

The History of Cromer Golf Club 1926-1991

LES FORSYTH  
DAVID INNES

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1926—1991



Les Forsyth and David Innes

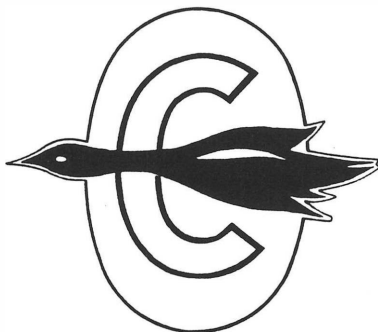








The History of  
**Cromer Golf Club**  
1926—1991



The 'Cromer Syndicate' and Cromer Limited  
Dee Why Golf Links Limited  
Cromer Country Club Limited  
Cromer Golf Club Limited



## INTRODUCTION

**T**HE INTRODUCTION to the 'History of Cromer Golf Club' is unusual in that it embraces two books covering different periods of time from 1926 to 1991. The two books that have been brought together as a single publication are defined as Book One and Book Two.

By way of explanation Book One was written by Les Forsyth and Book Two by David Innes, long time members of the Club. Cromer members are indeed fortunate that Les and David have given so much of their time to factually record the history of the Club from the first meeting of the 'Cromer Syndicate' in Manly on 4 August, 1926 up to the opening of the new Clubhouse on 8 June 1991.

The decision to combine the two books into a single publication is for two reasons. The first is the occasion of the completion of our new Clubhouse — one that will provide members with a comfortably, functional 'second home'. The second is that the majority of present members know very little of the past history of the Club and as the older members, who are the source of the history are diminishing the timely release of this publication will serve to provide both interesting and valuable reading to present and future members for years to come.

We are privileged that the official opening of our new Clubhouse — exactly 62 years since the Dee Why Golf Club was officially opened on 8 June, 1929 — was carried out by the President of the New South Wales Golf Association, Mr John Lugsdin at a black tie function attended by more than 300 members, lady members and guests.

Neville Smart  
President





BOOK ONE  
1926—1978

Les Forsyth



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General Committee 1979.

*Back Row: B. L. Cox (Vice-Captain), D. R. Nesbitt, J. M. Wilson, L. F. Wardman, R. F. Schneider, P. J. Bruce (Secretary). Front Row: M. R. W. Lee (Captain), E. R. Fordham (Vice-President), D. J. Innes (President), J. R. Christensen (Vice-President), R. W. Critchley (Treasurer). Not illustrated: J. C. Brigstock, N. J. Hill, R. E. Bennett.*



Associate Committee 1979.

*Back Row: Ann Falvey, Pauline Campbell, June James (Assistant Secretary), Shirley Bruce-Smith (Treasurer), June Becker, Pete Shaw. Front Row: Billie Wallace (Secretary), Pam Neely (President), Clare Edwards (Captain), Betty Edwards (Handicapper).*





## FOREWORD

By the President

It was on June 8, 1929 that the Deputy Premier of New South Wales, Hon. E.A. Buttenshaw, officially opened Dee Why Golf Links Ltd. which, in 1940, became Cromer Country Club Ltd.

It is appropriate fifty years later when the Club is celebrating its Golden Jubilee that this book recording the history of the Club should be released.

What it reveals as the history of the Club is fact, not fiction. The Club is indebted to Member Les Forsyth for painstakingly compiling the information and to my predecessor, Eric Kime, for his initiative in encouraging Les to take on the task.

All through its fifty years of activity the Club's greatest asset has been the fellowship of Members and Associates. The Club has passed through many stages of development and successive Committees have added to the efforts of the predecessors, so that today not only is Cromer a first grade golf course but it also provides a tranquil area of scenic beauty and birdlife that adds to the renowned charm of the Warringah Shire.

Membership of Cromer is a privilege of which all Members and Associates can be proud. Future Members and Associates, with this history of the Club, will be able to appreciate the efforts of many people and will be inspired to see that the first fifty years is only the beginning of greater things to come.

In our Golden Jubilee year I commend the history of the Club to your reading.

David Innes

## PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When in 1976, President Eric Kime told me I was to write a history of the Club, I raised some objections but he rather bluntly said that if I didn't do the job then it would never be done. I am still trying to work out how that statement should have clinched his argument. Perhaps it is not what is said but how it is said that counts and he did have me at a disadvantage for he knew my high regard for the Club.

Those who attended the 1976 Annual General Meeting will remember I said that I alone could not do justice to the task—everyone had to help.

That help came in abundance from Members, Associates, Staff and from people who were not even members of the Club. Some were asked to do special tasks and not one demurred. The young man in the Archives Section of the Mitchell Library, and the folk at the National Herbarium were most kind and helpful and this was typical wherever I sought help. People are nice.

My hope is that in my own way I have done justice to the subject and to the efforts of all who helped. For obvious reasons many items and incidents have been condensed but the reader should have little trouble finding someone who can expand on the themes.

This story is indeed a "Club Effort" but, at the risk of missing out on some names, may I thank the following in particular:

H. F. Hayman, C. L. R. Bradney, Lloyd Bradford, Edna Holmes, Stan Ottewill, Betty Edwards, Betty Maloney, Nell Bassett, Pam Neely, Bob Fairlie, Neil Furzer, Mike Slatter, Mike Lee and his typing Secretary, Gordon McLeod and Ian McLaughlin.

May those who helped and are not mentioned receive their just reward twofold and excuse me please.

With my limited command of both the language and the mechanics of story writing I have found this a most difficult task but trust that the effort repays in some degree for the enjoyment I have had in this worthwhile Club in this beautiful location.

Les Forsyth



## Chapter One

### BEFORE THE GOLF COURSE

Long ago, Long Reef Headland and Collaroy Plateau were islands and the sea flowed through from Dee Why across Cromer to the sea again at Narrabeen.

In "mid recent" geological times a small uplift movement of the earth's crust of some 15 to 20 feet occurred along our coast. This created conditions suitable for the north setting coastal currents to form sandbars across the openings at Dee Why and Narrabeen and a lagoon was thus formed with intermittent connections with the sea.

The present siltation of South Creek and the ever increasing sand spit at its entry to the lagoon near the 14th green, are good examples of how the old seaway silted up to form swamp and, eventually solid (?) ground. The question mark is used for, despite the infill of solids, water still remains beneath the surface at a depth controlled by the level of the lagoon and other impounded waters.

The material which filled the hollow was the rainwashed detritus from the surrounding hills which consist in the main of clays and mudstones interspersed with massive sandstone known geologically as the Hawkesbury Sandstone Group.

Mixed with the various minerals from this erosion was the organic humus from the forest growth and so the soil thus formed, varied depending upon the nature of the hillside from whence it came.

Through this material a drainage pattern developed consisting of three creeks which carry away the rainwater shed upon the western side of Collaroy Plateau and upon the hills on the west side of the Course extending to as far South as Beacon Hill.

It was thus that nature formed the flatlands around the sandstone and clay spur which runs from the outcrop on the 3rd fairway down to the 1st fairway and that which crosses the 10th fairway.

Just as there are garden flowers suited to particular locations and conditions, so it is with native trees and other flora. With the formation of swamp, and land, the plants took root in their special habitations. Reeds and sedges, Swamp Oak, Swamp Mahogany and Paperbark, grew in and near the saline

lagoon, creeks and marshes. Behind them in conditions ranging from fresh water swamps and creeks to the foothills grew the Bangalays, Sydney Peppermint, Sydney Rusty Gum, She Oak and Forest Oak with, among them all, the Cabbage Tree Palms, the smaller trees, and the shrubs and bushes we call Wildflowers.

By observing the location of the indigenous trees today, a picture can be seen of the land and swamp conditions which prevailed many years ago.

What birds, animals, fish and other aquatic life inhabited the region, must be left to imagination.

It is not known whether the area was inhabited by people prior to the "uplift" but southwest of the golf course high up on the hillside, there is a large expanse of flat rock upon which is carved a story.

The location is linked to early times when the Great Rainbow Serpent roamed Australia dividing the land among the tribes. It became a sacred site where initiation rites were taught to those approaching manhood, and from which women and children were excluded. Its safe keeping was placed in the hands of the Wallaby people. And so, this place now called Cromer had been allotted to the local tribe at a ceremony on this vantage point on the hillside from which much of the district can be seen.

Then the white man came and the native population was reduced and weakened by the European sicknesses which spread like wildfire through their tribes. They were unable to resist the newcomer and so lost control of their lands.

By 1815 there was some habitation at Manly and Surveyor Meehan traversed the area north toward Pittwater. In his survey field book he used the capital letters "D Y" at a lagoon, the survey of which he had not completed. There are numerous tales of why he used the identification but there is only one fact—Meehan marked the area "DY" and it became so known and today is written Dee Why. Two of the tales are, that "DY" indicated the shape of the lagoon as it then was and also, it indicated the call of the Grebe, a water bird which inhabits the area. The choice is yours. Meehan also recorded the presence of Black Swans on both Dee Why and Narrabeen Lagoons, hence the bird on Cromer Club's badge. Unhappily, few if any of these magnificent birds have been seen in the vicinity during the past twenty years.

Although Surveyor Meehan wrote the name of the next lagoon "NARRABONG", Surveyor Govett in 1830 wrote it "NARRABINE" and so we have another tale. The aboriginal tribe in the area was led by "Old Yowal" and among the womenfolk was a girl Narrabine. A band of escaped convicts



threatened the lives of Captain Reynold's party and at great risk and showing tremendous fortitude Narrabine took a message to the Sydney Garrison. Unfortunately the rescue party of redcoats was too late to prevent a massacre but her name was given to the locality.

In 1818, Governor Macquarie gave John Ramsay a grant of 410 acres of land along the waterfront from Long Reef to Narrabeen Lagoon, and the Collaroy Plateau of today became known as Mount Ramsay. Other grants were made in due course including one on the western side of Mount Ramsay and bordering the lagoon and South Creek. This was made to James Wheeler who lived to the age of ninety. The old pioneers' tomb which overlooks the lagoon is still preserved by his descendants who today live on the property.

The Reverend Father John Joseph Therry was granted 1200 acres from Newport to Whale Beach from the sea to Pittwater and parts of this were farmed by his nephew. Then in 1841, Therry was given the grant of land upon which our golf course is located.

Certain of the archives of New South Wales are kept in the vaults of the Mitchell Library and among them is a leather bound book of large proportions with gold lettering:

“Register of the County of Cumberland  
and elsewhere.

No. 6 1841-1865”

Folio 4, No. 13, of this Register gives details of the granting of the land on which Cromer Golf Course is located, as follows:

“Colonial Secretary—No. 71, Folio 113

Grantee—The Reverend John Joseph Therry of  
Hobart Town

Quantity—100

Tenure—Grant of Land B

County—Cumberland

Parish—Manly Cove

By whom granted—Sir Geo. Gipps

When granted—15th September 1841

Annual quit rent—16/8

When it commences—1st January 1836

Witness—Sir Geo. Gipps

Conditions—Vide 1st page No. 5. Cumberland

Description—Commencing at a marked tree at the head of Narrabeen Lagoon and bounded on the West by a line South forty seven chains; On the South by a line East thirty two chains to a creek; On the East by that creek to Narrabeen Lagoon to the marked tree aforesaid.

Being the land promised to Robert Mackintosh, deceased, on or before 23rd August 1828 by His Excellency, Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Darling, and of which he was authorised to take possession on 2nd December 1828 in lieu of the like quantity reserved for Phillip and Margaret Schoeffler by Sir Thomas Brisbane 12th November 1825 but now granted to the said Reverend John Joseph in accordance with the report on the case No. 915 made on the 26th August 1841 by the Commissioner appointed under the Act of the Colonial Legislature 5th William IV No. 21".

The "conditions" were located in the Register of the County of Cumberland No. 5 1836-1841, page one and they were: "Reserving a right of way or ways, all stone gravel or indiginous timber required for public or naval purposes, all mines of gold silver or coals and all land within one hundred feet of high water mark on creeks, harbours or inlets".

When this grant was made, there was much argument and litigation over land tenure for, added to the natural greed of humans, Governors came and went leaving a trail of promises unrecorded. Marked trees were destroyed and few people were able to read and write with ease. And so we find the involved description of the land clearing the title and thus leaving it unalienated and available to Therry.

The 100 acres had belonged to the aboriginal tribe, it having been granted to them by the Great Rainbow Serpent. Subsequently it became the possession of the British Crown. Who was the third owner of the land?

Earl Bathurst in 1820 advised Governor Macquarie of the appointment of the Reverends Therry and Conolly to proceed to New South Wales and attend on the Prisoners of the Roman Catholic faith for which duty they were to receive 100 pounds per annum each. They were the first official priests and Therry in particular left his mark on Australian history for he battled mightily for his Church and its adherents in those times of religious bigotry.

Therry died in 1864 and left his properties to the Society of Jesus who in 1880 sold land for the purpose of establishing schools. And so this land at Cromer is not just an uninteresting piece of dirt. It has a history linked with the development of our country and in all the years since it was granted, it has never been sub-divided or otherwise altered except that modern surveying techniques give it a slightly larger acreage than the round 100 granted.

The name of the owner immediately following the Society of Jesus was not traced but early this century the owner was one



Herring who built a weatherboard cottage on the property just southwest of the 6th tee and used it as a weekend cottage. For access the owner built a bridge over South Creek somewhere behind the second hole and another bridge over Cromer Creek where today's bridge is located.

Mr A. Johnson bought the land from the Herrings and at one time an attempt was made to establish a vegetable garden on the flat but this was apparently unsuccessful. Later it was let for cattle agistment to one named Waterhouse, a familiar name on the Northside.

A boy named Norman Hogarth lived nearby in what is now Cleveland Street and with his mates knew the area well, as boys do. Norman golfs at Bayview these days and recalls Waterhouse and his cattle and "Old Con" the recluse who lived in the cave near the waterfall on Cromer Creek and that the valley beyond was known as "Bligh's Gully" after a man who ran a small pig farm further up the creek. He also told that between the trees on the southern portion of the land, there were so many "Burrawong Palms" that they appeared to carpet the ground.

There was a profusion of wildflowers including native roses. It was Norman also who pinpointed the exact location of the Herring cottage. There were no roads and Therry's grant, Herring's week-ender and Johnson's farm, was part of the bush.

## Chapter Two

### A PROPOSED GOLF COURSE

The first reference to a proposed golf course on Therry's grant is in the minutes of the First Meeting of eight men on Wednesday the 4th August 1926 at 5.00 p.m. in the office of F. W. A. Eagar in Manly.

Here also is the first reference to the name Cromer being used to refer to the land and it would not be unreasonable to assume that either Herring or Johnston had named it so.

Cromer is a town on the east coast of England near The Wash and about 142 miles north of London by road. It has been a holiday resort for many years patronised by Royalty. A golf course was constructed there in 1887, first as a nine hole course but later extended to eighteen holes. It is known today as Royal Cromer Golf Course.

During the reign of Victoria when Britain bought shares in the Suez Canal, unrest in Egypt and the Sudan prompted the Government to send Sir Evelyn Baring to Cairo. During this period he was elevated to the Peerage and became Lord Cromer. It has been said that Cromer Golf Club's property was once owned by this Lord's family but there is no evidence available that this was so and it seems most likely that either Herring or Johnston having once holidayed at Cromer (England) decided to give this name to the property.

Those present at the August meeting at Manly were Dr George Moncrieff Barron of Manly (a member of Manly Golf Club); F. G. Loudon, a retired grazier of Manly; — MacPherson; S. W. Hain, retired grazier of Manly; E. H. Richards, engineer of Burwood; H. T. Ivey, Bank Manager of Manly; E. F. Gilford, Estate Agent of Manly and F. W. A. Eagar, Public Accountant of Manly.

At this meeting, it was resolved to form a Syndicate to be called the "Cromer Syndicate" pending formation of a company to be called Cromer Limited. F. W. A. Eagar was appointed Manager of the syndicate and it was resolved "That the Manager be authorised to purchase (on behalf of the company to be formed) all that 105 acres situated at South Creek and Narra-been Lakes and known as Cromer."

A second meeting was held on the 9th August 1926 and Gilford presented a contract to purchase "Cromer" for £11,750



from Mr Johnston which had been signed by both Johnston and Eagar. It was approved.

Frank Eagar was instructed to proceed with formation of the company and C. L. R. Bradney was appointed secretary.

Nominal capital was fixed at £10,000 and eventually there was a paid up capital of £6,500. With this capital and two mortgages, one with Herring for £3,600 and another with Johnston of £3,150, they purchased the property and began to plan the golf course.

William Whytock was an English golfer who had designed Long Reef Golf Course and was Captain at that Club. He later designed Balgowlah course and became President, but meantime the Syndicate's company engaged him to work with surveyor Wright to lay out an eighteen hole golf course at Cromer. Instructions to him included the location of the proposed Club-house "on the knoll, opposite the old sawmill on Wheeler's property" i.e. near our present 3rd tee.

Clearing contractors were engaged and negotiations commenced to get an entrance road (on a line that is now South Creek Road) through Wheeler's property and a bridge over South Creek to the knoll.

They were advised to dig a canal to drain the five acre swamp in the centre of the land, now occupied by the copse, the first half of the 1st Fairway and a considerable part of the 17th fairway. With this taken into account, Whytock further advised that he was 800 yards short unless some three acres be filled at the northern end. This today is the 11th green and approach, the 12th and 13th fairways.

The task looked formidable and it was obvious that finance was inadequate, so by the middle of 1927 Cromer Ltd. were willing to listen to an option to purchase suggested by a city estate agent.

The option lapsed and the company sold to Arthur Max Cooper for £19,000, deposit £500, £5,000 payable on 31st March 1928 and a mortgage from Cooper of £13,500 for five years at  $6\frac{1}{2}\%$ . The Company Secretary was authorised to sign and seal the contract on 19th August 1927 and it included a surveyor's marking out of an eighteen hole golf course.

Gilford the estate agent and director of Cromer Ltd. had negotiated the sale and for his pains was given £500 commission with the proviso that he immediately invest it in the Company. Money was tight. On paper the Company had made a profit of say £5,000 in one year on a paid up capital of £6,500, but the major achievement seemed to be that it had divested itself of a proposition of doubtful value.

## Chapter Three

### A NINE HOLE COURSE

Arthur Max Cooper was a builder of repute and as such would have made this purchase with his eyes open to the cost of draining the land and forming a golf course. It is therefore not surprising that he now, with others, floated a company, Dee Why Golf Links Ltd. to purchase the property from himself and finance the venture.

Had the public subscribed as anticipated both Cooper and Cromer Ltd. would have been on clover but, as the story continues, it will be seen that this did not happen. Nevertheless, Max Cooper poured money and effort into the venture for he apparently was determined to see his dream of a golf course come true. He was eventually successful in this but it must have cost him dearly and in retrospect we can see that despite his determination to finish what he had commenced, it was the great economic depression which prevented him from making a financial success.

Having purchased the property in August 1927, it was seven weeks later that Dee Why Golf Links Ltd. released a Prospectus dated 21st October 1927. It offered 15,000 shares of £1.0.0 each and 600 debentures of £25.0.0 each. It also advised that the company had "entered into a contract for the sum of £32,500 (payable £19,000 cash and the balance on mortgage at 6½% repayable in March 1933)". The contract was dated 19th October 1927 between Arthur M. Cooper and the Company.

As is normal for such documents the prospectus was studded with doubtful gems of eloquence such as—"The land is situated 1¼ miles from the Dee Why tramline and is thus easy of access." Optimism also was not lacking for they proposed to build an eighteen hole golf course (this to be done by the vendor Cooper at his own expense) and six tennis courts, to form a Golf Club with a limit of 700 members each of whom would hold at least one debenture, and to lease the Course to the Club for 21 years at a rental which would return at least 3 percent to the shareholders for the first three years and 5 percent thereafter. It also advised that the first nine holes would be ready for play within six months.

Directors named were—John M. Turnbull; H. C. Coggins; Fred Oertel and Arthur M. Cooper. Auditor was Chester A.

Clarke and registered office and Secretary was C. A. Cooper, 42 Hunter Street, Sydney.

The prospectus advised that the total capital required was:

— Cash Purchase	£19,000
— Clubhouse and other buildings	£ 4,500
— Miscellaneous Expenditure	£ 3,000
— Working Capital	£ 5,000
	<hr/>
	£31,500

The public response was disappointing for they subscribed to only 1582 fully paid shares and 50 paid up to nine shillings—a total sum of £1,604,10.0.

When the course was opened and the club formed, only a few members subscribed to debentures.

From the time of the “Bank Crashes” of the 1890s and the Federation of Colony States into an independent country, the Australian economy was very sluggish.

With the First World War came many sacrifices but for the new nation there were also advantages. Our raw materials came into great demand and unable to obtain manufactured goods from Great Britain and Europe, we were forced to try our own hand at secondary industries.

Business was good in a generally ascending pattern until about 1926 when the USA stepped onto the slippery-dip of the “Great Depression”. By 1929 Australia also knew this awful state of affairs which eventually encompassed the nations, rich, poor, old and new.

For the people of Australia there were the pathetic dole queues for the jobless. Those with jobs were fortunate but were probably helping some member of the family to exist. Public servants accepted a reduction of salary, the building industry was dead. Governments were hard pressed.

It was indeed an unenviable situation for Cromer Ltd., A. Max Cooper and Dee Why Golf Links Ltd. Vacant land is always a liability so money had to be spent to make the proposed golf course and amenities attractive to those few who had the money to pay for a round of golf.

Cooper stood by his agreement to prepare a golf course and completed the first nine holes which were opened for play on the 8th June 1929. Deputy Premier, The Honorable E. A. Buttenshaw (the Buttenshaw Shield Man) drove a ball from the first tee. This shot was pictured in the news showing him at the end of his swing and the spectators smiling. He had hooked the ball into the rough.

Horrie Hayman, a club member and debenture holder who





“One Tree Plain”

*The Douglas Pratt watercolour “looking down the fifth fairway” from the entrance road at Dee Why Golf Club. There is only one house on Wheeler Heights in the background.*

was present, paid a lad to retrieve the ball. The lad was Norman Hogarth.

In 1947, the ball which had been mounted and held by Dee Why Golf Links Ltd. was given to Cromer Country Club Ltd. by R. G. Donald who had been Secretary of the Dee Why Company after C. A. Cooper. It was lost during the rebuilding of the present trophy cabinet. It was a Silver King ball mounted on crossed golf clubs on a wooden base and inscribed.

Entry to Therry’s grant is shown on the Parish map to be from a road running from Toronto Avenue along the western boundary. Today, this road is still only “on the map” and in 1929 even Toronto Avenue and the nearby roads were merely bush tracks. There was only one bridge over South Creek and this was in Carcoola Avenue. To gain entry to the new golf course, the Company purchased three blocks of land, Lots 20, 21 and 22 facing Toronto Avenue. To reach the course from Dee Why, the player proceeded along Fisher Road, Fisher Road

North to Carrington Avenue and thence diagonally across the three blocks of land toward the site of the present entrance bridge.

The old Herring cottage, now minus doors and windows, was used as a temporary clubhouse whilst the promised clubhouse was being built of material Cooper obtained from buildings he was demolishing in the City.

Hilton Sadler was appointed Professional with Bill Langton his assistant and Arthur Palmer was Greenkeeper. Palmer had worked on the ground staff at Manly Golf Club and Hilton Sadler had served an apprenticeship with the same Club's Professional, Alf Chitty.

Hilton at seventy and an amateur for many years past, today enjoys his golf at Bayview. He recalls the course at Dee Why was pretty rough and the club was almost non-existent. The Public players were by far in the majority but times were difficult and it was not unusual for people to search in the rough to find a ball before they could commence play. There was not much in it for the professional and though work was proceeding on the clubhouse and the second nine holes, Hilton left for greener pastures.

## Chapter Four

### EIGHTEEN HOLES FOR GOLF

Eighteen holes for golf were completed in 1932. The Clubhouse was also completed and it comprised that portion of the present Clubhouse located beneath the pitched tile roof. Three major grasses had been planted and they still remain today. There was *Paspalum compressum* for the sour swampy parts like the beginning of the present 15th hole, Couch for the dryer parts and a patch of buffalo on the top of the hill on the present 4th fairway. Before course watering there were times when the buffalo was the best lie on the course.

The course was a "bit of a goat track" with its small tees and greens and its very tight lies but it was a good test of golfing ability. Add to this the surroundings—the peace, the quiet, the birds, the animals, the trees and flowers. It was also "1¼ miles from the Dee Why tram" and away from it all, even more so than today.

There are two score cards available from the middle thirties. Stan Ottewill has a members card and Edna (Pony) Holmes has an associates card.

The Members card titled "Dee Why Golf Club", shows four local rules to be read in conjunction with the rules of golf.

1. A ball lying close to a tree, stump, log, rock or bridge, may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole. No penalty.
2. All creeks and ditches may be treated as water hazards.
3. A ball in any hole caused by an animal may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole. No penalty.
4. Out of bounds all boundary fences.

The 1st hole began at the location of the present 1st tee and keeping close to the copse went straight to a green which was in front of a palm tree which still grows at the rear of the present 15th green.

The 2nd hole began at a tee between this 1st green and South Creek. The fairway was parallel with South Creek to a green which was, generally speaking, about where the present 5th tee now stands.

The 3rd hole tee was on the southern side of the stand of large trees south of the present 5th tee and the uphill short iron



short was to a green almost on the boundary and approximately on the rear half of the associates present 3rd tee and towards the members tee. The green was cut into the hillside with a bank and a bunker, at the back. This part of the course is clay with ironstone pebbles and whilst sometimes there was a little sand in the bunker it was mostly coarse dirt and ironstone pebbles and if you went through it you were out of bounds.

The 4th hole was played from a tee to the left of the present Associates 3rd tee along the present 3rd fairway to a small green on the site of the present 3rd. The creek across the front of the green was open, wide and deep.

The 5th hole was the present 4th played from the present Associates tee to a green forward of the present one.

The 6th hole was the present 5th played from the present Associates tee and the green was long and narrow with a step up halfway along its length.

The 7th hole was played from a tee which may still be identified beneath a tree in front of the present Associates 6th tee. However, it faced the car park and the green was above a cliff of rock, on the lower car park. The green was always like concrete but being cut into the hillside it had a bank on its western side. The ploy was to hit the ball onto this bank which stopped the forward impetus a little and then the ball ran along the bank and into the hole if you were lucky enough. (History has it that Roma McCauley, an Associate who lives at Mosman today, holed in one during a New Year's Eve "Middle of the Night" game).

The 8th hole was the present 6th with the distance foreshortened, the green being up toward the two trees which are on the right.

The 9th hole was the present 7th with the tee much further forward to permit the 2nd fairway to run behind it. The creek in front of the green was open but covered with wire mesh. Penalty to lift off was one stroke.

The 10th hole was similar to today's 8th hole with the green forward and without bunkers.

The 11th hole was the present 9th with little variation except in length, the forward tees being played.

The 12th hole was the present 10th from the forward tee and the players approaching the green gave way to those hitting off the 13th tee.

The 13th hole was played from a tee on the hillside to the left of the present 10th fairway just before the green. (See the stone work.) It was a straight hole over the present 11th Associates tee with two bunkers in the hollow at the rise and the green shorter than the present 11th green.

The 14th hole was much the same as today's 12th with the tee well forward.

The 15th hole was from the present 13th tee to a green short of the raised part in the centre of the present 13th fairway.

The 16th hole was much the same as the present 15th but the green was short of the creek and about opposite the present 10th tee.

The 17th hole was a short one from a tee on the left of the present 15th fairway over the creek to a green about where the present 15th green now is situated.

The 18th hole was a dogleg commencing from a tee in the vicinity of the palm tree on the right side of the present 17th fairway. Play was straight up the fairway across the creek and then a shot almost at right angles to a green located roughly between the present 18th green and the practice putting green. The copse and the creek through it came out toward the present 18th fairway further than at present but it did not deter the "big hitters" having a go over the corner though there was less success than otherwise. Though they could get the ball over the tallest trees, in falling it was often caught by the short trees on the edge.

The card read:

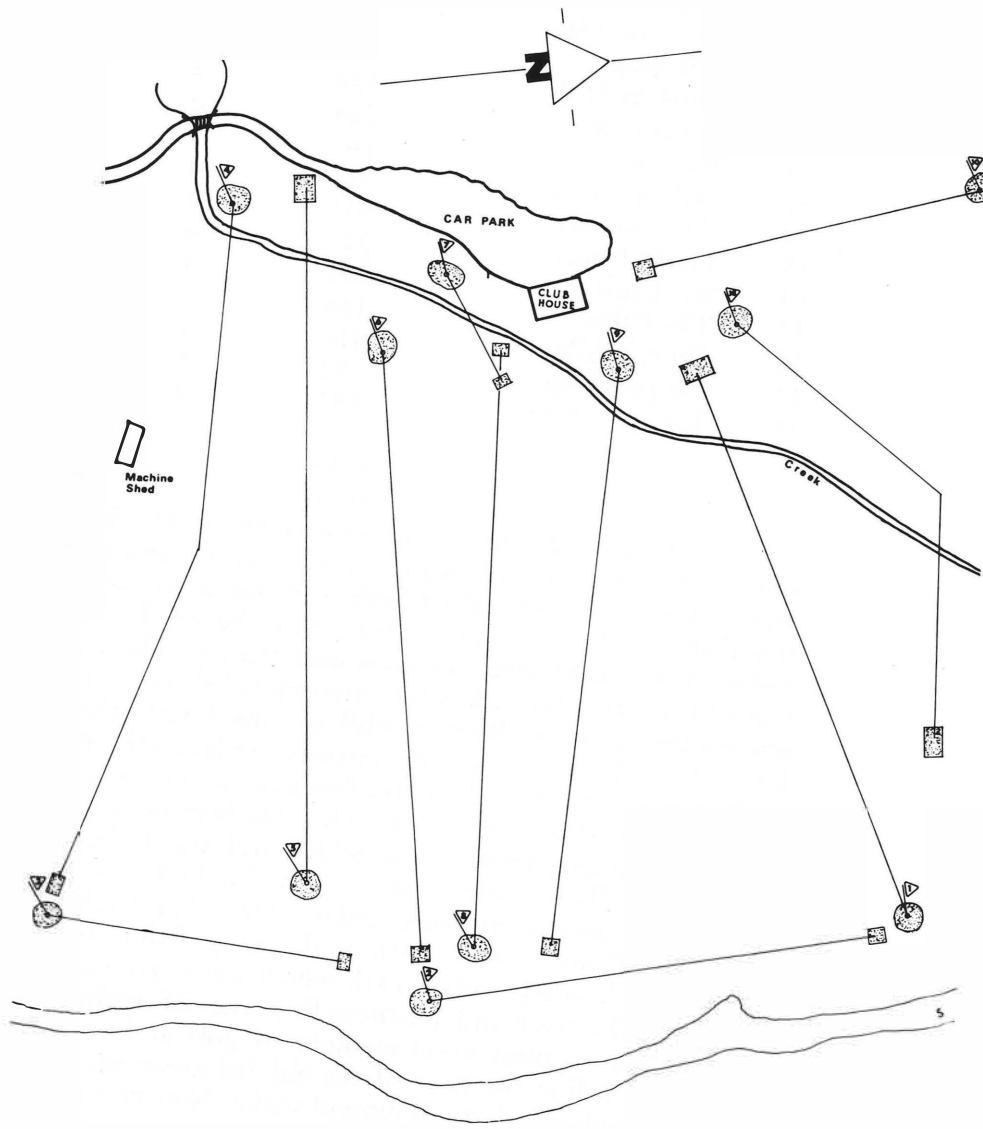
<i>Holes</i>	<i>Yards</i>	<i>Bogey</i>	<i>Handicap Strokes</i>
1	354	4	5
2	257	4	11
3	167	3	15
4	448	5	3
5	419	5	10
6	405	5	7
7	80	3	17
8	372	4	1
9	356	4	13
10	213	4	8
11	339	4	12
12	516	5	4
13	375	4	14
14	342	4	9
15	164	3	16
16	470	5	2
17	88	3	18
18	385	5	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	5750	74	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	

The Associates card shows names for each hole and Edna Holmes score is recorded on it.

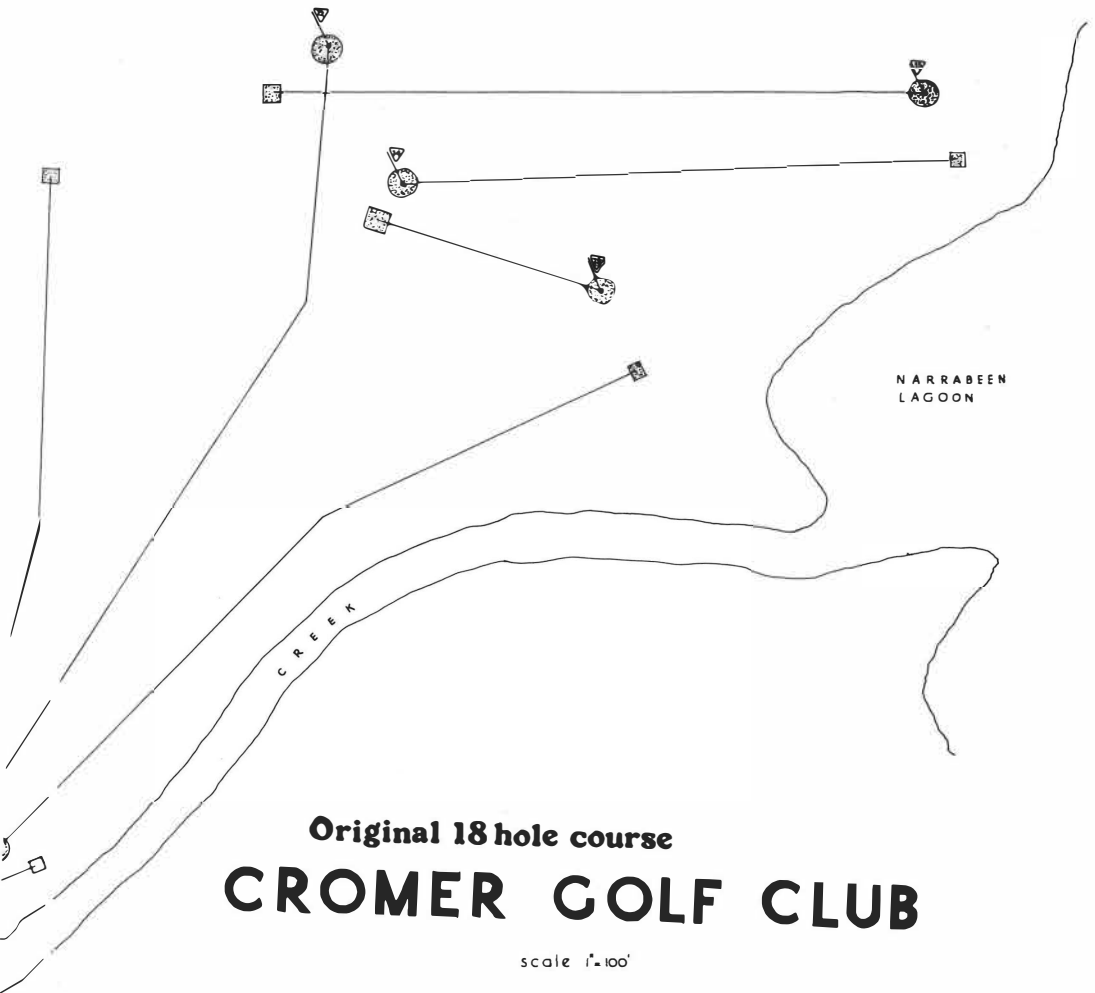
<i>Hole</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Yards</i>	<i>Bogey</i>	<i>Strokes</i>
1	Hells Pathway	322	4	5
2	Dead Mans Hollow	257	4	6
3	Koscuisko	140	3	3
4	Devils Elbow	404	5	4
5	One Tree Plain	419	5	5
6	The She Oaks	371	5	5
7	The Gap	83	3	6
8	Bunkers Hill	332	4	4
9	Riverview	268	4	5
10	Pinchgut	169	3	3
11	Gallows Tree	315	4	5
12	The Perisher	435	5	6
13	Lucks Fancy	325	4	4
14	Sea Eagle	302	4	4
15	The Palms	164	3	4
16	Shuttle Alley	410	5	7
17	Coopers Dip	92	3	2
18	Journeys End	332	4	5
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		5140	72	83
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The first three holes are not in play today. Devils Elbow is today's 3rd. One Tree Plain today's 4th and so named for there was only one large spreading Sydney Peppermint tree between it and the 5th fairway a drive away from the tee. The She Oaks, today's 5th, named after the trees near the tee. The Gap, aptly named for many a suicide was contemplated there, was the little one on the car park. Bunkers Hill so named after the fairway bunkers in the hollow of the fairway, today's 6th. Riverview under the wire mesh, today's 7th. Pinchgut is apt for today's 8th. Gallows Tree after a branch which came horizontally out into the line of flight, from a tree which still stands but is dead, today's 9th. The Perisher, today's 10th. Lucks Fancy after the formidable fairway bunkers, today's 11th. Sea Eagles, today's 12th. The Palms, today's 13th with many Palms behind the green. Shuttle Alley, today's 15th which was narrower. Coopers Dip across the creek and Journeys End, the old dogleg 18th.

Edna Holmes most vivid memory of golf at Dee Why was finding her ball at the back of the old 3rd green sitting like an egg in the coils of a large Diamond snake. Non venomous, but!







## Chapter Five

### A SIGHT OF SUCCESS

From August 1927 to 1932 the Company and Cooper had weathered stormy economic years but whilst they had progressed, all the expenditure and most of the effort had been Coopers.

On 14th December 1932, the Company held its Annual General Meeting. Present were the Chairman of the Board Mr W. S. Garnett, Directors, A. Max Cooper and Chester A. Clarke, the Secretary R. G. Donald and two shareholders, P. Ashton and P. D. de Monchaux.

The account of Income and Expenditure showed Income at £2,512.0.5 and Expenditure £2,839.12.8. The Balance Sheet showed Assets of £45,295.2.4 made up of items including the 18 hole golf course and land, the Clubhouse (expenditure to date) a Main Road, a water supply, plant and machinery (including a horse to pull the mower whose feed bill for the year was £49.13.8), a lighting plant, a septic tank, furniture fixtures and fittings, the three lots of land in Toronto Avenue, an item "Capitalised Expenditure" £8,282.8.5 and Cash in Hand and at Bank £89.6.9.

Balancing these assets were the liabilities which showed Paid Up Share Capital of £1,604.10.0, Debenture suspense account £338.18.0, Forfeited Debenture Account £56.3.6, and then the heading "Sundry Creditors". This may or may not be the correct subheading from an accountant's point of view but in this case it seemed extremely inadequate for it read:

"Max Cooper — vide vendor agreement	£32,500. 0.0
Other expenditure on behalf of Company including Clubhouse	£ 9,291.16.9
	<hr/>
	£41,791.16.9
	<hr/>

There were other items such as interest owed to Cromer Ltd. £322.10.0, Federal Land Tax and Family Endowment Tax all of which came to the required total and, whilst these were serious, they were all overshadowed by the involvement to Cooper.

The year 1933 could have been the end of this dream of a viable 18 hole golf course with Club. The income remained

static and though expenditure was pruned it still exceeded income by £122.14.11.

Council threatened to summons for recovery of instalments and interest for construction of the road but were put off after being shown the Company's accounts. Interest owed to Cromer rose to £590.0.0 so the Directors of both Companies met for discussion. The rate of interest was dropped to 4 per cent, accumulated arrears placed in suspense, the whole of current subscriptions were to be paid to Cromer monthly and, to save expenses and allow them to carefully watch the financial position, the Cromer Ltd. auditor became Dee Why's auditor also.

Having on paper, overcome the financial hurdle of interest to Cromer Ltd., the Company received another windfall. Max Cooper wrote them stating that "owing to the present financial conditions, the amount as set out in the Balance Sheet owing to him (£41,691.16.9) was greatly in excess of the amount the Company could hope to pay, and suggested that the amount be written down to a sum of £30,000.0.0 by writing off the sum of £11,691.16.9.

The Company managed to carry on by reducing the staff by two during the winter "when the grass did not grow". They considered whether to write off the Golf Club and make it solely a Public Course or vice versa but as the country's economy improved so the membership of the club increased.

By 1939 the picture was more rosy. However World War II began.

Max Cooper had seen the Golf Course through the troublous times of the depression and he had sent good money after bad to support his pipe dream. He was twelve years older than when it all began and when Club members began to join the services, Cooper must have bowed his head.

## Chapter Six

### DEE WHY GOLF CLUB

In Chapter Three, the prospectus of Dee Why Golf Links Ltd., revealed that the Company intended to form a golf club to whom they hoped to lease the golf course. This was a grand vision to which the depression of the early thirties applied a knock out blow. A club was formed however and it endured these early difficulties and by the end of the thirties was quite a solid organisation.

The "First General Meeting of Dee Why Golf Club" was held in Cathcart House, Castlereagh Street, Sydney on 7th August 1929 at 8.10 p.m. The Chairman and members of the Company Board were present in addition to eleven club members.

W. S. Garnett, the Chairman, addressed the meeting and stated "the land comprised an area of approximately 107 acres, 87 of which had been appropriated for the construction of the Golf Links and the remaining area would be subdivided and sold as building allotments totalling about 4000 selling feet. It was the intention to construct a practice fairway—also tennis courts, picnic shelters and an area for swimming in a suitable place in the creek that bordered the property." Also, "the domestic affairs of the Club would be in the hands of members but the Company would control all finances, etc."

Regulations and By-laws were discussed, a Captain (Les A. Minnett) and a committee of L. A. Saunders, P. G. Ashton, C. H. Churcher, C. W. Robson, Russell Orr, H. K. Wright and W. J. Walker, were elected.

