to keep members better informed, the Board has decided to reintroduce the quarterly newsletter, and Terry Poulton has accepted responsibility for its editing and printing. I received many complimentary comments about the March edition and ask that if you have an item of interest or news of another member or past member please pass it on to Terry. The Board requests that, if you have email access, please provide your address to Terry. Email distribution of all newsletters would save the club about \$500 each edition.

I am very sorry to advise of the resignation of our very popular Secretary/Manager and chef extraordinaire, Brett McKenzie. Brett took up the appointment under unusual and trying circumstances in March 2001. After the sudden resignation of our manager and gaming venue manager, the club couldn't continue operations as a gaming venue. We were then in breach of our contract with Tabcorp and stood to incur severe penalties. Fortunately after a few days, Tabcorp found Brett, who was at that stage a Venue Manager at McCartin's Hotel. McCartin's loaned us Brett until our house was in order and ultimately Brett came to us as a permanent employee. Some considerable time later, when we were having trouble staffing our Bistro, we learned that Brett was a qualified chef. He offered to increase his workload and operate the regular Friday night Bistro and other club catering functions.

Brett has been the face of the Leongatha Golf Club over the past seven years. We will miss his cheery greetings and courteous service. I am assuming that we will also lose the services of Brett's mother Irene, who has been a great help in the kitchen and an enormous help to Brett and to the Club.

By the time this goes to press Brett will have finished his time with us and taken up his position as Head Chef at the Leongatha R.S.L. I know all members will wish Brett and his family good luck and success in his new venture.

We have recently drawn our Annual Raffle and I extend congratulations to Kerry Sutherland, the winner of the Jetset Travel Voucher. Many thanks to Jill & Ed Carmody of Leongatha Jetset Travel for their support. Stuart Gibson was the winner of the RACV Inverloch Resort accommodation/dinner voucher, Val Brydon won the Allan Edney donated flight and Anita Trease the Club Golf Vouchers. I want to thank everyone who supported this important fundraising event – especially those who donated prizes and those of you

who bought or sold tickets.

The draw took place on Friday 30 May at a very pleasant social evening at the Club when we were treated to a delicious dinner and great music from Intajazz. I hope we can engage them for another function later in the year. Arthur Nilsson did a wonderful job organising the raffle, which raised over \$5,000 for the Club, and the function. Thanks Arthur.

The condition of the course is a constant source of pride to me and I am sure, all members. The Santa Ana couch fairways and tees, although now dormant, are a delight to play on. The continuing complimentary comments from visitors are testament to the value of the planting scheme. Course improvements will continue. Good to see the grass growing on the practice putting green and the completion of the 1st tee access path.

Both Men's and Women's Championships have been contested and decided. Congratulations to Russell Hughes on winning his twelfth Championship. Congratulations also to Reanna Matthews, a first time winner of the Women's Championship. Not a bad effort for a girl who only turned fifteen in March and is our youngest ever winner. Congratulations also to all the Grade winners who are listed elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Continuous development programs place great strain on Club finances yet we manage to stay ahead. Our capital expenditure has been substantial but we have remained well within our overdraft limit. A growing membership base will help our income and our ability to continue improvements.

Whilst talking about improvements the Board has moved to establish a master plan for clubhouse development. This will necessarily take time but we think the clubhouse has been neglected long enough.

The Board at the moment is establishing and compiling a register of policies that will formalise and have effect over a range of club activities. Policies are being developed in such areas as Financial and Club Management, Golf Management, Health and Safety and will provide a comprehensive set of guidelines on "how we do things around here".

To conclude, let me once again thank our wonderful team of volunteers. If any member would like to become a volunteer please contact me. I urge you to join our team of volunteers who commit many hours of work, cheerfully and enthusiastically so that the Club may prosper.