At a subsequent meeting of committee, Russell Orr was appointed Honorary Secretary. Entrance Fees were:

Members—£10.10.0 reduced to £6.6.0

Others—£6.6.0 reduced to £5.5.0

Subscriptions annual:

Members—£10.10.0 reduced to £6.6.0

Associates—£4.4.0 reduced to £3.3.0

Green Fees—3/- for 18 holes, Holidays and weekends  
5/- for the day

By February 1931, the membership was depleted by the effects of the "Depression" and of the eleven members who had



attended the First General Meeting, only one remained.

In February 1932 those who had renewed their subscriptions were 36 Full Members, 22 Associate Members, 2 Juniors and one Country Member—61 in all. Times were tough indeed.

Meantime Mr. Whytock advised that due to the reduction in green fees, the class of visitor now attending was such that he deemed it inadvisable to invite proposed members as guests.

The club agreed to a sale of the Course to the Old Public School Boys Association which did not eventuate. An approach to the Suburban and District Golf Association for affiliation was not accepted because the Company had control of the Club.

The accounts of the Company and also references made in their minutes show that the Company played both ends and the middle in an attempt to keep afloat. From members, they took entrance fees, annual subscriptions and green fees whilst from the "old Boys" they received "Capitation Fees" and green fees. The Public Visitor also paid green fees. The report of the Company's Annual Meeting of 1932, shows Members Receipts £621.3.0; Visitors £1,890.17.5; and it was noted that Members' income had increased £66.19.9 and Visitors' decreased £540.8.6 on the previous year.

Two months prior to this Annual Meeting, certain leases and agreements were signed. They were between Dee Why Golf Links Ltd. and Dee Why Golf Club, for lease of the links for three years at a rental of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pounds per annum and were signed by Garnet, Clarke and Cooper as both Directors of the Company and as Trustees of the Club.

And so on 14th December 1932, the Company Chairman said, "I am pleased to report that the Club's application for affiliation with the Suburban and District Golf Association was granted on 14th November last and it is hoped that this privilege will be the means of increasing the Club's Membership and the extra income derived therefrom make good the failing revenue derived from the visitors".

At the fourth Annual Meeting of the Company, 12th September 1933, the poor state of the finances occupied the major portion of the report and two paragraphs only refer to the Club. "We came to a decision some little time ago that all capital expenditure and expansion had to cease and that the club had to be satisfied with the maintenance of the links in good order as now exists until such time as the Club's membership increases" — "It is hoped that as financial conditions in Australia have made some general improvement this improvement will reflect on the Club by an increase in membership which will automatically increase the Company's revenue".

There is also mention of a decrease in income from "the automatic machine since declared illegal". This was a "fruit machine", forerunner to the "Pokies" played with tokens about the size of sixpence and costing that amount. It was a wooden box about fifteen inches high by twelve inches wide and deep. It had three rollers with fruit depicted in place of the usual symbols of today and if you were lucky enough to win some tokens they could be used to purchase something. They could not be cashed. It was a 100 percent win for the owner of the machine—almost.

At the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Company held on the 26th November 1934, the Chairman advised "The receipts of the Club also decreased and we have now come to the conclusion that until the general public is excluded from the links, the Club itself will not progress as players will not put up with the congestion and the inconvenience of beginners which are a natural sequence of public or semi-public links."

At a Directors Meeting of 14th March 1935, there was a complete about-face. The serious decrease in the Company's revenue was discussed and it was of the opinion that the only remedy was to open the playing area as wholly a public links and to advertise it as such.

However, at a Directors Meeting held on 8th November 1935, the Directors, having had several interviews with the representatives of the Golf Club, agreed not to cancel the lease until the 30th June 1936, when the matter would be further discussed.

By 1936 the worst of the "Great Depression" was over and the economy was ascending. The Club made a drive for new members and most of those Dee Why members who remain in Cromer Golf Club today were caught up in this dragnet.

There is little doubt that at this time the golf course at Long Reef, which was Council owned and prepared, was in superior playing condition to that at Dee Why. It was also a much shorter walk than "only 1¼ miles from the Dee Why tram". At that time the man who owned a motor car was the exception, not the rule, as it is today. Long Reef attracted the locals of Manly and Warringah.

By July 1936, Dee Why Club had sixty members and forty-one Associates, a total of 101.

By July 1937, the membership was 217 and by July 1938 it reached 265.

But let us listen to the story of one who joined Dee Why Golf Club in 1936:

"I had had a very rough time from 1929 until 1933 when I was fortunate enough to get a job which was full time. I had

learned the value of money the hard way and now, having a start, I put myself to work at improving my position. By 1936 my job was well paid and it required a motor car. With friends I had begun hitting a golf ball around Arthur Small's Avalon links and was beginning to fancy myself at the game. Avalon links were conducted by Ted and Lotte Hock. It was Lotte's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Van Dyke, who were the General-factotum-Caretaker, Caterer and collector of fees and they lived in the Clubhouse at the Dee Why Golf Links. "Poppa" Van Dyke was noted for a magical trick he performed for hot and tired golfers. There was not a licence to sell fermented and spirituous liquors but he could, with a snap of his fingers and his magical touch, make a bottle of cold beer appear with the label "Cascade Brewery, Hobart". "Modder" Van Dyke matched her husband by producing excellent scones with strawberry jam and cream. Altogether they were a worthwhile pair; he with his white goatee beard, and she with her curly snow-white hair and gentle ways.

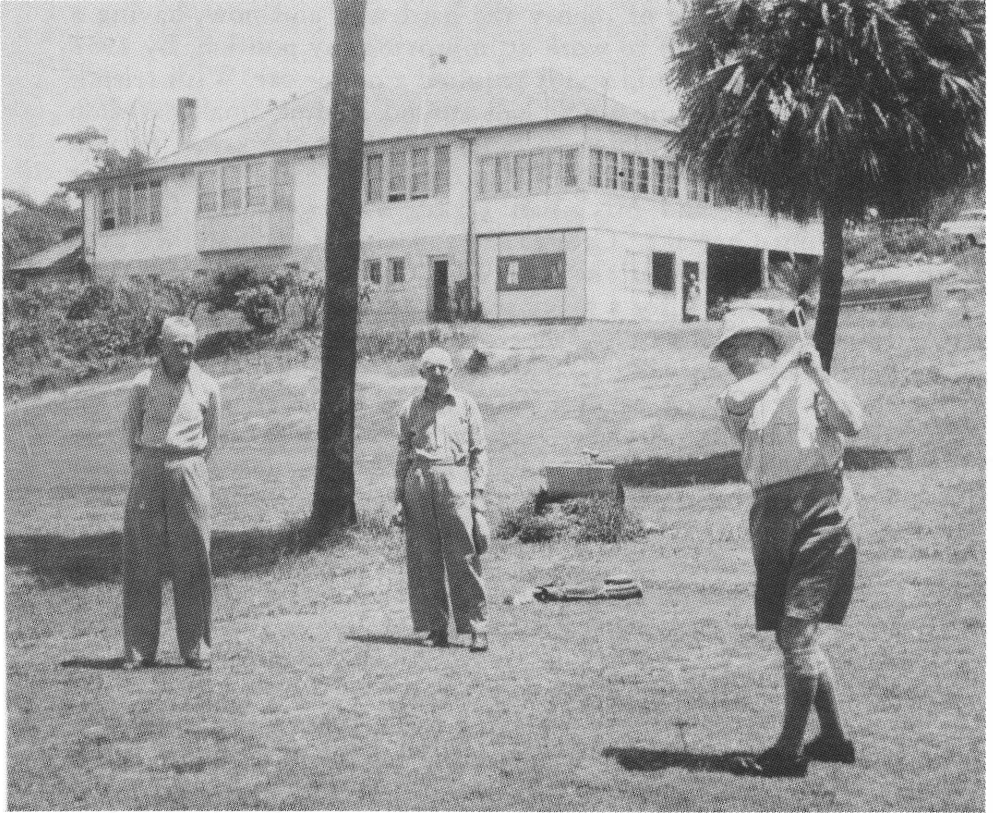
"My friends and I rented a three bedroom cottage at Avalon for thirty shillings a week and used it as a weekender. I decided to join a golf club, play Saturday afternoon and then go on to Avalon for the rest of the weekend.

"After six months of playing various courses I decided that the golf course out in the bush at the head of Narrabeen Lagoon was the place for me.

"There were two major reasons. One was that the members of Dee Why were people who spoke my language (just as they are today). Whilst they played golf with their mates, it was obvious they came from a wide spectrum of society. They were generally friendly to the stranger, which was not the case at some other clubs. The second point was that it was like going for a holiday to play at Dee Why. The peace and tranquility without habitation in sight, was a perfect contrast to the City "hubbub".

"Strangely, most of the members came from west of Middle Harbour. Bill Huby from Mosman, and Alf Duncan from Wollstonecraft were my sponsors.

"The golf course itself was not easy for the fairways were hard and in places sandy with a sparse outcrop of grass. It was necessary to "pick" the ball off the ground and it was only in the low lying places that a replaceable divot was taken. Elsewhere it was just a puff of dust. The greens were small and hard and a short approach was usually a four or five iron pitch and run shot called the "Dee Why Crawl". In fact the Pro sold a club specially constructed for this shot and it was as popular as today's wedge. Despite a couple of short holes it was an



The First Clubhouse.

*The Club Professional, Mr. W. (Bill) Thompson is at the entrance of his shop. Club members, Fred Breakspear, South Aggett and stylist John McGraw on the First Tee.*

enjoyable and testing course where accuracy was the prime requisite.

“During this period there was a large Sydney Peppermint between the present 4th and 5th fairways and an associate was looking for her ball in the rough beneath the tree. My companion played his fairway shot, which was what Stan Ottewill calls “a long low hisser”, never higher than three feet and with a slow draw. Well, the aim was perfect and the poor girl fell to the ground. We dropped our bags and ran to her. She was writhing on the ground clutching her abdomen and we were both disappointed when through her tears she gasped “You can’t rub it”.

“There was a group who always played together and they bet like the Watsons on the game. One was a particularly quick



tempered chap. When he came to the short 17th over the creek, he hit his ball into the water. Exasperated, he threw his club in after it and when mates laughed, in went the whole bag of clubs. The caddy was his regular boy and should have known better, but we all make mistakes, he laughed and was thrown in too.

“Just one tiny lift of the head had cost our friend dearly, to pay his bets, to square off with the boy, to retrieve his equipment and then he had to withstand the Captain’s censure.

“Yes, they were good spicy days at old Dee Why Golf Club.

“The Ex-Servicemen’s Section (or AIF Section as it was then called) was not as large as that of today but there was an AIF Day near Anzac Day each year and a member, John Lauder, presented a Cup for play in 1937. There was Jim Stapleton, George Hook, Les Brainwood, Charlie Adamson, O. Mac McZillias, Ray Gartrell, Fred Henkell, Wal Tibbetts and a Boer War veteran Hal Andrews, and others.

“At the end of the competition field they set off with golf bag over shoulder with room for a bottle of whisky or rum. At the ninth after checking scores and replenishing provisions they set off again, noisy, rumbustious and having a wonderful time. They were a joy to see.

“They were a great bunch of blokes most of whom had known one another since school days, played district junior cricket and football together and then gone off to war. But now they were enjoying themselves.

“Jim Stapleton later became the second President of Cromer Country Club and remains a member of the club today. Of the others, many served on Cromer’s committee in later years but Jim Stapleton and Charlie Adamson are the only two alive today. The Cup given by John Lauder is the Cup we play for each year with the same enthusiasm as did the old timers.”

The big fireplace in the lounge with its great logs in winter and singsongs around the piano with Hal Andrews or Maud Breeze playing, are worth remembering. The club’s last Captain was Guy Clarke, a member of Cromer today.

So the Dee Why Club with its limited control over the playing conditions, grew with the improving economic conditions. The Company encouraged it with preferred starting times at week ends and provided a Clubhouse and facilities, until the war began.

## Chapter Seven

### ANOTHER SHOE-STRING SALE

There is no doubt that Max Cooper had a big financial stake in the golf course at the rainbow's end. Some of his investment (£11,691) he had written off in 1933 and it is doubtful if he expected to recover this, but there were other amounts he, with his enthusiasm, spent to make the course viable. There is no evidence that he received interest much less principal, from Dee Why Golf Links Ltd.

This was a problem to him and there was talk on the grapevine of a sale to the "Old Boys Golf and Sporting Club".

Cromer Ltd. were in the same boat as Cooper. The property owed them £15,000 and if they foreclosed on Cooper, they would have the asset of a golf course and clubhouse but the liability of running and financing it which was not their type of business.

Dee Why Golf Club had no say in the management of the course but they were a solid bunch of fellows who had a committee with a background of good business experience in many fields. The committee was Bruce McLaughlin, President; H. F. Hayman and J. R. Lauder, Vice Presidents; R. S. E. Gay, F. Breakspear; P. H. Roper; C. W. Squires; D. G. Scott; W. Tibbetts; O. Smith; P. W. Stanley; G. Hook; and J. G. W. Vallance, Committee and G. Clarke, Captain. From these men two were selected, Horrie Hayman and Perce Stanley, to negotiate purchase of the golf course. This was to be done on the basis that the club had no money at all.

The ownership of the land and improvements was somewhat complicated. Cromer Ltd. or Pty. Ltd. (somewhere along the way the title had been changed) had sold the land and design of a golf course to Max Cooper under a contract of sale. The conditions were not as yet fulfilled. Added to this was the sale of the land and a completed golf course by Max Cooper to Dee Why Golf Links Ltd. This Company had never been able to fulfill its obligations so this sale was not completed either. Then there was the extra work which Cooper had done such as the Clubhouse.

So there were three interested parties to satisfy. Horrie Hayman and Perce Stanley had nothing, so could lose nothing.

An interesting situation indeed with the Golf Club representatives probably in the strongest position for they could play their shots with confidence.

The weakest party was Dee Why Golf Links Ltd with its meagre paid up capital of £1,604.10.0 and its great debt to Cooper. Details are not known of what eventuated but they were not a party to the negotiations with Hayman and Stanley.

Cooper eventually agreed to sell his interest to the Club for £25,000 and the Club would pay him £1,000 in exchange for his Contract of Sale with Cromer Pty Ltd. He would provide a second mortgage of £9,000.

In the negotiations with Cromer Pty Ltd, Hayman and Stanley had the audacity to suggest that Cromer Pty Ltd provide the Club with £1,000 cash with which to pay Cooper and to include this in a first mortgage sum which would cover the remainder of the purchase price. In other words Cromer Pty Ltd was asked to increase its financial involvement in a proposition which had been somewhat sour for the past twelve years.

After several discussions with Company Directors, Dee Why Golf Club won out.

At the 14th Annual Meeting of Cromer Pty Ltd on 19th August 1939, Mr. Ramsay moved, and Dr. Moncrieff Barron seconded a motion which was supported by an explanation:

“The inducement to this Company for such advance, was a bonus of £400 to be paid in four equal yearly instalments and an increase in the interest rate from £5.0.9 per cent to £5.8.6 per cent, the former rate being the amount chargeable by this Company under the contract with Mr. Max Cooper. The security through their advance, will be improved as previously we had to rely on the repayments of principal on a contract between the Company and Mr. Cooper, but will now have a registered mortgage for the amount owing.”

The motion was passed and on 14th September 1939 the following letter was sent to Cromer Pty Ltd by Hayman and Stanley probably as confirmation of a verbal agreement.

“The Directors,  
Messrs. Cromer Pty Ltd  
49 The Esplanade,  
MANLY

RE: Dee Why Golf Links

Dear Sirs,  
Following on the preliminary discussions held with your Mr. F. W. A. Eagar, we, the undersigned, having been vested with

full authority to act for and on behalf of the Dee Why Golf Club (confirmation of which has been forwarded to you) hereby make the following offer in pursuance of the decision to acquire full control of the Dee Why Golf Links, as a going concern, and to further the interests of the Cromer Country Club (which has been formed tentatively for the purpose in view).

We also suggest for your approval, that a Trustee be appointed to act for the Cromer Country Club, and we would nominate Messrs. F. W. A. Eagar and Company for that position, with full power of veto in the Club's management, should it be deemed necessary at any time while 50% of the total debt remains unpaid, to exercise such restraint in the interests of the parties concerned.

We offer in consideration of your Company advancing to Cromer Country Club, the sum of One Thousand Pounds (£1,000) (Which is the amount of the proposed deposit to be paid to Mr. Max Cooper in exchange for his Contract of Sale with your goodselves) that the Club pay Cromer Pty Ltd, a bonus of Four Hundred Pounds (£400) in four yearly payments of £100 each, together with interest computed and paid each quarterly period at the rate of 6% per annum on the balance remaining of the £1,000 cash advanced and the £400 bonus sum.

Providing that no default has been previously made in respect of the quarterly payments of interest and yearly reduction of the bonus amount, it is to be agreed the interest amounts so paid be capitalised and credited to capital reduction in the fourth year of the contract.

It is also agreed that a compulsory reduction of not less than One Hundred Pounds (£100) be paid annually off the total capital debt, following the liquidation of the £400 bonus, and that the full liability of Mr. Max Cooper under his Contract of Sale with Cromer Pty Ltd as to the balance of the purchase price (i.e. £14,600) to be transferred by direction to Cromer Country Club, which will continue to meet the quarterly interest charges thereon, in the manner prescribed in the original contract and to complete the purchase as funds are available, or make further reductions thereon on any quarterly day.

The above offer is, of course, subject to the Club completing its arrangements with Mr. Max Cooper.

Signed for and on behalf of Dee Why Golf Club and Cromer Country Club (to be registered)

P. W. Stanley

H. F. Hayman " . . . . .

During these negotiations, World War II commenced and

Club members joined the Services. However, with agreement reached between all parties the two Club representatives became trustees for a proposed Company and as such signed agreements to purchase on the 15th of January 1940.

Dee Why Golf Club committee, now called a Special Meeting of Members.

## NOTICE

### DEE WHY GOLF CLUB LTD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLUB to be held at Manufacturers House, No. 12-14 O'Connell St, SYDNEY, on FRIDAY 2nd FEBRUARY, 1940 at 8.00 p.m.

#### BUSINESS

To discuss an Agreement to purchase the property known as the DEE WHY GOLF LINKS and to pass the necessary resolutions to give affect thereto.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE,  
C. W. BREAKSPEAR,  
CLUB SECRETARY

The explanatory circular read:

"The Club since its inception has been operating under such difficulties that it has been impossible to improve and maintain the Links and give Members a Course of which they should justly feel proud. This has been brought about by the fact that your Committee have not at any time control of the expenditure necessary for the upkeep and improvement of the property, consequently Members have from time to time become so dissatisfied that they found it necessary to relinquish their Membership.

In July last it came to the knowledge of the Committee that there was a distinct possibility of the Freehold passing into other hands, this depriving Members of their rights and privileges. Your committee, therefore, opened negotiations with the controlling interests to see if our own Members could not purchase the property themselves. Although the negotiations have been protracted they have now been brought to a satisfactory and successful conclusion.

Your committee proposes to alter the name of the Club



and soon as the question of affiliation with the Suburban and District Golf Association has been satisfactorily settled the Club will be known as the CROMER COUNTRY CLUB.

An Agreement to purchase has now been signed by the Trustees for and on behalf of this Club for the sum of £25,000. Members will not be asked to put up any cash for capital purposes but will be levied for a small amount to pay for the initial expenses, the largest item of course will be the Government Stamp Duty on the transfer. They will be asked, however, to sign a Guarantee for £10 in the event of the Club failing during their Membership and for a period of 12 months thereafter. This Guarantee will be automatically reduced to £5 after a period of two years. It is of course understood that this is a contingent liability not an actual one.

It will be necessary to form a Company limited by Guarantee and this Company upon incorporation and the completion of the necessary legal formalities will become the Owners of the property and all other assets of the Club, the Committee of Management being elected by Members.

The present Owners will become the First Mortgagees in the sum of £16,000 bearing interest at £5.8.6 per annum and Mr. A. Max Cooper will accept a Second Mortgage in the sum of £9,000 for his interests at 4% per annum, £5,000 of which will be free of interest for a period of 4 years; the second Mortgage to be repaid in instalments of £500 per annum for a period of 8 years and £1,000 per annum thereafter, the first mortgage to be reduced by £100 per annum. Both Mortgages are free of the personal covenant and the First Mortgage is subject to the provisions of the Moratorium Act.

As the matter is of vital importance Members are urged to attend the Meeting called for Friday 2nd February, and give the Committee every assistance to finalise the matter as early as possible, bearing in mind that your only liability will be the Guarantee already referred to.

C. W. BREAKSPEAR  
CLUB SECRETARY "

It is apparent that the Meeting agreed to the purchase, though it was not unanimous. Later 134 Members each signed a £10 Guarantee to cover the extra £1,000 from Cromer Pty Ltd.

The Committee then set about the registration of a Company and in appreciation of the generous treatment and assistance received from Cromer Pty Ltd, and with agreement from that Board, the new Company's title was "Cromer Country Club Ltd".

It is nice to think that this move perpetuated the old name

of the Herring-Johnson land and that officialdom has since followed this lead and conferred the name "Cromer" on the emerging residential suburb adjacent to the Golf Course.

The two Trustees acted for the proposed Company from January 18th till 30th March 1940, when the Company was duly registered, and took over.

A return of Receipts and Disbursements for the period of Trusteeship augered well for the future:

Income from Green Fees & Sundries		£586. 1.0
Disbursements:		
Wages	£226. 6.0	
Laundry	3. 0.0	
Fuel for stove and lamps	11. 9.5	
Horsefeed	6. 6.8	
Fertilizer	3. 2.4	
Professional's retainer	22.10.0	
Lawn Mower	5. 0.0	
Drum for well	1.10.0	
Stamps and Bank Fees	11.0	
	—————	279.15.5
		—————
	SURPLUS	£306. 5.7

All who have read this chapter of how the golf course was acquired for the Club will no doubt acknowledge the excellence of the job performed by Perce Stanley and Horrie Hayman and the debt we owe them today. But this is not the end of the story.

## Chapter Eight

### CROMER COUNTRY CLUB AND THE WAR YEARS

On the 12th of March 1940 when the Dee Why Golf Club committee met, it was reported that the "Company", Cromer Country Club Ltd, had been duly registered. Those present became the first Directors of the Company and C. W. Breakspear was appointed Club Secretary at a salary of £156 per annum.

The first General Meeting of Cromer Country Club Ltd was held on the 15th June 1940 at the Clubhouse at 5.30 p.m. and a committee was elected. Attendance was 53 including proxies.

In recognition of their assistance in obtaining ownership of the property, A. Max Cooper and E. W. Eagar were elevated to Life Membership of the Club at this meeting.

Government imposed restrictions on fuel which made it difficult to get to the golf course and this, together with loss of members to the Services, reduced the number of players and the Club's income. Nevertheless, the committee had electricity connected to the Clubhouse and refrigerators and an electric stove were purchased and installed by members. For entry from Toronto Avenue two blocks of land, Lots 6 and 7 were bought for £45 plus expenses and Stamp Duty of £1.0.0.

The Memorandum of Transfer of the golf course land was received for execution in December 1940. It was shown that there was a 1st Mortgage to Cromer Ltd of £15,600 and a 2nd Mortgage to Max Cooper of £9,000.

Japan's entry into the war in 1941 made things more difficult and it was necessary to arrange with the two mortgagees to suspend payments for two years.

The few members able to attend often spent their day weeding greens or cutting fairways. One Associate was quite expert with the tractor. An al fresco meal and a singsong around the piano usually followed.

In 1944, though income had increased to £4,777 (from a membership of 88 and 62 Associates) new financial arrangements were made for the duration of the war, and one year thereafter. In 1945, when the war ended, alterations to the

Clubhouse were commenced in preparation for an influx of new members.

The yearly subscription was raised in 1945 to eight guineas for members and three guineas for associates. It was resolved that when membership reached 120 (and 80) an entrance fee of four guineas would be charged members and two guineas associates. This did not deter prospective members and in 1946 the entrance fee was raised to ten guineas and five guineas. And so with the war over the place hummed into life and membership rose (from 141 in 1942) to 504 by the end of 1946.

The Water Board laid a main across the foothills from Toronto Avenue to the National Fitness Camp newly established on Wakehurst Parkway. It was arranged that a "tee" be located opposite the Clubhouse but it was many years before members were able to take advantage of it legally.

Beer was in very short supply and had to be scrounged from most unlikely places at hot prices. However, the Committee managed to "turn on" a nine gallon keg most Sunday afternoons, players being entitled to two coupons valid between 4.30 and 6.00 p.m.

Today's members are indeed fortunate that the committeemen to those war years, led by Bruce McLaughlan, Jim Stapleton and Horrie Hayman, made the effort to attend to Club problems and keep the place "alive". They and the members and associates somehow coped with their civilian wartime duties and the difficulties of those times.

## Chapter Nine

### THE POST-WAR ERA

At the 1946 Annual General Meeting, President Hayman forecast that, in the future, the Committee would strive to provide a first class golf course, a bigger and better clubhouse and facilities, and a scheme to eliminate the mortgages.

Though almost everything was subject to a Government control system in which golf clubs had no priority for many years after the war's end, these objectives were achieved in time.

George Powell, a committeeman who had a cottage near the waterfall on Cromer Creek, was a retired builder. As the building sub-committee, he organised the early internal clubhouse alterations and built the old stone Professional Shop. Prior to this the Shop was on the Northeast corner of the clubhouse beneath the balcony known as the "Verandah". This move gave members a larger locker-room.

It was necessary to re-equip the kitchen and dining room. Poker machines were hired as money to purchase them was not available. An application was made for coupons to buy towels for the bathroom but the answer was "members must use their own towels".

Fortunately, Cromer was able to obtain a shop size refrigerator and update the bar. A "liquor licence" was granted the Club in 1947, and, whilst it did not guarantee supplies, it did help. Prices were controlled by a Commissioner. Beer was eight pence per eight ounce glass; Scotch, one shilling per nip with cordial or water. When a rise was permitted in 1949, the beer price rose 50 percent to one shilling.

In March 1946, Gordon Wright was engaged as Ground-staff foreman. He served in this capacity for 18 years, carrying out course maintenance and the many alterations with a minimum of staff and equipment and with the poorest of water supplies.

The water supply for both house and course, except for a rainwater tank for the kitchen, was pumped from a bore near the 5th green to a tank on the hill behind. When a second bore came into use it was found the pipes of the reticulation system were so rusted there was little improvement. Because of controls it was some years before new piping was obtained to overcome the problem.



In 1948 four tons of fertilizer improved the fairways—this probably being the first application since the grass was planted.

In 1949, Eric Apperley's plan for redevelopment of the course was put on display. Late in 1950 it was altered to include two holes on the hill behind the 4th tee and work commenced to implement the "Plan".

The course was like a large paddock without trees to divide the fairways. In 1946 George Powell had been voted £10 for trees and, in 1945, it was resolved that for every tree cut down, two must be planted.

Late in 1947 when Max Cooper died, it was resolved to assist his estate by paying off the Mortgage of £9,000. Members took out debentures and an overdraft of £15,000 was obtained from the Bank. With this the Club cleared both Mortgages to Cooper and Cromer Ltd on 31st March 1949.

During 1949, the McPherson land west of the property was purchased for £2,200 after a very stormy Extraordinary General Meeting on the "Verandah". Whilst Cromer now owned the property on very favourable terms, the expenditure of £2,200 on land rather than on the golf course seemed to some members an extravagance.

However, it was a time of ascending economy for the Nation and the Club. By 1951 all classes of membership totalled 854 and revenue was £23,709, a great jump from the £2,500 of the war years.

It was just as well that finances were buoyant for the course alterations were estimated to cost £13,500 and now plans were made to enlarge the Clubhouse. Extensions (to the end of the stonework on the eastern wall) plus considerable internal alterations were estimated to cost £16,960.

Fees were raised to sixteen guineas (and eight guineas) with twenty guineas entrance fees. Members were also levied £10.

During these formative years, the entry road from Toronto Avenue was constructed, across Lot 7. Prior to this, an access had been diagonally across private property from Carrington Avenue. Lot No. 6 was exchanged for Lot 17, owned by George Powell, and this Lot was then used for access to the Machine Shed located to the left of the 3rd fairway.

Rules and Regulations were drawn up to cover play, dress and behaviour. Club jackets with brass buttons to be worn in the Clubhouse and playing sweaters were talked about. Happily, rationing of clothing intervened. However, "jockey caps", forerunner of peaked caps popular in the U.S.A., were barred. Of all the Rules and Regulations introduced, the most long-lived

and controversial, even today, was introduced in July 1947. It banned ladies from the course and Clubhouse on Saturdays.

Perhaps the outstanding innovation of the period was initiated by the Club member Ray Foord. He sought and was granted permission to organise a "Batchelor's Day" competition. It was a good day with a party given by Jim and Eve Stapleton at their home near the bridge in the evening. Unhappily Ray, the "Grand Batchelor", next year fell ill with the "Love-bug" and an annual event never eventuated.

However, during this period the Presidents' Trophy, the Max Cooper Trophy, the Gold Medal and the Captain v. Presidents team match (with dinner afterwards) were introduced as yearly events.

Toward the end of the war the Associates had been requested to start a weekday competition and chose Wednesday. In 1948, a move was made to persuade them to change the day so that Members could play in Wednesdays. It was not an easy victory for the Members and it dragged on for some time. There were many amusing incidents as the battle waged and Members suffered a resounding defeat when a ballot favoured the ladies. Eventually, peace was declared and the Professionals Sweepstake, as we know it today, began in March 1950.

Of course, it was not all administration, for the game of golf was the prime motive. Various trophies were donated by Members. Money Orders on the professional valued at seven shillings and six pence and ten shillings were given by the Club. Tankards engraved with the winner's name were hung behind the bar for general use or taken home. Such trophies, though of little value, were keenly contested.

A scratch score competition in conjunction with Stroke events was introduced in 1951. The Club had its first success in the L.G.U. Junior Championship when Junior Associates won some of the minor events. In recognition, the Club also donated suitable trophies.

The Club entered teams each season in the "B" Grade District Competition Pennants with varied success but was unable to field a winning combination.

"Skinner Schools" were played most Saturdays after the competition and refreshments. These were a "winner-take-all" scratch affair at sixpence a hole played by twenty or thirty noisy competitors. They were eventually confined to eight players after a ball was damaged on a player's head.

After the War, the Ex-Servicemen's Section encouraged the young men returning to the Club to play in the now well established AIF Day and Barbecue Day. The response was gratifying and the Section grew in numbers.

Of all the moves made during this Post-War period, the exclusion of "Public" players from the course was probably the most momentous. Circumstances rather than deliberation probably dictated this decision.

Public playing times were weekdays, when the tee was free; up to 10 a.m. Saturday; and up to 9 a.m. Sundays. Fees were increased in July 1946 to 3/6d. weekdays and 5/-d. weekends. After this was advertised in the newspapers, a call was received from an officer of the "Prices Commission". Later a letter from the Commissioner advised that Club was in breach of the National Security (Prices) Regulations.

One thing led to another and, eventually, it was decided to exclude the Public as from February 1948. Exceptions were, approved organised parties and those recommended by the Secretary. Though the exclusion of the Public was advertised in the papers, some public golfers took advantage of the situation and played early at no cost. They could not be distinguished from the many new Members.

In March 1952 the President, in this tenth year of office, retired. Much could be written about Horrie Hayman. He was a "Debenture Holder" in the very early days of Dee Why Club; he and Perce Stanley had negotiated the purchase of the property for Cromer Country Club Ltd and he had guided the Club for ten long years towards the goals he had set at the 1946 Annual General Meeting. The Mortgages had been cleared and the other goals were in sight. It was not surprising that at the Annual General Meeting of 1952, the Members elevated him to Life Membership and also invited him to become Club Patron.

Ours is not the only organisation this remarkable man has helped along the way. Let us quote what Manly Rotary said of him many years ago:

"H. F. 'Horrie' Hayman. Now listed as 'Senior Active', Horrie is certainly very active. He retains all his enthusiasm for the Rotary projects and ideals and fellowship of his contemporaries AND his fourteen grandchildren. Past President and one of the few surviving Charter members of our Club, Horrie has had an interesting and colourful career since migrating to sunny N.S.W. from Canterbury in the land of the Silver Fern in 1911. Eldest son of a pioneer farmer in New Zealand he decided to enter the building industry and under expert tuition, qualified as a carpenter and joiner then acquired ability as architectural draughtsman and quantity surveyor. After some years of practical experience on site construction in N.S.W., Victoria and South Australia, he returned to Manly and commenced a building construction company which was actively identified with the early development of Dee Why-Collaroy



Horace Flint Hayman. Patron, Life Member.

*Committee 1940, Vice-President 1941, President 1942-1951.*

area. Foundation secretary of the first Manly Master Builders Association, he was alert to the needs for improved service to the building industry, was co-founder of the first timber yard and sawmill in Warringah Shire in 1922. In 1932 after the disastrous experiences of the depression of that period, Horrie was able to purchase the old established timber yard of Messrs. A. & E. Ellis and formed the Company now known as Hayman and Ellis and developed it into a comprehensive and successful builders supply house. During World War II all private building was banned so Horrie identified himself with the wartime project of camp construction for Army, Navy and Air Force

finally establishing a shipyard at Newcastle where over 80 vessels from 45 foot tugs to 90 foot trawlers were constructed for the U.S.A. Army.

All facets of Community Service have benefitted from Horrie's energy over the past 50 years. He was Foundation Treasurer of Manly-Warringah Show Society, three year President of Manly Chamber of Commerce, Foundation Director of Manly Co-operative Building Society, three years Member of Warringah Shire Planning Committee and ten years President of Cromer Golf Club. He found time for other activities including Dee Why Choral Society, Dee Why Surf Club, Warringah Citizens' Brass Band, Local Progress Committees, Political Committees and the establishment of the Dee Why Presbyterian Church. All these as a sideline to raising a family of four sons and two daughters and running a business. Horrie's 26 great years of membership of this Rotary Club, which takes in the first twenty years as 100 per cent recorded attendances."

In the early days of Cromer this man envisaged an entrance from the unmade road on the Club's western boundary to a Clubhouse on the hill behind the 9th tee. Long before Motels came into being, he talked of Motel-like accommodation on the hill for golfing visitors. His advice was "Do not spend more than is necessary on the present Clubhouse. Save and work to build one up on the hill".

And so an era ended. Hayman's era.

## Chapter Ten

### THE RECENT YEARS

With the post-war years successfully negotiated succeeding committees carried on the task of improvement. At first the object was confined to improving the standard of the golf course and providing better facilities for members at the Club-house—but this gradually developed into a drive for “A” Grade status.

In addition to the drive exerted there were two major factors which contributed to attainment of the goal. Firstly, there was the ascending buoyant nature of the economy which created an optimistic outlook throughout the community. Secondly, negotiations for the sale of the McPherson land purchased in 1949 created, on paper, an asset upon which the Club could borrow substantial funds with which to carry out the necessary work.

The success of the venture does not mean that the path was smooth, that every move made was in the right direction, or that the various moves were accepted without question by members. At times the voice of members was loudly and clearly in opposition and thus corrections were made.

One of the many moves made to improve the playing area was a plan drawn up by the late Mr. Eric Apperly. It had great merit but the costs of projected new greens and tees were a drawback as was the necessity to restrict play on some holes during construction. Adaptions were made. By eliminating the original 2nd hole along the banks of South Creek, the 5th, 6th and 7th holes were lengthened. The original 7th hole up to the lower car park was eliminated also and it and the original 2nd were replaced by two holes up the hill to the west of the dam at the entrance.

The dam had not then been built but a wide, and rough, creek ran from the waterfall to the entrance bridge and the cliff was higher than today. The tee was placed at the roadway and southern boundary corner and the tee shot was supposed to be across the creek and up over the cliff. It was a blind shot aimed into the blue sky with the hope that it would land where the fairway took a dogleg to the left around a large tree. The fairway then crossed the road (shown on the map as proposed to run along the western boundary) to a green which was located



opposite where the fifth house from the corner in Cromer Road has since been built. Cromer Road did not exist. Par was 4 and the distance a short 276 yards—but what yards.

The second of these hill holes was built north and almost parallel to the first described. It was a par 3 of 160 yards with a green to the rear and north of the present 4th tee.

The new “hole-up-the-hill” was rejected by many members and, together with a slight downturn in the national economy, it could be blamed for a substantial fall in membership. The holes were given the name of “Coronary” or “Occlusion” Hill.

One suggestion to overcome the general opposition to the holes was to erect a trestle bridge from the tee to the top of the cliff. This was effectively quashed at the 1955 Annual General Meeting by that old stalwart George Powell who dramatically exclaimed “What is the use of a bridge up there when my ball is down here?”

The year 1960 sounded the death-knell of the “Hill” when the owner of land upon which the fairway encroached decided to cancel the lease. Also, the fact that the fairway crossed the unmade road became common knowledge and the futility of the holes was accepted. They were eliminated in 1962.

As far back as the 1957 Annual General Meeting members had recommended to the committee the employment of a course architect to find alternative holes. Among those from whom advice was sought was the designer of the Royal Canberra Golf Course, John Harris. Though his proposal was not accepted he left his mark on the course for it was he who suggested that ponds be dug to add character.

Eventually a committee was formed comprised of The Captain, S. “Chappie” Pierce as convenor; committeemen, Tom Mitchell, Sel Egan-Lee and Ross Phillips; members, Ric Wolff and Reg Carey and the Professional Neville Wilson.

This committee invited members to submit suggestions and after inspection of these suggestions it submitted a recommendation to the Club Committee in August 1962 which resulted in the Course lay-out substantially as it is today.

Today’s 13th, which had been a par 3, was lengthened to a par 4 and the 14th and 16th holes were created. It was necessary to fill swamp but the fill from ponds dug helped with this. What the professional designers had missed the members had seen. It was a grand example of the wealth of knowledge and expertise available from that sometimes not so silent majority.

Tenders were called in 1959 for a barrage across South Creek to impound fresh water. When it was completed in 1960, a farm type irrigation system of aluminium pipes with attached sprinklers was introduced for fairway watering. The pipes were

on wheels and were towed about the course to the required location and attached to the reticulation system. It was a great step forward in the improvement of the fairways.

Treeplanting had been in progress since George Powell began it shortly after the war. The ficus trees were planted between the 4th and 5th fairways and a member, King Cowper, planted the Kaffir Plums between the 5th and 6th fairways. In 1955 members Herb Smith and Bob Fairlie began a project which transformed the old paddock into the fine spectacle that it is today. When Herb moved to other climes Bob carried on with the help of others. Both deservedly received Life Membership in recognition of their grand contribution.

Whilst the golf course was being shaped the Clubhouse also received attention. In 1953 an extra window-bay in length was added in a northerly direction. This gave a larger locker-room and a new bath-room downstairs and an extended Member's Room with Entrance Foyer, and offices upstairs. To the members' delight a new and larger bar also resulted. With donations from various members of the club "View" windows were installed in the extensions and this set the pattern for window treatment in later additions. Such improvement to the building made it necessary to recarpet and refurnish the Members Room.

White ants found the beams supporting the kitchen floor to their liking so in 1958 that area and the dining room was re-arranged, rebuilt and re-equipped.

The dimension stone Pro's Shop on the northern side of the 1st tee was also extended during this period.

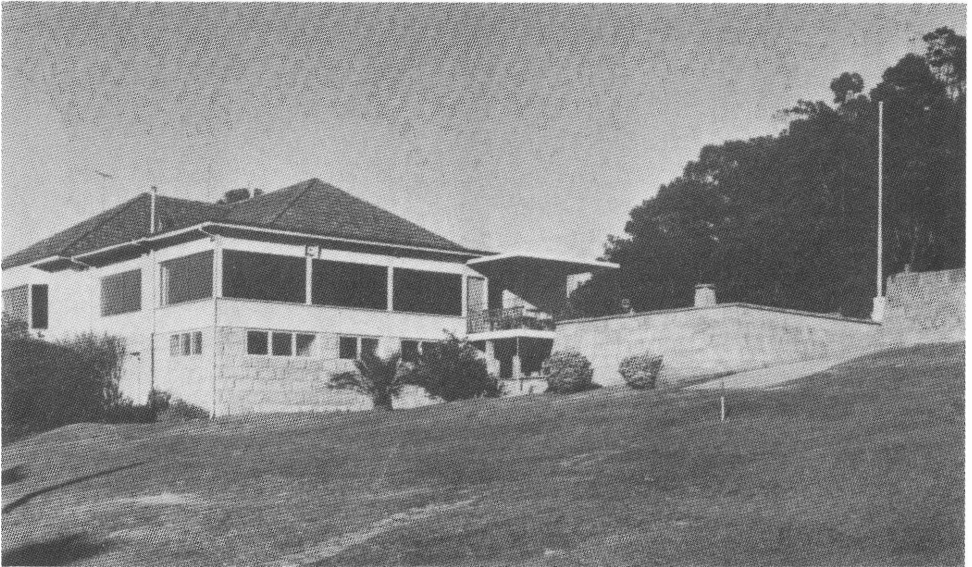
Ten years after the '53 extensions to the Clubhouse, a further extension adding the three northern bays was made giving, in addition to more room both up and downstairs, again a new and larger bar and bathroom and, beneath the bar area a large room intended for a billiard room.

In 1955 the original club name of Cromer Country Club Ltd was changed to Cromer Golf Club Ltd with the members' approval at the Annual General Meeting. Reasons given by the mover of the motion, Royce Jeffrey, appeared to be based upon the proposed new name being more appropriate and fitting in with company law better. The real reason, however, was that such a name was more appropriate to the "A" Grade Club status being sought.

And so time passed by and Cromer had a satisfactory Clubhouse and a Golf Course which was basically so but which required grooming. Alf Mackie was engaged as "Course Manager" and equipment was purchased to suit his needs. The trees planted by Herb Smith and Bob Fairlie were encouraged



*Stark dead branches of gums stand out from the Old 18th Green and the new stone Professional Shop at the First Tee.*



**The First Clubhouse Extension.**

*In 1953 an extra window bay was added to the northern side of the clubhouse. The A.I.F. Section with the hope, faith and charity of Mr. C. A. "Cecil" Gaskin, a builder-member, erected a Sundial War Memorial of finished sandstone and complete with flagpole. Between the clubhouse and (at that time) Tenth Tee.*

with attention and the reticulation system was extended. Some new bunkers and new ponds were made. Mackie did a good job and the course was indeed in great shape when the Club made application to the New South Wales Golf Association. A coloured brochure prepared by Dick Cochran accompanied the application and at long last in 1965 the years of effort were rewarded and the club was elevated to Group I status.

The construction work on both House and Course had required considerable finance and it was in this field that audacity on the part of various committees, the paper asset of the McPherson land and the improved value of the Club property, played their part.

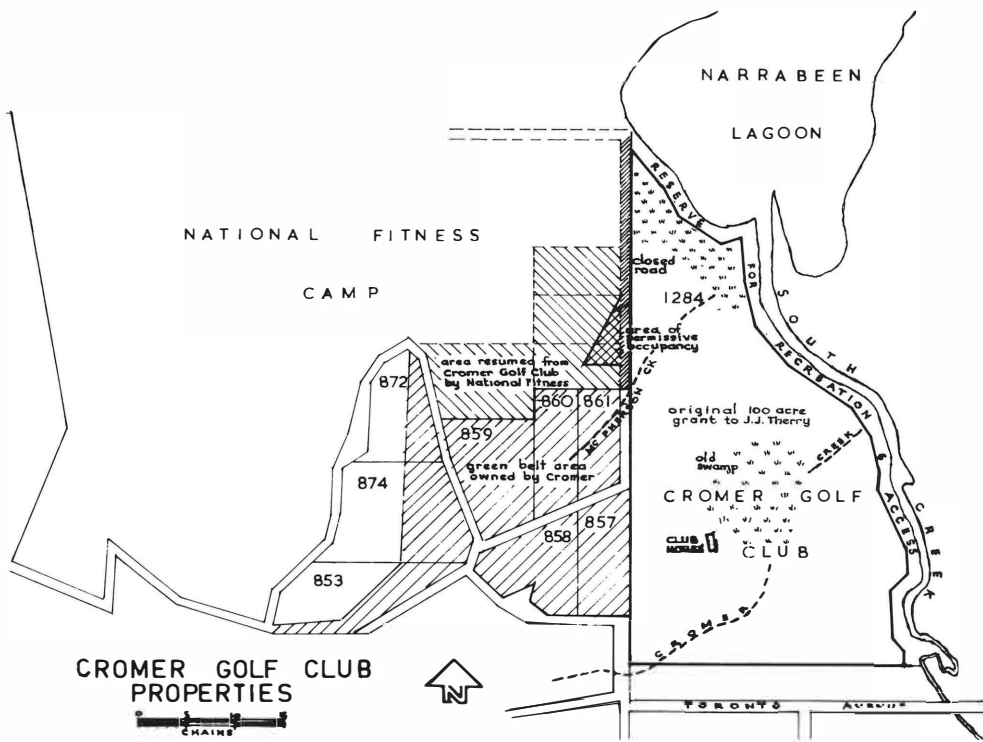
The McPherson land purchased in 1949 for £2,200 comprised a number of sections totalling 143 acres 2 roods 9 perches. Two of the sections, Nos. 282 and 283 were located west of the 10th green and northwards to the tennis courts. In 1953 the club proposed to put a tee on Lot 282 just beyond the road (proposed) which divides the Cromer land from the McPherson land. Our present 11th tee is on the spot chosen. It was then found that we did not own the land for between the time of signing the Contract of Sale and the time when Title was transferred to the Club, Lots 282 and 283 had been resumed for National Fitness (date 17th February 1950). The Club was not compensated and it is doubtful if the vendor was. When investigating it in 1953 it was found that the solicitor who handled the transaction for the Club was now deceased and the vendor's solicitor had destroyed his records.

When purchased, the land could have been subdivided into housing lots but in 1953 the "County of Cumberland Scheme" took control of such things and subdivision was restricted.

At the Annual General Meeting of 1957 members recommended that committee investigate the possibility of selling the land and thus finance the proposed House and Course alterations. In 1961, with land development a "big thing" in Sydney's metropolitan area, the President, Gordon McLeod, and Treasurer, Jack Withycombe, reached agreement with Parkes Development Pty Limited for an "Option to Purchase" when the land should be released for residential purposes by the County Scheme. This agreement was ratified by members at an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting in 1961.

By negotiating this Option to Purchase, Parkes Development, who were a company of good repute in the land development business, established a market value for the land. This became an asset to the Club as an equity against which it could borrow money for development.

The year 1965 brought the first crack in the edifice when



**Cromer Golf Club Properties.**

*Layout plan showing the various blocks, title numbers and reserves for recreation and access roads presently owned by Cromer Golf Club.*

the Education Department, who control the National Fitness establishment on our perimeter, requested the erection of a fence to prevent balls hit from the 11th tee landing on their bowling green.

In 1966 this was taken a step further when they asked that the tee be vacated as they wished to develop the area. Whilst the Club was negotiating this request it became a secondary matter for it was the President's unenviable task to advise the 1967 Annual General Meeting that 90 acres of McPherson land was to be resumed by Government for National Fitness purposes. What of our financial commitments? What of the Option of Purchase negotiated with Parkes?

The Club claimed £700,000 from the Education Department for the 90 acres and the Department offered £94,000. In an endeavour to strengthen our case solicitors and Senior

Counsel were engaged as were the services of two Real Estate Valuers and a Surveyor expert in residential subdivision.

The matter wore on and an application was made for £50,000 to be paid without prejudice to our case. This was, of course, refused but there were two bright spots. Parkes suggested a new agreement for the fifty acres of land remaining after the resumption and National Fitness eased in their attitude toward the matter of the 11th tee. The Government Real Estate Office later issued to the Club a lease for "Permissive Occupancy" of the site and the pain of the resumption was eased a little.

Whilst awaiting a hearing of our "Case" in the Land and Valuation Court, doubts were raised about the Government's ability to resume the land for the purpose stated. An adjournment was obtained in the Land and Valuation Court whilst action was taken in the Equity Court on the matter of "ability".

Meanwhile the time of the "Option" with Parkes was running out. There was much legal argument and sparring by both sides but, finally, a new agreement was negotiated for the 50-odd acres remaining. This was arranged by a sub-committee of E. Kime, N. Smart, P. Marks, L. Hubball and R. Fairlie, and it required Parkes to make an immediate payment of £34,000 with the life of the Option to be until March 1976. The money was a great help and quietened the Bank who, like the Club, had been much concerned.

The case in the Equity Court was lost and an Appeal made in the High Court. This was heard in 1973 and it also was lost. It was back to square one and the Land and Valuation Court.

In 1974 a decision was handed down which favoured the Club a little for we were now to receive \$115,000 plus interest which gave a total between \$140,000 and \$150,000. After seven years the price had been increased by \$21,000 and the Club had been for a long trip up the legal garden path.

Despite the time taken and the disappointment with the payment received, there can be little doubt that the McPherson land played a big part in financing the Course and House improvements which obtained the elevation to Group I and the amenity and enjoyment since available to members.

In recent years a deterioration in the state of Narrabeen Lagoon has raised much controversy and some action by various Government authorities. An "Authority" has been set up to enquire into the question and the State Planning Authority has placed all undeveloped land in the catchment area of the Lagoon under a zoning which does not permit subdivision to less than 25 hectares. The remaining McPherson land is thus effectively tied up for the time and the charges it incurs are



somewhat of a liability. Times will change.

It will be remembered that when the land at the head of Narrabeen Lagoon was granted to the Reverend J. J. Therry, one of the conditions was a reserve of 100 feet from the lagoon and South Creek. In later years this was altered to a surveyed area of approximately the same width and we have always enjoyed occupancy of the strip. This occupancy was challenged in the early 70s so talks were held with the Local Council and the Lands Department with a view to obtaining a "Lease in Perpetuity". Our proposal was not successful but an agreement was reached for us to continue occupation but—the Minister advised that the Club may be required to vacate at a future date. Alienation of such lands from public use is against Government policy.

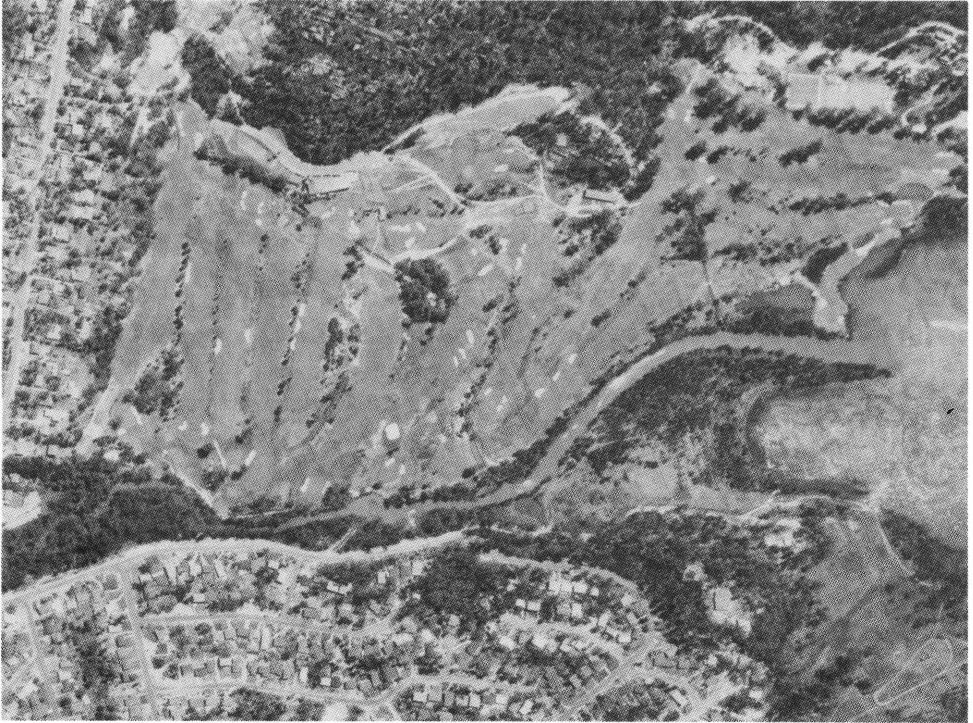
The matter of the area of the 11th tee has also been resolved. The location of our western boundary along the 11th fairway is not marked but between it and the National Fitness land is the afore mentioned unmade proposed road. National Fitness applied for "closure" of the road and this was agreed to giving Fitness occupancy of the whole. After protest, the Club was given occupancy of that portion south of the tennis courts on which part of the 11th fairway and probably the 11th tee are located. There is a proviso which requires that the Club shall allow access through this closed road to the "Reserve" (mentioned in the previous paragraph) on the perimeter of the Lagoon and South Creek.

No less important than these major matters are the many details of Club life for collectively they tell the story of the members and things close to members.

In 1955 the drought was broken when City water became available from that "Tee" in the pipeline to National Fitness and, for the first time in Club history, bottled beer was available in quantity to members at Christmas.

In 1957, in appreciation for past services, Life Membership was given to ex-Treasurer Gerry Valance. In 1960 Fred Breakspear and Stan Ottewill were similarly rewarded and in 1963 the honour went to Harry Andrews and Eric Gay. Each of these members had belonged to the old Dee Why Club. In 1970 Herb Smith was given Life Membership for the part he had played in the tree planting scheme and in 1972 Bob Fairlie was also honoured as was Len Hubball. Bob, in his own quiet way, still plants trees to beautify the course and shade the weary golfer.

Over the years rules have been made to suit the circumstances of the time. It is perhaps difficult to understand in these days of casual summer wear that in 1955 members were reported



**The Trees Are Starting to Grow.**

*Taken in the late '60s it is shown how the Smith-Fairlie tree-planting scheme to beautify the course and divide the fairways is transforming the "paddock" into a lush golf course.*

to committee for having removed their coats on the evening of a Mixed Invitation Day. After consideration, the committee ruled that dress regulations must be strictly adhered to but, as time passed, member pressure forced an easing of such rules in summer. When Tee shirts were introduced to men's wear they, like ripple-soled shoes, were banned.

Golf rules, State-wide and local, are not static and the changes have been many. The "Count-back" system of deciding a winner was introduced in 1953 and the rule permitting a ball to be cleaned on the putting green was originally a local rule introduced because of wet conditions at Cromer. There was at one time a Local Rule which permitted a player to lift and drop within two clublengths if the Palm tree on the 9th was in the line to the green. This was to eliminate the danger of the ball rebounding if it struck the tree. Why this particular tree was selected for special attention is not known. The Club suggested



The Second Clubhouse Extension.

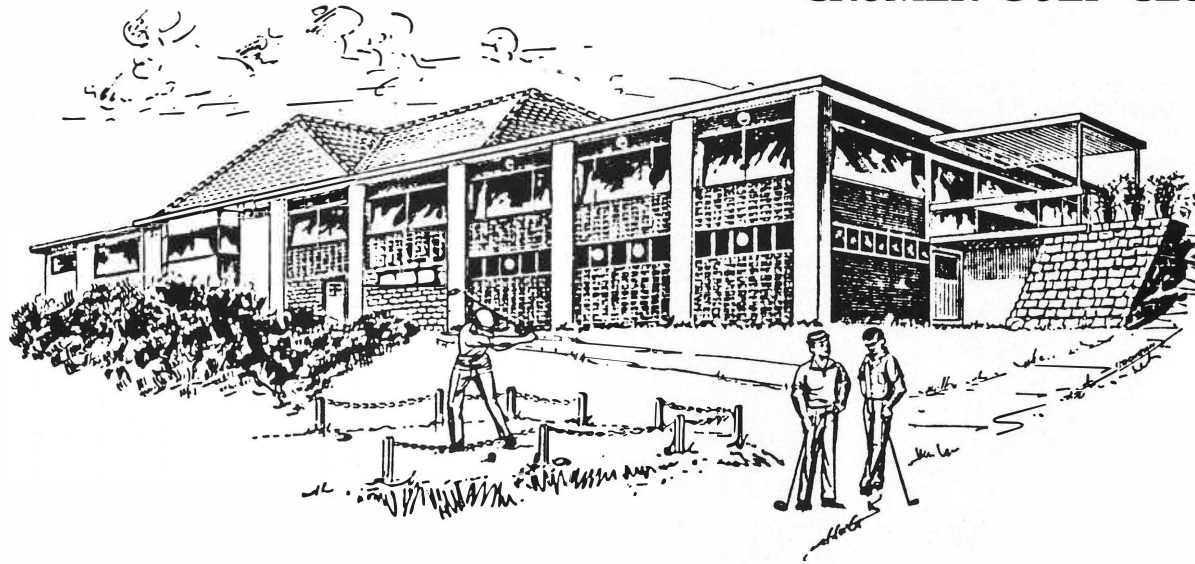
*The three new brick-fronted northern bays added to the Clubhouse in 1963 are clearly shown. These, with a new patio and relocation of the War Memorial plus appropriate internal alterations and furnishings were major financial commitments for the Club in that year.*

that a rule be introduced permitting plug marks to be repaired before putting but this was rejected by the Association. So rules do change.

The year 1965 marked the 25th anniversary of Cromer Golf Club so a portrait of Horace Flint Hayman was obtained and hung in the foyer. There was also a brief Club history published containing information supplied by Horrie and set out by Dick Cochran. On Friday 22nd of November 1974 a dinner was held at the Clubhouse to honour the 80th birthday of the "Father of the Club" and a suitable gift was presented to Horrie who, still in good health and condition, responded in his own forthright manner.

The year 1967 saw a move to obtain an automatic watering system. Bores were sunk for water and a large pump was installed at the barrage. Holding tanks were installed in the copse and the dam at the entrance was built with the idea of

## CROMER GOLF CLUB



A MEMENTO OF A BALL  
HELD AT CROMER ON 15th NOVEMBER, 1963 TO CELEBRATE  
THE OPENING OF EXTENSIONS TO THE CLUB HOUSE

supplementing the supply to the tanks by gravity. The system became operative in 1969 and the only part of the venture to fail was the dam at the entrance which filled with sand instead of water. So great was the supply of sand at one stage that the Club sold it for \$1 per cubic yard. Some dam.

In 1971 the idea of House Membership was introduced to allow those on the "Waiting List" for membership to enjoy the Clubhouse facilities and get to know members. Another object was to encourage local non-playing residents to participate in the Club's social activities.

August 1974 brought the death of Peter Bruce who was Club Secretary and a fine unassuming man who had rowed for Australia. Mrs. Brown with her happy efficient manner carried the burden of the Secretarial duties until a new Secretary was appointed. We have had some admirable servants over the years like Gordon Wright the greenkeeper, the inimitable Neville Ison the caterer and that great Secretary Manager Eric Cantelin who, with his wife in the office, formed such an efficient team.

Grade teams have been entered in the Pennant competitions and acquitted themselves with varying success. In 1960 the Members team was second in Group II and in 1964 won the competition. They were, however, one year behind the ladies for in 1963 the Associates team won the L.G.U. Pennants winning all matches. Junior teams were entered from about 1960 but were at times short of players. Despite this, in 1972 they too made their mark by winning the Junior Pennant.

A fine young fellow named Geoff Berkman played in the Grade team and was Club Champion in 1954. He died in 1959 but his love of golf and Cromer was such that he left a legacy to the Club. With this money the Club purchased the Trophy Cabinet and the Score Board. In Geoff's memory his father donated the Berkman Bowl which is the trophy for the annual competition we play with such enthusiasm.

In recent years Associate Meg Felan brought honour to the Club when she was appointed to the Council of the Ladies Golf Union, the first representative from Cromer to serve on such an august body. Then in 1978 Eric Kime retired from the Presidency of the Club and, with many good wishes, became a member of the Council of the New South Wales Golf Association.

Committee men from Cromer and Long Reef meeting one another at Grade games arranged a challenge match between the two committees at Long Reef in 1974. This meeting in turn resulted in the annual game between members of the two Clubs with dinner afterwards and there is little doubt that the event has come to stay.



Associate Grade Team 1963 — First Pennant Winners for Cromer.

*A. Alcorn, J. Sinclair, C. Randall, D. Morton, P. McCarthy (Captain), R. Davis, M. Pails, L. Gebrig, J. Gillett, G. Russell, M. Salloway.*



Cromer Grade Team — Group 2 Pennant Winners 1964.

*Back Row: J. B. Sinclair (Captain), S. F. Pierce, N. Griffiths, K. Simmonds, R. J. Carey, R. H. Jeffreys (President). Front Row: G. B. Jones, D. Martin, R. J. Wolff, K. L. Walker.*





Junior Grade Team — Junior Pennant Winners 1972.

*Back Row: Ramon Kesur, Richard Moore, A. G. Pendergast (President), Stuart Woodhouse, Danny Fleetwood. Front Row: E. T. Kime (Captain), Rod Newbrun, Ian Harber, P. G. Marks (Vice-President).*

The years 1975-76 saw completion of the Pro-shop, patio extension and the landscaping scheme devised by Bob Martin. Without doubt they were another step forward. Enlargement of a number of tees and reconditioning of the course during two very wet years plus the construction of the very controversial 12th green were other major works completed.

The challenging 15th hole had always been damp in the area where a drive from the tee finishes. In 1977 this problem was attacked and the improvement is appreciated by all.

A billiard room has long been the desire of a section of the membership but the nearest they came to achieving their goal was when the room downstairs, which forms part of the locker room was given the title, Billiard Room. The cause was lost when in 1967 the Associates' Locker Room was extended taking part of the members' room and thus necessitating the use of the Billiard room for men's lockers. In 1974 an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting rejected a proposal to build a billiard room



west from the Lounge onto the car park. Voting was close and erratic so a ballot was called for. The result 69 for and 76 against. Another meeting to decide this matter was held in 1978 and in this year of 1979 the billiard room—so long a bone of contention—will be completed.

Looking back through history it is found that the first road entry proposed was over South Creek near the second hole, but the first entry we can ascertain was diagonally across the Toronto Avenue properties from Carrington Avenue. In 1949 the roadway from Toronto Avenue across Lot 7 (which had been purchased in 1940 for £45, plus £1 expenses) was built and has served for thirty years. The year 1978 saw a new entrance road constructed from Cromer Road. It was financed from the sale, at profit, of Lot 7. We certainly owe much to our past administrators.

The competition for places in the Senior and Junior Pennant and Apperley teams is matched by the Handicap players when they enter the Berkman Bowl or Max Cooper Trophy which are handicap events for pairs and individual players—match play. With the Club Championship and the similar B and C grade events, these competitions form the cream of the Club's golfing activities.

In 1978 after some urging by Ron Marles older members have begun, with committee approval, a game on Monday. For purposes of identification the nomenclature "Old Cavaliers" has been adopted but it has been suggested that, because of the loss of hair which generally accompanies age, the name may at a later date be changed to "The Roundheads". It would make Cromwell happy.

The group of half a dozen ex-servicemen in Dee Why Golf Club who held their tiny annual event, has grown to some 160. As the years go by the numbers increase though by now all must be over 50 years of age. One great treasure is First World War veteran Lal Coram, still young in spirit and appreciated by all. Another is ex Dee Why member and 1941 Club President Jim Stapleton who, though living on the other side of the Harbour and unable to play golf, still takes keen interest in Cromer and "His Boys".

Each year these ex-Servicemen run a Golf Day and dinner which is justifiably renowned as is the weekend away which has been held at Moss Vale for over twenty years. They also conduct a "Barbecue Day" with games to raise funds for charity and a Dinner Dance which is supposed to be a sop to the wives in exchange for a leave-pass to attend the weekend away. It seems to be a case of "who is kidding who". The ex-Servicemen's Day and other events have a high reputation for organisational

expertise and the high spirits which prevail provide year long discussion and merriment.

Old soldiers never die nor do the sailors or airmen of thirty odd years ago. After so many years they surely must be veterans, though it is doubtful if they would accept the title.

And so the Club has progressed producing a Clubhouse and Golf Course of high standard and attaining financial stability and a good name in the golfing world. What of the people who use these facilities and are "The Club".

The Associates have always been an asset to the Club apart from their decorative value. They have use of the Course and House at all times except Wednesday afternoons and Saturdays and thus keep the place alive on weekdays. On most of these days they have a competition for one group or another from "Business Girls" to "Veterans". Thursday is their main mid-week event when, for a change, they have precedence over Members.

They participate in Pennant golf and have contributed to State administration. The social life of the Club surely could not have attained its success and high standard without the presence and help of Associates. Their golfing ability and keenness is on a par with the Members and to repeat—they are an asset to the Club.

The Members are today of the same type as they have always been—a happy bunch of men from all walks of life using their Club for relaxation. A small bet on a game, a drive, or a putt, brings out the competitive spirit of a million-dollar deal. Then the winnings are put on the table at the 19th to buy drinks and a laugh for all. What better way to live?

There are no snobbish cliques. A few may play together at the same time each week, but should a vacancy occur, the "Johnny come lately" is made to feel at home, beginning with the full knowledge that his money will be welcome at the 19th.

The value of an institution such as this can only be gauged by the satisfaction it brings its members and associates.

Over the years mistakes have been made and victories have been won, but through all these vicissitudes there shows clearly a progressive march forward to keep abreast of the times and to provide whatever be necessary for members' enjoyment of the facility. There has always been a willingness to put back into the Club some effort in compensation for the pleasure derived from it.

The interest members show today in proposals and counter-proposals indicates that, at least for the foreseeable future, this happy situation will continue and Cromer will proceed with its forward march—to the satisfaction of its members.

## Chapter Eleven

# THE GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY OF THE AREA

Chapter One told briefly of the sea flowing through from Dee Why to Narrabeen across the flatlands of Cromer, of the uplift which raised the coastline above the sea, and of how erosion of the adjacent hills in time gradually filled the hollow until solid ground was formed.

The process continues and can be seen in the silting up of South Creek and Cromer Creek where the freeflow of water has been interrupted by damming the waterway. It can also be seen where, in times of heavy rain, Cromer Creek breaks over its bank at the sharp turn in front of the 3rd green and spreads detritus across the fairway, top-dressing it and raising it imperceptibly.

The detritus looks sandy because only the coarser grains such as quartz are seen but it is a grand mixture of all the minerals which make up the Hawkesbury Sandstone Group. A walk and fossick along the road to the Machine Shed where the hillside was bulldozed will reveal the various rocks and clays from which the detritus comes. Near the top of the rise above the 8th green is a lens or bed of pure white clay which indicates the variety which abounds. It is these clay-like materials and the humus from rotted growth which make the soil tend to hold water rather than shed it down into the water table.

The map is intended to show the location of the creeks and swamps prior to the building of a golf course. The outlines can only be approximate but have been based on the information available from the reports of the original course surveyor and designer and the present location of particular trees whose affinity for saline or fresh water is known.

**South Creek** which forms our eastern perimeter drains a substantial area of land as far south as Beacon Hill and also the western slope of Collaroy Plateau. It has two tributaries, Wheeler and Cromer Creeks, which drain the hills to the west of the golf course.

There are Members of our Club who, in the days before and just after the War of 1939-1945, held family picnics on its banks and swam and fished in its waterholes. The only house in the area was that of the Wheelers on the point beyond the end of the bush track which served as a road. It was a beautiful

freeflowing stream with wildflowers and shade trees on its banks and with a variety of birds in the trees or fishing in its waters.

The subdivision of the surrounding land into housing blocks ended this and some years ago the Club's need for water resulted in the barrage across the creek. The height of the barrage was one foot above the maximum height which the local Council allowed the lagoon to attain before opening a path through the sandbar to the sea. Some years later Council raised this lagoon height a further foot and to prevent salt intrusion, the barrage was raised a foot also.

Like the dam at the Club entrance, South Creek is now a repository for the detritus brought down by the stream, the water table is raised by the height of the impounded waters and the natural drainage of the course in that area is retarded.

Cromer Creek is shown on Council maps as "un-named watercourse" but we name it thus for identification. It comes from the hills in the southwest and under the old entrance road. On passing the 3rd green, it originally swept on in a wide arc across the fairway to the bottom of the hill. It did not turn sharply across the front of the 3rd green as at present. On reaching the base of the spur it turned north across the fairways, in a path which may still be identified, until it met the swamp on the first half of the 1st fairway. The swamp covered some five acres including the first half of the 1st fairway, the copse and much of the 17th fairway. The outlet from the swamp can be seen as a wet hollow in front of the 16th tee leading to the creek which joins South Creek near the 15th green.

It is evident that the old creek bed still carries water to South Creek and with this water it takes some of the material with which it was filled, for over the years the surface has sunk visibly beneath the surrounding fairways.

Though old maps do not show it, there probably was a small creek on the line which Cromer Creek now takes from the 3rd green and the builder in his wisdom diverted the main creek into this by building a rock wall, which still remains, at the bend in front of the green.

There is considerable fall in this creek, from the 3rd green to the copse, and little detritus is left on the creekbed despite its rough nature. As the creek widens and its speed decreases near its confluence with South Creek so the detritus is left on the creekbed.

McPherson Creek is the name given to another un-named watercourse because it drains the McPherson land to the west of the golf course. It emerges from a gully south of and west of the 10th green and does not drain our golf course like the other two creeks but introduces water to it. Originally it emptied out

onto the flatland and into the swamp which was filled to form the 12th and 13th fairways. The builder diverted its waters at the gully mouth into a drain on the left of the 10th green, thence by a covered drain across the fairway to the 13th tee from where it flows through an open drain again and across the 15th fairway to South Creek.

Despite efforts to contain the water to this new path, players are occasionally plagued or blessed by its escape when, together with a small stream in front of the 11th tee, it follows generally the old stream pathway across the 11th, 12th and 13th fairways.

**The swamps.** Mr. Wright, who was the surveyor employed by Cromer Pty Ltd, referred to five acres of swamp in the centre of the land and it can be reasonably outlined by rising ground and swamp mahogany trees.

Mr. Whytock, the architect of the original course, advised the need to fill three acres at the northern end. This can reasonably be identified as the flat on which the 11th green is located, the low part of the 12th fairway and the original 15th fairway which was the first 164 yards of the present 13th fairway now being raised again. This swamp continued on from the 12th fairway across the 2nd half of the 13th fairway to the lagoon and South Creek but this portion was filled by the Club in 1963 to make the extension to the 13th and to build the 14th.

There were patches of low lying swampy land on the old 2nd fairway and nearby. It was not really swamp but rather low lying and sedge covered and it took a long time to dry out after rain. It was part of that wet area which begins on the right of the 1st fairway just past halfway, surrounded by swamp mahogany and casuarinas. This sedge covered ground continues on across the 7th fairway in front of the tee, has been built up (with drains beneath) to carry the 6th green, again as sedge covered land in front of the 5th tee and then on around the back of the 4th green across the 2nd fairway to South Creek.

Why this was drained in a southward direction against the natural pattern is hard to understand not having seen it in the condition it was when the work was done. This area accepts the water from the eastern side of the spur which runs north down from the 3rd fairway.

## Chapter Twelve

### THE TREES AT CROMER

Trees at Cromer can be divided into two groups, those indigenous to the area and those which have been cultivated.

Whilst the cultivated trees are mainly Australian natives, the division between them and the indigenous trees, is of importance. Just as there are garden flowers suited for particular locations and conditions, so it is with trees. In forming the golf course, the surface was altered but the remaining indigenous trees tell irrefutably what the conditions are beneath the surface.

#### THE INDIGENOUS TREES

In the brackish water of the lagoon edge and along the brackish creeks and swamps grow the Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*).

Close behind and sometimes among its rear ranks, are two dissimilar species, the Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*) and the Paperbark (*Melaleuca linariifolia*).

Away from the salinity are the Bangalays (*Eucalyptus Botryoides*), the Sydney Peppermint (*Eucalyptus piperita*) and the Sydney Red or Rusty Gum (*Angopbera costata*). The latter two sometimes grow so close together that their branches and roots overlap.

In wet places both saline and fresh are the beautiful Cabbage Tree Palms (*Livistona australis*).

On the freshwater creeks and in the foothills are two types of *Casuarina*, the Black She Oak (*C. littoralis*) and the Forest Oak (*C. torulosa*).

It is not difficult to identify these trees.

#### CASUARINAS

*C. glauca* surrounds the 12th tee and it will be noted that they are an upright tree with stiff limbs and branchlets. The leaves are tiny points at each node or joint in the branchlets and are about sixteen in number. These trees range up the South Creek to opposite the 6th green.

*C. littoralis* occurs from the 6th green on along the creek-bank and it can be distinguished from the *glauca* by its general weeping appearance rather than stiff and upright. The branch-

lets are smaller in diameter and the leaves number six to eight in each whorl.

*C. torulosa* has a similar appearance to the *littoralis* and the difference is not easy to see. It is however more likely to be found on the foothills and its leaves number four and rarely five.

Some *Casuarinas* display a cylindrical cone which contains seeds, whilst others do not. The three types of trees at Cromer are unisexual so one tree has a flower which becomes the seed cone whilst another has red flowers which grow terminally on the branchlets and give the tree a rusty appearance. The trees at the 9th tee are an example of this.

### MELALEUCA

Not many *Melaleuca linariifolia* remain for their natural habitat was cleared for fairways. There is a lone specimen to the left of the 11th green, a few along the border of the 15th fairway, some in a clump on the left of the 17th fairway near the bridge, but the best stand is behind the 17th tee and between it and the 1st green. These latter flower well and some are host to the "Thumbail Orchid" (*Dandrobium linguiforma*). These paper-barks differ from those which have been planted in that they are not as robust and they have smaller, narrower leaves which appear to grow in a bunch. The flower is a small white bottle-brush.

### LIVISTONA AUSTRALIS

This Cabbage Tree Palm needs little description beyond saying that a splendid example hundreds of years old grows on the 1st tee.

### ANGOPHERA COSTATA

The Sydney Rusty Gum is easily distinguished by its smooth bark which is pink when renewed each year and its gnarled branches. Examples exist near the lower tee at the 6th hole and behind the 6th green. They have narrow leaves which grow off the bough in pairs, opposite one another. This distinguishes them from the Eucalypts whose leaves are alternate on the branch.

### THE EUCALYPTS

The Swamp Mahogany and the Bangalay are similar in appearance in that they have dark, thick bark with a broken surface. The Mahogany however grows in saline areas and its dark bark covers out to the small branches. The Bangalay bark ends at the minor branches which are smooth and light in colour.

In the autumn when the trees flower, the Mahogany pro-



duces a much larger "Gumnut" or fruit than the Bangalay and this has a long-pointed cap which the flower pushes off. The Mahogany is the tree which flowers profusely in May and June and attracts the honey eating birds.

The two large trees dividing the 11th and 12th fairways are Bangalays.

The Sydney Peppermint differs in appearance to the other two Eucalypts. The first two are upright trees, with upward reaching branches whilst the Peppermint has a short hole and spreading branches. The bark is grey and fibrous generally giving the impression that it winds around the trunk in a slow spiral and it hangs from the branches in strips. The foliage is a light green compared to the Mahogany and Bangalay and when crushed in the hand gives off a strong peppermint odour. It flowers in November and December with a small fruit and flower. Examples surround the 2nd green.

In addition to the above there are perhaps half a dozen trees not identified near the 10th green and 13th tee. It is thought that they are Woollybutts (*E. longifolia*) and a hybrid Woollybutt—Swamp Mahogany.

We are indebted to the Botanists of the National Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney for the final identification of the *Casuarinas*.

## THE CULTIVATED TREES

The Cultivated Trees are those which have been planted by Members over the years. There are numerous species both Australian and exotic. Recently, it was discovered that up toward the 3rd tee the Tallow Woods (*Eucalyptus microcorys*) have dropped seed and young trees are now growing. They are not indigenous nor are they cultivated. Perhaps they can be called "naturalised". Whichever, they are indeed welcome for they grow into a beautiful tree.

The first information on tree-planting at Cromer dates back to when the Associates score card named the present 4th hole "One Tree Plain" and George Powell wrung \$10 from Committee to purchase trees to plant on the course. Unhappily it is not known where.

Some years later, Committee planted the Ficus trees on the hill to help divide the present 4th and 5th fairways. A Member whose business was horticulture brought the African Kaffir Plums near the 5th green and the delicate Chinese tree on the left of the 7th near the green. Others have also made their contribution.

The really big push to divide the fairways and beautify the

course came from Herb Smith and Bob Fairlie in the early 1960s. Both received a much deserved Life Membership for their sustained effort which truly transformed the golf course. Herb Smith has lived on the North Coast for a number of years but Bob Fairlie still raises and plants natives, some from seed gathered on the course.

The names of some of the Eucalypts planted by various Members have been lost, but steps are being taken to again identify them. The following list, however, gives the names and location of an example of the majority of those planted.

### AUSTRALIAN NATIVE TREES

Common Name	Botanical Name	Location of Example
Tallow Wood	<i>Eucalyptus microcorys</i>	Left of 5th green
Bangalay	<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>	Front and right of the 1st tee
Willow Gum	<i>Eucalyptus scoparia</i>	Right of 1st fairway 1/3 way
Narrow leaved Peppermint	<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>	Between 11th and 12th fairways
Spotted Gum	<i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>	Right of 16th green
Scarlet Flowering Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ficifolia</i>	Right of 5th green
Cabbage Gum	<i>Eucalyptus amplifolia</i>	Between 15th green and pond
Lemon Scented Gum	<i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i>	
Bracelot Honey Myrtle	<i>Melaleuca amillaris</i>	End of 7th fairway on right
Broadleaf Paper Bark	<i>Melaleuca quinquinerva</i>	Front left 16th tee
Prickly Paper Bark	<i>Melaleuca stypheloides</i>	Between 4th and 5th fairways
Brush Box	<i>Tristania conferta</i>	At the right hand bunker on 5th
Water Gum	<i>Tristania laurina</i>	Pond. Right of 16th
Smooth Barked Apple or Sydney Red Gum	<i>Angopbera costa</i>	Right of 15th tee
Pink Tipped Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon salignes</i>	Near 7th tee

Red Flowering Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon hybrid</i>	Near 7th tee
Drooping Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	
Red Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	Behind 3rd green
Port Jackson Cypress Pine	<i>Callitrus rhomboidea</i>	
Swamp Oak	<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Right 1st near waterway
Silky Oak	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Behind the 2nd green
Cabbage Tree Palm	<i>Livistona australis</i>	Left of 13th
Hills Weeping Fig	<i>Ficus microcorpa</i>	Hill between 4th and 5th
White Honeysuckle	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Near Paperbarks on 16th
Flame Tree	<i>Brachybiton acerifolium</i>	

### TREES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

Common Name	Botanical Name	Location of Example
Kaffir Plum	<i>Harpephyllum Caffrum</i>	Right of 6th near green
Liquid Amber	<i>Liquidamber styraciflua</i>	Left of 15th green
Jacaranda	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Near Assoc. 11th tee
NZ Christmas Tree	<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	Left of 5th green
Cripsii	<i>Cripsii retnisipora</i>	Behind 18th green
Prunus or Plum	<i>Prunis bleirana</i>	Along path at Clubhouse
Black Poplar	<i>Poplar nigra</i>	Between 11th and 12th
Magnolia	<i>Magnolia soulangia</i>	Along path at Clubhouse
Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus</i>	Right hand side entry drive
Weeping Willow	<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Left of 3rd green

## Chapter Thirteen

### BIRDS AT CROMER

Birds select a habitat which will provide them with protection and food. At Cromer we are fortunate for we have habitats to suit a wide variety of species. The Lagoon, the creeks, the marsh, the flat open land and the forest country each has its own bird community though they at times overlap.

When trees were felled and the understory cleared to form the golf course, many birds must have lost their homes and the communities were reduced. Now that our tree and shrub planting scheme provides more homes and food, the birds increase in number.

The tree which attracts the greatest number of birds each year is the Swamp Mahogany whose flowers, in late autumn, are rich in nectar. Strangely, the birds it attracts are the most colourful and the noisiest, with perhaps the exception of the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. April, May and June we see and hear the Rainbow Lorriquet, the Noisy Miner and the chattering Noisy Friarbird, particularly in the vicinity of the 15th and 16th tees.

A number of our neighbours on the perimeter of the course provide honeyed bread, meat and seed for the birds and this of course helps maintain them, particularly when the natural foods are scarce.

It is thought that when Sir Edward Hallstrom died, three pairs each of the Sulphur Crested Cockatoo and the Galah were freed in the vicinity of our course. At last count the two flocks numbered approximately sixty and twenty-four respectively so the habitat certainly suits these birds.

Recently there were visitors who each year do the return journey between Australia and Siberia. They were of the order Charadriiformes which includes waders and gulls. They were apparently a band of tired birds who had become detached from the flock, found our lagoon and creek shores to their liking and rested and fed there for a few weeks. Members made great efforts to identify the birds but the observations were so varied and the observers so adamant that definite identification beyond the "Order" was not possible. Let us try next year if they visit again.

Birds who are permanent residents or who spend consider-

able time about the golf course include the water birds such as:

The Egret with its beautiful white plumage and graceful long neck and legs.

The Swamp Hen, black with a lustrous purple breast and white patch beneath the tail.

The Black and the Pied Cormorants or "Shags" who fish in the lagoon and creek and sun themselves on the sandbank.

The various native ducks including the nicely coloured Chestnut Teal who raise their young among the reed and proudly display them walking in line astern across the fairways.

Away from the water, among the trees and on the open fairways, are the Parrots.

The Galah with its pink and grey plumage as recognised as one of the most beautiful birds in the world and is much prized overseas.

The Sulphur Crested Cockatoo which we chide for its raucous screeching, is also much sought after for its beauty as much as its comic antics.

The Eastern Rosella so well known because of its use as a trademark, is much more shy than the others but has a greater range of colour in its blue, green, yellow, black, red and white feathers.

The Rainbow Lorikeet with its purple head, green back and red with yellow breast, is the cheeky one, forever chattering and demanding honeyed bread at suburban homes.

There were a pair of newcomers this summer in the vicinity of the machine shed, the 9th and 18th tees. They are beautiful birds with bright red head and breast and are known as Crimson Rosellas or Mountain Lowry.

Among another group who frequent the forest and the open fairways are:

The Magpie, a black and white pied bird with grey or white legs and beak who is a friendly fellow except when hatching eggs. Then it is likely to swoop onto an unwary golfer who passes too close to the nest. It is noted for its musical warbling which it will keep up for long periods.

The Pied Currawong is often mistaken for the Magpie, but it is easily distinguished having less white than "Maggy" and having shiny black legs and beak. It can be tempted with meat but is a timid bird compared to the Magpie despite its fierce golden eye.

The Australian Raven which we call a Crow, needs little introduction for most golfers have lost a ball to it. Shiny black with a beady black eye ringed with white its mournful cry "aah-aah aahaah" identifies its presence.

The Grey Butcher Bird is smaller than the Magpie but the

colouring of black and white and grey and its fondness for meat identifies it with this group. It and its cousins the Pied Butcher Bird, are noted for their musical calls which have earned for them the title of "the contraltos of the bush". They are probably the best songsters of Australian Birds.

The Laughing Kookaburra needs no introduction and probably is the most loved of all Australian birds—deservedly.

When the Swamp Mahoganys flower the Noisy Friar Bird pays a visit and makes its presence known by its raucous call of "four o'clock chok chok" which is so loud and persistent it drowns the calls of other birds. White on the belly graduating to brown on the back and with a thin black neck and head from which a long down-curving beak protrudes with a peculiar knob on the top, together with the call serves to identify the noisy bird in the Mahoganys. They are an acquisition for they eat beetles and insects in addition to the nectar.