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DIARY DATES

| | |
|---------|---|
| 2 July | Monthly Medal [Women] |
| 5 July | Monthly Medal [Men] |
| 6 July | SGDGA Foursomes C'ships at Meeniyau WGV Foursomes C'ships at Peninsula |
| 12 July | W. McCaughan 4 Ball C'ships |
| 14 July | SGLGA Foursomes C'ships at Phillip Island |
| 18 July | Kelvin Johns Retravision Day |
| 19 July | W. McCaughan 4 Ball continues |
| 20 July | Hyland Cup Round 3 completed |
| 2 Aug | Monthly Medal [Men] |
| 6 Aug | Monthly Medal [Women] |
| 13 Aug | Lady Captain and Presidents Day |
| 17 Aug | Complete Round 1Cashin Trophy |
| 20 Aug | Grandmother's Trophy |
| 24 Aug | Hyland Cup Round 4 completed |
| 27 Aug | AGM Ladies |
| 30 Aug | Ladies Ambrose Fours Open Event |

MANAGER'S REPORT *by Brett McKenzie*

The past few months have been quite busy at the Club. The weather has continued to be great for golf and a lot of people have taken advantage of the weather and the fantastic condition of our course. Visitors have often gone out of their way to inform me of how much they enjoyed the course and their experience at LGC.

The Clubhouse has been very active too. In the past few weeks we have had the Raffle Night, two seminars, a 40th Birthday dinner, four visits from local hospital groups for lunch and a whole range of golf related events to cater for. Thanks to all those who have helped with these occasions.

As most members now know, I have decided to move on. It was not an easy decision to make and I know that after 7 years I will miss the Club immensely. It has been such a huge part of my life for a long time, more than just a job. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the members, staff and their families for their friendship and support during my time as Manager of this great club. I still plan to be involved with the Club as a member [I might even get to play some golf!].

I would like to wish the Leongatha Golf Club all the best for the future. I am sure it will be a successful one.

MEMBERS' HANDBOOK

If your entry in the 2008 Members' Handbook is either incorrect or out of date, please advise Evelyn Indian of your correct details by sending written advice to the club addressed to her attention.

MANAGER'S POSITION

With the resignation of Brett McKenzie, the Board has commenced the search for a new Manager. The position has been advertised in local and Melbourne papers and applications close on 4 July. The Board has appointed a Selection Panel comprising Daryl Pease, Jack Cummins, Marg Griffiths and Terry Poulton to undertake this most important task.

In the meantime, Rebecca Thomas has agreed to act as Manager. Rebecca will be supported by volunteers and Board members. Please give Rebecca your support and encouragement in her role as Acting Manager.

JUNIOR GOLF NEWS *by Rebecca Thomas*

PGA Professional Scott Adams will conduct Junior Golf Clinics from 11am to 12 noon on the first Sunday of the Month starting on 6 July. The cost is \$4. Please bring your children, grandchildren or friends to start learning this great game we all love! Other dates are 3 August, 7 September and 5 October.

Congratulations to Reanna Matthews on winning the Ladies Club Championship. Well earned and keep up the good play.

NEW MEMBERS

Please make welcome the following new members who have joined the Club since March:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| William ANDREW | Matthew OLDEN |
| David BARRACK | Ryan OLDEN |
| Harrison CHAMBERLAIN | Alan OSWALD |
| Jacob DRUMMOND | Alex SCHOLTE |
| William DUTTON | Marilyn WILLIAMS |
| Matthew HUNTER | Russell WILLIAMS |
| Graeme MORGAN | |

VALE

Lindsay Robert Clinton Smith

It was with great sadness that we learned of Lindsay's death earlier in the year. Lindsay was a Life Member of the Club and had been a member since 1948. He had served as Vice President, Captain and for many years after the move to Leongatha South, Chairman of the Greens Committee. Lindsay was a nature lover and a champion of our beautiful native bush. Leongatha Golf Club owes a great deal to Lindsay Smith.

Peter Cooper

Peter was a member of the Club from 1982—1993, a Committee member in 1988 and Vice-Captain in 1989. With Geoff Davis, he won the Roberts Foursomes in 1989 and was a great supporter of the Monday Clinic.

Our condolences are extended to the families and friends of both Lindsay and Peter on their passing.

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WOMEN'S GOLF by *Helen McKenzie*

Celebrations all round for our Pennant Teams – an excellent result with Section 1 and Section 2a coming home with the flag, and Section 3 runners up. Teams celebrated with a dinner at Inverloch and a great night was had by all. Thanks to all involved.

Autumn to Winter has been a hectic time with our Women Golfers representing the Club at many special events over the season.

On 2 May, Evelyn Indian sponsored an Ambrose day; 88 women played, a wonder day. Thanks to Evelyn for her fabulous prizes as always so well presented. The day was very well run, and a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped Jan Birrell [Captain] and me make the day work so well.