The Noisy Miner is a cheeky little fellow who has similar eating habits to the Friar Bird. About Starling size it is light grey in colour with yellow legs and beak and a yellow patch behind the eyes. Because it can fly in circles smaller than the larger birds, it appears to have great fun pestering kookaburras and currawongs in flight. It may be, of course, that such birds, if hungry, eat the young Miners within the nests and deserve to be chased.

Along the creekbank, where there is ample cover, is the home of numerous small birds like the Silver-eye, the Blue Wren, Robins and at times Azure Kingfishers and Willie Wag-tails. The Whip Bird, which is easier heard than seen, seems to divide its time between the creek and the hillside. Careful watching will reveal the Kingfisher, for built and coloured like a small Kookaburra it sits quietly in the Casuarinas ever watching for a worm to lift its head out of the ground or a poddy mullet to rise near the surface of the water.

Last but not least welcome of regular visitors to the open fairways are the Spur-winged Plovers. They are long-legged with white belly and olive-brown above. When standing, their head is held high and the back slopes steeply to the tail. They feed on worms in the open fairways and nest on the ground. When hatching eggs they are particularly aggressive and can cause much damage with the spur which is on the front edge of the wing.

Many other birds frequent our golf course and their numbers seem to increase in direct ratio to the growth of the trees and shrubs. Those mentioned above are the birds which are seen daily on the course.

## Chapter Fourteen

### THE WILDFLOWERS AT CROMER

*A thing of beauty is a joy forever,  
Its loveliness increases; it will never  
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep  
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health and quiet  
Breathing.*

*John Keats*

Flowers! Nations adopt them as an emblem, people select favourites, young and old, sensitive and insensitive, we all appreciate the beauty of form and colour which is a flower. They are a happiness which decorates the landscape and lifts our spirits.

Within memory the environs of Sydney were blessed with an abundance of wildflowers. As the population increased and housing spread outward and outward, so the wildflower has been trodden under. The degree of such eradication has, in recent years, impressed on some the immense value of what remains of our native flowers and so we have laws to prevent their removal and Government, semi-governments and private efforts for their preservation.

We at Cromer have a heritage of wildflowers. To make our golf course we had to destroy the natural bushland but we still have among our foothills and in the permissive occupancy, a truly worthwhile garden which we therefore should preserve. It is right that we adopt the role of caretaker for our own benefit and that of future Members. Cromer is not just a golf course, it is part of life—trees, birds, flowers and companionship.

Our fortune in native flora covers a vast range from the saline swampland reeds, grasses and ferns through the fresh-water swampland sedges, reeds, grasses and ferns then the flatland burrawongs and acacias. In the foothills of the sandstone range the immense variety of trees, shrubs, herbs and plants present us with a picture in colour if we care to look during the course of playing our game.

During the spring of 1976 a half-hour casual stroll never



more than six feet off the tarred surface of the road, from the bridge at the entrance to the path up behind the 4th tee, resulted in the remarkable tally of forty-two specimens. Of these, some four were ferns, thirty-one were wildflowers in bloom and the remainder were non-flowered but interesting natives such as the curly stemmed and almost leafless but decorative *Caustis*.

That these are only portion of our heritage is obvious when it is realised that there were no boronias or flannel flowers counted and it is known that they grow nearby. Nor were such decorative shrubs and trees as the yellow flowered delicate Pine-leaved Geebung, Blueberry Ash, Native Cherry, Banksia, Hakea, Blackboy or Christmas Bush included, though they too show their beauties along this foothill.

For historical purposes, the plants which have been identified are listed below and it is hoped that an herbarium or photographic record may be built up so that all who are interested may learn to identify and know these beauties.

Generic Name	Common Name
<i>CULCITA dubia</i>	Rainbow Fern
<i>BLECHNUM catilagineum</i>	Fishbone Fern
<i>HISTIOPTERIS incisa</i>	Umbrella Fern
<i>PTERIDIUM esculentum</i>	Bracken Fern
<i>STICHERUS flabellatus</i>	Umbrella Fern
<i>GLEICHENIA dicarpa</i>	Coral Fern
<i>ACACIA longifolia</i>	Sydney Wattle
<i>ACACIA ulicifolia</i>	Prickly Moses
<i>ACTINOTUS helianthi</i>	Flannel Flower
<i>BANKSIA serrata</i>	Red Honeysuckle
<i>BANKSIA ericafolio</i>	Heath Leafed Banksia
<i>BORONIA polygalifolia</i>	Boronia
<i>BORONIA serrulata</i>	Native Rose
<i>CALLICOMA serratifolia</i>	Black Wattle
<i>CAUSTIS flexuosa</i>	
<i>CERATOPETALUM gummiferum</i>	Christmas Bush
<i>COMESPERMA ericinum</i>	
<i>DILLWYNIA retorta</i>	Eggs and Bacon
<i>DIANELLA caerulea</i>	
<i>ELAEOCARPUS reticulatus</i>	Blueberry Ash
<i>ENTOLASIA stricta</i>	
<i>EPACRIS crassifolia</i>	Epacris
<i>EPACRIS longiflora</i>	Native Fuschia
<i>EXOCARPOS cuppressiformis</i>	Native Cherry
<i>GOMPHOLOBIUM buegelii</i>	Wedge Pea
<i>GREVILLEA buxifolia</i>	Grey Spider Flower
<i>GREVILLEA sericea</i>	Pink Spider Flower

<i>HIBBERTIA linearis</i>	
<i>HIBBERTIA scandens</i>	Guinea Flower
<i>HIBBERTIA stricta</i>	
<i>LEUCOPOGAN lanceolatus</i>	
<i>LOMANDRA longifolia</i>	
<i>LOMANDRA filiformis</i>	
<i>MACROUZAMIA</i>	Burrawong Palm
<i>PERSOONIA levis</i>	Broadleaf Geebung
<i>PERSOONIA pinifolia</i>	Pineleaf Geebung
<i>PHYLLOTA grandiflora</i>	
<i>PIMELEA ligustrina</i>	Granny's Bonnet
<i>PODOCARPUS spinulosus</i>	
<i>PROSTANTHERA howelliae</i>	Mint Bush
<i>PULTENAEA flexilis</i>	
<i>RICINOCARPUS pinifolius</i>	Wedding Bush
<i>SMILAX glycyphylla</i>	Sarsaperilla
<i>WAHLENBERGIA</i>	Native Bluebell
<i>WOOLLSIA pungens</i>	
<i>XANTHORRHOEA</i>	Grass Tree or Black Boy

## Chapter Fifteen

### HONOUR ROLLS AND OTHER ITEMS

#### THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED IN ADMINISTRATION OF THE CLUB

McLaughlin, Bruce	President	1940
Lauder, John R.	Hon. Sec.	1940
Hayman, Horace F.	Committee	1940, V.P. 1941, Pres. 1942-1951
Squires, Cecil N.	„	1940
Breakspear, Fred	„	1940-44, Capt. 1945-49
Gay, Eric	„	1940
Scott, L. G.	„	1940
Roper, Phil H.	„	1940-41, 1947-48, Capt. 1942
Vallance, Gerry (J. G. W.)	„	1940-42, 1944, V.P. 1943, Treas. 1945-56
Tibbetts, Wal	„	1940, 1945. Capt. 1941, 1943-44
Smith, Ossie	„	1940-43
Stanley, Perce	„	1940
Hook, George	„	1940-42
McCraw, John A.	„	1940, 1945. Treas. 1941-44, V.P. 1946-49
Stapleton, Jim (J. R. D.)	President	1941, V.P. 1944-48, 1950
Brainwood, Les	Committee	1941-42
Aggett, Sam	„	1941-45
Gartrell, Ray	„	1941-45
Merry, G.	„	1941
Thorburn, Wal	„	1941, 1946
Bassett, Bill	„	1942-44
McKinley, R.	„	1943
Johnston, O. B.	„	1943
Vinden, C.	„	1943-44
Hodges, Stan	„	1943-49
Godfrey, A. W.	„	1944-45
Sinden, W. E.	„	1944
McMahon, H. M.	„	1945-46

Vigers, Harley	„	1946
Cleverley, Reg (A. R.)	„	1946-54
Powell, George	„	1946-49, V.P. 1950-53
Randall, Keith	„	1946-51
Judge, Bob	„	1947
McGilvray, Norman	„	1947-50
Durham, George	„	1947, 1949-50, V.P. 1951-52
Otterwill, Stan (S. D.)	„	1948-53, V.P. 1954-59
Robertson, Jim	Vice Capt.	1949, Capt. 1950, 51, 56 Pres. 1953-54
Johnson, Lance (L. H.)	Committee	1949-50
Macreadie, Phil	„	1949-50, V.P. 1957, Pres. 1958-59
Mackay, Bill	„	1949-50
Joyce, John	Vice Capt.	1950, Capt. 1952-54, V.P. 1955-56
Hayman, Charles	Committee	1950
Petersen, Terry	„	1950-51
De Greon, Trevor	„	1951
Elder, John (J. J.)	„	1951-52, V.P. 1953-54, Pres. 1955-57
Floyd, Laurie	„	1951
O'Brien, Frank	„	1951-54
O'Connor, Harry (H. S.)	„	1951, 1963-64
Sloan, Dave	„	1951-52
Allen, Jim (J. G.)	President	1952
Barrett, Stan (S. P.)	Committee	1952-54
Cansdell, Bill	„	1952-54, 1956, V. Capt. 1955
Croker, Tom (T. B.)	„	1952-55
Milne, Eric (E. J.)	„	1952, V. Capt. 1953-54
Pearson, Les (L. F.)	„	1952
Walley, Les (L. G.)	„	1952
Davis, Phil (P. A.)	„	1953, V. Capt. 1957-58
Fletcher, Ron (R. W.)	„	1954-57
Jeffrey, Royce (R. H.)	„	1954-56, 1958-60, V.P. 1961-62, Pres. 1963-64
Lane, Douglas	„	1954
Lusted, Dick (R.)	„	1955-57, Capt. 1958- 59, V.P. 1960
Reddall, Reg (C. R.)	„	1955-56
Saggers, Ron	„	1955-56
Upton, Geoff (G. P.)	„	1955, V. Capt. 1956, Comm. 1957
Dalton, John (J. A.)	„	1956

Wolff, Ric	Captain	1957
Jackson, Gordon (G. B.)	Treasurer	1957-60
Garner, Ray	Committee	1957-58
Hubball, Len	„	1957-59, V.P. 1960-64, Pres. 1965-70
Innes, David (D. J.)	„	1957-58, V. Capt. 1959, Capt. 1960-61, V.P. 1976-77, Pres. 1978-79
McLeod, Gordon (D. G.)	„	1957, V.P. 1958-59, Pres. 1960-62
Gunn, Wally (W. R.)	„	1958-60
Hill, C. G.	„	1958
John, G. R.	„	1958-59
Bull, Clive (C. R.)	„	1959-60
Morris, E. R.	„	1959-60
Nicholson, Keith (K. B.)	„	1959-63, V.P. 1964-65
Pierce, "Chappy" (S. F.)	Vice Capt.	1960-61, Captain 1962
Felan, Roy	Committee	1960
Mitchell, Tom (T. L.)	„	1960-61, 1973, Capt. 1963
Withycombe, Jack (J. C.)	Treasurer	1961-63
Egan-Lee, Sel (S.)	Committee	1961-62, V. Capt. 1963
Forrester, Ron (R. J.)	Committee	1961-63
Lewis, H. P.	„	1961
Smith, H. S.	„	1961-63, 1965, V.P. 1966-68
Tindale, F. A.	„	1961
Donnelley, Ray (R. H.)	„	1962-63, 1972-73, V. Capt. 1964-65, Capt. 1966-67
Phillips, R.	„	1962
Sinclair, John (J. B.)	„	1962, V.P. 1963, 1966- 69, Capt. 1964-65
Fairlie, Bob (R. G.)	„	1963, Treas. 1964-71
Cochran, Dick (R. H.)	„	1964-67
Cox, Brian (B. L.)	„	1964-66, 1974-79 V. Capt. 79
Drew, George (G. D.)	„	1964-65, V. Capt. 1966-67, Capt. 1968-69
Hibbert, John	„	1964
Love, Peter (P. N.)	„	1964-65
Sanders, Gordon (G. N.)	„	1964-66, V. Capt. 1968
Birmingham, Colin	„	1966
Bretnall, Eric (E. R.)	„	1966-68, V.P. 1969-71
Carey, Reg (R. S.)	„	1966
Mortensen, Lou (L. G.)	„	1966-67

Stevenson, Sid (S. T.)	„	1966-70
Fordham, Eric (E. R.)	„	1967-70, V.P. 1978
Punch, Jim (J. J.)	„	1967-69, 1972-73, V.P. 1974
Smith, W.	„	1967-68
Marks, Percy (P. G.)	„	1968-69, 1975, V.P. 1970-73
Smart, Neville (N. R.)	„	1968-69, Capt. 1970- 71, Pres. 1972-73
Kime, Eric (E. T.)	„	1969, V. Capt. 1970- 71, Capt. 1972-73 Pres. 1974-77
Oates, Ken (K. G.)	„	1969-71
Bray, Frank (F. D.)	„	1970-71
Ditcham, Stuart (K. S.)	„	1970-71
Edwards, Tony (A. J.)	„	1970-71
Watson, Alan (A. M.)	„	1970-71, V.P. 1972-77
Pendergast, Bert (A.G.)	President	1971
McCurayne, John	Committee	1971
Hill, Col	Treasurer	1972-74
Costello, John	Committee	1972, V. Capt. 1973, Capt. 1974-75
King, Peter (K. G.)	„	1972-73
Morton, John	„	1972
O'Connor, John (J. J.)	„	1972-74, V.P. 1975
Smith, Ron	„	1973, V. Capt. 1974- 75, Capt. 1976-77
McKee, Ralph (R. C.)	„	1973-74
Wright, Allan (A. W.)	„	1974-77
Keysor, Brian (K. S.)	„	1974
Lee, Mike (M. R. W.)	„	1974-75, V. Capt. 1976-77, Capt. 1978-79
Maish, Neil (N. R.)	„	1975-76
Wilson, John (J. M.)	„	1975-78
Christensen, Ross	„	1976-77, V.P. 1978-79
Nesbitt, Don (D. R.)	„	1976-79
Handel, Peter	„	1976-77
Wardman, Leon	„	1977-79
Bennett, Roy	„	1978-79
Brigstock, John	„	1978-79
Hill, Noel	„	1978-79
Schneider, Ron	„	1978-79

## ASSOCIATE COMMITTEE

Tibbets, Gladys	Captain	1940
Sykes, Cecily	Secretary	1940-42, 1955, Com. 1956-57
Squires, Heather	Committee	1940, Capt. 1941
Sheffield, Enid	„	1940
Stephenson, Betty	„	1940
Friend, Doreen	„	1940
Tomlin, Esma	„	1941
Chubb, Kathleen	„	1941-42
Vallance, Gladys	„	1941, Capt. 1942, 1947-49, Pres. 1952-53
Ritchie, Don	„	1941-42
Stapleton, Eve	„	1942, Pres. 1947-51
Innes, Gwen	„	1942
Kilminster, Olive	Captain	1943-46, Com. 1947
Russell, Nell	Secretary	1943-49
Breeze, Maud	Committee	1943-45
Richardson, Marian	„	1943-45
Kelly, Moira	„	1943-46
McKinley, Dorothy	„	1943-44
Buddee, Alice	„	1945-47
Kerslake, Billy	„	1946
Wills, Joan	„	1946
Preddy, Ruth	„	1947
Davis, Rona	„	1948-49, Capt. 1950
Sallaway, Marjorie	„	1948-49, 1952
Walmsley, Couran	„	1948
Balmer, Alice	„	1949-50
Hicks, Jess	„	1949-51
Randall, Couran	„	1949
Larter, Grace	Secretary	1950-51
Cansdell, Lorna	Committee	1950
Lawry, Marilyn	„	1950-53
Robertson, Olive	„	1950-53
McKee, Jeanette	Captain	1951-52
Coote, Betty	Committee	1951-53, Pres. 1954-55
Cohen, Doris	„	1951
Ball, Dagma	Secretary	1952-55
Winckler, Marianne	Committee	1952-55, 1959, 1966, Treas. 1960-65
Coram, Freda	Captain	1953-57
Holmes, Edna	Committee	1953-55, Pres. 1956-58
Deaton, Stella	„	1954

King, Rene	„	1954-58
Gillings, Esma	„	1954-55
Green, Helena	Secretary	1956-58, Treas. 1972-74
Elliot, Sheila	Committee	1956
McCarthy, Phyllis	„	1956, Capt. 1968
Yonge, Dawn	„	1956-58, Treas. 1959, Sec. 1960-63. Pres. 1964-65
Campbell, Dorothy	Handicap	1959-61
Green, Mary	President	1959-60
Playoust, Olga	Captain	1959-60
Innes, Gwen	Secretary	1959
Gash, Irene	Committee	1959
O'Connor, Margaret	„	1959-60, Pres. 1961
Kerr, Dorrie	„	1960-61, Pres. 1962-63
Griffiths, Meg	„	1960, Capt. 1961-62
Walker, Olive	„	1961-62
Alcorn, Alicia	„	1961, H'cap 1962-64
Clarke, Norma	Asst. Sec.	1962-63, Sec. 1964
Macredie, Sadie	Committee	1962
Foyle, Kitty	„	1962-65
O'Brien, Nell	Captain	1963-65, Pres. 1966-68
Cameron, Beverley	Committee	1963-64
Kirkwood, Dulcie	„	1963-64
Wilcox, Muriel	Asst. Sec.	1964
Allison, Marnie	Secretary	1965-66
Moore, Pat	Asst. Sec.	1965, Com. 1966-67
Pails, Mavis	Handicap	1965-67, Pres. 1971-73
Reddall, Charlotte	Committee	1966, Asst. Sec. 1967- 68, Pres. 1969-70
Hedderman, Madeline	Captain	1966-67
Williamson, Heather	Asst. Sec.	1966, Sec. 1967-68
Sturrock, Dorothy	Treasurer	1966-69
Ditcham, Bunty	Committee	1967, H'cap 1968-71
Felan, Meg	„	1967-68, Capt. 1969- 71, Pres. 1974-77
Broun, Joy	„	1968-69, Treas. 1970-71
Purse, Helen	„	1968-69, Sec. 1970-72, Capt. 1974-76
McGee, Veneda	Asst. Sec.	1969
Thomas, Olive	Committee	1969-70
Simonsen, Marjorie	Asst. Sec.	1970-72
Gorrick, Betty	Committee	1970-71, H'cap 1972-73
Hiatt, Betty	„	1970-71
Neilsen, Thyra	Captain	1972-73, Com. 1971
Chapman, Beris	Committee	1972-73



Sinclair, Joy	„	1972
Bowcock, Sheila	Secretary	1973-74
Cook, Mary	Asst. Sec.	1973
Jacobs, Joy	Committee	1973-74
Lamont, Audrey	Asst. Sec.	1974, Sec. 1975
Drury, Margaret	Handicap	1974-76
Bretnell, Daphne	Committee	1974
Rogers, Norma	„	1974
Porter, Meryl	Asst. Sec.	1975, Sec. 1976
Edwards, Betty	Treasurer	1975-76
Edwards, Clare	Committee	1975-76
Knight, Sadie	„	1975
Park, Grace	„	1975-76
Curtis, Jean	„	1976

### LIFE MEMBERS

A. MAX COOPER	15.6.1940d.
F. W. EAGAR	15.6.1940d.
BRUCE W. McLAUGHLIN	21.3.1951d.
HORACE F. HAYMAN	19.3.1952
FRED BREAKSPEAR	20.3.1960d.
STANLEY D. OTTEWILL	20.3.1960
HARRY ANDREWS	27.3.1963d.
ERIC GAY	27.3.1963
HERBERT S. SMITH	18.3.1970
LEN HUBBALL	22.3.1972
ROBERT G. FAIRLIE	22.3.1972

### CLUB CHAMPIONS

1940	A. H. Swan	1961	R. Forrester
1941-44	Not held	1962	R. Wolff
1945		1963	D. Martin
1946	R. Judge	1964	D. Martin
1947	S. J. McCabe	1965	B. Gillett
1948	B. C. Ewing	1966	R. Wolff
1949	W. J. Pierce	1967	D. Martin
1950	J. I. Robertson	1968	D. Martin
1951	J. I. Robertson	1969	S. Truelove
1952	W. J. Pierce	1970	D. Martin
1953	W. J. Pierce	1971	E. Couper
1954	G. L. Berkman	1972	J. Bennett
1955	W. J. Pierce	1973	E. Couper
1956	R. Wolff	1974	J. Wilkinson
1957	K. L. Walker	1975	C. Bishop

1958	K. L. Walker	1976	J. Bennett
1959	R. Wolff	1977	J. Wilkinson
1960	D. Martin	1978	J. Wilkinson

## CHAMPIONSHIPS

"B" Grade		"C" Grade	
1957	D. J. Innes	1957	N. R. Brown
1958	H. S. O'Connor	1958	J. M. Wyllie
1959	S. Egan Lee	1959	J. W. Ritchie
1960	R. C. Lusted	1960	J. W. Bray
1961	B. Brakell	1961	J. W. Bray
1962	B. J. Avis	1962	J. Knight
1963	R. J. Avis	1963	J. B. Sinclair
1964	W. Whittaker	1964	G. A. Donnelley
1965	R. J. Broomhead	1965	K. R. Collin
1966	W. W. Drover	1966	R. Entwistle
1967	R. Langmead	1967	M. R. W. Lee
1968	K. Jacobs	1968	N. Clemens
1969	I. Hutton	1969	S. Richards
1970	P. Whitehouse	1970	A. M. Watson
1971	P. Van Wegen	1971	L. G. Hayes
1972	R. P. Greene	1972	E. R. Fordham
1973	R. C. Stephens	1973	J. Hercus
1974	R. Vaughan	1974	B. Davis
1975	R. C. Stephens	1975	J. Workman
1976	R. Entwistle	1976	R. Wilson
1977	J. Brigstock	1977	L. Kluver
1978	P. H. Davis	1978	J. Workman

## ASSOCIATE CHAMPIONS

1940	Dorothy Wager	1962	Lorna Gehrig
1941-45	Not held	1963	Dorothy Morton
1946	Dorothy Wager	1964	Mavis Pails
1947	Dorothy Wager	1965	Dorothy Morton
1948	Couran Walmsley	1966	Jill Darley
1949	Dorothy Judge	1967	Jill Darley
1950	Dorothy Judge	1968	Madeline Hedderman
1951	Couran Walmsley	1969	Jill Darley
1952	Couran Walmsley	1970	Jill Darley
1953	Mildred Pierce	1971	Jill Darley
1954	Marjorie Salloway	1972	Betty Hogarth
1955	Marjorie Salloway	1973	Norma Rogers
1956	Couran Walmsley	1974	Grace Park
1957	Marcia Bligh-Jones	1975	Betty Hogarth

1958	Couran Randall	1976	Betty Hogarth
1959	Marjorie Salloway	1977	Margaret Drury
1960	Phillis McCarthy	1978	Sue Bingham
1961	Norma Rogers		

### JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

1966	Grant Washington	1973	Danny Fleetwood
1967	Ray J. Low	1974	Richard Moore
1968	Ray J. Low	1975	Colin Bishop
1969	Ray J. Low	1976	Garry Herkkonen
1970	Stephen Truelove	1977	Geoff Brown
1971	Stephen Truelove	1978	G. Steer
1972	Gary Heikkonen		

### FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP

1940	A. H. Swan	and	W. Tibbetts
1946	F. R. Brown	„	A. J. Weir
1947	A. C. Staton	„	C. Hook
1948	B. C. Ewing	„	J. G. Vallance
1949	A. J. Weir	„	L. G. Walley
1950	W. J. Pierce	„	S. McCabe
1951	F. F. Rayment	„	John Robertson
1952	J. I. Robertson	„	R. G. Levy
1953	P. H. Davis	„	W. J. Pierce
1954	J. I. Robertson	„	R. G. Levy
1955	J. I. Robertson	„	R. G. Levy
1956	K. L. Walker	„	John Robertson
1957	G. L. Berkman	„	R. Phillips
1958	D. R. Pails	„	F. Little
1959	R. Wolff	„	L. H. Floyd
1960	K. L. Walker	„	D. Martin
1961	K. L. Walker	„	D. Martin
1962	K. L. Walker	„	D. Martin
1963	K. L. Walker	„	D. Martin
1964	K. L. Walker	„	D. Martin
1965	K. L. Walker	„	D. Martin
1966	R. J. Carey	„	N. Griffiths
1967	K. D. Simmonds	„	R. J. Low
1968	B. Gosson	„	R. Phillips
1969	E. Couper	„	J. Bennett
1970	E. Couper	„	J. Bennett
1971	K. D. Simmonds	„	R. J. Low
1972	E. Couper	„	J. Bennett
1973	K. D. Simmonds	„	S. Woodhouse

1974	J. Wilkinson	„	G. Collins
1975	G. Williams	„	C. Bishop
1976	I. Barnes	„	D. Martin
1977	P. Tilden	„	J. Wilkinson
1978	P. C. Jones	„	R. Cook

## COURSE RECORDS

Amateur		Professional	
		Old Course	
W. Sidwell	71	E. W. Dunk	67
K. L. Walker	71		
P. Langham	71		
		1965 Layout	
1966	A. Y. Gresham	69	
1967	D. Martin	66	
		1969 Layout	
1971	C. Kaye	67	
1973	B. Gosson	67	

## CROMER BOWL

1955	H. Watson	Bonnie Doon
1956	H. Hattersley	Manly
1957	R. Wolff	Cromer
1958	R. Moroney	Bankstown
1959	W. Stanley	Balgowlah
1960	W. Sidwell	St. Michaels
1961	C. H. Day	Cromer
1962	R. Wallace	Young
1963	P. Langham	The Lakes
1964	P. Headland	Balgowlah
1965	D. Lofthouse	Long Reef
1966	A. Y. Gresham	Pennant Hills
1967	B. Burgess	Bankstown
1968	N. Maish	Cromer
1969	K. L. Donohoe	Australian
1970	P. Wood	N.S.W.
1971	C. Kaye	The Lakes
1972	G. Barwick	Strathfield
1973	T. Hall	Newcastle
1974	J. Wilkinson	Cromer
1975	G. Bell	St. Michaels
1976	P. Wood	N.S.W.
1977	K. Pepper	Wollongong
1978	J. Long	St. Michaels

## CROMER CUP

1947	R. Wolff	1963	R. A. Johnston
1948	K. Holmes	1964	W. G. Askins
1949	W. B. Oehm	1965	N. R. Van Dugteren
1950	G. B. Jackson	1966	S. K. Ditcham
1951	J. Saxby	1967	M. Adams
1952	J. H. Giles	1968	J. J. O'Brien
1953	C. Magee	1969	L. Kluver
1954	C. Magee	1970	C. M. Hayman
1955	M. Adams	1971	C. Chapman
1956	S. D. Ottewill	1972	R. D. Russell
1957	J. M. Gillis	1973	J. Costello
1958	G. Radford	1974	V. Spillane
1959	W. Berkman	1975	J. Saxby Jnr.
1960	T. R. Garner	1976	J. Workman
1961	J. T. O'Connor	1977	J. Workman
1962	T. W. O'Brien	1978	B. Alderson

## A.I.F. CUP

1940	W. Tibbetts	1960	K. Bowen
1941	P. Hughes	1961	R. E. Charles
1942	W. Tibbetts	1962	A. E. Cain
1943	W. Tibbetts	1963	A. E. Cain
1944	F. Breakspear	1964	J. Costello
1945	R. Cleverley	1965	C. H. Day
1946	S. R. Cox	1966	H. A. Hooley
1947	H. Andrews	1967	W. W. Drover
1948	K. Randall	1968	S. F. Pierce
1949	E. H. Hayman	1969	W. S. Roche
1950	H. V. Green	1970	R. M. Thompson
1951	E. R. Atkinson	1971	S. Simonsen
1952	R. Wolff	1972	L. C. Forsyth
1953	G. W. McDonald	1973	A. Clues
1954	J. L. Dykes	1974	R. M. Thompson
1955	K. L. Bowen	1975	L. Kluver
1956	R. G. Fairlie	1976	K. G. Oates
1957	A. R. Low	1977	F. Bray
1958	S. F. Pierce	1978	R. Vaughan
1959	R. Wenden	1979	J. Costello

## MIXED FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIPS

1946	J. G. Vallance	and	Mrs. Gladys Vallance
1947	L. O. Everett	,,	,, Susy Everett

1948	R. Judge	„	„	Dorothy Judge
1949	R. Judge	„	„	Dorothy Judge
1950	W. J. Pierce	„	„	Mildred Pierce
1951	W. J. Pierce	„	„	Mildred Pierce
1952	P. H. Davis	„	„	Rona Davis
1953	J. G. Vallance	„	„	Gladys Vallance
1954	P. H. Davis	„	„	Rona Davis
1955	K. L. Walker	„	„	Couran Randall
1956	P. H. Davis	„	„	Rona Davis
1957	D. R. Pails	„	„	Mavis Pails
1958	D. R. Pails	„	„	Mavis Pails
1959	R. Wolff	„	„	Dawn Wolff
1960	J. McCurtayne	„	„	Joy Sinclair
1961	K. L. Walker	„	„	Jean Walker
1962	R. Phillips	„	„	Norma Rogers
1963	K. L. Walker	„	„	Jean Walker
1964	K. D. Simmonds	„	„	Gwen Russell
1965	D. Martin	„	„	Betty Hogarth
1966	R. Wolff	„	„	Jill Darley
1967	R. J. Low	„	„	Jill Darley
1968	K. D. Simmonds	„	„	Dorothy Morton
1969	R. J. Low	„	„	Jill Darley
1970	B. Gosson	„	„	Betty Hogarth
1971	B. Gosson	„	„	Betty Hogarth
1972	B. Gosson	„	„	Grace Park
1973	B. Gosson	„	„	Grace Park
1974	J. Wilkinson	„	„	Dorothy Morton
1975	J. Bennett	„	„	Patricia Ford
1976	B. Gosson	„	„	Essie Cameron
1977	E. Couper	„	„	Norma Rogers
1978	J. Bennett	„	„	Sue Bingham

## GRADE GOLF AND IMPORTANT EVENTS CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

*Information on this subject is sparse and apologies are offered  
for any omission.*

Avis, Bruce  
Bennett, John  
Bidios, Rangi  
Bishop, Colin  
Berkman, Bill  
Berkman, Geoff  
Bigelow, Peter

Bloodworth, Peter  
Brigstock, Colin  
Brown, Geoff  
Brodie, Graham  
Buchan, Stephen  
Carey, Reg  
Cook, Ray

Cope, Peter  
 Couper, Eric  
 Cox, Brian  
 Davies, Ralph  
 Davis, Phil  
 Ewing, Bruce  
 Felan, Mark  
 Fletcher, Rick  
 Floyd, Laurie  
 Fleetwood, Danny  
 Forrester, Ron  
 Giles, Jim  
 Gillett, Bruce  
 Gosson, Brian  
 Greene, Robert  
 Griffiths, Neville  
 Harber, I.  
 Heikkonen, Gary  
 Howard, Brent  
 Hurley, Neville  
 Inglis, Glen  
 Jones, Gerry  
 Jones, Paul  
 Kerr, Michael  
 Love, Doug  
 Levy, Geoff  
 Leembruggen, Bruce  
 Locke, Michael  
 Love, Peter  
 Low, Ray  
 Mansfield, Chris  
 Maish, Neil  
 Martin, Dave  
 Mellish, John  
 Milne, Eric  
 Millar, Peter  
 Miles, Robert

Montgomery, J.  
 Moore, Richard  
 Morton, Peter  
 McCahill, Jim  
 McCurtayne, Jack  
 Newbrun, Rod  
 O'Neill, Stephen  
 Pails, Dinny  
 Phillips, Ross  
 Pederson, Rob  
 Pierce, Bill  
 Pierce, "Chappy" S. F.  
 Radford, J.  
 Richardson, P.  
 Robertson, John  
 Robertson, Ian  
 Sanders, Chris  
 Saville, Dick  
 See Hoe, Barry  
 Sherman, John  
 Simmonds, Kevin  
 Spry, Murray  
 Staton, Andy  
 Smart, Neville  
 Tilden, Peter  
 Truelove, Stephen  
 Turner, Paul  
 Van Wegen, Peter  
 Walker, Keith  
 Walley, Les  
 Washington, Grant  
 Whittaker, Neil  
 Wilkinson, John  
 Williams, Gary  
 Woodhouse, Stuart  
 Woolf, Rick  
 Woodhouse, Ian

When Grade Competition resumed in 1946, the Club entered a team and the first match was against Roseville. Teams have been entered each year since.

In 1953, the team won its Division but lost the final to Eastlakes.

In 1955, it won the Division but lost the semi-finals to Bayview who went on to win the final.

Again in 1959, it won the Division. This time it lost the final to Mona Vale.

In 1960, it won the Division and lost the finals to Bankstown and in 1961 it tied the final with the same team but lost the play-off 3-4.

In 1963, the Associates Grade Team showed the way by winning the Pennant with a team comprising Phyl McCarthy, Captain; Alicia Alcorn; Joy Sinclair; Dot Morton; Rona Davis; Mavis Pails; Lorna Gehrig; Jill Gillett; Gwen Russell; Marj Salloway.

Stung into action the Members' team in 1964 won the "B" Grade Pennant. The team was—Ric Wolff, Captain; Dave Martin; Gerry Jones; Neville Griffiths; Keith Walker; "Chappie" Pierce; Kevin Simmonds and Reg Carey.

In 1965, won its Division but went down to Bayview in the final. This was the last of the "B" Pennant matches.

In 1966, the club fielded a team in "A" Grade Pennants and Junior Pennants.

In 1969, the Juniors won their Division in the Eric Apperley Shield Competition.

In 1971, the Juniors won their Division of the Pennants and in 1972, won the Final match, a first in "A" Grade for the club. The team was—Rod Newbrun; Danny Fleetwood; Richard Moore; Ian Harber; Ramon Kesur and Stuart Woodhouse.

In both 1975 and 1976 the Senior Team won their Division. The two teams entered each of these years in the Apperley Shield Competition won their respective Divisions also.

Over the years, the following Members have acquitted themselves well to the club's credit.

- 1956 Buttenshaw Shield. Laurie Floyd and Ric Wolff won the final from fellow Cromer Members, Clive Bull and Harry Cherry.
- 1957 Roseville Cup. Won by Phil Davis and Ray Garner.
- 1958 Roseville Cup. Won again by Phil Davis and Ray Garner.
- 1967 David Martin set a course record of 66.
- 1970 N.S.W. Amateur Medal was won by Eric Couper.  
Cromer Club Championship. Won by David Martin for the sixth time.
- 1972 Long Reef Medal. Won by Eric Couper with a course record of 68.  
Southern Tablelands Championship. Won by Brian Gosson with 73/71.  
Shell Open Schoolboy Tournament. Won by Danny Fleetwood.



- 1973 Cromer Golf Course Record equalled by Brian Gosson with 67.  
State Mixed Foursomes Championship. Won by Eric Couper and Jill Miles of Manly Club.
- 1974 State Team. Eric Couper selected.  
State Amateur Championship. Won by Eric Couper.  
Monash Masters. Won by Eric Couper.  
Blue Mountains Championship. Won by John Wilkinson.
- 1975 State Team. Eric Couper again selected.  
Australian Open. Eric Couper leading amateur.  
Pymble Cup. Won by Eric Couper.  
Blue Mountains Championship. Won by John Wilkinson.  
Killara Shield. Won by C. Bishop; E. Couper; B. See Hoe; J. Wilkinson.
- 1976 Interstate Match Series. Eric Couper and Colin Bishop played in the successful N.S.W. team.  
Junior Vardon Trophy. Won by Colin Bishop.  
Blue Mountains Championship. Won for third time by John Wilkinson.  
Northbridge Cup. Won by Peter Tilden.
- 1977
- 1978 Killara Shield. Won by G. Brown; F. Johnson; P. Jones; J. Wilkinson.
- 1978 Champion of Champions. Won by John Wilkinson.
- 1978 Manly Summer Cup. Won by Frank Johnson.

### MAX COOPER MEMORIAL

1948	A. W. Moodie	1964	R. Felan
1949	W. D. Hogg	1965	G. H. Allison
1950	A. C. Tooley	1966	G. B. Jackson
1951	G. B. Jackson	1967	J. Costello
1952	H. P. Kerr	1968	G. D. Drew
1953	R. Sleeman	1969	J. A. Everett
1954	S. Stevenson	1970	P. Dind
1955	C. R. Anderson	1971	J. Ridley
1956	P. H. Davis	1972	G. S. Pownall
1957	R. Donnelley	1973	J. W. Barrie
1958	G. C. Horsefield	1974	A. J. Clarke
1959	N. Noble	1975	P. O'Rourke
1960	T. W. McGee	1976	J. Bretnall
1961	I. A. Hutton	1977	M. Patterson
1962	R. W. Fletcher	1978	J. Grace
1963	S. C. King		

## GEOFF BERKMAN BOWL

1960	R. W. Berriman	and	F. A. Ward
1961	D. R. Pails	„	F. Little
1962	L. Hubball	„	H. S. Smith
1963	A. McKenzie	„	T. H. Roberts
1964	P. K. Dind	„	P. Mayo
1965	D. Martin	„	S. Stevenson
1966	J. H. Stevens	„	B. L. Cox
1967	B. M. Gillett	„	S. White
1968	J. Castle	„	R. McKee
1969	K. Boorman	„	R. Harris
1970	P. K. Dind	„	J. D. McDonald
1971	G. B. Jackson	„	G. Meekin
1972	W. Firkin	„	G. Bastock
1973	I. F. Barnes	„	M. Cornish
1974	R. E. DuChesne	„	B. J. Doyle
1975	G. Drew	„	A. J. Clarke
1976	R. Moore	„	C. Mansfield
1977	E. Cadis	„	R. Grace
1978	I. Barnes	„	R. C. Stephens

## TOTAL MEMBERSHIP INCLUDING ASSOCIATES

1940	—	1960	—	882	
1941	—	1961	—	921	
1942	—	141	1962	—	904
1943	—	141	1963	—	929
1944	—	206	1964	—	960
1945	—	324	1965	—	1019
1946	—	504	1966	—	1009
1947	—	681	1967	—	1025
1948	—	806	1968	—	1071
1949	—	877	1969	—	1076
1950	—	899	1970	—	1074
1951	—	854	1971	—	1128
1952	—	789	1972	—	1267
1953	—	772	1973	—	1308
1954	—	796	1974	—	1345
1955	—	797	1975	—	1416
1956	—	768	1976	—	1420
1957	—	812	1977	—	1478
1958	—	830	1978	—	1490
1959	—	860			

## FINANCE

Year	Receipts £	Expenditure £	Balance £
1945	4,376	4,151	+ 225
1946	7,556	7,225	+ 331
1947	7,107	2,344	+ 4,763
1948	17,717	15,163	+ 2,554
1949	21,811	16,717	+ 5,093
1950	21,439	18,930	+ 2,509
1951	23,709	21,732	+ 1,977
1952	27,800	26,113	+ 1,687
1953	29,462	28,724	+ 738
1954	28,635	27,793	+ 842
1955	31,048	29,913	+ 1,135
1956	24,576	23,576	+ 1,000
1957	34,077	31,597	+ 2,480
1958	34,420	31,141	+ 3,279
1959	36,861	35,484	+ 1,377
1960	38,677	36,604	+ 2,073
1961	43,052	40,699	+ 2,353
1962	45,014	42,544	+ 2,470
1963	42,402	43,640	— 1,233
1964	47,051	50,501	— 3,450
1965	\$108,650	\$111,243	—\$ 2,599
1966	109,935	114,205	— 4,270
1967	116,596	117,517	— 921
1968	126,460	133,912	— 7,452
1969	127,041	147,215	— 20,174
1970	138,943	150,933	— 11,990
1971	163,985	177,841	— 13,856
1972	166,821	212,761	— 45,940
1973	198,543	199,618	— 1,075
1974	239,459	227,640	+ 11,819
1975	289,547	284,144	+ 5,403
1976	296,642	325,262	— 28,620
1977	332,166	338,721	— 6,555
1978	355,423	348,689	+ 6,734

## MEMBERS AS AT JANUARY 1, 1979

Adams, E. H.	Biddle, Dr. D. S.	Bull, Phillip	Collett, B.
Adams, M.	Begelow, P.	Burgess, F.	Collin, K. R.
Agnew, B. G.	Bingham, D. I.	Burling, R. A.	Collins, G. F.
Akamatsu, K.	Binnie, M. J.	Burn, R. E.	Cook, R. R.
Alderson, A.	Bishop, A.	Burness, W. T.	Coombes, M.
Alderson, B.	Black, J. T.	Burton, E.	Coombes, S. H.
Alexander, N.	Blackman, P. M.	Burton, K. L.	Cope, N.
Allison, Dr.	Blackwell, R. H. T.	Burton, B. R.	Coplestone, J.
Allsopp, N. T.	Bolton, B. H.	Butler, R. J.	Coram, B.
Amedee, G.	Bolton, H. G.	Buttell, C. T.	Coram, L. C.
Anderson, C. R.	Bonham, P.	Butter, A. G.	Cordony, L. C.
Anderstrem, I. L.	Boniface, E.	Cadis, E.	Cornish, M. J.
Antcliff, L. J.	Booker, R. J.	Caesar, E. J.	Costello, B. L.
Arcus, K. J.	Boorman, K. R.	Cain, N.	Costello, J.
Armstrong, Dr.	Boroughs, I. M.	Cains, A. E.	Cotter, M. R.
Armstrong, W. B.	Boughton, B.	Cains, B. W.	Couper, A. B.
Arnold, L. R.	Bowe, J.	Cains, Dr. L. J.	Couston, B. H.
Arnold, W. M.	Bowen, K. L.	Callaghan, N. J.	Cowell, N. R.
Arthur, D. H.	Boyce, R.	Cameron, B. D.	Cox, A. B.
Astley, C. S.	Boyce, S. D.	Campbell, H. M.	Cox, B. L.
Astley, L.	Boyle, G.	Campbell, B.	Craig, R.
Atkins, D. R.	Bradfield, Dr. K. N.	Cannon, E. J.	Crawford, C.
Austen, N. S.	Bradford, E. L.	Carey, R. J.	Creagh, P. V.
Avis, B. J.	Brand, R.	Cass, F. C.	Cremen, R. W.
Avis, R. J.	Bray, F. D.	Cass, G. C.	Critchley, R. W.
Bailey, K. R.	Bray, Dr. J. W.	Castle, Dr. J. L.	Crofts, D. T.
Bain, K. M.	Breden, D. L.	Catchlove, R. L.	Crofts, G. T.
Baird, D. A.	Brennan, J.	Chapman, J. L.	Crowe, D.
Baker, K. J.	Brennan, J. P.	Chapman, J.	Cumming, D.
Baker, R. J.	Brettnall, E. R.	Chapman, B.	Curtis, J. R.
Baldwin, A. N.	Brettnall, J. L.	Chapman, R. H.	Curtis, K.
Ball, J. S.	Brewer, D. S.	Chapman, T.	Dagg, K. J.
Barker, R.	Brigstock, J. C.	Chard, B. A.	Daniels, A. B.
Barnard, B.	Brigstock, C. J.	Charles, R. E.	Date, S.
Barnes, I.	Broadhurst, J. R.	Chasney, R. C.	Davies, C. R.
Barton, A.	Brodie, G. W.	Christensen, J. R.	Davies, J. M.
Bastock, G.	Broun, H.	Clark, L. R.	Davies, M.
Batchelor, K.	Broun, W. H.	Clarke, A. J.	Davids, P. M.
Bateman, A.	Broun, W.	Clarke, B. N.	Davies, R. M.
Bates, R. J.	Brown, G. I.	Clarke, G. P.	Davis, B. J.
Beale, J. M.	Brown, G.	Clarke, J. G.	Davis, C. C.
Beaumont, K.	Brown, P. J.	Clarke, L. C.	Davis, P. H.
Becker, R.	Brownlee, F. R.	Clegg, M. B.	Dawson, R. F.
Bedford, J.	Bruce-Smith, I. A.	Clemens, N. H.	Day, C. H.
Bell, B. B.	Bryce, R. M.	Cleverley, A. R.	Day, K. W.
Bennett, J. W.	Brydon, W. J.	Clubbe, P. J.	Deacon, R. G.
Bennett, R.	Buchan, S. J.	Clues, A. R.	Denton, A. J.
Benson, D. A.	Buckingham, R. B.	Cochran, R. J.	De Vries, R.
Berkman, A. J.	Bull, C. R.	Cole, A. W.	Dibbs, D.
Berkman, W. K.	Bull, Peter	Collard, G.	Dibbs, R. J.