On 26 May we were the host of the Joyce Berry [SGLGA] event – again a wonderful field of 100 women played. It was a great day to show off our course. A lot of work goes into these days – thank you again all volunteers.

Congratulations to Rebecca Thomas – winner of the SGLGA Singles Championship. Kerry Hogan won the B Grade Handicap event and Anne Gibson was the C Grade Scratch and Handicap winner.

The three rounds of the 2008 Club Championships and finals were played without the weather interfering. Congratulations to all participants and especially the following:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| CLUB CHAMPION: | Reanna Matthews |
| Runner Up: | Mary Brewis |
| B Grade Champion: | Maxine Eabrey |
| C Grade Champion : | Rita de Bondt |
| Seniors Champion: | Nancy Sperling |
| D.M. Stubbs Trophy: | Rita de Bondt |
| Seniors Net Champion: | Coral Gray |
| Match Play Champion: | Rebecca Thomas |

It was a great shock to all of us to hear of Brett McKenzie leaving. Brett is a favourite with all the ladies, the best soup maker in the district and has been very obliging in all aspects of running the club. We will miss you Brett but also wish you and your family well in your new pursuit.

MEN'S GOLF by *Peter Blackney*

Well, winter is upon us with the course playing longer but we still have plenty of grass to hit off. I have been playing pennant around the other South Gippsland courses over the past seven weeks and some have already instigated preferred lies. We are certainly very lucky to have a full cover of grass and Leongatha has been the talk of all the other clubs.

Club Championships

The Club Championships were played over three rounds in April and May. Congratulations to the following Champions:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| CLUB CHAMPION: | Russell Hughes |
| Runner Up: | Michael Thomas |
| A Reserve Champion: | Trevor Rickard |
| B Grade Champion: | Anthony Sparks |
| C Grade Champion: | Denis Hanna |
| D Grade Champion: | Dr. John Fraser |
| Senior Champion: | Bruce Hutton |

The Hyland Cup

The Hyland Cup is under way and we are now into the 3rd round which must be completed by 20 July. It is up to the lower marker to make contact to arrange the match and must be done two weeks prior to the end date. There will be no extensions granted.

Completed Board Events

Congratulations to the following players:

HS Roberts Foursomes.

Won by: P. Blackney and K. Wardle.

Herb Dearthcott 4BBB

Won by: T. Poulton and D. Poulton (The first father and son combination to win this event).

Tom Welsford 4BBB Stableford

Won by: I. Murchie and N. Fraser

Coming Events

Saturday July 12 & 19: W. McCaughan 4 Ball

[4BBB Par to be played over the 2 Saturdays with the total over the 2 weeks combined results declared as the winners.

Saturday July 26: Young Australians Trophy qualifier.

Pennant

This year's Men's Pennant has been an absolute disaster for the Leongatha Golf Club with the club having to withdraw our Division 2 side after the first round due to lack of players, thus incurring fines from the S.G.D.G.A. We have gone from winning the Division 1 flag last year to picking up the wooden spoon for Division 1 and Division 3. Most embarrassing as our club in the past has been extremely competitive and used to entering strong teams in four divisions. It would be a shame for the best golf club in the district to have to withdraw from Pennant in the future especially with the size of our membership. Pennant is a lot of fun and gives you the opportunity of playing at other golf clubs and meeting

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new people and representing this great club. We have to make a decision within the next six weeks on how many teams will be playing next year so I will leave a sheet up on the Captain's Board for those interested in playing. It would be good to see some new names.

Outgoing Men's Captain

I am in the final two months of my two years as Captain. I have learnt that running the Golf Committee requires commitment from a team and support from the members. I would like to extend my thanks to the Golf Committee for their contribution and the support from members who have assisted. Elections for the Golf Committee and Executive are coming up in August and should you wish to contribute a small amount of your time and effort to aid in the running of the Men's Golf Committee please call me or speak to anyone on the Golf Committee.

Good hitting in all of the coming events and remember: "You are not the only person on the golf course"

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FIRST TEE ACCESS PATH

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Board member Rod Abbott, the club last year received a grant of approximately \$5,000 from the Shire's Community & Recreation Grants Scheme to provide better and safer access to the first tee for golfers of all ages and levels of mobility.

After examining a range of options for the path, the Board decided to use asphalt as it provides a durable, safe and economical surface in all weather conditions. Darren Harris Excavations did the preparation work and Asphalt & Civil Constructions Pty Ltd completed the job, all under the watchful eye of Steve Earle, who supervised the project. This was a real team effort and thanks are extended to all concerned, especially the volunteers led by Daryl Pease, on what is an outstanding result for the club.

END OF AUTUMN REPORT *by Steve Earle*

The Break

Rainfall has been down this autumn which has kept the temperature of our soil reasonably high. This has enabled the Santa Ana on the fairways and tees to stay active thus reducing the dormancy period. Fairways have excellent color and coverage. This is the result of our maintenance program and the appropriate cutting height. Fairways that were planted last year have been sprayed recently to eradicate winter grass. There is a minimal amount of winter grass in the fairways that are already established. I would like to thank members for their efforts in sanding the divots on our tees and fairways including those that are not yours. Please keep up the good work.

Greens

Our greens are generally in good condition and are putting well. Due to Club Championships, both Men's and Ladies, the vertidrainage and dusting program has been delayed. This will commence after the Ladies Matchplay Championship. I expect some disease damage when rainfall increases due to the high temperature of the soil.

Practice Putting Green (Putter)

It is now four weeks since seeding took place. We have achieved a good strike with the warm weather assisting. Fertilizer and fungicide will be required before the winter. At present it is growing satisfactorily. Volunteers will be invited to assist staff with turfing the surrounds with Santa Ana.

Bunkers

These have been weeded and the faces and floors have been reformed by hand. The brick sand which was used in the 15th bunker has been removed and replaced with common grey bunker sand. More sand has been added and it is gradually improving. Thanks go to our volunteers, Tim McCarthy and Vic Rowlands for their assistance in keeping our bunkers up to scratch.

Volunteers

There will be some tree pruning required in July and August. We will require some assistance with this program.

Carts

Some areas around the greens have been roped off to protect the playing surface. If you drive a cart, take care to stay well clear of the greens and avoid any obvious wet areas on the fairways, especially the new Santa Ana on the 13th fairway.

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GRAEME OLLE'S BENCH

Members and visitors have certainly taken full advantage of the bench at the 7th tee to enjoy a rest during their game. The bench has been kindly donated in memory of the late Graeme Olle by his brother-in-law John Wells. There is no doubt Graeme would be very pleased with its location and beautiful views to be enjoyed to the east across Edney's paddocks while resting on "his" bench. It's a view that Graeme often admired.

As a result of this generous donation, the Board has established the *Tribute Bench Scheme* and invites you to consider donating a bench, either personally, or in memory of a former member or loved one. This edition of the Newsletter contains a flyer which outlines the *Tribute Bench Scheme*. The Greens Committee has identified six prime locations across the course to place Tribute Benches and the Board believes that this initiative will greatly enhance our Club. Check out the flyer. If you'd like to donate a bench or would like further information, please contact Terry Poulton.

CLUB MEMORABILIA

With our Centenary approaching the Board has examined the condition of the Club's archives and memorabilia. Sadly, all the Club's records and Honour Boards prior to 1960 were lost when the Club moved to the "new course", so we have little material from the first 50 years of the Club's existence.

The Board wants to re-create [perhaps in a different form] the Honour Boards from the period 1909 – 1959. Terry Poulton is working on this task, which involves researching newspapers from the period in Leongatha and Melbourne. Terry is setting up an archives store to ensure that records, photographs and memorabilia are catalogued and appropriately stored for future generations.

If you have any members' programs, photographs or records of meetings, especially from the period prior to 1960, Terry would love to hear from you. Already Terry has been given plans signed by H.V. Morcom, and fascinating photographs and films of the "new course" taken in 1960. These items will be displayed during the Centenary year.

Please contact Terry if you have any material which you would like to donate. All items will be catalogued and stored in the Club's Archives. Their safety and security are assured.

LEONGATHA GOLF CLUB CENTENARY

The Leongatha Golf Club was formed in 1909, so next year is the Club's Centenary. The Board has decided to form a Centenary Committee to co-ordinate and promote Centenary celebrations and activities. The Committee will comprise at least:

- Two Board members
- A lady member
- A male member

and any other interested members of the club.

To ensure that our Centenary celebrations are memorable and successful we need a strong and enthusiastic committee. If you are interested in helping or joining the Centenary Committee please contact Terry Poulton or Daryl Pease before 31 July.