## MEMBERS AS AT JANUARY 1, 1979

Dickinson, D.	Ford, P.	Hailstone, G. J.	Hooker, P. J.
Dixon, R. W. M.	Fordham, E. R.	Haire, F. E.	Hooker, G. C.
Dobbie, J.	Forrester, E. G.	Halden, J.	Hookway, P. H.
Dobinson, J. A.	Forsyth, L. C.	Halford, W. H.	Hooley, H. A.
Dodd, A.	Foster, D. L.	Hallaran, D.	Hooper, J. W.
Dodds, B. McG.	Foster, N. F.	Halstead, W. B.	Hopper, P.
Doig, M. W.	Fox, K.	Hammond, L. J.	Horsell, A.
Donald, W. G.	Francis, Dr. J. F.	Hancock, P. B.	Hough, T. H.
Donnelley, G. A.	Francis, D. F.	Hand, P. F.	Howard, C. E. J.
Donnelley, R. H.	Francis, R.	Handel, P. H.	Howes, D. G.
Dowling, N. W.	Fraunfelter, E.	Hanlon, P. E.	Howison, D. B.
Doyle, B. J.	Fricker, N. W.	Hanna, Dr. G. B.	Hubball, L.
Drew, G. D. L.	Frize, B.	Hanslow, B. C.	Hull, C. S.
Drew, J.	Frost, N. R.	Harris, R.	Hunt, R. A.
Dubedat, R. A.	Frost, R. K.	Harvey, A.	Hutchinson, J. B.
Duldig, R. A.	Fryer, R. J.	Hastie, J. D.	Hutton, I. A.
Dunbar, B.	Fuller, N. R.	Hawes, W.	Hutton, W. J.
Dunbar, T. M.	Fullerton, D. M.	Hawke, D. D.	Hyde, J. O. G.
Dunstan, Dr. A. J.	Furzer, H.	Hawkins, Fr. J. G.	Hyde, S. J.
Dunston, Prof. A. J.	Furzer, N.	Hayman, C. M.	Hyland, J. G.
Dutch, A. W.	Gale, K. K. G.	Hayman, D. R.	Hynd, D.
Dyson, C. H.	Gardiner, A. R.	Hayman, G. M.	Inglis, R.
Edward, K. W.	Garner, V. C.	Hayman, B. F.	Innes, D. J.
Edward, J. R.	Garroway, R. C.	Hayman, P. C.	Isaacs, K. E.
Edwards, A. J.	Garvan, N. V.	Haynes, O. J.	Iverson, I. C.
Edwards, M. C.	Gates, B.	Hayward, P. R.	Jacka, D. M.
Egan Lee, S.	Gates, D. E.	Heald, J.	Jackson, A. R.
Elliot, D. L.	Gay, R. S. E.	Heenan, R. C.	Jackson, D. J.
Emerson, J. W.	Gaynor, C.	Hemsworth, H.	Jackson, G. B.
Entwistle, R. F.	Gee, K. D.	Hemsworth, N.	Jackson, J. N. S.
Etheridge, G. C.	Gemmell, M. A.	Henri, J. P.	Jackson, R. T.
Evans, G. E.	Gillett, B. McD.	Hercus, J.	Jacobs, F.
Evans, W. R.	Gladwin, G. T.	Herd, D.	Jacobs, S.
Everett, J. A.	Godwin, J. H.	Heron, B. S.	James, A. N.
Ewart, D. J.	Golding, P.	Hewitt, C. M.	James, H. N.
Fairjones, R. D.	Golding, P. J.	Hewitt, R. J.	Jan, K.
Fairlie, R. G.	Goldthorp, K. J.	Hibbert, J.	Jarrett, C. P.
Falvey, K. C.	Golis, C.	Higuchi, Y.	Jarvie, K.
Fawcett, J. B.	Gordon, D. M.	Hill, B.	Jeffery, R. F.
Fawcett, J. H.	Gosson, B. G.	Hill, C. G.	Jewson, L. J.
Feher, Dr. S.	Grace, R. S.	Hill, N.	Johnco, P. J.
Felan, R.	Grace, J. C.	Hill, N. J.	Johnson, C. W.
Feltscheer, N. S.	Grace, J.	Hinchen, D.	Johnson, C. V.
Fennwell, W.	Graham, C. T.	Hinves, J. G.	Johnson, F. W.
Ferns, B. H.	Grant, L.	Hiscox, J. F.	Johnson, F. E.
Fitzgerald, K. W.	Green, W. D.	Hobbs, R.	Johnson, R. C.
Flanders, R.	Greentree, G. E.	Hofer, H. P. J.	Johnson, R. B.
Fleetwood, D. J.	Greentree, K.	Hogarth, R. C.	Johnson, R. O.
Fletcher, R. W.	Griffiths, M. L.	Holdt, V. S.	Johnstone, W. R.
Fletcher, R. W.	Grundie, N.	Holmes, D. G.	Johnstone, G. R.
Fong, A.	Guarino, M.	Holmes, W. F.	Jonak, J.
Foord, R. F.	Hagarty, K. J.	Honan, J. P.	Jones, D. G.

## MEMBERS AS AT JANUARY 1, 1979

Jones, G. B.	Lodder, S. S.	Mitchell, M. L.	Nancarrow, C. J.
Jones, K. G.	Logan, R. D.	Mitchell, T. L.	Neely, D. G.
Jones, P. C.	Loton, A. R.	Moloney, W. W.	Neely, M. G.
Jones, R. A.	Lourensz, H.	Monks, L. J.	Neely, R.
Jones, R. B.	Love, P. N.	Monks, M.	Neighbour, J. S.
Jones, R. J.	Lovell, M. J.	Montgomery, A.	Nelson, P.
Jones, W. J.	Loveridge, J. A.	Montgomery, J. A.	Nesbitt, D. R.
Jones, R. M.	Luiker, G.	Montgomery, P. G.	Newson, R. J.
Keeling, R.	Luker, A. D.	Moon, A. J.	Nicholl, D. L.
Keen, T. S. L.	Lyndon, E. D.	Moore, G. A.	Nicholson, G. L.
Kehoe, N. J.	MacDonald, R. E.	Moore, R.	Nicholson, K. B.
Kelly, N. R. P.	Machado, J.	Moore, J.	Norris, W.
Kenna, P. J.	Macintosh, W. M.	Moran, H. M.	Nuttall, W.
Kennedy, B.	Mackay, B. I.	Moray, S. H.	Oakes, E. J.
Kennedy, K.	Mackenroth, M.	Moritz, D.	Oates, K. G.
Kermode, P.	Mackle, T.	Mork, R.	O'Brien, F. W.
Kerr, M. J.	Macclay, K. A.	Morris, G.	O'Brien, J. J.
Kerr, P. J.	Macrae, K. H.	Morrison, R. W.	O'Brien, John
Kerrigan, R.	Macreadie, P.	Mortensen, L. G.	O'Brien, M. L.
Keyser, B. S.	Maddocks, S.	Moss, A. K.	O'Carroll, M. D.
Keyvar, C.	Madigan, A. B.	Moxham, R. H.	Ockenden, R.
Kime, C. T.	Magill, J. J.	Moxon, B.	O'Connor, D. E.
King, P. S.	Magill, L. I.	Moyes, C. W.	O'Connor, H. S.
King, P.	Maguire, J. R.	Moylan, D. W.	O'Connor, J. John
King, J. A.	Maguire, R. J.	Muncke, J. A.	O'Hehir, J. C.
King, P. G.	Mairs, B. J.	Murphy, R. P.	Olliffe, A. A.
Kinnear, G. P.	Maish, N. R.	Murray, M.	Organ, G.
Klaffenbock, O.	Malvern, C. R.	McAllister, J. S.	Orme, W. J.
Kluver, L. G.	Manassen, S.	McAllister, A. J.	O'Rourke, T. P.
Kroschel, G.	Mann, E. A.	McAlpine, A. K.	Ottewill, S. D.
La Forest, J. C.	Mansfield, C. R.	McCarney, J. M.	Packard, J.
Lamb, W. S.	Mansfield, E. W.	McCarron, A.	Packham, R.
Lamont, G. R.	Maple, F.	McCarthy, W.	Page, F. J.
Lang, W. H.	Marles, R. T.	McClelland, I. D.	Paillas, A. P.
Lang, K.	Marsh, M. L.	McClelland, C.	Pails, D. R.
Langton, J.	Martin, A.	McClements, A.	Pails, J.
Lawson, R. J.	Martin, A. J.	McCoy, W. K.	Paine, B. L.
Leach, B. A.	Martin, D.	McDarra, T. F.	Palmer, D. J.
Leal, S.	Martin, R. B.	McGowan, E. J.	Panylyk, S.
Lee, M. R. W.	Martin, R. F.	McGrath, J.	Parker, A. L.
Lee, S. E.	Matheson, D.	McHatton, H. B.	Parker, H.
Leete, N.	Matsunaga, M.	McIlhone, N. J.	Parsons, J.
Leigh, R.	Maunder, E. J.	McIndoe, I. R.	Parsons, K. C.
Lemon, K. J.	May, A. L.	McKee, R. C.	Patterson, M. S.
Levy, A. J.	Mellowes, J. R.	McLean, I. A.	Paul, B. R.
Levy, G.	Mercer, G. P.	McLeay, J. D.	Pemberton, B.
Lickley, L. G.	Meredith, W.	McLeod, D. G.	Penches, A. C.
Lidden, H. J.	Middleton, H.	McLoughlin, D.	Pendergast, A. G.
Lindfield, T. G.	Miles, R. J. G.	McManus, W. M.	Perrin, D.
Lindsay, R. G.	Mills, C. J.	McMechan, J.	Perrin, A.
Little, S. D.	Milne, E. J.	McMurray, L. B.	Perrott, J.
Lockyer, J. D.	Mitchell, K. E.	Nagel, G.	Perry, G.

## MEMBERS AS AT JANUARY 1, 1979

Pickering, J. R.	Ross, S.	Spencer, P. M.	Tooley, A. C.
Pierce, A. R.	Russell, C.	Spillane, V.	Townsend, Dr. R. N.
Pierce, S. F.	Ruthven, P. B.	Spooner, J. R.	Trahair, G. B. K.
Pitt, J. M.	Ryden, H. S.	Springthorpe, G. G.	Trainor, J. M.
Poole, G.	St. Clair, S.	Stafford, G.	Truelove, S.
Press, D. J.	Sanders, G. N.	Stampfli, H.	Tubbs, R. B.
Price, C.	Sargeant, B. E.	Stanley, W. G.	Tully, L.
Princep, A. E.	Sargeant, A.	Stapleton, L. C.	Turner, Paul
Prideaux, R.	Saunders, R. T.	Staton, A. C.	Turner, Peter
Punch, J. J.	Saunders, B. E.	Stead, G.	Twigg, K. A.
Purcell, B.	Saville, R. J.	Stead, K.	Twist, W.
Purse, R. A.	Saville, R. T.	Steer, G.	Uejima, E.
Quayle, A. L.	Saxby, J. W.	Stephens, R. C. J.	Vagg, K. J.
Quayle, L. A.	Scanlen, J.	Stephenson, R. F.	Van Dugteren, Dr. N.
Quigley, B. A.	Scarlett, Dr. G. A.	Stevens, A. V.	Van Wegen, P. A.
Rabbidge, R. E.	Schneider, R. F.	Stevens, J. H.	Vaughan, C. N.
Rabbidge, R. H.	Searle, Dr. A.	Stevenson, S. T.	Vaughan, R. N.
Randall, K.	Seaton, D.	Stewart, R. K.	Venn-Brown, I.
Randall, W. H.	See, P. W.	Stewart, J.	Vere, P. J.
Raper, H.	See Hoe, B.	Steyns, A.	Verity, D.
Reely, J. R.	Seymour, N. B.	Stilwell, R. B.	Vuletich, T.
Reeson, N. A.	Shadforth, C. S.	Stokes, P. T.	Wagner, S.
Reeve, F. A.	Shadforth, G.	Storey, M. S.	Walker, K. C.
Reid, W. J. H.	Shaw, S.	Strahan, A. F.	Walker, K. L. P.
Renwick, F.	Shearer, M. T.	Street, J. H.	Walker, B.
Richard, G. G.	Shepherd, A.	Stringer, R. D.	Wallace, G. P.
Richard, S. G.	Short, E. S.	Struthers, I. G.	Wallace, J. B.
Richardson, P.	Short, G.	Stuart, C.	Walley, L. G.
Riches, R.	Short, R. P.	Stuart, K.	Wallis, R. A.
Righetti, Alan	Simmons, G. D. C.	Sundin, Dr. D. W.	Walters, K. H.
Riley, M. J.	Simons, A.	Sundin, D. G.	Walters, K. H.
Rishworth, J. H.	Simons, R. G.	Svenson, B. E.	Wansey, Dr. P. N.
Rischmiller, K.	Simonson, J. A.	Sykes, J. W.	Ward, E. H. D.
Ritchie, J. W.	Sinclair, G. P.	Symonds, N.	Ward, F. A.
Ritchie, L. W.	Sinclair, J. B.	Symonds, R.	Ward, G. C.
Ritchie, P. D.	Slatter, S. M.	Takayama, T.	Ward, L. E.
Ritchie, W. N.	Slight, J. W.	Tallents, G. H.	Ward, W. D. T.
Roberts, J. W.	Smallwood, R. L.	Taylor, G. D.	Wardman, L.
Roberts, T. H.	Smart, N. R.	Teer, F.	Warrington, P. G.
Roberts, V.	Smith, Fr. C.	Tennant, T. M.	Washington, G. I.
Robinson, D.	Smith, H. S.	Theakstone, A.	Washington, V.
Robson, H. V.	Smith, J. V.	Thom, Jack	Watson, A. M.
Robson, P. A.	Smith, J. W.	Thomas, H. L.	Weatherburn, C.
Roche, W. S.	Smith, M.	Thomas, Dr. J. F.	Weight, J. W.
Rogers, W. A.	Smith, R.	Thompson, J. W.	Weight, R. W.
Rogers, A. W.	Smith, R. F.	Thompson, R. J.	Weight, W.
Rooke, W.	Smyth, R.	Thompson, R. M.	Weir, I.
Rosati, Dr. F.	Smyth, R.	Thomson, T. G.	Wellington, S. H.
Rosewall, K.	Snowden, P. J.	Thorpe, J. A.	Westall, C. W.
Roseworne, B. J.	Somerset, F. C.	Tickle, G.	Weston, J.
Rosner, S.	Souter, J. H.	Tighe, R. P.	Wheeler, R. R.
Ross, J. S.	Speaight, R.	Tilden, P.	Wheeler, R. W.

## MEMBERS AS AT JANUARY 1, 1979

White, S.	Williams, E. E.	Wolfe, H. C. R.	Wright, A. W.
Whitehead, W. S.	Williams, G. J.	Wood, A.	Wright, P.
Whitehouse, P.	Williams, H. L.	Woodhouse, I.	Wyllie, J. M.
Whittaker, W. H.	Wilson, J. M.	Woodhouse, L. F.	Wyllie, K. S.
Wigney, B.	Wilson, R.	Woodley, J. L.	Yabsley, T. V.
Wigney, S. M.	Wilson, R. M.	Woodstone, J. W.	Yokoyama, S.
Wild, A. H.	Wilson, W. A.	Workman, J.	Young, E. G.
Wiles, R. A.	Winter, B. L.	Worrall, G. R.	
Wilkinson, J.	Withycombe, J. C.	Worthington, A. R.	
Williams, C. G. S.	Witt, W.	Wray, G. G.	

## HOUSE MEMBERS

Adema, J.	Dengate, D. A.	Jacobs, P. M.	Sanders, C. G.
Alexander, R. W.	Dhu, K. T.	Kilminster, M. H.	Saunders, A. P.
Bacina, R.	Dixon, G. H.	Lawson, J. J.	Scanlen, P.
Bartlett, R. T.	Emanuel, D. R.	Leal, T. C.	Spencer, B.
Boyd, B. W.	Fin, M. A.	Leddie, G. R.	Stapleton, J. R. D.
Brachner, J. W.	Garland, G.	Moore, W. R.	Taylor, B. W.
Bucknell, R. E.	Gelding, K. B.	Morris, E. R.	van Wensveen, J. C.
Cameron, D. McR.	Gorrick, D. G.	O'Neil, A. J.	Wall, J. T.
Chard, R. B.	Hall, P.	O'Neill, B.	Walter, H.
Clarke, F.	Henry, M.	Perman, A.	Warrington, P. G.
Cleary, B. A.	Hewitt, T. A.	Rebelitz, R.	Wrench, H. C.
Courtney, A. E.	Hooley, R. A.	Roberts, H. J.	Yeomans, A. M.
Degotardi, B. J.	Horton, S. L.	Roberts, R. J.	
Degotardi, G. W.	Iverach, J. G.	Rubensohn, W.	

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AS AT JANUARY 1, 1979

Abberton, Betty	Barton, Joy	Brand, Toni	Burton, Judy
Adams, Joan	Bassett, Nell	Brereton, LeG. Jean	Burton, Yvonne
Adams, Lesley	Bateman, Elaine	Brettnall, Daphne	Butler, Louise
Agnew, Betty	Beale, Bronwen	Brettnall, June	Cain, Christine
Alexander, Valerie	Becker, June	Brettle, Shirley	Cain, Jessie
Allison, Marnie	Bell, Faye	Brigstock, Norma	Calcraft, Anne
Allsop, Judith	Bell, Pam	Broben, Pat	Cambourn, Elizabeth
Anderson, Sally	Bennett, Bonnie	Brodie, Marie	Cameron, Essie
Archer, Christine	Biddle, Eileen	Brouggy, Betty	Cameron, Bev.
Archer, Hazel	Bingham, Sue	Broun, Joy	Campbell, Pauline
Armstrong, Fruma	Birmingham, Fay	Brown, Dawn	Cannon, Joan
Arnold, Pam	Black, Kit	Brown, Thelma	Carlisle, Phyl
Attfield, Denise	Blackwell, Nancy	Brown, Jeanette	Carr, Marie
Avis, Colleen	Boultbee, Frances	Bruce-Smith, Shirley	Carroll, Robin
Baker, Janet	Bowcock, Sheila	Bryce, Patricia	Carter, Joan
Baker, Kath.	Bowen, Sue	Buckingham, Mollie	Cass, Peta
Baldwin, Colleen	Boyce, Barbara	Buckingham, Shirley	Channon, Judy
Baldwin, Gloria	Boyce, Dahlis	Bull, Val	Chapman, Beris
Bancroft, Janet	Bracher, Helen	Bunker, Bell	Charlton, Viv
Barnet, Yvonne	Bradfield, Jeanette	Burling, Virginia	Chaston, Joan
Barrett, Patricia	Bradford, Gwen	Burns, Edie	Christensen, Helen
Barton, Dora	Brady, Judy	Burrow, Lilloce	Clark, Norma



## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AS AT JANUARY 1, 1979

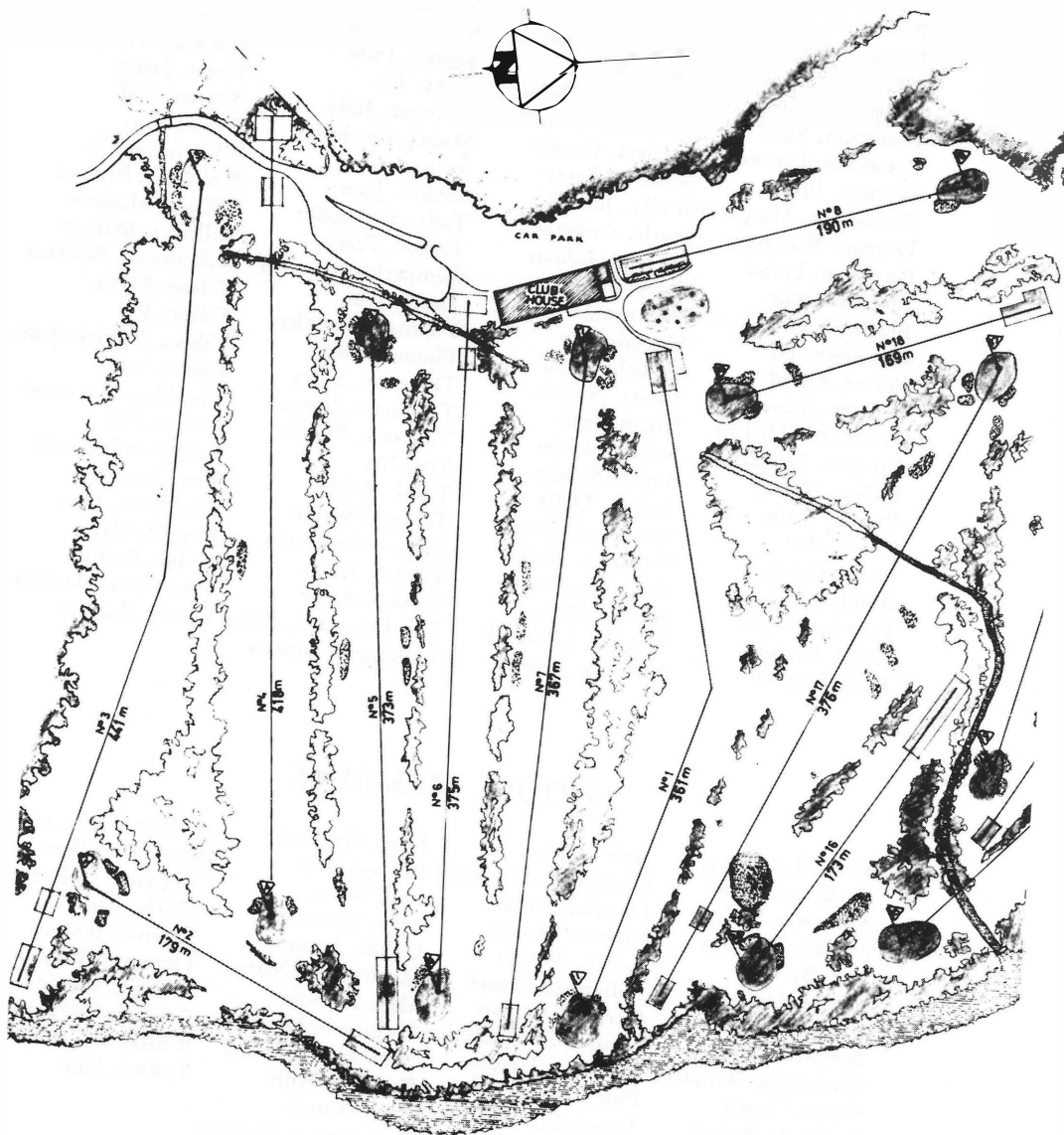
Clarke, Ruth	Fisher, Jeni	Hopwood, Wendy	Magnussen, Allie
Clarke, Joan	Fitzgerald, Jan	Howard, Jean	Mairs, Christine
Clegg, Jenny	Flanders, Joan	Howard, Maureen	Maloney, Betty
Collin, Lorna	Ford, Jill	Howie, Patricia	Malvern, Audrey
Collis, Eileen	Fordham, Irene	Hubball, Enid	Marsh, Marj
Cook, Betty	Fox, Ruth	Hutley, Mary	Martin, Jean
Cooke, Mary	Francis, Diana	Hutley, Patricia	Matthews, Vivienne
Cope, Val	Francis, Myron	Hutton, Judith	McAllan, Margaret
Cornish, Hettie	Franklin, Valda	Innes, Bobbie	McCarthy, Phyl
Couldwell, Bloss	Fricker, Kaye	Ivanac, June	McClelland, Joan
Couper, Norma	Fryer, Joy	Jacobs, Joy	McCormick, Betty
Critchley, Arda	Gale, Avis	James, Enid	McCredie, Sadie
Cross, Pat	Gardner, Joan	James, June	McCulloch, Faith
Crump, Irene	Gash, Irene	Jan, Vicky	McDonald, Beryl
Crowe, Jill	Gaynor, Betty	Jewson, Bub	McGregor, Stephanie
Cumming, Jay	Gillett, Jill	Jobson, Madelaine	McGroy, Clarice
Curtis, Jean	Gillett, Gladys	John, Ann	McGugan, Lorna
Dagg, Joy	Godwin, Enid	Johnco, Pat	McHatton, Joy
Darlington, Jan	Goodman, Edith	Johnson, Jean	McIlhone, Marjorie
Davis, Helen	Gorrick, Betty	Johnston, Enid	McKee, Jenny
Davis, Rona	Gosson, Nan	Jonak, Eva	McLean, Peg
Deamer, Gwen	Grant, Joan	Jones, Joan	McMechan, Laurie
Dewar, Peg	Green, Helena	Jones, Susan	Mercer, Alison
Dibbs, Margaret	Griffiths, Joan	Keen, Pam	Middleton, Lili
Dickison, Betty	Haire, Rene	Kehoe, Beverley	Middleton, Terrie
Dixon, Josephine	Hall, Penny	Kelloway, Ena	Milne, June
Dobbins, Beryl	Hamer, Olive	Kelly, Ruby	Mitchell, Inez
Donald, Merle	Hamilton, Maureen	Kennedy, Del	Monks, Wendy
Donnelley, Merle	Hammond, Beth	Kerswell, Jacqueline	Moore, Jenny
Dowling, Denise	Hancock, Stephanie	Kilminster, Molly	Morgan, Helen
Drane, Beth	Hansen, Carol	Kime, Ethel	Morris, Laurel
Drew, Joan	Hansen, Lee	King, Muriel	Morris, Jessie
Drury, Margret	Harris, Jean	Koppstein, S.	Mortensen, Ilma
Dubedat, Nancy	Hawes, Barbara	Kroschel, Margaret	Morton, Dot
Duff, Grace	Hay-Ellis, Elizabeth	La Forest, Sheila	Moss, Madge
Dunston, Lynette	Hayman, Marjorie	Laird, Alison	Munro, Beatrice
Dutch, Dickie	Heathers, Edna	Lambley, Joan	Murray, Beryl
Edwards, Betty	Hedderman, Madel.	Lamb, Lillian	Nagle, Joan
Edwards, Clare	Hemsworth, Vicky	Lamont, Audrey	Newlands, Audrey
Ellison, Beryl	Herd, Biddie	Landers, Kath	Neely, Pam
Elvy, Beryl	Heron, Judy	Lang, Shirley	Nicholson, Doreen
Emmerick, Shiela	Hetherton, Merle	Langker, Phyl	Nisbet, Meg
Fairfax, Gwen	Hiatt, Betty	Lee, Judy	Nunn, Lorraine
Falvey, Ann	Hibbert, Dell	Lee, Milva	Oakes, Kath
Fawcett, Joan	Hill, Pat	Levy, Betty	Oates, Elvira
Feher, Gretel	Hill, Bobbie	Lewis, Jan	O'Brien, Gwen
Felan, Meg	Hinwood, Jan	Lockyer, Margaret	O'Connor, Marie
Felan, Leonie	Hogan, Janet	Long, Valerie	O'Connor, Mavis
Feltscheer, Mardi	Hogarth, Betty	Luiker, Kyoko	O'Connor, Marg
Ferrier, Margaret	Holmes, Mabel	Lycenko, Lauri	O'Donnell, Betty
Field, Jean	Hooley, Maud	MacDonald, Beth	O'Flynn, Kathleen
Fisher, Doreen	Hopping, Betty	Magée, Phyl	O'Hehir, Enid

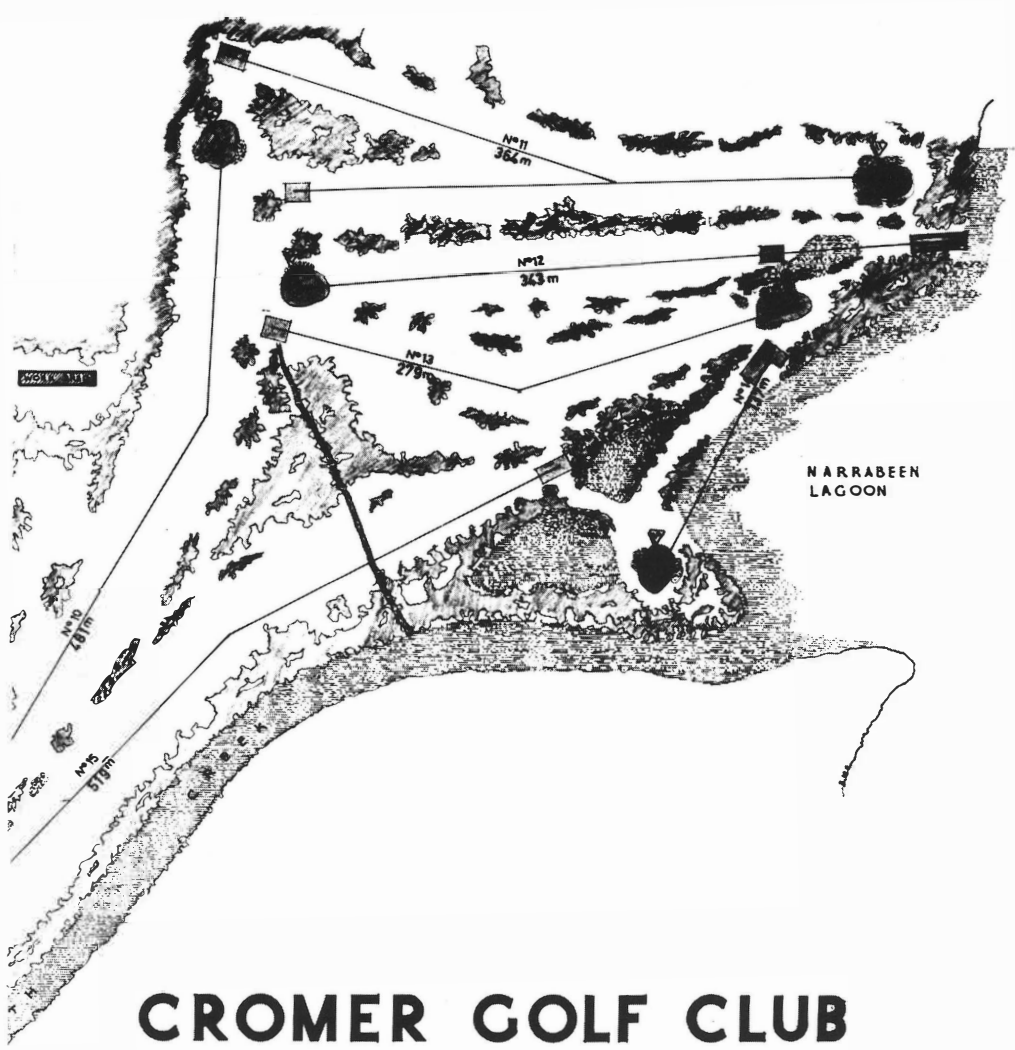
## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AS AT JANUARY 1, 1979

O'Loan, Julie	Reeson, Barbara	Spillane, Myee	Walden, Mollie
Orbell, Muriel	Reid, Jean	Spooner, Audrey	Walker, Jean
Organ, Pam	Richards, Kath	Springthorpe, Mollie	Walker, Shirley
O'Sullivan, Marj	Roberts, Joan	Stapleton, Pat	Walker, Beryl
Packham, Joan	Roberts, Faye	Stano, Janette	Wallace, Billie
Pails, Mavis	Roberts, Barbara	Stayte, Robin	Walley, Ellen
Palmer, Rosemary	Roberts, Louise	Stead, Brenda	Walters, Rhonda
Park, Grace	Robins, Dorothy	Stedman, Betty	Ward, Bernice
Parker, Nancye	Rose, Josephine	Stephens, Jan	Ward, Jeanette
Parsons, Thelma	Rossner, Lorraine	Stirton, Joan	Watson, Enid
Parsons, Dellas	Royal, Val	Storey, Judy	Watson, Nancy
Paton, Toni	Rubensohn, Roma	Stott, Joy	Watts, Janet
Patterson, Kate	Sallaway, Marjorie	Stringer, Judy	Werner, Val
Patterson, Laureen	Scarlett, Ursula	Stuart, Daphne	White, Tim
Pearson, June	Schober, Betty	Sucic, Laurie	Whitehouse, Jo
Pemberton, Margaret	Scully, Jenny	Sutton, Jean	Whitfield, Pauline
Perman, Waveney	Searle, Annette	Tadano, Shigeko	Willans, Marjory
Perriman, Lorna	See Hoe, Lillian	Taylor, Terry	Williams, Margot
Platt, Eleanor	Shaw, Pete	Temperley, Barbara	Williamson, Heather
Playoust, Olga	Simonson, Marj	Thom, Jean	Wilson, Marie
Plummer, Jan	Sinclair, Joy	Thomas, Dorothy	Wilson, Pat
Porter, Meryl	Skeoch, Ruth	Thomas, Olive	Wilson, Patricia Jean
Princep, Joan	Smart, Nyorie	Thomson, Betty	Wilson, Sue
Pritchard, Thelma	Smith, Joan	Thorburn, Mona	Winckler, Marianne
Proctor, Jacqueline	Smith, Shirley	Tilbrook, Phyllis	Winter, Del
Pullen, Nancy	Smith, Sybilla	Tod, Iris	Withycombe, June
Punch, Anne	Smyth, Dolly	Todd, Mollie	Witt, Lucy
Punch, Pat	Snodgrass, Laurie	Trippe, Daphne	Workman, Joan
Purse, Helen	Somerset, Sheila	Trippe, Samantha	Wright, Marg
Randall, Couran	Somerset, Susan	Tucker, Betty	Wyllie, Brenda
Rawson, Maisie	Souter, Marj	Vander, Anne	Yokoyama, Hachan
Reese, Pamela	Speight, Elisabeth	Van Dugteren, Eliz.	Young, Audrey
Rees, Rosslyn	Sperring, Mary	Vaughan, Dorothy	

## HOUSE MEMBERS

Allen, Rosemary	Daly, Elaine	King, Heather	Robertson, Jean
Anderson, Hazel	Donnelley, Elizabeth	Lawson, Kay	Sheerin, Colleen
Anderson, Robyn	Douglas, Robin	Leal, Marg.	Tennant, Dolores
Arnold, Dorothy	Fafeita, Monica	Love, Lloma	Thiele, Pat
Ash, Barbara	Farley, Norma	Leddie, Janet	Thomas, Bonnie
Austin, Dorothy	Fullerton, Laurel	Macnamara, Mary	Thomson, Beryl
Basden, Helena	Garland, Robyn	May, Patricia	Trahair, Vincie
Berkman, Joan	Hanna, Dr. Barbara	McIntosh, Merle	Trainor, Margaret
Blackman, Margaret	Hopkins, Ursula	Nancarrow, Mavis	Williams, Camilla
Blount, Ruth	Horton, Cheryl	Pattison, Ann	Young, Jane
Bucknell, Robyn	James, Eileen	Paul, Nancy	
Cassim, Vanda	Johnson, Karen	Prendergast, Daphne	
Coombes, Margaret	Kaine, Janet	Richards, Gladys	

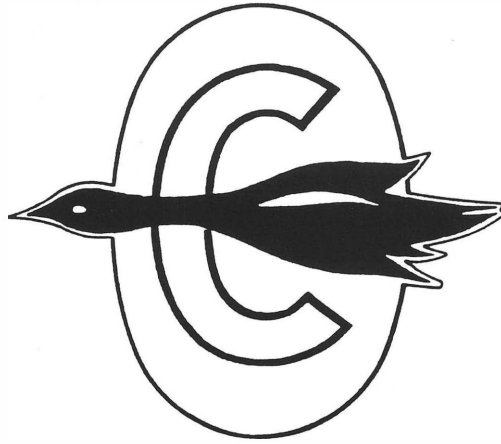




# CROMER GOLF CLUB

1979  
scale 1"=100'





BOOK TWO  
1979—1991

David Innes



Stan Ottewill  
Life Member 1960  
and Patron 1983-90

## FOREWORD

During the period of Book Two of our history, 1979/1991, compiled by former President and Captain David Innes and author of the New South Wales Golf Association Book 'The Story of Golf in N.S.W., 1851-1987' I was honoured to be appointed the second Patron of the Club — something which I greatly value. My predecessor, Horrie Hayman, had held that role for 31 years.

Much has happened at Cromer since the release of Les Forsyth's Book One in 1979, including the Club's Diamond Jubilee in 1989. To enable members to understand something of our more recent history, David has broken up this history into 'President Eras' thus allowing members not only to understand what has taken place over the past 12 years but also for them to appreciate what they owe to fellow members who take on the responsibilities associated with becoming committeemen. He has also devoted an interesting Chapter on the role of our Lady members.

By the time this book is released we shall be sharing the luxury of a new Clubhouse. It is in this delightful setting that members, after a round of golf in unique surroundings, can sit back with a drink and contemplate how fortunate each one is to belong to Cromer Golf Club — a club that has always provided much fellowship to the members over a period of more than 60 years.

I can do no more than commend to all members the reading of Book Two which, in a detailed and most interesting way, enlightens us all on how far Cromer has progressed in the recent short period of 12 years.

Stan Ottewill

Stan Ottewill joined Dee Why Golf Club in May 1936. He wrote this Foreword prior to his death on 14 January, 1991 at the age of 91. Vale, Stanley.

## PREFACE

Les Forsyth's book 'Cromer Golf Club History, 1929-1979' — and now designated Book One — was released in 1979 on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the original golf club known as Dee Why Golf Club and it details the trials and tribulations of the early members in setting up the Club we know today as Cromer Golf Club.

This book — designated Book Two — covers the years 1979 to 1991 and is, with one exception, a summary of recent Club events of some significance which in the years to come will be regarded as 'History'. The one exception is that in the course of research I was able to locate a first ever photograph of Max Cooper, generally regarded as our Founder and also of his wife Olive, who did much to create and develop ladies golf in the Dee Why Golf Club at a time when her husband was so strongly dedicated to making a success of the original golf course venture. Notwithstanding that Max Cooper's role is recorded in Book One I believe it is opportune at the beginning of Book Two to introduce the photograph of our Founder and to summarise why today's members are indebted to his efforts, physical and financial, in the early formation years of the club we know today.

In so doing I wish to thank Bill Cooper for making available the photographs of his parents and at the same time to thank all the members and associate members who kindly made contributions as well as to the office staff for their co-operation and assistance.

David Innes





Arthur Max Cooper  
(1885 — 1947)  
Bellevue Hill and Dee Why  
(Life Member, 1940)

Max Cooper acquired the 'Cromer Syndicate' land of 105 acres on 19 August 1927 and with it a surveyor's marking out of an 18 hole golf course; the price was £19,000. He immediately proceeded to form Dee Why Golf Links Ltd and for that company to purchase the property from him and to finance the venture. Apart from himself the directors of the company were John M Turnbull, Fred Ortel and H C Coggins.

Notwithstanding that the public only subscribed a small amount of money to the Dee Why Golf Links Ltd Prospectus of 21 October 1927, Max Cooper poured money and effort into the venture and on 8 June 1929 the first nine holes were opened, followed by the second nine holes in 1932.

By 1933 Dee Why Golf Links Ltd was in debt to Max Cooper to the extent of £41,691.16.9 with very little hope of being able to pay him in the foreseeable future — it was the Depression Era. He then most generously agreed to have the amount written down to £30,000 such was the calibre of the man and of his dedication to see a golf course developed on this unique area of land. The final debt of £9,000 owing to Max Cooper was in the form of a second mortgage at 4% per annum and was taken over by Cromer Country Club Ltd on its formation on 2 February 1940. Following his death in 1947, it was finally discharged on 31 March, 1949.

As an immediate tribute the Max Cooper Memorial Trophy was inaugurated and is played for annually as a Single Knockout Handicap Event.

Every person who at one time or another has belonged to Dee Why Golf Club, Cromer Country Club or Cromer Golf Club over the past 60 or so years owes a debt of gratitude to our Founder, Max Cooper.



David Innes  
President, 1978-79-80

## THE INNES ERA

The members of the incoming 1979 committee created a 'first', inasmuch as they were the same members of the outgoing committee to be re-elected unopposed. The Secretary/Manager Arthur Wilson retired early in 1979 and his successor, Peter Bruce from the nearby Warringah Golf Club, commenced duties on the 26 March — being immediately dubbed 'Peter Bruce The Second' as he was Cromer's second Secretary/Manager of that name.

The long time contentious and oft debated matter of whether to have a billiard room had finally been resolved at a General Meeting of members in the latter half of 1978 and at the same meeting the members had approved an updating of the foyer and administration offices — in all at a cost of \$46,000 by builder John Adema. The billiard room at the northern end of the clubhouse, was opened on 23 February and the other alterations in May 1979. Also in February, following a communication from the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board, a tender was let to George E. Jones Pty. Ltd. for connection of the Club's toilet/kitchen plumbing services to the Toronto Avenue mains sewerage which, including the cost of Bruce Arundell & Associates supervision fee, cost less than the budget figure of \$28,000.

At the 40th Annual General Meeting the President outlined to the meeting the work being carried out by the committee for a Club Master Plan to be released to the members at a later date, which turned out to be the 42nd Annual General Meeting on 31 March, 1981. Part of the plan would relate to a portion of the Club's surplus land facing Cromer Road which



*Above:* Cromer Golf Club celebrates the 50th anniversary.

*Below:* Patron Horrie Hayman cuts the 50th anniversary cake.





Les Forsyth who joined Dee Why Golf Club in 1936 holds the P S O'Donnell trophy which he won on 22 January 1938.

was considered as being suitable for residential purposes and for which a suggested draft development plan had been presented to the committee by member Keith Wyllie, a Land Surveyor. This plan was accepted by the Committee as offering a worthwhile base for discussion with Councillors and the Staff of the Warringah Shire Council. It was this portion of the Club's surplus land which the Club eventually sold to the Land Commission of NSW in 1988 for two million dollars.

The first celebration event to mark the Club's Golden Jubilee was a ball held on 9 June 1979; those in attendance included John Hallam, MP Minister for Agriculture, representing the Premier of New South Wales, Neville Wran, MP; Tom Webster, MP Local Member for Wakehurst; Gavin Anderson, President of Warringah Shire Council; Lionel Barnett, President of the New South Wales Golf Association and the Presidents of all Golf Clubs on the Manly/Warringah peninsular. The Golden Jubilee cake was cut by 'Mr Cromer', Patron Horrie Hayman, who had done so much over so many years to guide Cromer to where it is today.

It was on this significant occasion that the book 'Cromer Golf Club History, 1929/1979' was released and in recognition of his effort in compiling the book the President at the 1980 Annual General Meeting, on behalf of all members, presented Les Forsyth with a painting of the Clubhouse.



Lady President Pam Neely (right) presents members of the winning Cromer team with Golden Jubilee trophies. Members of the team were Nan Gosson, Beris Chapman, Mavis O'Connor, Rhonda Walters and Margo Williams.

A Golden Jubilee Week of Golf was held 18/26 November when a variety of golfing events took place for members, associate members, sponsors, golfing V.I.P's and visitors — including several from our Wellington New Zealand Reciprocal Club, The Hutt. The course was in magnificent condition due to the special efforts of Ross Christensen and his committee and to John Atkinson, Course Superintendent and his staff. The kind act of long time members Phil and Rona Davis in donating a drinking fountain on the ladies 15th tee as a part of the occasion has since been greatly appreciated by golfers on hot days.

On 2 December the prestigious New South Wales Champion of Champions was held at Cromer for the first time and was won by Rod Boyd, the ACT-MONARO Regional Champion; about the same time the National Amateur long drive competition was won by Cromer Club Champion, John Wilkinson.

No sooner had the Golden Jubilee celebrations ended when disaster struck in the form of a bushfire that did much damage to property and natural bush throughout the Warringah Shire. The date, 10 December, became known as 'Black Monday' and Cromer's insurance claim was settled at \$7,892.16.

In brief the fire swept onto the course from the north-west, destroying much course flora and a section of the equipment



On 10 December 1979 bushfires destroyed large areas of native flora throughout the Warringah Shire and almost cost Cromer the Clubhouse. The occasion was aptly called 'Black Monday'.







Cecil Berkman presented the Berkman Bowl to the Club in memory of his son Geoff, a most popular member, who died in 1959.

shed, finally being diverted around the Clubhouse itself where many members had gathered to offer assistance — a change in wind direction to the south probably saved the Clubhouse from being totally destroyed. In the expectation that the worst was to happen club records, trophies and other valuables were evacuated to a safer place. The President tells this story ‘local residents and the fire brigade arrived at the Clubhouse simultaneously. One resident asked “what is the most important — this Clubhouse or our houses?” to which the Fire Chief replied “don’t ask me, I live at Kings Cross!’. In support of the Warringah Shire Bush-fire Appeal the Club held a gala golf day on 17 February, 1980 which netted \$800 for this worthy cause.

On 5 January 1980 the Secretary Manager Peter Bruce resigned to take up a similar position with the Narooma Golf Club on the South Coast of New South Wales. His place was taken by Cecil Edgar, Secretary/Manager of the Brisbane Golf Club, Queensland and with South African Golf Club administration experience; this appointment was effective 1 May, 1980.

The strong rise in the price of silver internationally led to a valuation of \$16,000 being placed on the Berkman Bowl — accordingly it was temporarily transferred to the club’s bank, the Commonwealth Bank at Dee Why for safe keeping and in its place the trophy cabinet was ‘adorned’ with a replica photograph of the Bowl. On the subject of values/costs the prices



The Par 5, 521 metre third hole at Tasmania Golf Club, Hobart, is almost a replica of the famous 18th hole at Pebble Beach, USA.

for drinks underwent another increase in February — 10oz beer from 45¢ to 48¢, scotch whisky nip from 75¢ to 80¢, soft drinks from 35¢ to 40¢. At the same time the Committee resolved that ‘the Cavaliers event on Mondays not be classified as an official competition and that any hole-in-one will not be recognised by the Club’.

One of the last actions of the outgoing 1979 Committee was to enter into reciprocal arrangements with the Tasmanian Golf Club, Hobart Tasmania.

At the 41st Annual General Meeting for 1979 held on 26 March 1980 the members were advised of the release in January of a Narrabeen Lagoon Management Plan by the Warringah Shire Council, which included a reference to plans for a series of walkways and links to be constructed around the lagoon at some time in the future. Members were informed that the incoming Committee would be addressing the possible implications for the Club and that these would be outlined to members in the Master Plan being prepared for release at the 42nd Annual General Meeting in 12 months time. On taking office the incoming 1980 Committee resolved that Director Indemnity Insurance be taken out on each committeeman (Director) for the amount of \$500,000 at a cost of \$25 per person, no doubt considered a wise move at the time in the light of increasing litigation costs.

On matters relating to the golf course the Course Superinten-



dent John Atkinson attended the 6th Biennial National Turf Conference in Hobart Tasmania. About the same time a Care of Trees Field Day was conducted on the course by Mr P. Hadlington of the Forestry Commission to overcome trouble being experienced with borers in some of the gum trees and Saw fly in some of the melaleucas.

On 1 May Cecil Edgar took up the position of Secretary/Manager. A specific condition of his employment was a 'hands off committee approach'; however, notwithstanding his high qualifications, he did not perform up to expectations and finally, after some legal proceedings, his services were terminated in July 1981.

Throughout June and July the NSW Golf Association re-rated several Group 1 Golf Clubs, including Cromer, in accordance with their Membership Standards Formula which is based on a maximum score of 1,000 points — 640 for Course and 360 for Clubhouse. Cromer and Pennant Hills each scored 909, Pymble 949, Monash 931, Manly 923, Oatlands 913, Ryde-Parramatta 898, Strathfield 895, Mona Vale 882 and Long Reef 866 points. A break up of the Cromer points showed that for the Course 591 points (92.1%) and for the Clubhouse 318 points (88.3%) were awarded, an overall percentage of 90.9.

By mid year piping of the creek across the 17th fairway was completed at a cost of approximately \$4,000 — no more would play be held up at this troublesome spot whilst players searched in the creek where balls somehow had the knack of hiding. The trial of a two tee start from the 1st and 10th tees on competition days did not prove popular with members and was soon abandoned; however, from 25 October a two tee start from the 1st and 8th was successful and is still operating in 1991.

In August 1980 all members were sent a questionnaire which invited answers/comments/suggestions relating to age group, clubhouse location/improvements, subscriptions, trade days, catering, social activities and other sporting amenities for inclusion in a Master Development Plan that was released to all members at the 42nd Annual General Meeting on 31 March 1981. One of the most interesting statistics to emerge was the domicile change of the members over some fifty years. Initially 90% of the members came from the south and west of Middle Harbour; the survey disclosed that this figure had dropped to 30%. With the substantial post war growth of the Warringah Shire it seems this trend is certain to continue.

Following the disastrous bush fire in December 1979 the



Course Superintendent, Greg Flint.

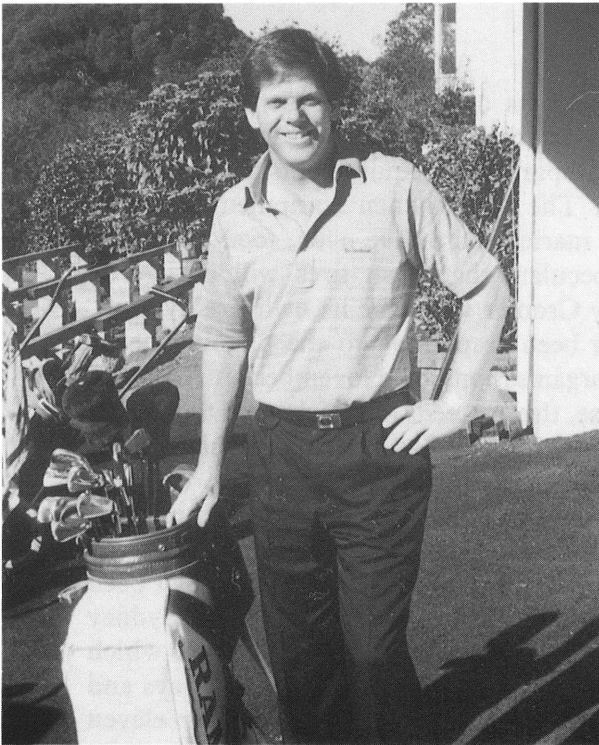
Club investigated installing its own fire hydrant; however the cost of \$12,000 proved a deterrent and the more pressing needs of meeting the Health Department requirements in respect to the kitchen went ahead. The new kitchen equipment included cool room, freezer, bain marie, microwave oven, food slicer and sinks. One can only speculate that bush fires will always be with us and that one day Cromer will have its own fire hydrant.

Cromer has always been responsive to the ongoing needs of worthy local charity organisations. In November an Art show was held in the Clubhouse, the proceeds of which went to Stewart House, Curl Curl and the Sunnyfield Association, French's Forest in the amounts of \$3,000 and \$1,600 respectively.

Towards the end of 1980 drought conditions prevailed throughout most of New South Wales, imposing extra demands on the Buckner course automatic watering system that had been in place since 1969 — in fact Cromer was the second Sydney Golf Club to install a course automatic watering system which soon resulted in year round greatly improved grass fairways and brought to an end the long time 'Cromer Crawl'. After eleven



*Above:* Cromer Cheer Squad led by Eric Kime (left) entertains the members of The Hutt Golf Club, Wellington, N.Z.



*Left:* Club Professional, Brad Wall.

years of faithful service it was in need of a major overhaul that would remove the large accumulation of local ironstone sediment that had choked the pipes leading to the sprinkler heads and silted up the storage tanks. The advice of Deveson Jahn, the installers of the system, was sought and, with the assistance of their skilled staff, our ground staff did a very fine job in carrying out the overhaul.

Responsibility for this job was in the hands of Course Superintendent John Atkinson. No sooner had the work been completed John resigned owing to ill health, subsequently becoming a lecturer at the Ryde School of Horticulture. His place was taken by the second in charge, Greg Flint, who joined Cromer from Elanora Golf Club in August 1976 and who, by 1991, has done so much to give us the course we all enjoy playing today.

It was not only Course Superintendent John Atkinson who had health problems at this time. Treasurer Bob Critchley, after six years in that office was forced to stand down and, sadly, passed away in 1981. Then in March 1981 our professional Kel Brown resigned for health reasons. Once again the position was offered to the second in charge Brad Wall who, ten years later, continues to be our popular and highly regarded professional.

In March 1981 a mixed group of 40 Cromer golfers made a two week visit to New Zealand where matches were played with reciprocal clubs — The Hutt in Wellington and Akarana in Auckland. It was a happy occasion, aided by a road coach for all internal travel and which, as well as transporting a large collection of golfing equipment, allowed for sightseeing of some of New Zealand's picturesque North Island. The few days stopover at Taupo provided the opportunity for most to angle for the renowned Taupo trout. This most happy occasion apparently wet the appetite of the New Zealand mixed group, for in 1982 many doubled up for a visit to Tasmania. Again a road coach was invaluable in moving the group from Launceston to Hobart, including sightseeing along the way, whilst golf was enjoyed at Launceston Golf Club and in Hobart at Cromer's reciprocal club, Tasmania, as well as at Royal Hobart and Kingston Beach.

Still with an appetite for golf and travel by several of the earlier tour members a visit of 38 mixed members was made to South Australia and the Murray Valley in 1985. Travel to Adelaide was by the Indian-Pacific Train and return to Sydney by road coach. Golf was enjoyed at reciprocal Adelaide Clubs, The Grange and Mt Osmond and along the Murray River at Rich River, Cobram-Barooga, Yarrawonga-Border and Corowa.

To break up the return journey to Sydney a stop over at Wagga Wagga included golf!

A 'Master Plan for the Future Development of Cromer Golf Club' was released to the members at the 42nd Annual General Meeting on 31 March, 1981 and was based on future club policies towards membership, surplus land, course alterations and Clubhouse renovations. At the same time it was recognised that the future attitudes, policies and decisions of the Warringah Shire Council towards community development in our area would have an important bearing on Cromer's future. What clearly emerged was an increasing awareness by the Club Management that every endeavour should be made to sell some of the surplus land so that, with money in hand, the Club would be better placed to implement any major changes deemed desirable by the members and this finding was firmly conveyed to the incoming Committee of Management.

At this same meeting mention was made of the deaths during the year of two long time members — Guy Clarke and Reg Cleverly. Guy joined Dee Why Golf Club in 1936 and was the last Captain prior to the Club changing its name to Cromer Country Club. Reg was a committeeman from 1946 to 1954 and was heavily involved with the activities of the Ex-Servicemen of the Club, about which more is mentioned in 'The Milne Era'.

After three years as President, David Innes did not seek re-election, thus terminating ten years of committee service.



Eric Fordham  
President, 1981-82

## THE FORDHAM ERA

Early action of the incoming Committee of Management was to form a Land/Council Committee comprising President Eric Fordham, Treasurer Alan Quayle, Committeeman Keith Wyllie with the previous President David Innes a co-opted member. The Committee's priority was to examine how best to approach the subject of obtaining re-zoning approval of some of the Club's surplus land for residential purposes, with a view to its sale. A proposal from within the Club that the surplus land be sold to a consortium of Club members was turned down by the Committee.

Following a decision of the Committee to terminate the services of Secretary/Manager Cecil Edgar, some legal litigation became necessary and he finally quit in August. His replacement, Cliff Freeman, took up duties in November 1981 with a golfing administration background as Secretary/Manager at Muirfield, Avondale, Pymble, Kingswood (Victoria) and Moore Park Golf Clubs. Being without a Secretary/Manager for some months imposed considerable strain on the office staff, which was most capably controlled by popular, long serving Mrs Elgin Brown.

At the end of May Cromer was the venue for the New South Wales Amateur Championship — it was a first for Cromer. The winner was Cromer's talented Eric Couper and naturally, was a popular win with all Cromer members. The Match Committee of the New South Wales Golf Association, following their presence for this event, suggested that the ponds at the 12th, 14th and 17th holes be classified as lateral water hazards and

that the boundary pegs be removed from the left side of the 14th fairway — meaning that if a ball was hit into the waters of Narrabeen Lake it was out of bounds. The club accepted the Golf Association's suggestion; however, in 1990 out of bounds pegs were re-introduced on the 14th hole on the recommendation of the Golf Association!

Representatives of the Australian Golf Union, led by Executive Director Colin Philips, visited the club in July to inspect the course and to explain how the recently revised AGU course rating system procedure should be applied. The outcome was that our course could be rated from 68 on Wednesdays to 73 on medal days — when the course is heavy and playing long on medal days no one will disagree should our Match Committee decide to declare 73!

The first half of the first fairway has always presented a drainage problem for the reason that originally it was a part of the low lying swampy copse on the left side of the fairway which had been 'filled' with large trees when the hole was first designed back in the 1920s, and partly because of a consistently high water table in the area. As a new approach to this long time problem a mole ploughing program was implemented with some success but, as members are only too well aware, when we have wet conditions, the problem will not go away.

Former Committeeman Don Nesbitt returned to the 1981 Committee of Management as Vice President and became the Chairman of both the House and the Social sub-committees and with an enthusiastic Committee of both men and ladies a social program for 1981 was quickly set up. To tie in with their plans the House Committee recommended to the General Committee that there be a change from Club to outside catering; this change was agreed to, accordingly long serving Mrs Avrill Payling and her part time staff were replaced with 'Joe and Linda' Catering Services. They were a Chinese husband and wife team and stayed until late in 1989 when, with Clubhouse alterations soon to begin, they decided to leave. Simultaneously with the catering change a drive was made for local residents to take up House Membership.

On the golfing scene, Barry See Hoe won the 1981 Club Championship — the first of his four club championships of the eighties, as well as another win in 1990. John Grace won three Club Junior Championships in the same era and on one occasion, 1986, went on to win the Club Championship — a very fine effort.

In November the upper level car park was resurfaced and marked at a cost of \$11,000. In January 1982 a tractor with front-end loader was purchased for \$11,800 whilst the 1982 member subscriptions was fixed at \$400, with an entrance fee of \$450. The question of corporate membership was considered by the Committee and was rejected.

The members agreed to a recommendation from the Committee of Management that the numbers on Committee be reduced from 13 to 11 and to take effect with the incoming 1982 Committee. One of the first decisions of the incoming Committee was to introduce a new class of membership to be known as Mid-Week and to be available to both new and existing members.

Following a dry summer and autumn, water stocks in both the south creek dam and the usually reliable bore source were at their lowest for many years. In these circumstances the Chairman of Greens, Vice President (and a former Captain) George Drew supervised a working bee of members to clear heavy scrub alongside a number of fairways and to lop low hanging branches — fortuitously followed by welcoming rains. Following an approach from the State Land's Department the fence adjoining the barrage across South Creek was replaced with a park rail type fence, whilst Committee members Keith Wyllie and Tom Yabsley joined the newly formed Narrabeen Lagoon Management Association as observers. The Committee accepted the generous offer of one thousand dollars from Patron Stan Ottewill towards the cost of piping the open creek across the fifteenth fairway in front of the ladies tee — by August this troublesome carry for short hitters from the men's tee was no longer a problem.

With ever increasing costs of everyday commodities bar prices had to follow and in the case of beer the 7oz went from 56¢ to 60¢, the 10oz from 70¢ to 75¢ and the 15oz from 98¢ to \$1.05 which, however, only turned out to be 'temporary' for in February 1983 they became 65¢, 85¢ and \$1.10 respectively. At this particular time it was not just a case of the cost of drinks but also the introduction in October of random breath testing of road drivers by the State Government Police Department was to have long term implications for all drivers, including golfers. The liquor industry was quick to respond to the situation by producing 'light' and 'non-alcoholic' beers but, as events have since proved, the traditional drinking habits of the members underwent a major change, it being generally accepted by most that 'one more' was not worth the risk of incurring a driving penalty.

In October the Warringah Shire Council wrote to the Club



regarding 'proposed residential development of land owned by Cromer Golf Club' asking for a Club submission to seven stated questions — topographical plan, vegetation report, increased employment effect, increased traffic congestion effect, traffic flow, engineering effects and siltation problems. With the need to address this major request as quickly as possible and with as much expertise as could be mustered from within the Club, the existing Land/Council Committee of Eric Fordham, Keith Wyllie and David Innes was strengthened by the addition of Club members Barrie Paine, Col Huntingdon, Ron Stringer and Tom Yabsley. The Council was advised that the submission would take about six months to compile.

On the golfing scene 1982 turned out to be Eric Couper's year which followed his success in winning the 1981 New South Wales Amateur Championship. In 1982 he won the Cromer Bowl for the second year in succession and the Club Championship from Junior Paul Hain in the final — the juniors came to the fore this year with three of the four semi-finalists coming from their ranks.

Outside of Cromer, Eric's successes were:—

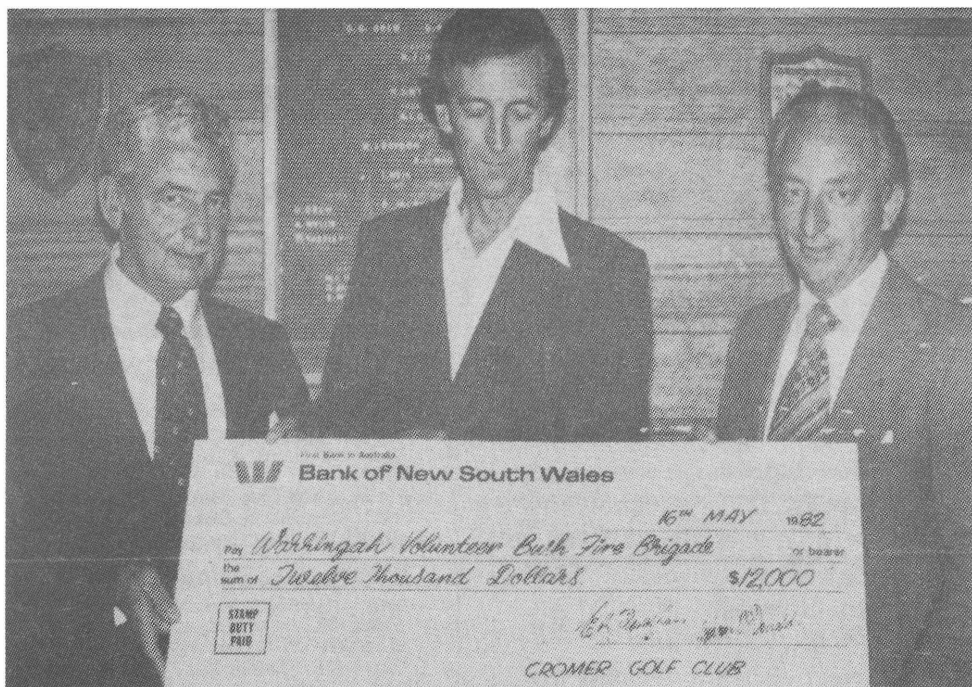
- Leading amateur Hong Kong Open
- Leading amateur New South Wales Open
- Leading amateur Australian Open
- Australian Amateur Champion
- Australian Amateur Representative against Japan and New Zealand

Towards the end of the year Cromer joined with the Rotary Club of Warringah in raising \$12,000 for fire-fighting equipment for the Warringah Bush Fire Brigade — in a way this was some small recompense for the role the Brigade played in the 1979 bushfires that almost destroyed the Clubhouse. Legacy was another worthy cause to benefit from the generosity of Cromer members when the Ex-Servicemen Section of the Club held a concert 'The Cromer Big Top', with Legacy being presented with a cheque for \$1,500. Obviously we have hidden social talent among both lady and men members equally as good as some of our talented golfers! On 12 December after twelve months in office the Secretary/Manager Cliff Freeman, resigned. His place was taken by Arthur Chittenden who relinquished a similar role at Monash Golf Club to become Cromer's Secretary/Manager.

The 44th Annual General Meeting recorded with much regret, the passing of two long time members — Keith Randall, who served on committee from 1946 to 1951 and Patron, Horace



*Left:* Barry See Hoe (left) after defeating Paul Jones in the final of the 1987 Club Championship. *Right:* Eric Couper had many golfing successes in 1981 and 1982. *Below:* Cromer combined with the Rotary Club of Warringah in a fundraising week of golf for the Warringah Shire Bush fire Brigade.

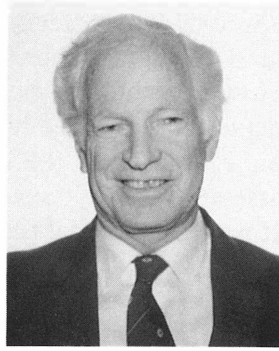




Horrie Hayman was Cromer's Patron for 31 years after serving 10 years as President.

Flint Hayman, at the age of 88. 'Horrie', as he was known, was a Foundation Member of Cromer Country Club when it was formed in 1940 and played a leading part in that Club's takeover of the then Dee Why Golf Club. From the time of the formation of Cromer Country Club until his death 'Horrie' had served continuously in an official capacity, including 10 years as President and 31 years as Patron. Cromer owes much to his efforts, particularly emphasised by his leading part in the 1949 General Meeting when he convinced a majority of the members that the Club should purchase the 'McPherson Land' to the west of the golf course for £2,200!! A worthy successor to the honoured position of Patron was long time Life Member Stan Ottewill.

After two years as President Eric Fordham did not seek re-election, thus terminating eight years of committee service.



Noel Hill  
President, 1983-84

## THE HILL ERA

A greenkeepers job is never easy! A particularly dry 1983 summer highlighted faulty sections of the overworked course watering system; however, by June it was the reverse — continuous wet weather highlighted drainage problems on parts of the course. It is fortunate Cromer has a Course Superintendent of the calibre of Greg Flint who somehow rises to the occasion whenever there are challenges of this nature. He was ably encouraged by the new President who had a strong background of course maintenance. The July greens report disclosed that most of the course heavy equipment was showing evidence of repetitive wear because of the need for increasing repairs by the engineering staff and that early replacement of some items had become necessary. Finance, in the amount of \$30,440, was approved to cover the purchase of fairway and tee mowers.

Changes of some significance to the long established method of budget reporting were introduced by the Treasurer early in the term of the incoming committee — ‘Historical Accounting on a Monthly Basis’ was replaced with ‘Income and Expenditure Accounting in conjunction with Cash Flow Budgeting’. Then in July a \$50 levy was imposed on all members and associate members as a one off move to eliminate the recurring annual financial deficit.

After some months of detailed preparation to comply with the specific requests of the Warringah Shire Council for additional data concerning Portions 857 and 858 of the Club’s surplus land a formal submission was made to Council in July, seeking

approval for residential subdivision of some 14 acres of Club land facing Cromer Road — in all about 70 building blocks. However, following objections raised at a public meeting of residents and supported by Councillors Hummerston and Bamborough on 1 September the Club withdrew the application for further assessment after there had been a meeting with Council Officers. It was coincidental that at the time these negotiations were taking place with Council the Club received an approach from the Land Commission of New South Wales, 'Landcom', expressing interest in purchasing any land owned by the Club not being used for golfing purposes — thus the seed was sown for the Club to pursue the alternative of selling the Cromer Road land as one parcel to the State Government's 'Landcom', rather than to seek rezoning through Warringah Council, etcetera, and to then have to sell individual blocks. The Club at last found itself in a fortunate negotiating position in relation to some of its long held surplus land!

In August a hole-in-one board was introduced, but as suddenly as it appeared so did it disappear! What did happen a few months later however was the appearance of additional honour boards in the main lounge, primarily for transferring associate members honour board records from their locker room.

The golfing community was saddened at the time by the accident incurred by professional golfer Jack Newton who lost an arm and an eye in an aircraft accident. Cromer members added support to the New South Wales Golf Association 'Jack Newton Fund Appeal' which invited individual Golf Club members to make a \$1 donation.

At the Annual General Meeting for 1983 members approved of some changes to the Articles of Association, primarily relating to membership definitions and at the same meeting the President extended a special vote of thanks to the retiring Treasurer, Alan Quayle, who was standing down after three years in that office. On taking office Alan set about to substantially reduce — hopefully eliminate — the recurring annual cash shortfall that had dogged the Club for a number of years, partly for reasons of unstable, reduced membership that decreed subscriptions be kept to a minimum. Alan's success in achieving his goal can be attributed to three factors, 1) running a tight ship in respect to budgets and expenditure, 2) imposing a \$50 levy and, 3) the golfing boom that developed in the early eighties, mainly attributable to the 'arrival' of Greg Norman and the exposure the game received on TV which resulted in unprecedented demand for



Jack Newton (third from right) at the age of 15 years was a member of the 1965 State Junior Team which played New Zealand at Cromer. Other members of the team standing on the old practice putting green, are Wayne Macintosh, Terry Noon, Barry Burgess, Peter Bennett, Monte Fairhall.

Golf Club membership in Metropolitan Sydney. This allowed subscriptions at Cromer to benefit by the 'supply and demand' situation.

In January members and associate members found that their traditionally separate fixture books had been combined into a single fixture book for 1984 which has proved to be an ongoing success. The members annual subscription for 1984 was fixed at \$530. Also in January the purchase of additional course heavy equipment was approved in the amount of \$21,615 for a Jacobsen King IV Triplex greens mower and for a tip truck. The policy of ground staff playing on the course after working hours was reviewed and re-approved.

Although Club records for the first half of 1984 do not reveal special activities, nevertheless things were happening. Painting of the Clubhouse inside and out was completed, whilst out on the course drainage work on the 8th and 15th fairway as well as bunker renovations to the 5, 9, 14 and 18th greens were carried out, plus the big task of clearing lantana from the copse.

On the match side a decision was made to introduce an annual 'A' Reserve Championship event which, in 1984 was won by Ian Barnes. Then in line with the trend in many other Golf Clubs, a motorised golf cart was purchased for trial by members and immediately proved popular — now there are six in the fleet, plus three that are privately owned by members with medical problems. With ever increasing commodity prices, House increased bar prices once again — beer went from 70¢ to 75¢ (7 oz); 90¢ to 95¢ (10 oz); \$1.15 to \$1.20 (schooner).

A revision was carried out of the Club's Articles of Association and By-Laws to comply with the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act (1977) on the recommendation of the New South Wales Golf Association and the Registered Clubs Association. This led to discussions with the ladies committee and with Piggott Stinson and Co, a firm of Solicitors specialising in this Act and handling the briefs of a number of Golf Clubs. The solicitors recommended changes to the Articles of Association and to the By-Laws were agreed to by the members at a General Meeting held in March, 1986.

As previously mentioned the club was in a negotiating stage with 'Landcom' regarding the possible sale of about 14 acres of Club land facing Cromer Road. As well, it was also continuing its endeavours to have Warringah Shire Council support a rezoning application by the Club of the same land for residential purposes and in this context, in July, the President and a representative of local residents who were objecting to the re-zoning were invited to address the Warringah Shire Council which was trying to reach a consensus between the two parties. As events were to turn out the negotiations with Warringah Shire Council did not have to continue once a deal was agreed to with 'Landcom'.

It was at this time, August 1984, that the Committee moved to form a 'Future Planning Sub-Committee' to 'proceed with a proposal to re-design the golf course to provide for either re-locating the Clubhouse, subject to availability of finance from the sale of the Club's surplus land, or retaining the Clubhouse in its existing location. It was agreed that the long term planning should aim for a new Clubhouse on top of the hill (behind the 9th tee). However, short term planning of the golf course should allow for the existing Clubhouse facility to continue operating'. Those appointed to this sub-committee were the Club Captain (convenor), the Club President (ex officio), the Greens Convenor as well as Vice-Captain Graeme Bastock for architectural advice, Committeeman Keith Wyllie for surveying advice



and member John Clarke for engineering advice. It was decided that, in due course, a set of plans would be presented to the members for inspection/comment, which would outline alternative proposals in accordance with the sub-committee brief. The outcome of this all embracing concept is covered in the next chapter, 'The Milne Era'.

In October a '55 Years In Business' Committee Day was held entailing golf and dinner, which was attended by 52 Past and Present Committeemen and it was nice to see so many 'Cromerians' reminiscing in a most convivial atmosphere. Faces we seldom see around the Club these days and who were present included, Doug Lane, Dick Lusted, Keith Nicholson, Les Walley, Ron Fletcher, Len Hubball, Ray Garner, Wal Gunn, Sid Stevenson, Peter Love, John Costello, Frank Bray, Stuart Ditcham and John Brigstock.

Spring rains caused the worst accumulation of debris, silt and mud on the course for many years, particularly the second fairway. The Club drew Council's attention to this damage which was attributed to Council widening South Creek, south of the Toronto Avenue bridge and to the clearance of scrub land for construction of a retirement village on Willandra Road — cracks in the dam wall had, fortunately, been repaired before the rains began. The long term solution to this recurring problem came in 1989 and is detailed in the Chapter 'The Smart Era'.

Notwithstanding this unwelcome flooding, the Club acted on the advice of the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission by carrying out a survey to ascertain that if, by sinking test bores, sufficient water could be obtained to justify the expense of installing permanent bores. The investigation proved successful but it was not until 1988 that the installation of new bores near the first tee/seventh green, near the ladies seventh tee and to the left of the seventeenth fairway near the storage tanks was completed. As well, a 50,000 gallon storage tank was installed, supplementing the two existing 30,000 gallon tanks and thus ensuring that reasonable supplies of water would be available for fairway watering in times of unusually dry weather conditions.

The club switched to computerised accounting, membership and handicap recording with effect 1 January, 1985 for which much credit is due to Committeeman Les Jewson for the role he played in the selection and installation of suitable equipment. From this date the members annual subscription was raised to \$560, up \$30.

After two years as a second time Chairman of Greens, Vice-



President Jim Punch did not seek election to the 1985 Committee. Under his dedicated supervision considerable improvements, drainage, grooming and general maintenance on the course had been carried out — something that is not always evident to members as they enjoy a round of golf. His efforts were fittingly recorded at the Annual General Meeting for 1984, held in March 1985.

Noel Hill after two years as President stood down, thus terminating six years of Committee service.



Eric Milne  
President, 1985-86-87

## THE MILNE ERA

Eric Milne, Captain 1983 and 1984, took over as President from Noel Hill at the Annual General Meeting held 27 March 1985. Two matters of special significance relating to the future direction the Club would take had been germinated in 'The Hill Era' and were determined by member decisions during 'The Milne Era'.

The first matter of significance was the emergence of 'Landcom' as a potential buyer for 5.5 hectares (approx 14 acres) of land facing Cromer Road. This was at a time when the Club's efforts were directed towards obtaining from Warringah Shire Council a re-zoning of the said land for residential purposes.

As negotiations were being developed in these two areas, two well known private developers expressed interest in acquiring the land — suddenly the Club was in a position of choice as to which way to go! Eventually 'Landcom' became the Committee's choice for recommendation to the members, not least because it would be by way of a cash buyout when the two year option expired rather than by progressive payments over an uncertain period of time from one of the private developers. At a General Meeting of members on 13 November 1985 there was a unanimous 'yes' vote for the 'Landcom' proposal of \$200,000 deposit on exchange of contracts and \$1,800,000 when the option expired in June 1988. It is worth recording that the preferred private developer went into liquidation in 1989!

The second matter of significance was the setting up of the 'Future Planning Sub-Committee' in August 1984. By October 1985 the Committee of Management was ready to present the

## Agreement for Sale of Land — 1982 Edition

(Comprising the Particulars and Conditions of Sale)

### THE PARTICULARS

A. VENDOR'S AGENT:

WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF AN AGENT

B. VENDOR: CROMER GOLF CLUB LIMITED

(Full name, address and occupation) whose registered office is situate at

C. PURCHASER: NEW SOUTH WALES LAND AND HOUSING CORPORATION of Level 23, Town Hall House,

(Full name, address and occupation) Sydney Square, Sydney

and, if more than one, as \*JOINT TENANTS or \*TENANTS IN COMMON (in equal shares — unless otherwise indicated in C)

D. VENDOR'S SOLICITOR: MAUNDLER AND JEFFREY  
Address 50 Park Street, Sydney

Phone No 264-2911  
DX 272 Sydney

E. PURCHASER'S SOLICITOR: DAWSON WALLDORN  
Address 60 Martin Place, Sydney

Phone No 236 5210  
DX 355 Sydney

F. THE PROPERTY described as —

(a) The following land:

- (i) Municipality/Shire: Warringah Parish: Manly Cove County: Cumberland  
(ii) Lot/Portion: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Plan: being the land etched in red in the plan annexed hereto and marked with the letter "A"  
(iii) Address: Name/No Street Suburb/Locality the plan annexed hereto and marked with the letter "A"  
(iv) \*Certificate(s) of Title: Volume Part Volume 11025 Folio 2  
Part Volume 13554 Number 76  
and being part of Portions 858, 857 and part of Lot 1 in D.P. 75370  
Conveyance Book \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Crown Land District \_\_\_\_\_ Holding \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(v) Approximate dimensions and area: 5.5 hectares  
(vi) Any other description of land:  
(vii) Nature of improvements (eg cottage, flats, home unit and garage, etc.): vacant land  
(viii) Nature of estate, holding or interest in land: \*fee simple  
fully subject to the provisions of the Third Schedule  
(ix) if less than fee simple state date of commencement  
extent of term: \_\_\_\_\_ current rent (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

(b) And as ancillary to the land above described, the following furnishings and chattels as inspected by the Purchaser:

G. PRICE (in words) TWO MILLION DOLLARS

- (a) PRICE \$2,000,000.00  
(b) DEPOSIT \$200,000.00  
(c) BALANCE \$1,800,000.00

H. THE DEPOSIT is payable to Solicitors to be deposited in accordance with Special Condition 30

I. ADJUSTMENTS TO BE MADE as at the date of: \*Completion Completion

J. BENEFIT OF POSSESSION to be given as at the date of: \*Completion Completion  
\*with vacant possession  
subject to existing tenancies or occupancies under the Vendor as particularised in the Third Schedule.

K. TITLE SYSTEM of land:

- \*The Real Property Act, 1900  
\*and being Qualified Title (Part IVA and Old System)  
\*Strata Title (Strata Titles Act, 1973)  
\*Old System  
\*Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913  
\*Other, namely: \_\_\_\_\_

L. AUCTION SALE: The Vendor reserves the right to \_\_\_\_\_ bids.

M. DATE OF MAKING THIS AGREEMENT:

25th

day of

March

1986

On 26 March 1986 the Club entered into an Agreement to sell 5.5 hectares of surplus land to the N.S.W. Land & Housing Corporation.



\$2 million of land facing Cromer Road which was once the fairway and green of the 4th hole of the Eric Apperly 1950 layout.

Sub-Committee's concept to the members by way of a display of a series of six sets of plans which had been finalised on a professional basis by Graeme Bastock and Associates to which groups of members were invited to inspect and comment over a period of several weeks, culminating in the calling of a General Meeting of Members on 19 February, 1986. The members, by a clear majority, voted that it was not their wish that the proposed major changes to the course layout should proceed, nor for the Clubhouse to be re-located behind the ninth tee. This was a decision of major significance, one that provided clear guidelines to future Committees.

Cromer has always lacked a worthwhile practise fairway and, regardless of future changes/additions to the course that may occur, the Committee decided that it was time for this situation to be addressed. Committeemen Graeme Bastock and Keith Wyllie suggested an area behind the ninth tee as the most suitable for a practise area of 250m, L × 100m, W. In due course, Consultants Colin Donges and Associates Pty. Ltd, were appointed to prepare a proposal to request Warringah Shire Council

to approve rezoning of a relatively small area of Club land for recreational purposes to be developed into a practise fairway. Regrettably, the submission — which was finally made in February 1988 — was rejected in April by Council on the grounds that any disturbance to virgin bushland, cut and fill, etc could have a detrimental effect on Narrabeen Lake. So we still do not have a worthwhile practise fairway; however, the construction of a chipping green adjacent to the practise putting green during the year was some consolation. Other improvements at this time were the floodlighting of the 7th and 18th greens which is of special significance to late competition starters in the shorter winter months, and a drinking fountain at the 1st tee, something much appreciated by the ladies on hot days as, unlike the men, they do not break their competition rounds.

That old perennial, bar prices, which had been stable for one year — were increased in April; beer, from 75¢ to 80¢ (7oz), 95¢ to \$1.00 (10oz) and \$1.20 to \$1.25 (15oz).

In June a review of the qualifications for Senior Membership was undertaken but was left unchanged. Also in June the present monthly News Bulletin was introduced and this has proved a popular innovation by keeping members informed of current Club matters of interest.

The 22nd Biennial Federal Secretary/Managers Conference was held in Brisbane in August — it was Queensland's turn to host this important conference. Arthur Chittenden was one of the 108 Secretary/Managers who attended from Golf Clubs in every State of Australia.

For some time the Club had been concerned at the lack of a boundary fence between the eleventh fairway and the Department of Leisure, Sport and Tourism Grounds resulting in people, mainly children, wandering onto the golf course with the possibility that sooner or later someone would be hit by a golf ball. With the co-operation of this Government Department a substantial wire fence was erected in September and, to a considerable degree, it is serving its purpose of restraining small children from wandering onto the golf course — at the same time it is acting as a barrier to golfers wishing to search for golf balls that are hit out of bounds.