THE FOUR AMIGOS

Four of our veteran golfers, with a combined age of 345 years, formed a team in the Stableford Fours Aggregate event on Thursday 29 May. Jacko Miles [91], John Malone [87], Dave Bethune [85] and youngster Peter Morris [82] not only scored 104 points, but John Malone had a hole in one on the 14th! Some wag worked out that if you put their ages end to end, it would take us back to 1663! Congratulations gentlemen – a sterling performance!

By the way, Kelvin Johns Retravision, great supporters of the Club, presented John Malone with a beautiful television set on achieving his hole in one. The Club certainly appreciates Kelvin's support.



The Four Amigos: L to R: Peter, Jacko, Dave and John

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Leongatha golf club

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Scheme**



The Board invites you to donate a park bench to be erected at one of six prime locations around our golf course.

You are invited to donate a bench personally, or in memory of a former member or loved one.

A bronze plaque will be mounted on each bench acknowledging the donor or the person in whose memory the bench has been donated. Donors will be able to choose one of the six selected locations for their bench.



Donating a Tribute Bench will provide a lasting acknowledgement of your affection, or that of a loved one, for our beautiful course as well as a place of rest and respite for golfers and visitors alike.

TOTAL COST - \$750

For further information or to arrange for your Tribute Bench, contact Terry Poulton on 0419 557 668.

Jottings — *anonymous musings of a veteran golfer.*

Like any golfer I'm always interested in picking up a few tips about improving my game. Take putting for instance – I'll listen to anyone who can show me how to shave a few shots off my score by putting less. But let's face it – putting is pretty basic. You grab the flat stick, line the ball up with the hole, give it a bit of a whack along the right line and at the right speed, and in it goes. Pretty simple?

Well I was in the clubhouse the other day and I noticed one of our more academic members deeply engrossed in a book about the fine art of putting. It seemed a fair size, so I had a squizz: Dave Pelz's Putting Bible, it's called. And wait for this – it's 390 pages long! I mean to say, how much space do you need to teach someone how to putt?

I don't think I'll borrow the book. Might wait for Dave's Bracken Bashing Bible or even his Bunker Blasting Bible. I reckon they'd be more relevant to my golfing needs. But I don't know that I've got enough time left to read them – I'm not a fast reader and they should run to at least a thousand pages each.

---O---

My spies tell me that a recent Board Event semi-final was thrown into disarray on the eleventh green when the competing pairs realized that they were playing different games. While one pair thought they were playing matchplay, the other pair were certain they were playing an as-yet uninvented game quaintly called par-matchplay. Strangely, the issue hadn't arisen until the 11th so they decided to soldier on with the hybrid game. Reaching the 19th green locked together, darkness descended and they adjourned to the clubhouse with the match unresolved.

The Captain's intervention was sought, and after listening incredulously to the sorry saga, he wisely ruled [as Captains often do] that they should re-commence hostilities the following week and that it would be an excellent idea to firstly have a chat to work out what game they were playing and secondly make sure that the game actually existed. They duly reconvened and decided to play the tried and true matchplay format. Great idea that - work out what game you're playing before you start. Oh Captain, my Captain.

---O---

I don't know about you, but I always thought that inner peace could be achieved by having a perfect swing, or at very least being able to par the first a couple of times a year. But after watching that bloke Dr. Phil on TV I've changed my mind and I'm passing this on to you because it definitely worked for me and we could all use more calm in our lives. By following the simple advice I heard on Dr. Phil's show, I have finally found inner peace. He reckons the way to achieve inner peace is to finish all the things you have started.

So I looked around my house to see things I'd started and hadn't finished and, before leaving the house this morning, I finished off a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of shhhardonay, a bodle of Baileys, a bottle of vocka, a pockage of Prunglies, thamainder of bot Prozic and Valum scriptins, the res of the Chesescske an a box a chocholets. Yu haf no idr who fkin gud I fel. Peas sen dis orn to dem yu fee AR in ned ov inr pece.

H.S. ROBERTS FOURSOMES

The first in a series of articles which explores the "name behind the event".

Hywell Stanton Roberts [1900 – 1979]

A Welshman, H.S. Roberts [known widely as Robbie] came to Leongatha in 1945 to establish a clothing manufacturing business under the Government's Post-War Reconstruction Program. The business, Revelation Fashions, was located beneath what is now Toyworld in Bair Street and employed thirty machinists working on belt operated machines supplying ladies blouses to Coles .