The year 1985 was a good one for our representative golfers. The Senior Pennant Team just failed to win their division, whilst the Eric Apperley Team were beaten in the semi-final 3/2, by Castle Hill who went on to win the Flag. Our Encourage Shield youngsters were outstanding in winning the 1985 Shield. This

was the first occasion Cromer had fielded a team in this event and full credit is due to the individual efforts of Stuart Bastock, Martin Green, Matthew Kehoe, Robert Vere, Derek Woodstone and Mark Buckland. This fine effort was repeated in 1986 by our No. 2 team — we entered two teams in a field of 38 teams — comprising Derek Woodstone, Brad Lasoski, David Mason, Brad Ayres, Peter Huddle and Jason Stelling.

To top off the golfing scene for 1985 member Stephen Truelove equalled the course record (1969 layout) of 67 held jointly by member Brian Gosson and The Lakes member Colin Kaye. About the same time Stephen scored an Albatross 2 on the par 5, third hole of 441 meters. With the approach of the New Year the committee fixed the 1986 subscriptions at \$600, up \$40.

1986 started on a sad note with the untimely death in January of former President Eric Fordham after a prolonged illness. A most popular member, Eric had belonged to Cromer for 28 years, including a term as President in 1981 and 1982. He also served a term as President of the Ex-Servicemen's Section. During World War II Eric was an RAAF bomber pilot in England, whilst in business life he was well known in shipping circles.

On a happier note 1986 was of special significance to Patron Stan Ottewill and members Ron Fletcher and Ray Foord for it meant they had each achieved 50 years of continuous membership of the club — Ray, the youngest of the trio, still plays regularly in the Saturday and Wednesday competitions. This milestone was appropriately recognised at the Presentation Dinner in November, 1986.

There were mixed happenings relating to property, course and equipment matters in the first half of 1986. Extension to the machinery shed was approved and a Coremaster 12 Turf Aerator was purchased at a cost of \$23,119 which replaced the 1979 Ryan Coring machine. A faulty batch of 'Tuppensan' caused damage to several greens where it had been applied to eradicate couch grass and the manufacturers, Dupont, agreed to meet a claim in the order of \$4,000, the resurfacing of some paths and the area proximating the professional shop with 'rubber mix' at a cost of about \$18,500 was not a satisfactory job and was redone later in the year at no extra cost to the Club. No doubt Course Superintendent Greg Flint would have appreciated the break from these troubles when he attended the Greenkeepers 9th National Conference at Surfer's Paradise in June. It is but fair to say however, that Greg went to that Conference with



*Above:* Cromer's winning Encourage Shield Team, 1985. (left to right) Graham Keating (Manager), Mark Buckland, Stuart Bastock, Derek Woodstone, Robert Vere, Matthew Kehoe, Martin Green. *Below:* Cromer's winning Encourage Shield Team, 1986. (left to right) Neville Kehoe (Manager) Derek Woodstone, Peter Huddle, Brad Ayers, Brad Lasoski, David Mason, Jason Stelling.



praise for the condition of the course by those involved in the 1986 NSW Schoolboys Championship and in the Group 1 Pen-nants final. Later in the year there was more outside praise for the condition of the course when Cromer was Host Club to the Annual Group 1 Presidents and Committee Day.

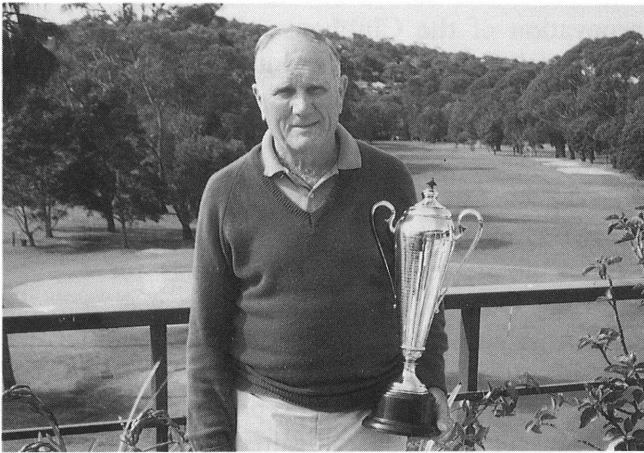
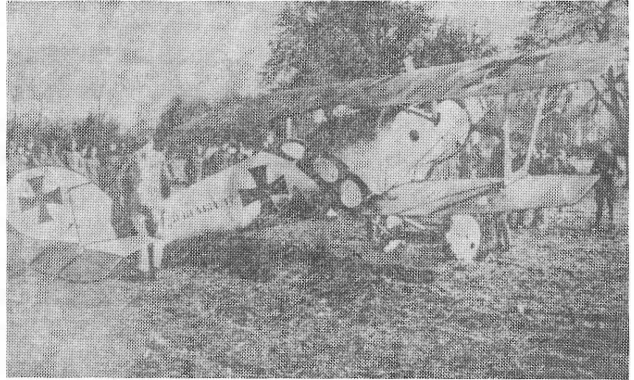
Bar prices underwent their now regular annual increase in April. On this occasion the price of beer increased from 80¢ to 90¢ (7oz), \$1.00 to \$1.10 (10oz), and \$1.25 to \$1.35 (15oz) with other drink prices following this trend.

With the Landcom 'Option to Purchase' deal in place there was now a distinct likelihood the Club would, in the foreseeable future, have monies in hand that would enable consideration to be given to the renovation of the Clubhouse. With this in mind, in August the General Committee appointed a panel of three members with architectural background — Bob Martin, Barry Paine, Mick Slatter — to compile a brief to update the present Clubhouse and to compare costs with the estimated costs of a new Clubhouse in the vicinity of the 9th tee. Their brief was then evaluated by two firms of independent Architects and then passed back to the Club's panel of three architects for a final recommendation to the General Committee, which was — 'the Club abandon any further consideration of a new Clubhouse on a new site because the minimum cost appears beyond the Club's present capacity to pay' and 'the Club prepare a detailed brief for upgrading the present Clubhouse, limited to the cost which the Club can reasonably afford' — such a recommendation was finally put to the members in 1990 and duly accepted.

The move from 1986 to 1987 saw the annual subscriptions for the members increase from \$600 to \$650. The Club entered into a new 12 months contract with the caterers — Joe and Linda Caterers — more in tune with the expressed wishes of the caterers. Out on the course a new greens mower was acquired at a cost of \$27,000.

The year 1987 was of special significance to the Ex-Servicemen of the Club as it was the 50th Anniversary since Dee Why Golf Club World War I Ex-Serviceman, John Lauder, donated the AIF Cup for annual competition among Cromer's World War I Ex-Servicemen. It was fitting that in February when the 1987 event was played that Ex-Serviceman President George Drew, on behalf of Cromer Golf Club, presented Legacy with a cheque for \$3,000. When George Drew stood down as President of the Section after 3 years he was succeeded by Roy Bennett to lead the activities of the Club's Ex-Servicemen. Roy is still





*Above:* King Cowper as a second lieutenant and the German Pflaz aircraft which he forced down and captured.

*Left:* George Drew, the 1987 President of the Ex-Servicemen's Section with the AIF Cup which he won in 1991.

President in 1991 — seems true 'old servicemen only fade away'.

Whilst many members, in one way or another, have contributed to the success of the Section there are three from World War II who warrant special mention — as well there are three from World War I who will also be mentioned.

Reg Cleverley was the driving force in the re-formation of the Section after World War II, serving as Secretary, President and Patron until his death in 1980. He affectionately referred to all Cromer Ex-Servicemen as 'His Boys'.

Pat O'Connor was still a bachelor when he died in 1983. He performed the position of Secretary for many years — at a time when World War II membership was at its peak and some of the headstrong boys took some looking after. This was especially so at the annual visit to Moss Vale where, somehow or other, Pat had the happy knack of getting the problem boys onto the tee on time.

Phil Davis with some 20 years on the Ex-Servicemen's Com-

mittee was made a Life Member in 1986 in recognition of his services to the section and then in 1989 he was elected Patron of the Section.

Jim Stapleton, a World War I Ex-Serviceman who died in 1977, was the second President of Cromer Country Club in 1941. At that time a small group of World War I Ex-Servicemen were elected from a number of Sydney Golf Clubs to form a Trust Fund and they in turn elected Jim as President. The Trust Fund's function was to ensure the Anzac spirit of World War I would be carried on by the Ex-Servicemen of World War II and to this end they donated the present day World War II Golf Trophy.

Lal Coram a World War I Ex-Serviceman was, and still is, an outstanding person; it was only in 1989, at the age of 90 that he elected to give up golf — and Patronship of the Section. His record in winning the World War I AIF Cup, presented by James (later Sir James) Murdoch in 1920, was remarkable — no less than nine times. Typical of the man, Lal, as holder of the Cup on the last occasion for which it was played in 1988, handed it to the NSW Golf Association, to become a part of the Association's memorabilia.

King Cowper is not a name with which many Cromer members are familiar, although if you happen to have hit a ball under the kaffir plum trees that existed until removed in January 1989 because of size near the 5th green/ladies 6th tee you might be interested to know they were planted by King, who was the Proprietor of Henderson's Seeds of Sydney. He joined Cromer in 1949, resigned in 1957 and died in 1982 at the age of 81.

King was — and remains — Cromer's most decorated serviceman, being awarded the MC, with two Bars as a World War I Royal Flying Corps Pilot. Flying with No. 24 Squadron he was credited with 19 confirmed and four possible German planes, with the Squadron records of 26 February 1918 reading:—

A red letter day; two flights got to grips properly with the Hun... Lieut Cowper also defeated a Pfalz and shepherded it to 52 Squadron's aerodrome close to Han, where the pilot landed intact and put up his hands saying, 'Kamerad'.

Early in 1987 extensions were completed to the machinery shed, including soil bins, chemical shed and the installation of a security system. An approval was also given for the overhaul/alterations to the course watering system which included the cleaning of oxide debris and silt from the storage tanks and their re-roofing.

At the Annual General Meeting for 1986 held on 25 March,

1987 a recommendation was made to the incoming committee that there be a review and update of the articles of Association and the By-Laws. This project was duly undertaken by a sub-committee of three ex Presidents/Captains and one ex Captain and handed to the committee in August 1989 for further action.

At this same meeting the death of former Captain Tom Mitchell was recorded. Tom joined Cromer in the late 1940s and was an excellent after dinner speaker, always pressing for greater recognition of left handed golfers and often quoted the expression 'fight against right handed tyranny' — Tom was a most popular member and Captain. Another personality to pass on at this time was a former Secretary/Manager, Eric Cantelin, who was in office from 1957 to 1965. Eric was a 'no nonsense' Secretary/Manager with a very strong attitude to dress, demeanour, etiquette, etc both on the course and in the Clubhouse.

Member John Courtney has earned the praise of all Cromer players and visitors for the beautification work he initiated and carried out by way of planting a variety of shrubs in front of the men's 4th tee and the surrounds of the path leading to the men's top 9th tee. His good work at the 9th tee has been expanded by another member, Jack Bretnall. John has subsequently followed up this good work with beautification of an area alongside the 3rd tee with azaleas and has undertaken to carry out the landscaping of the lower car park.

In August a farewell dinner was held for Mrs Elgin Brown who had served Cromer so efficiently in an administrative capacity for 21 years. The very large attendance of over 200 members and associate members at the dinner was testimony to her friendly nature and to the esteem in which she was held. As a memento of her long association with the Club the President, on behalf of all at Cromer, presented Elgin with a painting of the Clubhouse by well known local artist, Molly Garland.

The 1986 General Committee, by a majority vote, proceeded with the construction of an alternatively sited third green and a new par 3 hole to be played from the south west corner of the course land to a new green to be constructed on the site of the existing third green. In so doing, they created much discussion, comment and occasional arguments among the members whilst the work was in progress during 1986 and 1987, finally coming to a head after the alternative third green had been in play for a trial period of one month. The members petitioned the Committee to call a General Meeting of members and this was held on 11 December 1987 when it was resolved by a clear



Beautification of the 9th tee.

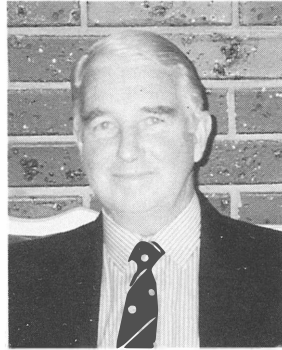


President Eric Milne presents Elgin Brown with a painting of the Clubhouse.

majority that further work be suspended until alternative layout/s were presented to the members for further consideration and decision. The eventual outcome of this unfortunate development was the scrapping of the 1986 plans and, instead, for the existing 3rd green to remain 'as is' and for a new par 3 hole to be constructed with the green located in the south-west corner of the course land. This new hole is expected to come into play in 1991 and, undoubtedly, will be a hole of scenic beauty as well as requiring a skilful golf shot — a great combination. Involved in the lengthy controversy over the eventual layout for the new par 3 hole was golf course consultant — and a former Cromer Professional — Al Howard who, in the end, has the responsibility of bringing the new hole into play.

Subscriptions for 1988 were set at \$700, an increase of \$50. At the Annual General Meeting for 1987, held on 23 March, 1988, the death was recorded of Life Member, Eric Gay, who at that time was residing in Victoria. Eric joined the Dee Why Golf Club in the 1930s and was one of the seven members who were the first Directors of Cromer Country Club Limited when it was formed in 1940. Prior to his retirement, Eric was the Town Clerk of Mosman Municipal Council.

After three years as President Eric Milne did not seek re-election, thus terminating nine years of committee service.



Neville Smart  
President, 1988-89-90-91

## THE SMART ERA

Neville Smart had previously served as President of Cromer in 1972 and 1973. The dedication of taking on a second term as President is a tribute to the high regard he has for Cromer and, as much as he loves his golf, there is some doubt that he plays every day as many members seem to think.

The early plans of the newly elected 1988 Committee in respect to the golf course were to improve playing conditions generally but they received a severe set back due to prolonged rains and at times, torrential downpours in March and April which flooded the course, caused untold damage and resulted in closure of the course on several occasions for a record number of days. It wasn't only the course that suffered, the income of the Club also suffered as members simply did not frequent the Club — the same was happening to many golf clubs in the Sydney area.

It was a timely decision of the Committee in June to commission the State Soil Conservation Service, Newcastle, to provide a detailed report regarding course drainage of the first seven holes and the 17th hole for a fee of \$7,900. In summary, the report found existing drainage to be poor and that an overall drainage network system should be implemented, which would include a dam near the associates seventh tee. While some work has been carried out that is helping to alleviate this long time problem there is still a lot to be done and hopefully, when the costs of the new Clubhouse and the additional par 3 hole are behind us, this major task will be undertaken.



Former Captain, Michael Lee, with pictures of the 1988 floods.

Later in 1988 the Committee was successful in negotiating with Council for approval to excavate and straighten South Creek from Toronto Avenue down to the weir, at the Club's expense. The immediate result of this work was that the 2nd fairway was able to be drained and the 2nd tee was free of the problem of partly washing away in every heavy storm. At the same time the Club let a contract to Alan Hemsley for the construction of concrete vehicle bridges over Cromer Creek where they cross the 15th and 17th fairways, at a cost of \$17,500.

As a wind up to the Barrenjoey Golf Clubs Bi-centennial Week of Golf held in January it was agreed by the Clubs, including Cromer, that the surplus of approximately \$3,000 be donated to Stewart House, Curl Curl.

On the other side of the world the Centenary of Royal Cromer Golf Club ("Royal" since inception), took place in Norfolk England in June and in response to an invitation for our Club to be represented at Royal Cromer's Week of Golf, member David Innes, who was golfing in the UK at the time with the Senior Golfers' Society of Australia Team, represented our Cromer who had donated a silver tray as a trophy for the occasion.

Yet another milestone was reached when the Monday





# ROYAL CROMER GOLF CLUB

*1888-1988*

Royal Cromer Golf Club, Norfolk, England celebrated its centenary in June 1988.





Viv Garner and Phil Davis, two of the organisers who run the Monday 'Cavaliers'.

'Cavaliers' celebrated their tenth birthday — on 27 June the 466th day was held when 70 of the more senior members of the Club enjoyed the convivial atmosphere of the day which, since its inception, has been so ably run by Phil Davis with his small band of helpers, whose handicapping system and the distribution of many prizes adds to the fun of these popular Monday games.

Thursday, 30th June, was a day of special significance to all members of the Club when settlement of the 'Landcom' deal took place. From then on the Club was \$2 million richer! Subsequently, on 17 August, an informal meeting was called of members and associate members to discuss investment alternatives for this money, pending how we were going to spend it — these kind of meetings are pleasant occasions! It was appropriate at that time to see installed in the main lounge a bronze plaque recording the names of the last Committee members of the original Dee Why Golf Club Limited and of the newly formed Cromer Country Club Ltd for it was the thinking of some of these men, such as 'Horrie' Hayman, in the 1940s that led to the recommendation that the club should purchase the 'Macpherson Land' to the west of the golf course. It is comforting today to know the Club still owns some of this land which in the future should, predictably, provide the Club with another monetary windfall.

In August a survey was conducted relating to slow play

based on the Committee suggestion that 4 hours would seem a reasonable time for a competition round of golf; the result — 42 agreed, 36 responded 'should be longer' and the rest ?. The outcome was a Committee instruction to members covering the old perennials — play when ready, walk smartly/direct to own ball, speed up club selection/practice swings, line up putt when waiting to putt, call on when a ball is difficult to find, etcetera. Notwithstanding the good intentions of the Committee the 4½ hour — sometimes 5 hour — round still prevails!

As recorded in the latter part of 'The Milne Era' a General Meeting of Members held on 11 December 1987 resolved that further work be suspended on a new par 3 hole in the south west of the golf course land. Acting on the wishes of this meeting the incoming 1988 Committee called another General Meeting of Members on 26 October to present alternative plans. After much discussion — and by 61 votes to 42 votes — the members voted to proceed with Plan 'A', being for the new par 3 hole to be constructed in an east-west direction, just the opposite to what had earlier been proposed!

1988 ended on a sad note with the sudden death, at the age of 54, of popular Captain, John Clarke; his untiring service to the Club, his friendly nature and his smiling countenance, both on the course and in the Clubhouse, will be missed by his Cromer friends. In his younger days John was prominent in the local Surf Lifesaving movement, winning an Australian Surf Belt Championship. He was highly qualified in the engineering field and at the time of his death was a Head Teacher in Civil Engineering at the Department of Technical & Further Education (TAFE). It is certainly appropriate that the members will be playing annually for the John Clarke Memorial Cup.

The New Year 1989 brought with it the familiar increase in annual subscriptions — on this occasion from \$700 to \$760 and considerably more than the 26 guineas, including entrance fee, which I paid to join 36 years earlier. It seems just a matter of time before the annual subscription will reach the magical \$1,000! This increase was soon followed by the annual review of bar prices, resulting in the following increases for beer — 7oz \$1.20 (\$1.00); 10oz \$1.40 (\$1.20); 15oz \$1.80 (\$1.50) with other drinks following the same pattern.

Turning to a personal note — former President and Captain, Eric Kime, who had been a Councillor of the NSW Golf Association as a Group 1 Delegate since 1978, was elected to the Association Executive as Treasurer on 1 March, 1989.



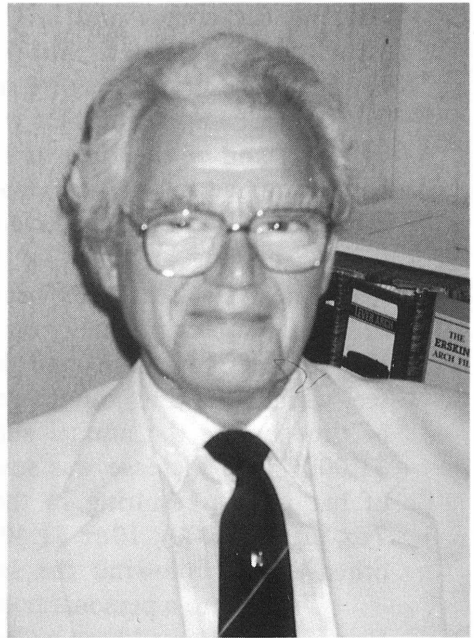
John Clarke, Captain, 1985-88.



Doug Jacka, Captain, 1989-1991.



Eric Kime, former President and Captain.



Arthur Chittenden, Secretary Manager,  
1983-1990.

In the early part of 1989 things were happening out on the course. Two kaffir plum trees on the right side of the 5th fairway were replaced with two less voluminous palms, whilst the services of the Australian Turfgrass Research Institute was engaged to advise on improving grass growth on tees generally and controlling increasing weed problems in the 15th fairway. A new piece of equipment — the Jacobsen 720 Leaf Sweeper & Scarifier — was purchased for \$14,325; its function is to vacuum fallen leaves from the many trees that line most fairways which have the knack of hiding golf balls and it has proved to be a well spent acquisition.

The 1989 Committee of Management took office at the Annual General Meeting for 1988 held on 22 March. The position of Captain, which had remained vacant since the death of John Clarke three months earlier, was taken by Doug Jacka who, in the 1988 Committee had been Vice-President and Chairman of Greens. In his new role of Captain Doug also remained Chairman of Greens, a combination that had not been tried by previous Committees of Management and certainly one that would require a great deal of Doug's time, not least with plans for an additional par 3 hole to be constructed, plans for a practice fairway and completion of the re-alignment work of South Creek — all of that apart from the everyday ongoing maintenance on the course. It must be said that Doug, at time of writing, has carried out his combined duties in a most efficient manner, notwithstanding that his greens responsibility was not helped by the second consecutive year of autumn rains — in March, April, May the recorded rainfall on the course was 725mm (or some 30" on the old scale)!

It was at the same Annual General Meeting that the members endorsed the Committee's plans for alterations to the Clubhouse and although the development application was lodged with Warringah Shire Council on 14 April it took Council 23 weeks to give routine approval — the delay was offset, to some degree, by the money earmarked for the project earning about 18% interest. The problem of the public using Cromer to cross to and from the National Fitness Camp, to jog, to look for golf balls, to deliberately vandalise and in so doing risk being hit by golf balls has been a problem that, in more recent years, has worsened, and it was with this background that in June the services of R and D Patrol Guard Services Pty Ltd was engaged for a fee of \$1,500 per month to patrol the course for a number of hours each day and night.

The purchase of three items of capital equipment in June/July was made to improve efficiencies in three areas of Club activities. The office benefited from the acquisition of an IBM Computer at a cost of \$4,525; starting of competition fields from the 8th tee by Professional Brad Wall benefited from the installation in his shop of a C.T.U. Camera Monitor and Video at a cost of \$4,018 whilst the acquisition of two Jacobsen TF-60, Tees/Surrounds Triplex Mowers at a cost of \$45,177 was welcomed by Greg Flint's staff.

The question of membership was reviewed in mid 1989, resulting in the introduction of two new classes — 'Limited Playing' and 'Deferred Waiting'. The former is limited to 20 applicants on the waiting list paying the current entrance fee to join the Club plus the current annual subscription, with no playing rights in Saturday and Wednesday competitions — by September all vacancies had been taken up. The latter is to allow non golfing members of a members/associates family and non-playing partners to have their names recorded so that if, at some time in the future, they wish to apply for golf playing membership then the date of this original registration will be taken into consideration. At the time of this review 16 Juniors were admitted, lifting total Junior membership to about 60. One of the Club Juniors, Martin Ayers, had earlier in the year qualified No. 1 in the Australian Team of two for the annual Doug Sanders International Junior Golf Tournament to be played on the Royal Aberdeen Golf Links Scotland in August, and in recognition of this fine achievement a presentation night was held for him at the Club on 28 July. Martin finished a very creditable fourth with a four round score of 289.

Several activities relating to the golf course occurred in the second half of 1989, including

- approval from the Council for the Club to proceed with the final stage of re-aligning South Creek and which was completed towards the end of the year at a total cost to the Club of \$34,902. Considerable advantage due to the filling and opening up a section of land between the new path of the creek and the 2nd fairway was gained whilst the subsequent grassing and beautification has immeasurably improved this area of the course.
- major upgrading of the 25 year old course watering system by Mac Irrigation at a cost of \$65,530 was certainly timely and should give the Club a trouble free system into the next century. Extensions to the machinery shed were carried out by Rohemu Pty Ltd at a cost of \$28,860.



Martin Ayers on the 1st tee at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, Scotland.

— replacement of the bunker on the left hand side of the first green with a mound has been most favourably received by golfers.  
— in September Golf Course Consultant Al Howard was engaged to handle the design, layout and to arrange construction of the new par 3 hole in the south west corner of the golf course land.

An important acquisition of land was added to the course in September, with a strip 20.1 metres by 210 metres being purchased from the Lands Department for the sum of \$25,521. This strip runs from the tennis court on the 11th fairway, south, between the 10th green and 11th tee. The club owes Committeeman John Pickering special thanks for initiating this valuable acquisition.

The Bi-ennial Federal Conference of the Golf Club Secretaries and Managers Association was held on this occasion in Melbourne from 27 November to 1 December and was attended by Secretary/Manager, Arthur Chittenden.

One of Cromer's 'oldies', former President Gordon McLeod, died in October at the age of 89. Gordon was President 1960-61-62 and I was privileged to have been Captain with him in 1960-61. Originally a Queenslander, proud of his Scottish ancestry and his Cromer association Gordon had many friends, both in the golfing and shipping worlds.



Lal Coram's last golfing appearance at Cromer was on 17 December 1989. His partner, Mavis O'Connor, is Cromer's oldest playing associate member.

Another of the 'oldies' Lal Coram, retired from golf at the end of the year at the age of 90. Lal had been a member of Cromer for 40 years and his association with the Club has been covered in the previous Chapter, 'The Milne Era'.

1990 started auspiciously for our junior golfers who succeeded in winning both the NSWGA Junior Pennant and the Peninsular Shield Trophy. However, perhaps less auspiciously for the members generally as the annual subscription moved up from \$760 to \$830 — ever closer to the tantalising four figure amount!

Drainage plans for the 11th and 12th fairways were approved in March and completed in July, as well as renovations to bunkers alongside the 7, 10 and 13th greens. Later in the year the 10th tee was extended, making the hole 5 metres longer.

As a Charity gesture, the Dee Why Police were given permission to hold a Citizens Golf Day in April for the nearby Intellectually Handicapped Children's School, Fisher Road, with the Club donating green fees to that worthy cause.

The 1989 Annual General Meeting was held on 14 March 1990 and resulted in the re-election of the outgoing Committee with only one change — Ken Walters, after two years of valuable





*Above:* Cromer's winning 1990 NSWGA Junior Pennant team back (1 to r) Derek Cash, Mike Arcus, Mark Arcus, Martin Ayers, front (1 to r) Paul Anderssen, Mark Stevens. Managers of the team were John Courtney (l) and Peter Tilden (r).  
*Below:* Cromer's winning 1990 Junior Peninsular Shield team (l to r) Chris Arcus, Leo Argyropoulos, Mike Arcus, Jason Day, Ryan Beech, Kieran Mannix.





service, stood down and was replaced by Lynn Astley. Following this meeting the Committee moved quickly to implement two pending items that would have considerable significance to the future of the Club.

The first was to form a 'Spare Hole' Sub-Committee with authority to proceed with the construction of the previously mentioned par 3 hole in the south west corner of the golf course land under the supervision of Al Howard, golf course consultant. As the hole began to take shape it soon became evident that it would be a golf hole with outstanding features, not least the impressive aspect of the waterfall behind the green. This 'spare hole' is expected to be ready for play in the autumn of 1991 and will have special value in as much a hole can be taken out for major renovation at any time without depriving the members of an 18 hole golf course.

The second item of significance was the calling of a General Meeting of Members on 9 May to receive a report, with recommendations, for the renovation and refurbishing of the existing Clubhouse and to obtain ratification of the report. This was accepted by the members, resulting in a renovation contract being let to building contractor, Gemcrest Pty Ltd for an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 and, in addition, for an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for refurbishing and associated expenses. In terms of the contract Gemcrest Pty Ltd would commence work on 4 June and members could expect to have a renovated, refurbished Clubhouse by June 1991.

When we are comfortably settled into the new surroundings the members should not forget to say to our dedicated, proficient Architect committeeman 'thank you Bob Martin for a job well done'!

Early foundation excavations for the upper level slab disclosed that there was an absence of rock where it was expected to be found and resulted in an additional cost of about \$40,000 for the excavation work required. However, as a bonus, the extra excavations will provide an undercover area for the storage of golf carts which otherwise was planned in a less favourable area near the course equipment shed.

While the Clubhouse renovation work was in progress members, male and female, adopted a most tolerant attitude to the inconvenience of temporary locker room, car parking and facilities. The only interference to normal play was the temporary loss of the men's 6th tee for the Building Contractor's site offices.

With a continuing strong waiting list for Provisional Playing Membership it was decided that those waiting be invited to become

House Members as a prerequisite to being interviewed for the former category. Some 50 on the waiting list accepted the invitation and pending their interview, will be introduced to the 'Cromer way of social life' before tackling the more difficult aspect of the golf course. Still on the subject of membership it is of interest to record that the 1990/91 Fixture Book of male members (920, all categories), contains the names of 95 members who were listed in the 1961 Fixture Book of male members (583, all categories), thus giving them an individual membership association with Cromer of at least 30 years — some in fact, have belonged for more than 40 years.

Part of the Club's 'Macpherson Land' to the west of the golf course is Lot 833, being seven acres of land quite isolated from the remainder of the 1949 purchase. The Committee, obviously with the purpose of turning a land asset into a cash asset, initiated action in June for its sale; however, because of road access problems this has, so far, not been possible. Naturally, the members will wish future Committees every success with their endeavours which, foreseeably, will require patience and perseverance.

In line with the established policy of keeping the course machinery and equipment up to date some \$110,000 was spent in 1990 on several items, including a set of gang mowers (\$38,736), rough cut mower (\$23,596) and a Case tractor (\$27,995).

Work on the course included dredging of the recently realigned South Creek which, as it is turning out, will become an ongoing regular maintenance job — it will have a benefit in so far that it will provide a regular stockpile of sand that can be put to good use on the course. Sand of a different type — coarser than previously used — has been introduced to some bunkers with mostly favourable comment from the members, whilst upgrading of the road to the machinery shed at a cost of \$45,250 has been a timely project.

The prestigious 1990 Cromer Bowl, which is an open scratch event, was held on 28 October resulting in a tie by two former winners Colin Kaye and Roy Vandersluis, both members of The Lakes Golf Club. In the play-off Roy Vandersluis was the winner. About the same time a new dimension was introduced to play in the form of New Zealand Christmas Bush trees planted on the side of par 4 and par 5 holes, 150 metres from the middle of the greens and, so notated on the scorecards — thus following a trend that is being adopted by some other Golf Clubs.

After some eight years the Secretary/Manager, Arthur Chit-

tenden, resigned with effect 7 November. Pending the engagement of a replacement the services of Albert Wallace, retired Secretary/Manager of Concord Golf Club, have been retained. With 1991 fast approaching the Committee fixed the subscription at \$1,000, up from \$830, with an explanation from the Treasurer that the increase above the usual CPI adjustment is to cover Clubhouse depreciation, replacement of an obsolete telephone system, security control, cleaning machinery and the creation of a reserve for future course development. After 62 years we have reached a four figure annual subscription, which does not seem unreasonable for the facilities the Club provides to members and when it is compared with the subscription of Group 1 Golf Clubs generally. Subsequently the Committee made the decision that poker machines will not be a part of the new Clubhouse; thus Cromer will join seven other Group 1 Golf Clubs who do not have poker machines.

1991 started just as auspiciously as did 1990 for our representative golfers and Sunday, 13 January was a day to celebrate. In the morning the Juniors repeated the 1990 win by taking out the Peninsular Shield Trophy and in the afternoon the Senior Masters team won the 1990 event for the first time by defeating the Liverpool team in the final by 6 matches to 1.

The next day Monday, 14 January, was not such a happy day for Cromer as it brought with it news of the death of our Patron, Stan Ottewill, at the age of 91. Stan joined the Dee Why Golf Club in 1936 and served on General Committee for 12 years, mostly as Chairman of Greens — I was privileged to follow him in this capacity in 1958. Stan loved his garden and a singalong which invariably included 'The Foggy Foggy Dew' and he will be missed at Cromer, especially by longtime members.

Since June 1990 steady progress has taken place with the demolition and re-building of the Clubhouse and the accompanying pictures tell the story. On the 21 January 1991 the members, rather sadly, vacated the main lounge which had served as 'a home away from home' for so many years and moved across to the new section of dining room and entrance foyer — the latter was quickly dubbed 'The Cathedral'.

Early in 1991 Peter van Wegan, who joined Cromer as a junior in 1971, and who won the Club Championship in 1989 was accepted into the ranks of the Professional Golfers Association; all at Cromer will wish Peter every success in his new venture.

As already recorded our Juniors achieved a very fine perfor-



*Above:* Cromer juniors repeated their 1990 win by taking out the Peninsular Shield Trophy for 1991. Back (l to r) Derek Cash, Martin Ayers, Mark Weir, Front (l to r) Mark Stevens, Matt Arcus, Mike Arcus. Managers of the team were Peter Tilden (r) and John Courtney (l). *Below:* Cromer's winning 1990 Senior Masters Pennant Team. Back (l to r) Neville Allsopp, Ian Barnes, Neville Smart (capt.) Ray Cook, Brian Gosson. Front (l to r) Lyn Astley, John Bennett, Dick Johnson. No 1 player, Barry See Hoe, was absent overseas for the final.



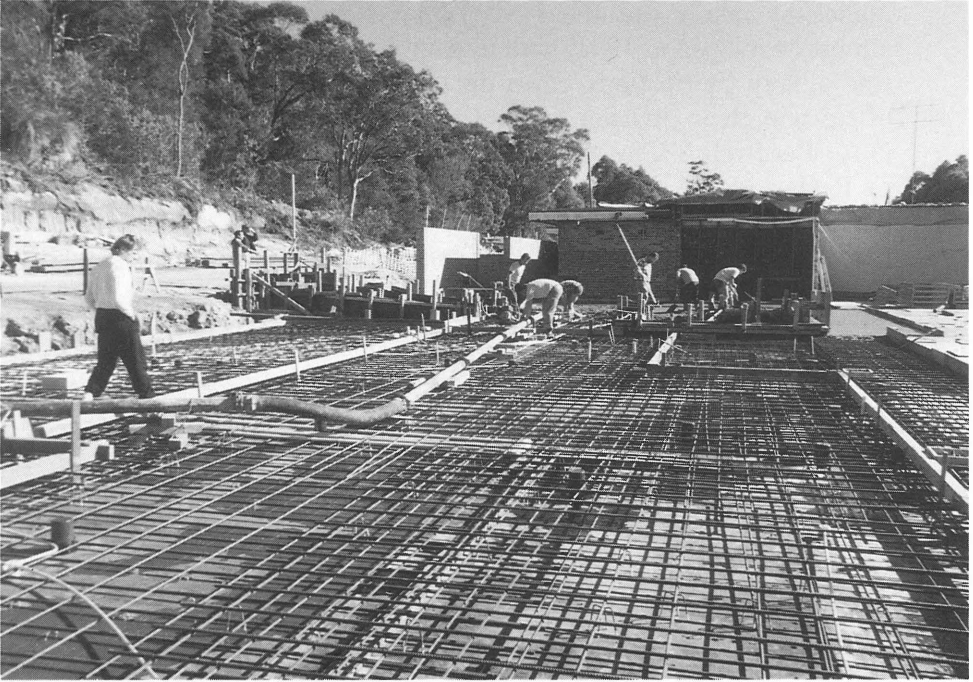


A clubhouse of happy memories 'as it was', May 1990.



The walls come tumbling down.





Re-building commenced mid 1990.



A partly re-built Clubhouse was occupied on 21 January 1991.

mance by taking out the 1990 Junior Pennant Shield and to almost do it again in 1991, with much the same team composition, was a very meritorious effort for they had to survive a play off to win their division. They then went on to defeat Pymble (5-0), Bardwell Valley (3-2), Cumberland (5-0) only to go down to Bexley in the final by 3 matches to 2 at Pennant Hills on 3 March. With such dedicated and increasingly experienced match play talent under the guidance of former Club Champion, Peter Tilden, Cromer can look forward, more than ever before, to taking out what would be the Club's first Group 1 Pennant and with it the 1902 Hunter's Hill Cup. Keep up the good work boys.

With good summer growing conditions many of the par 4 and par 5 holes took on a new look as quite severe fairway contouring was introduced by the Match Committee — predictably making the course that little bit tougher for the longer markers who, almost assuredly, will be compensated with increased handicaps.

The 1990 Annual General Meeting was held on 13 March 1991 and it was particularly good news that Neville Smart will remain President for 1991, which will be a period of re-adjustment for the members as they settle into a new look Clubhouse — it has been under Neville's guidance that the proceeds of money resulting from the sale of a portion of the Club's surplus land has been applied for the long term benefit of the members; also that committeeman Bob Martin, in the role of Building Convenor, was elected to Life Membership — an honour that is not lightly given at Cromer. With a new Clubhouse to be built it was fortunate for Cromer to have a person of vast architectural experience available in an honorary capacity over a three year period to oversee a \$3 million (almost) major building and refurbishing project.

With the death of Life Member Stan Ottewill in January the position of Patron became vacant and it was a most appropriate and popular decision when the members elected Life Member Bob Fairlie as the third person in a period of 40 years to that honoured position. Bob, a member for 44 years, has done much for the Club, the Ex-Servicemens Section and the Associates — most notably with member at the time, Herb Smith, by taking on the task in the 1960s of planting trees in many of the open areas of the golf course and so giving us the tree renowned course we have today.

On a sadder note the meeting recorded the death in February



*Left:* Bob Martin was elected to Life Membership on 13 March 1991. *Right:* Life Member Bob Fairlie was elected the third Patron of the Club on 13 March 1991.

1991 of former Treasurer Alan Quayle, whose contribution to the affairs of the Club has been recorded in the Chapter 'The Hill Era'.

At this Annual General Meeting the members accepted a Committee resolution that the Committee of Management be reduced from 11 to 7 with effect from the 1992 Annual General Meeting, after first being briefed by the President that the change was desirable to complement the incoming Committee's plans to restructure the Club's top management to tie in with the future role foreseen for the Club in the 1990s.

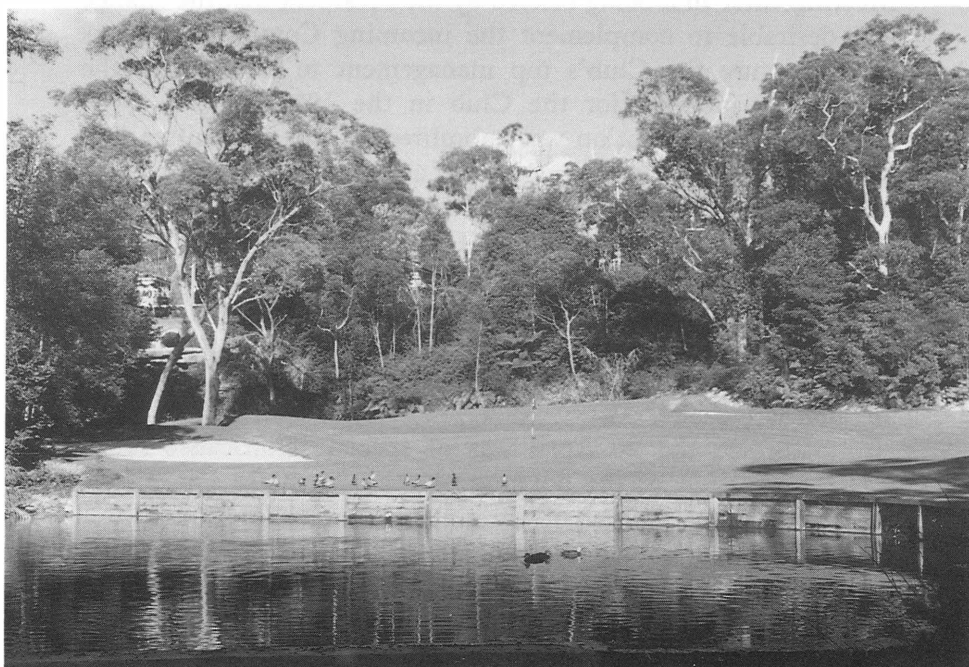
A further resolution was submitted by the Committee that a number of trees between the 16th and 17th fairways be taken out to allow a proposed new 17th dog-leg hole to be played and assessed in conjunction with a proposed practise fairway and after some debate the resolution was lost. However, the incoming Committee was left with a strong recommendation from the meeting that as the question of a practise fairway was generally considered desirable that there should be re-newed effort to find an alternative site.

Saturday, the 20 April was of special significance for it was the occasion of the opening of the 122 metre Par 3 hole in the south-west corner of the golf course. The new hole was declared 'open' by the Captain Doug Jacka, who hit the first ball during the scheduled competition. A special nearest-the-pin trophy was won by Robin Smith, whose shot finished 31mm from the hole.





The picturesque new Par 3 hole found immediate favour with some of our feathered friends, known to the members as Wood-ducks and/or Maned Geese (*Chenonetta Jubata*).



As June approached a sense of excitement developed throughout the Club as members witnessed the finishing touches to the new Clubhouse and participated in a week of golfing events and social activities which preceded the official opening of the new Clubhouse on Saturday, 8 June — a most appropriate date since it was exactly 62 years and 12 years, respectively, that the Dee Why Golf Club was officially opened and Cromer Golf Club celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

Guests for the occasion, mostly with wives, included President John Lugsdin and Executive Director Bruce Scott of the New South Wales Golf Association, the Presidents of eight Peninsular Golf Clubs, the builder and architect and interior decorator of the new Clubhouse, Shire President John Caputo and Councillor Paul Couvret of the Warringah Shire Council as well as two rather special persons — Bill Cooper the son of our Founder, Max Cooper, and Al Howard who has had a long association with the Club going back to the 1940s, first as Professional and in later years as golf course architect.