Robbie was very well dressed and a gentleman of great style. He was a favourite with the ladies, but a real "man's man". He travelled to Melbourne every Tuesday without fail to visit suppliers and clients and always lunched at the Ritz in Lonsdale Street, where he always insisted on picking up the tab. He had a taste for the good life and lived it to the full. He was a member of the RACV and Naval and Military Clubs where he was a frequent visitor.

Robbie joined the Leongatha Golf Club on 19 May 1947. He joined the Committee in 1951 and was Captain for five years from 1956 - 60. In 1960 he donated two quality leather bound minute books to the club and these were used for recording minutes of Committee meetings until 1980. In 1957, Robbie instituted the H.S. Roberts Trophy, a major Board Event of the club. The trophy was a scratch foursomes match play format with four pairs to qualify, only pairs with an aggregate handicap of at least 24 being eligible. Sadly, the original H.S. Roberts Trophy board disappeared, along with all other boards, records and minutes, when the club moved to its present site in 1960. Robbie donated a second board, this time known as the HS Roberts Foursomes, which is still played today and is one of the most prized board events in the club.

At the "new course", while no longer serving on the Committee, Robbie maintained an active role in the club and was still a playing member at the time of his death in 1979. His wife, Thelma, continued the business in Leongatha for several years before it was sold. Thelma was also a strong member of the Leongatha Golf Club and was Ladies President from 1967 - 69. In keeping with Robbie's request, and as an indication of his affection for the Leongatha Golf Club, his ashes are scattered on the 18th Fairway.

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Since 2004 Asphalt & Civil have completed a number of quality installations in South Gippsland at Leongatha, Mirboo North, Korumburra, Inverloch and Wonthaggi.

Steve has a small farm at Kongwak from which Asphalt & Civil operate whilst working in South Gippsland. Both Steve and Rob are keen golfers and have already played the Leongatha Golf Course a number of times, thoroughly enjoying the experience.

They are delighted to have carried out the asphalt works surrounding the practice green and first tee, have joined the Club with a Corporate Sponsorship and look forward to a long, ongoing relationship with the Leongatha Golf Club.

Please welcome Steve to the Leongatha Golf Club and make sure you contact him for any asphaltting work you need.



Steve [centre] and his crew on site

WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

The Club's original Corporate sponsor, Westaway Ford, have come up with a fantastic new offer for Golf Club members. Not only will Westaway Ford give you an unbeatable deal when you buy a new vehicle from them, they will also donate \$200 to the Golf Club! So, what are you waiting for? Get a brand new Ford and help your Golf Club at the same time. What an offer! [See ad below].

CLUB HOUSE REPORT *by Mike Street*

We are fortunate that for a country club we enjoy the use of a large facility to support our fantastic course. Our club house has grown in stages from more modest beginnings to now provide a facility that has the capacity to serve the wider community as a venue for varied functions.

The Board is mindful of its obligation to maintain and improve the club house for its prime use for members but also for its capacity to generate revenue for the club through activities such as the Bistro and availability for hire for social and business functions.

We have committed to expenditure that has already seen improvements to the kitchen with the installation of a new back-up oven/cooktop to support the larger commercial oven. The gas appliances have been serviced and other minor works are in hand. Additionally it is obvious that the bar is in need of a make over. We are indebted to The Inverloch Esplanade Hotel and Bruce Clark for the supply, at a very favourable price to the club, of bar refrigeration that will be a significant improvement on our current situation. Some new shelving and under bar cupboards are being planned to suit the new refrigeration units. Other works in the near future will include repairs and replacement to some floor covering and some spouting.

An inspection of termite damage to some timber in the building has been reassuring in that as far as can be ascertained the damage does not appear to be recent and no active ants were found. However because of our locality with the building in close proximity to its rural setting some preventative barrier work has been recommended. The amount of work needed is still to be assessed.

Mindful of the need to work within budget constraints it is proposed to develop a long term plan for maintenance and improvements to the building. To assist in both the planning and implementation of works it has been proposed to form a House Committee. The composition and duties of this committee have yet to be ratified by the Board however the input of some of our members with a background in the trades would be welcomed.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS *by Rod Abbott*

The Board plans to continue development of the course over the next four years by tee rebuilding, greens reshaping and the improvements of paths and tracks. A new project has been registered with the Australian Sports Foundation and tax deductible donations can be made to the Club via ASF. Donation forms are available on request by email or from the Club.

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ALLAN EDNEY – LIVING TREASURE

The Edney name has been associated with the Leongatha Golf Club since its inception in 1909. In fact, the very first event conducted by the Leongatha Golf Club on Wednesday 22 September 1909, a mixed foursomes, was won by Miss Isabelle Edney and her partner Mr. Gordon. Auntie Daisy, as she was affectionately known, was Allan Edney's aunt. Alfred Edward Edney, Allan's grandfather, was a foundation member of the Leongatha Golf Club Committee and Vice President in 1914.

Allan's father, Charlie, who was born in 1898, opened the Central Garage in 1916 next to the site of the present ANZ Bank. In 1922 he erected the landmark building opposite the Post Office. Allan joined the business on leaving school and established Edney Nissan. His parents were active members of the club in the 1920's and 30's but young Allan was too busy playing football and cricket and chasing girls to take an interest in golf in his formative years. He married Stella in 1951 and, thanks to the persistence of Graham Moorcroft, a scratch golfer, he joined the club in 1955. He was soon co-opted onto the Committee, was Secretary from 1959 - 1961 and President in 1968 and 1969. He was a Committee member or Office Bearer for twenty one years between 1957 and 1983 and was inducted as a Life Member in 1991.

Allan played golf on the old course and remembers the parties held after the Annual Tournament. Licensing laws of the day prohibited the supply or possession of alcohol in the clubhouse, so the Committee organised a marquee and arranged a temporary extension of the hotel's license for the duration of the tournament. Leongatha Golf Club members and visitors knew how to party in the fifties!

Allan recalls the extensive search for a site for a new 18 hole championship course and the general meeting of members held in the Council Chambers in late 1955 to consider the Committee's recommendation to purchase 134 acres of bushland at Leongatha South. He remembers the question asked of the President Ken Macdonald by Dot Hyland: "If we buy the bushland and develop 18 holes, will women be able to play on Saturdays?" Ken's response: "On the new course, women will always have a timeslot on Saturdays." With that assurance Dot threw her considerable support behind the proposal, and the Committee recommendation to purchase the land from Merrick Holgate for £2,150 was carried unanimously.

Allan remembers with great fondness the camaraderie among the members in the early days. H. Vernon Morcom had been engaged to design the course in February

1956 and club members worked tirelessly to turn his vision into reality. He remembers attending working bees when farmers brought their heavy equipment to carve the course out of virgin bushland. They were exciting times and members pulled together to enable the course to open on 11 March 1961. In those days there was no clubhouse, just a shed known as Barnes's Retreat [named after Jack Barnes, a stalwart member of the club]. After golf, members congregated in Barnes's Retreat and told tall stories about their golfing exploits. One Saturday the late Bryan Cusack [Life Member] was famously caught emptying the beer keg so that he could get to Mass in Leongatha. And they still made him a Life Member!

One Saturday after golf in 1973, Allan decided to call in to visit Merrick Holgate, who lived in the cottage next to the golf course to express interest in purchasing what he thought was 20 acres of land but was promptly rebuffed. However, shortly afterwards, Merrick changed his mind and offered Allan the opportunity to buy the parcel of land adjacent to the course, consisting of 379 acres. Allan and Stella took the plunge and bought the land where they built their house in 1983. Allan knew nothing about farming but, despite some early setbacks, has transformed what was rough bushland into the beautiful property "Three Springs" which we golfers refer to simply as "Edney's paddock".

Allan nominates the highly successful Motor Traders Day, which he co-ordinated for twenty years from 1962, as well as successfully negotiating the purchase of 25 acres of land from the Davis family for the dam, as his most satisfying achievements for the Golf Club.

When the A.E. Biggs Four Ball board was filled in 1981, Allan offered to continue the event and so the A. E. Edney Four Ball began in 1962. It remains one of the club's most prestigious events.



Allan and Stella are strong, active and committed members of the Golf Club. When we talk about Living Treasures of the Leongatha Golf Club, is it any wonder that the name Allan Edney springs immediately to mind.

Allan Edney, [left] Living Treasure of the Leongatha Golf Club, we salute you!



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