A plaque was unveiled by Mr John Lugsdin at the black tie dinner to mark the occasion.

President Neville Smart took the opportunity to officially announce the Committee's decision to appoint Club Captain Doug Jacka to the newly created position of General Manager of the Club with effect 1 July, 1991, that his replacement would be Vice-Captain Lynn Astley and that the new Vice-Captain would be Bryan Furzer. With these arrangements in place Cromer will say farewell to Albert Wallace who has so capably filled the role of Secretary Manager since November 1990. In his short term as Secretary Manager, Albert has been administratively responsible for the transition from the old Clubhouse with happy memories for a great many members to the updated, modern Clubhouse we will henceforth enjoy. He has made many new friends at Cromer who are most appreciative of his skills and dedication and who will wish him well in his retirement.

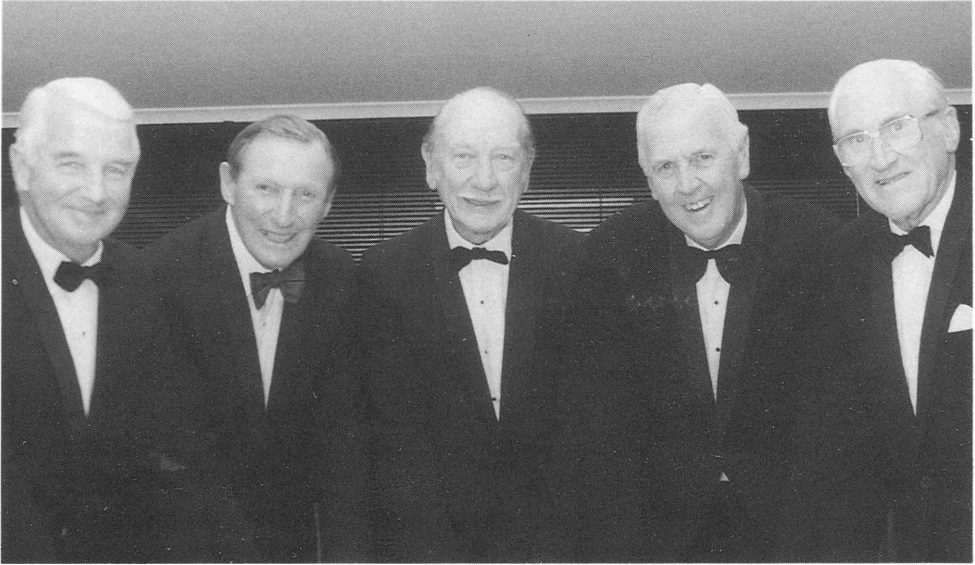
The happy occasion of the official opening of the new Clubhouse brings to an end our history since 1979 as it relates to the 12 year 'Presidents Era'; however, over the same period the associate members have been very much a part of club history as the reader will appreciate from the following chapter.

It has given me much pleasure compiling Book Two and I hope it will be of interest to all members of the Club.



Cromer's President Neville Smart and NSW Golf Association President John Lugsdin hold the commemorative plaque, reading—

**CROMER GOLF CLUB**  
following extensive building alterations  
this Clubhouse was re-opened on 8th June 1991 by  
**MR JOHN LUGSDIN**  
President of the New South Wales Golf Association



Patron Bob Fairlie (centre) with President Neville Smart (left) and former Presidents David Innes, Eric Kime and Eric Milne.



Associate Member President Lorna Collin (left) with former Presidents Nan Gooson, Pam Neely and Meg Felan.



*Above:* Main entrance to the new Clubhouse.

*Below:* Reception lounge of the new Clubhouse.







*Above:* Doug Jacka (left) takes over as General Manager of Cromer Golf Club on 1 July 1991 from retiring Secretary Manager Albert Wallace.

*Below:* Clubhouse from the first tee.





Mrs P Neely  
President, 1979-81



Mrs N Gosson  
President, 1982-84



Olive Isobel Cooper (nee Wilshire) 1889-1970  
Bellevue Hill and Dee Why. Life Member

Mrs Cooper wife of founder, Max Cooper, is the only lady member to have been elected to Life Membership since the Dee Why Golf Club was formed in 1929. She was known as 'Nolly'.

As the first Captain in 1932 she, together with Mrs Boyd the first President, played a leading role in setting up the administration affairs of the associate members of the Club. As well as being Captain for a number of years she was also Captain of the Pennant team and a winner of the Associates Championship.

'Nolly's' last visit to Cromer was on Associates Closing Day in November 1965.



Mrs H Bracher  
President, 1985-88



Mrs L Collin  
President, 1989-91

## THE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Throughout the twelve year era of Book Two the affairs of Cromer's golfing ladies were competently controlled by Lady Presidents Pam Neely, Nan Gosson, Helen Bracher and Lorna Collin.

Membership at the end of 1990 was 366 which included seven juniors, and consisted mainly of ladies whose husbands were members of Cromer, thus creating a happy family style Golf Club. Competitions are conducted on Thursday, Fridays and Sunday, with Thursday fields averaging 140 players.

1981 was a big golfing year for the associate members as the Reserve Grade Team won the Pennant, thus elevating Cromer to 'A' Reserve Pennant for 1982 — an outstanding performance by our ladies. Eighteen year old Liza Ipkendanz became the youngest Cromer associate member to win the Associates Championship, reducing her LGU handicap to 'scratch' and winning the prestigious NSWLGU Champion of Champions for 1981. Lisa went to America in August 1983 to take up a scholarship at the San Jose University in California. In June 1988 she became Mrs David Beddard and is now a teaching professional at the Hawthorne Hills Country Club, Ottawa, Ohio.

At the beginning of 1982 some changes were made to the associate members course layout. By extending the tee position, the fifth hole went from par 4 to par 5, conversely the seventh hole, which was shortened by some 37 metres, went from par 5 to par 4 — as well there was minor lengthening of the tenth, fourteenth and sixteenth holes.

In May 1982 Cromer associate members joined with the associate members of local golf clubs Bayview, Long Reef, Monash and Mona Vale to set up the inaugural Barrenjoey Week of Golf.

The 1984 ALGU changes to the handicapping system were smoothly adopted by Cromer's golfing ladies.

The 1985 Reserve Grade Team repeated the fine performance of the 1981 team by winning the Pennant and were thus elevated to 'A' Reserve Pennants for 1986, a position they held for the 1987 season.

In 1986 a few of the regular Thursday and Friday players,





*Top:* The Cromer Associate team which won the 1981 No 1 Reserve Grade Pennant comprised back (l to r) Kim Hogarth, Sue Bingham, Hazel Archer, Marnie Allison, Norma Couper, Liza Ipkendanz, Brenda Stead, front (l to r) Margaret O'Connor, Grace Park. *Above left:* in the U.S.A. Liza Ipkendanz captained both the San Jose team, winners of the 1985 Inter-Collegiate Championship and the combined Collegiate team that visited Japan in 1985. *Above right:* 1983 Associate Club Champion Dot Morton (seated) receives the cup from Captain, Nan Gosson.



The happy winning 1985 No 1 Reserve Grade Pennant team. Back (l to r) Dot Morton, Sue Bingham, Betty Hogarth, Joan Princep, Hazel Archer, Thelma Chan, Jenny Scully, Val Royal. Front (l to r) Kim Wall, Jenny Hull.

looking for an extra week day game, were allocated a block time on Monday morning following an approach to the General Committee by associate member Bub Jewson on behalf of these players. Monday is now a busy golf day at Cromer — after the 40(+) ladies hit off they are followed by 60(+) 'Cavaliers'. There is one golfing difference between the two groups — the ladies event is an official competition, whilst the 'Cavaliers' is a fun game; most importantly however, both groups enjoy the day.

In August 1987 the farewell dinner given by the Club to Mrs Elgin Brown on her retirement was supplemented with an associates luncheon at which she was presented with binoculars (for bird watching) and a wrist watch in appreciation of the friendly help she had given the ladies over many years of Club service. The large luncheon attendance was made up of present day associate members and many former associate members who wished to share the occasion.

At the end of 1987 former Cromer associate President and Captain Meg Felan, retired from office with the NSWLGU after

-serving 15 years in a voluntary executive role. During these 15 years Meg served as Vice President, State Selector, Delegate to the ALGU and Chairperson of the State Junior Girls. On her retirement the NSWLGU appointed Meg a Councillor of the Union in recognition of her services to golf.

Each year the NSWLGU conducts a stroke competition for NSW lady golfers for the ALGU Handicap Bowl, with entrance fees being used by the ALGU to finance Australian participation in international golf. In 1989 this prestigious event was won by Cromer associate member, Chris Hancock — a fine performance.

Golf is a challenging game at any time and if you are born with an ongoing health problem the challenge is usually greater but Cromer's talented Linda Davis has defied this concept. Daughter of long time members Barry and Helen she joined Cromer in 1986 at the age of 15 after receiving medical advice that a two handed sport would help with her cerebral palsy condition and as a result she took to golf like a duck to water. By 1987 she had reduced her handicap from 36 to 27, by 1988 it was 17 and in 1989 it was 11. In Linda's own words 'I love beating my Dad at golf, it really gives me a kick. My other ambition is to be good enough to become a professional'. You can be assured, Linda that everyone at Cromer is right behind you in your professional golfing ambition; in the meantime 'keep on beating Dad'.

Charity Fund raising days by Cromer associates have been conducted for many years and several worthy causes have benefited. In 1989 \$4,000 was raised and the Charities to benefit were the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for cancer research, Radio for Print Handicapped, Bone Marrow Transplant and Chesalon Homes — funds for the latter at North Manly are raised by the Cromer Veteran Associates who have a proud record over many years of supporting this worthy nursing home community service.

The Charity Fund raising impetus could not be sustained at the same level in 1990 due to limited parking facilities resulting from the Clubhouse renovations which severely restricted the number of visitors able to participate in these popular days. Nevertheless, some \$2,000 were raised — the beneficiaries being the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for cancer research and the associate members of the Nyngan Golf Club, Western New South Wales, which had been severely damaged in the autumn flooding of rivers in that part of the State.

There were two outstanding golfing achievements by Cromer associates in 1990. The first was by long time member Phyl Carlisle who repeated the 1989 performance of Chris Hancock in winning



*Left:* Meg Felan, a popular NSW golf administrator for many years. *Right:* Cromer's talented Junior, Linda Davis.

the ALGU International Handicap Bowl for NSW lady golfers. The second was that of previously mentioned junior, Linda Davis. Linda not only reduced her handicap from 11 to 9 but was invited to join the NSWLGU Gladys Hayes Junior Development Squad for 1991. It is from this squad, after a period of coaching, that representative teams are selected which suggests that Linda is on the way to achieving one of her previously stated ambitions of 'being good enough to become a professional'. In the meantime whilst waiting for the 1991 Junior Development Squad to be assembled Linda has continued to reduce her handicap and early in 1991 it is 7!

## CLUB CHAMPIONS

### MEN

1979 J Wilkinson  
 1980 P Tilden  
 1981 B See Hoe  
 1982 E Couper  
 1983 F Maiolo  
 1984 B See Hoe  
 1985 B See Hoe  
 1986 J Grace  
 1987 B See Hoe  
 1988 J Bennett  
 1989 P Van Wegen  
 1990 B See Hoe

### LADIES

1979 Mrs H Johnson  
 1980 Miss K Hogarth  
 1981 Miss L Ipkendanz  
 1982 Miss J Suckling  
 1983 Mrs D Morton  
 1984 Mrs S Bingham  
 1985 Mrs K Wall (nee,  
 Miss K Hogarth)  
 1986 Miss C Duff  
 1987 Mrs J Scully  
 1988 Mrs S Bingham  
 1989 Mrs T Chan  
 1990 Miss D Trew

The winners of other championship events are appropriately recorded on club honour boards.

## CROMER GOLF CLUB LIMITED OFFICE BEARERS

1979

*Patron* H F Hayman  
*President* D J Innes  
*Vice-Presidents* J R Christensen and  
 E R Fordham  
*Captain* M R W Lee  
*Vice-Captain* B L Cox  
*Hon. Treasurer* R W Critchley  
*Committee* R E Bennett,  
 J C Brigstock, N J Hill,  
 D R Nesbitt, R F Schneider,  
 L F Wardman, J M Wilson

1980

*Patron* H F Hayman  
*President* D J Innes  
*Vice-Presidents* G D Drew and  
 N J Hill  
*Captain* B L Cox

*Vice-Captain* J L Brettnall  
*Hon. Treasurer* R W Critchley  
*Committee* D M Jacka,  
 A D Luker, A L Quayle,  
 R. F Schneider, R A Wallis,  
 L F Wardman, K S Wyllie

1981

*Patron* H F Hayman  
*President* E R Fordham  
*Vice-Presidents* G D Drew and  
 D R Nesbitt  
*Captain* B L Cox  
*Vice-Captain* E J Milne  
*Hon. Treasurer* A L Quayle  
*Committee* J L Brettnall,  
 D M Jacka, K Jan,  
 R J Maguire, I H Weir,  
 K S Wyllie, T Yabsley

1982

*Patron* H F Hayman  
*President* E R Fordham  
*Vice-Presidents* G D Drew and  
D R Nesbitt  
*Captain* N J Hill  
*Vice-Captain* K S Wyllie  
*Hon. Treasurer* A L Quayle  
*Committee* W J Brydon,  
D M Jacka, R J Maguire,  
I H Weir, T V Yabsley

1983

*Patron* S Ottewill  
*President* N J Hill  
*Vice-Presidents* D M Jacka and  
J J Punch  
*Captain* E J Milne  
*Vice-Captain* A J Clarke  
*Hon. Treasurer* A L Quayle  
*Committee* R Booker,  
L J Jewson,  
W S Lamb (to 10/12/83),  
R J Maguire, K S Wyllie

1984

*Patron* S Ottewill  
*President* N J Hill  
*Vice-Presidents* D M Jacka and  
J J Punch  
*Captain* E J Milne  
*Vice-Captain* G Bastock  
*Hon. Treasurer* R Inglis  
*Committee* L J Jewson,  
L J Monks, R T Saunders,  
P A van Wegen, K S Wyllie

1985

*Patron* S Ottewill  
*President* E J Milne  
*Vice-Presidents* L J Jewson and  
L J Monks  
*Captain* A J Clarke  
*Vice-Captain* G Bastock  
*Hon. Treasurer* R Inglis

*Committee* G Keating,  
R F Schneider, P A van Wegen,  
A Wood, K S Wyllie

1986

*Patron* S Ottewill  
*President* E J Milne  
*Vice-Presidents* L J Jewson and  
L J Monks  
*Captain* A J Clarke  
*Vice-Captain* G Bastock  
*Hon. Treasurer* R Inglis  
*Committee* R A Dubedat,  
C R Malvern, R F Schneider,  
A Wood, K S Wyllie

1987

*Patron* S Ottewill  
*President* E J Milne  
*Vice-Presidents* L J Jewson and  
L J Monks  
*Captain* A J Clarke  
*Vice-Captain* G Bastock  
*Hon. Treasurer* R Inglis  
*Committee* R A Dubedat,  
C R Malvern, B L Paine,  
A Wood, K S Wyllie

1988

*Patron* S Ottewill  
*President* N R Smart  
*Vice-Presidents* L F Wardman  
and D M Jacka  
*Captain* A J Clarke  
*Vice-Captain* M R W Lee  
*Hon. Treasurer* C R Nicholson  
*Committee* T M Jones,  
R F Martin, J R Pickering,  
K H Walters, T V Yabsley

1989

*Patron* S Ottewill  
*President* N R Smart  
*Vice-Presidents* K W Hancock  
and L F Wardman

*Captain* D M Jacka  
*Vice-Captain* J R Pickering  
*Hon. Treasurer* C R Nicholson  
*Committee* J E Courtney,  
T M Jones, R F Martin,  
B Saunders, K H Walters

1990

*Patron* S Ottewill  
*President* N R Smart  
*Vice-Presidents* K W Hancock  
and L F Wardman  
*Captain* D M Jacka  
*Vice-Captain* J E Courtney  
*Hon. Treasurer* C R Nicholson

*Committee* L Astley,  
T M Jones, B F Martin,  
J R Pickering, B Saunders

1991

*Patron* R G Fairlie  
*President* N R Smart  
*Vice-Presidents* K W Hancock  
and L F Wardman  
*Captain* D M Jacka  
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*Vice-Captain* Mrs P Franklin  
*Handicapper* Mrs J Ward  
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1989

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*Hon. Secretary* Mrs T Grace  
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*General Committee* Mesdames  
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M Kroschel, H Miller



1990

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*Vice-President* Mrs J Ewing  
*Captain* Mrs P Franklin  
*Vice-Captain* Mrs P Cass  
*Handicapper* Mrs D Dowling  
*Hon. Secretary* Mrs T Grace  
*Asst. Secretary* Mrs P Murray  
*Hon. Treasurer* Mrs H Miller  
*General Committee* Mesdames  
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W Hopwood, M Kroschel

1991

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*Captain* Mrs P Cass  
*Vice-Captain* Mrs J Ewing  
*Handicapper* Mrs H Campbell  
*Hon. Secretary* Mrs T Grace  
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M Kroschel

## ADDENDUM

By David Innes, with the agreement of President Neville Smart.

Having had a ten year Committee involvement in the affairs of the Club, including a term as President in the early part of Book Two I believe there are three matters, more than any others, in the 1979-1991 era that have had a great influence on where the Club stands today.

The first was the release of the Narrabeen Lagoon Management Plan by the Warringah Shire Council in January 1980 which stimulated much thinking within Committees on the aspect of Club owned and permissive occupancy golf course land.

The second was a flow on from the former, eventually leading to the sale of a portion of Club surplus land. For the first time in its history, Committees of Cromer could plan, develop and carry out significant projects without financial constraints.

The third was the changing image of golf as a sport in the community brought about by a combination of Greg Norman as a player and television as the means of bringing golf tournaments — national and international — into homes on a scale never previously experienced. The result was a nationwide demand for Golf Club membership in which Cromer has certainly shared. Coupled with the Greg Norman playing image was the Jack Nicklaus (and others) golf course design/construction impact which, suddenly, projected the cost of golf course design and layout into the mega-buck bracket and as a result has made golf a more expensive sport for the Club golfer.

When I wrote the Foreword to Les Forsyth's book, Cromer Golf History, 1929-79 (Book One), I said 'All through its 50 years of activity the Club's greatest asset has been the fellowship of Members and Associates. The Club has passed through many stages of development and successive Committees have added to the efforts of their predecessors. Membership of Cromer is a privilege of which all Members and Associates can be proud'.

Twelve years later these words still apply and have been vindicated by the fact that today, members have a golf course to play on that continues to be improved as well as a modern, comfortable Clubhouse for which they owe much to their fellow

members who have given their time to serve on Committees in the era of Book Two.

Cromer will be there forever. Older members who have been active committeemen are diminishing in numbers and younger, including junior, members should not take for granted that Cromer has always been as they know it today. Each of our younger brigade has an obligation to see that Cromer's high standing in the golfing world as a Group 1 Club is enhanced and, that when the opportunity arrives, to follow the tradition of putting something back into 'their Cromer', from which they gain so much fellowship.

## THE HERITAGE OF GOLF

Golf is an ancient game and its origin is obscure. By means of paintings, prints and photographs it is possible to identify Holland as a likely source of origin but the question is who brought it to Scotland? It may have been soldiers or sailors. There were many mercenary soldiers in Holland and dozens of marriages with Dutch girls were recorded, whilst Scotland's main export was wool (whisky had yet to be discovered) and if the winds were unfavourable sailors were forced to stay in Holland for extended periods. The Dutch Van De Velde painting of 1668 shows a kilted player with a club.

The spread to Scotland from Europe looks likely when the location of the early Scottish links are all along the east coast of Scotland such as North Berwick, Leith, Elie, St Andrews and as far north as Dornoch. When this occurred is obscure; what is known is that the game had become so popular in Scotland that in 1457 King James II was forced to ban his archers from playing the game that was keeping them from performing their proper duties. His decree stated 'that fute-ball and golfe be utterly cryit doune, and nocht usit'.

In all these places there were rolling links land where rabbits and grass vied for existence. Smooth areas nibbled short and marked with rabbit 'scrapes' alternated with rough grass. The 'greens' (smooth areas) with 'scrapes' (the 1st hole?) were connected by sheep paths of varying widths implies that rabbits and sheep were the first golf link Architects!

By the middle of the eighteenth century golf in Scotland had become so popular that in 1744 the first Golf Club was formed, The Gentlemen Golfers of Leith, later called The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers. It was at this time that the first Rules of Golf (13) were implemented. So, regardless of where golf did originate it was the Scots who are credited with development of the game we know today.

The popularity of the game up to 1850 was controlled, to some extent, by the cost of the ball which was a leather stitched case stuffed with a top hat of boiled feathers — it was a skilled and arduous job and a man could only make 3 or 4 in a day.

The 'feathery' was easily damaged by iron clubs which were only used in sand or in a rut, for it was a case of 'play the ball as it lies'; hence most clubs were wooden with considerable variation in loft and length. The first club makers were Bow Makers who fashioned beautifully delicate woods, Carpenters who made heavier, clumsier woods and Blacksmiths who made the heavy and cumbersome irons. Sheep skin was used

as a grip from about 1800 and leather from about 1880.

Just before 1850, probably in Musselborough, Scotland, the first gutta percha balls were produced, they were cheap and a man could make dozens in a day. Their cost and resilience allowed golf to grow quickly as a sport for many people in the UK — from 17 Golf Clubs/Societies in 1850 to 4,135 in 1910 — helped to some degree by the spread of the railways throughout the UK.

To add further impetus to the game at the turn of the century came the 'haskell' ball which was made by winding hundreds of feet of elastic on to a core and then coating it with gutta percha. This ball had its origin in the U.S.A.

Finally hickory shafts gave way to steel in the 1920s, partly due to steel's superiority, but mostly because the hickory forests were being rapidly depleted.

The history of golf clothing is more varied than the clubs and balls. Back in the 'feathery' era red coats with swallow-tails, and even the occasional top-hat, were seen. A man's everyday suit was considered correct. The ladies wore the long skirted gowns which were fashionable at the time and also a rubber band around the waist which was slipped down when putting to prevent the voluminous skirts interfering with the putting stroke. An unbuttoned jacket was rare before 1920.

Spiked shoes and water-proof clothing are fairly recent innovations.

(Source for this article is a visit I made to the UK in 1988 as one of the 14 Senior Golfers' Society of Australia Team which makes a ten year visit for matches against our UK counterparts. From matches played on the Scottish links of Prestwick, Royal Troon, Gullane, Muirfield, Elie and St Andrews I was able to collect appropriate material.)



Golf, issuing from its narrow home in Scotland, has conquered the world.













## **Cromer Golf Club**

**1992 - 2018**



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The Office Staff always made me feel welcome even when I have taken up space and interrupted them with endless questions while they were busy running the Club.

I would like to mention all those who have helped me with specific areas of the book. Katrina Brown on the Walking Trail and Membership, Geoff Dunlop on Membership, Jenny Wickens on the Golf Development Chapter (and general encouragement), Leon Hennessey and Jack Grace on The Course, Jack Ireland on the Volunteer Chapter and everything else. Their advice and fact checking have been invaluable, especially where my memory has been vague.

I wish to thank John Trathen, my editor, and Tom Trathen, my designer. Jack and Janet Grace have kindly, and meticulously, proof-read the whole document.

This has been a collaborative effort and I could not have done it without the help of these generous people.

## Introduction

I was asked to write this by David Campion on behalf of the Board. It is, in a different form, a continuation of The History of Cromer Golf Club 1926 – 1991, by Les Forsyth and David Innes. It covers the period from 1992 to 2018.

My slight credentials for taking on this task are that I have been a member for 19 years, have served the Club in various capacities (Lady Captain, Board member, occasional volunteer) and have been on the scene during many of the changes described herein. I have enjoyed doing the research, reliving both the anxious times and the joyful times, and thinking again about how much I enjoy being a member of Cromer.

I have decided not to do a chronological description of the events of the past 27 years. Rather I have chosen to cover what I believe to be the significant developments on the course, in the membership and in golf in general. I also chose to cover the social side of our club as well as the invaluable work done by volunteers.

A key feature of Cromer is the friendships formed on the course and in and around the clubhouse. The social activities over the years have contributed to and maintained this notable Cromer friendliness.

In any organisation there are special people who contribute to its success. While I can't name all of them or even all of the activities that enhance Cromer, there is a section on the many volunteers and what they have contributed.

I hope that long-time members will enjoy reliving some of the high and low lights of our history and that new members will understand the special place that Cromer has in our hearts.

## Chapter 1

### The Course

**I**t goes without saying that the course is the centre and focus of a golf club. Our course is particularly lovely. It uses the topography to make the most of our views and proximity to the bush and the water.

Keeping a golf course in peak condition is not easy. Plans are made to do particular works, or focus on particular areas of course presentation, only for the plans to be thwarted by weather events. It is almost as though it is unwise to even mention a project as it can so rarely be delivered when promised.

Over the years Cromer has had some persistent, intractable issues. One is flooding. Old Annual Reports repeatedly refer to the number of days the course was unplayable due to this problem.

The other major problem Cromer had was the quality of our water. When Leon Hennessey was interviewed for the job as Course Superintendent in 2011 he told us that Cromer had a reputation for having the worst water of any golf course in Sydney. We are very fortunate that our water is now good, and the condition of the course is testament to this.

In the 1960s a barrage was built across South Creek, opposite what is now the 10th green, to separate the salt water of the lagoon from the sweet water flowing down stream. The height of the weir was one foot above the maximum height that the Council would allow in the lagoon before they would open a channel through the sandbar.

Water was pumped from above the weir to holding tanks on the course, and some older members will remember the brick

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

pumphouse near what is now the path behind the 10th green. In 1967 bores were sunk to supplement this water.

This was the start of the water problem. It was decided to discontinue using the water from South Creek as it was considered too polluted, both with runoff from above, and by salty lake water. Only bore water, supplemented by rainwater, was used. The 120 megalitre pumping licence for the creek was relinquished in 2001. We retained the licence to pump 164 megalitres of bore water per annum.

The quality of the bore water was not good, and in times of drought it deteriorated further. The three main problems were the high iron content (as ferrous sulphate in acidic solution), the high sodium content, and the low pH. Most obvious was the iron content which resulted in sediment building up in the tanks and blocking the irrigation equipment. It oxidised when in contact with the air and stained everything a rusty red. We had red concrete paths, red bunkers, the lower clubhouse walls were red and the tree trunks were black. While this was unsightly it was not a problem. The main problems were what the iron did to the grass, the irrigation system and the tanks which had to be pumped out every few years at great expense. Our grass was continually under stress as iron locks up the phosphorous in fertiliser, and puts it into a form that makes it unavailable for plant absorption. Phosphorous is necessary for root health and plant development.

In 1994 the Board decided to re-turf two greens per year as some of them were 30 years old, and could do with refurbishment. Drought caused the water quality to deteriorate and the Club lost part of the 1st green and the entire nursery, so the re-turfing could not begin.

The variable condition of the grass was a continuing problem. A Course Maintenance Committee was established in 1995 and the Melbourne company Grant Spencer and Associates was employed to advise Cromer on how to improve the condition of the course, with emphasis on the greens. They identified the main problems as traffic wear, soil compaction, iron oxide in the bore water and the impurity of the grasses.

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

The consultants set out a regime for Greg Flint, the Course Superintendent, to follow and, although the results varied from green to green, there was a distinct improvement with a good spread of bent grass and a weakening of winter grass. Grant Spencer anticipated that the Club would have 100% bent greens in the near future.

Over the years the Club received advice from different consultants on improving our water, with varying results. One solution was to inject liquid caustic soda into the water to improve the pH. It was effective, but the combination of caustic soda and iron applied regularly not only damaged the grass but also altered the chemical balance of the soil.

To show the magnitude of the iron problem, an analysis of the bore water done in 2003 showed 25 milligrams of iron per litre as opposed to the norm of 7 milligrams per litre.

Nothing could be done about the high sodium content of the bore water, except to dilute it with rain water. The grass could not thrive with salty water applications and wet wilt was the most obvious result.

At one time the Club seriously considered using treated grey water from the Warriewood pumping station but at more than \$3m this was considered too expensive.

There was a theory that aerating the water would reduce the iron content. This did not work. In July 2006 HydroSmart was asked to run an eight-month trial of its iron reduction technology at Cromer. The idea was that if the water was ionised the iron salts would remain in suspension and not precipitate in the tanks and on the inside of the pipes. Mark Couchman, the Course Superintendent, was sure that this worked, and while it did appear that the irrigation system did not choke as often, it did not actually remove the iron, so this was still applied to the course.

In March 2010 members passed a resolution to use \$500,000 of the proceeds of the sale of land, completed in 2008, for the improvement

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

of our water infrastructure. The agreed plan was to drill two new bores to a depth of 100 metres to complement our two shallow rock bores, to demolish our existing tanks and replace them with a larger tank, to provide pumps and pipes to carry the water from the bores, and to provide three-phase power to the new bores and ground shed.

The bores were drilled the following year, but only one was successful. Initially the quality of water from the new bore was a distinct improvement but gradually this water also deteriorated. An AGCSA (Australian Golf Course Superintendents' Association) Tech report showed sodium chloride and iron were each more than double the ideal range. The Superintendent was advised to apply chemical products to the greens to prevent damage from the poor water.

The old tanks had the capacity to store 500,000 litres of bore water. A complete watering cycle to all tees and greens required 253,000 litres, but because of residue in the tanks we could only use water in the top part of the tanks as the lower water was iron-rich.

The tank work needed to be done over winter when the course did not require regular watering, so the demolition of the old tanks and the construction of the new 1.2megalitre tank took place in June and July 2011. The pumping equipment for the new deep bore was installed at the same time.

The result of this work was that while we had better access to regular water, it did nothing to improve the quality, and we continued to spend a lot of money on adjustment chemicals, and to apply poor water to our course.

In April 2011 we lost all our greens. This will be covered later in the chapter.

This disaster made us realise we had to find better quality water for our course if we wanted it to survive, let alone improve. We consulted water engineers and looked at a number of options, even considering building a dam on the course. We learnt that we were entitled to harvest water from behind the weir on the 4th hole. Leon Hennessy, the Course Superintendent, created a gravity feed from



## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

the dam into the storage tank where it was shandied with the bore water diluting the salt and iron, a small but significant improvement.

Leon tested the water in South Creek behind the weir and found it to be of a good quality, so we applied to the NSW Office of Water to reinstate our pumping licence. We were told that it had been relinquished too long ago for this to happen, and there was now an embargo on new water licences. Jason Seagg, our General Manager, contacted another golf course that lies in the same water licencing area and was able to buy a part of their water licence. For a one-off payment of \$1,000 per megalitre we were able to buy 70 megalitre p.a. of their water pumping licence. In December 2012 the water licence transfer was registered with the Land Property Information Registry and we were then able to apply for a licence to install a new pump in the South Creek weir.

While it took some time for the South Creek pumping system to be installed, by April 2013 we were using 100% recycled storm water from the gravity feed from the 4th weir in the irrigation system, and we did not need to use bore water until the summer months.

Members who have been at the Club for a number of years will remember the bounce-back we used to get after a rain event, when the whole course would suddenly turn green. As we now have good water this is a thing of the past, as are the rusty paths and bunkers.

The other intractable issue mentioned at the beginning of this chapter is persistent flooding. Some Annual Reports do not mention it, perhaps because those years were particularly dry. Between 1999 and 2003 there were 27 events of a 1 in 5-year floods, 5 events of a 1 in 10-year flood, and 2 events of a 1 in 20-year flood. It was essential to try to make the course as flood proof as possible.

Book 1 of the Cromer History shows a map of the course as it was in 1979. It remained substantially the same layout until the early 21st century, although the numbering of some holes changed. With the major development in 2003 the numbers altered again. This makes

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

writing about the course quite tricky and sometimes very clunky. I use the existing hole numbers where possible.

The issue of flooding was addressed again and again, initially with poor results. The Annual Report of 1992 mentions persistent flooding of the 1st and 15th fairways. The Board decided to appoint A.L Howard, the first Cromer Course Architect, to address the issue in 1993. Mr Howard had designed many Australian courses, including the Tasmanian Golf Course. I can find no reference to any further work on this, except that 1993 was to be a year when course grooming was to be the main focus. However, the 5th green deteriorated to such an extent that it, and the tee, were reconstructed, using turf from the Club's own nursery.

A different firm, Kel Nagle Cooper and Associates was engaged in 1995 to develop a plan for the course for the next three years, particularly to address flooding. I can find no record of what was proposed, or what work was done, although I did read that the women complained about the confusing course layout.

Flooding is mentioned again in 1998 when the first part of the year was very hot, and then there was so much rain that the course was closed for 12 days, and the number of no-cart days was even greater. Flooding impacts heavily on revenue as there are no competition fees nor cart hire fees, and few people have a drink in the bar.

Grant, Spencer and Associates was asked to present a master plan for the course in order to prevent unnecessary work being done. Once the Directors were happy with this plan it would be submitted to members. In view of what was to come, this was somewhat ironic.

There was a belief that the course was closed in wet weather because our greens were poorly constructed and became waterlogged. Newton, Grant and Spencer was employed to refurbish the second green on a "design and construct" basis. The firm built a push-up green, an old-fashioned construction method that was more suitable to Melbourne sand belt conditions. This construction type uses heavy machinery to excavate soil from near the green, it is

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

piled up, sanded and grass grown on top. The holes from which the soil was taken became bunkers and contours.

At a special meeting the members approved the master plan and Stage Two of the course redevelopment began, with the company building the (current) 9th and 18th greens, again on a “design and construct” basis. Unfortunately, with this type of arrangement the final cost is not known.

By the end of 2001 Newton, Grant and Spencer had completed the 8th and 9th holes, (along with the 2nd green) and the 3rd and 5th tees. At the same time the course staff rebuilt the 13th and 16th tees according to the master plan. These were built to USGA standards, lengthened and elevated and turfed with couch.

Construction costs for 2001 alone were \$419,532 and the development cost over four years was \$849,418, which greatly exceeded budget projections and the flooding problem was not resolved. The association with Newton, Grant and Spencer was terminated.

It became apparent that, apart from the significant cost, the new developments were not an unmitigated success. The bunkers proved to be much more difficult to play from and were very costly to maintain, needing extra man-hours. Who could forget the little grass island in the centre of the bunker on the 9th hole? Much of the 9th green was unpinnable and would need to be rebuilt as a two-tier green. The 2nd would need to be improved from a safety aspect, and the front of the green was also unpinnable, particularly in winter when the greens are fast and the collars thin. Many of us were frustrated by balls running a long way back towards the tee from this green.

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*Figure 1 Grass island 9th hole*

The Newton, Grant and Spencer plan had included replacing all kikuyu areas with couch. The estimated cost for this would be prohibitive and it would impact adversely on members' golf. The Board decided to standardise with kikuyu and leave couch on the new par 3s.

The Board spent much of 2002 researching and planning, with the desire to bring Cromer up to the standard of Concord, Elanora, Royal Sydney and other Group One Sydney courses. Board members visited Concord and Ryde-Parramatta Golf Courses, both of which had recently completed major 18-hole developments. These clubs were very generous with information regarding the architect's brief, time frame and costs.

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

The sensible method of course construction requires the architect to submit detailed documentation, which can then be put out to tender to several construction companies. There would be no conflict of interest, as the contractor will quote on a dollar per metre of greens and surrounds, including bunkers. This way the Board could know that the members' money is being spent in the most efficient way.

A Sub-committee of the Board, under the leadership of Jack Grace, looked for a suitable architect. A number were asked to express their interest. After inspecting his work done at Pennant Hills and Bayview, and perusing the documentation produced for the new Elanora Course, they decided on James Wilcher of Golf By Design. Jim had worked with Greg Norman as a designer for 10 years, and, as well as Elanora, he had designed the Pacific Dunes course. An agreement was signed with GBD on the 28th October 2002.

The first step was an aerial survey. An orthophoto (a photograph that has been geometrically corrected so that it works like a map) showed the extent of the land owned by the Club, the Permissive Occupancy, and accurate details of the contours of the golf course. These maps can also be used for course maintenance as they show the layout of the irrigation system as well as other important information. The orthophoto showed that the Permissive Occupancy was 10% of the available golf course land.

Jim Wilcher produced 6 course layouts. The plan chosen by the Board was fairly similar to the 2000 plan already accepted by members, but with modifications to improve drainage, safety and cost. Safety had become increasingly important as Directors have a duty of care to protect workers, members and the general public. Good drainage at Cromer is vital.

Information sessions were held in November with members, the Board and Jim Wilcher and everyone had the opportunity to ask questions. Submissions by members were received and taken into consideration.

The plan was to have G2 bent grass on all greens, with Santa Anna couch collars. The fairways were to be changed from kikuyu to couch

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

as this grass was cheaper to maintain and needed less water. The grass change was to be done half a fairway at a time. One side of the fairway was to be poisoned and then planted out using stolonisation. This method is commonly used over large areas. Couch stolons are planted at regular intervals, covered and watered. Usually the grass establishes and spreads rapidly. All tees and greens were to be built to USGA standards, and all bunkers were to be the modern construction of clay bases with drainage pipes covered by matting below the sand.

USGA construction consists of a compacted gravel layer, approximately 400mm deep, containing a green-wide drainage system and levelled to the final contours of the green. It allows quick drainage of the surface, while retaining some moisture in the root zone. The gravel is covered with a layer of finer gravel or coarse sand to a consistent depth. This too is levelled to the shape of the green. The growing medium, of a specific type and porosity, consisting of soil and organic matter, is put on top. Into this the grass seed is sown.

The most contentious part of the plan was the opening of the creek in front of the 1st tee, the 18th (now 8th) green and the 3rd green, and across the 17th fairway. The opening of the creek would save \$250,000 as if we did not open it we would have to replace a 40-year-old inadequate pipe. Much of our drainage problem was caused by this pipe which was too small, and decreased in diameter as it neared the 17th fairway. In heavy rain the water backed up and spread over the course, rendering it unplayable.

Arguments for and against opening the creek included speed of play, safety, aesthetics and pollution. It was said that players looking for balls in the creek would unnecessarily slow play, and that it was possible for players to fall into the creek. But of most concern to some members was the health aspect. Storm water flowing down the creek brings pollutants from the roadways and properties above the course and if the creek were to open members would be exposed to this dirty water.

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

Surveys over the years showed that the amount of *E. coliform* entering the course varies and is high when the creeks flood. The course effectively filters this water. The bacteria are absorbed into the soil and diluted in the ponds and waterways, as are the chemicals used on the course. The water tested where it enters Narrabeen Lagoon is very clean. The course plan included the planting of suitable filter plants in appropriate areas.

At the 2002 AGM the members approved the Development Plan. No levy was to be imposed on the members, and the Board believed the Club should be able to finish this course development out of available cash and forecast cash flows. However, the Club's reserves would be depleted. During construction 18 holes would remain in play, although some would be from temporary tees to temporary greens.

Golf by Design refined the plan and did the documentation for the tendering process, and at the 2003 AGM the members approved the Revised Course Development Plan. The work was to be done in two stages, with the first stage not to exceed \$1,000,000.

Getting the development through Warringah Council proved to be very complex as it involved work on the Permissive Occupancy, along water courses and close to Narrabeen Lagoon. The Council made a great number of demands, including adding sufficient riffles to the creek bed, and having bridges that allowed light to filter through into the water. The vegetation plan had to be finely detailed and had to comply with the South Creek Catchment Management Plan. Over time non-indigenous trees were to be removed and replaced with endemic varieties.

Construction began in 2003 under Warringah Council exemption. Eclectic Golf Constructions, a course building company which was owned by Mark Parker, the Course Superintendent at Concord, was to do the whole project, spread over 3 years. Because the Club did not have permission to work on the Permissive Occupancy area the work was initially severely limited. Furthermore, during the first part of the year, the course was closed for 11 days due to flooding.

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

Mark Couchman oversaw the development, originally as Project Manager for Eclectic Golf Constructions, and then, from September 2003, as Course Superintendent. He saved on costs by purchasing many of the materials such as gravel, clay and growing medium in bulk as these were excluded from the original tender. He seeded all the greens himself.

The 2004 AGM proved to be the best attended meeting in the history of the Club, with 428 members present. A number of members were very unhappy about the opening of the creek, and the removal of the two willow trees on the left-hand side of the 3rd green. They proposed a Special Resolution that the plan be amended to avoid the creation of open drains and to redesign the 3rd green to save the trees, and to create flood reduction measures by augmenting pipe drainage.

The Special Resolution failed, which was just as well as the willow trees, being classed as noxious weeds in NSW, would have had to be removed anyway. The Ordinary Resolution which was passed, was to undertake further work on the approved Course Development Plan, the completion of the creek work designed to minimise flooding of the course after heavy storms, and other such work as the Board might determine.

By the end of 2005, with the exception of the 15th green (impacted by the proposed walkway) and the opening of the creek across the 17th fairway (still subject to Council approval), all the major works in the construction program had been completed. This was done ahead of schedule due to a prolonged period with little rainfall. The construction was completed within budget (\$1,430,000).

While the lack of rain (the second lowest rainfall since 1993) made construction work efficient, it did mean that it was difficult to obtain turf to finish the course, and the presentation suffered.

In February 2006 all the new greens were in play. There was still some work to be done on the course, including the planting of palm trees to increase safety and discourage short cuts by the big hitters. It took quite some time before the 17th creek could be opened.



## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

A number of issues with the new course were identified, perhaps the most pressing being two fairway bunkers on the 16th hole, directly in line with the women's tee. A very accurate tee shot was needed to get between the bunkers facing one another on either side of the fairway. The Board decided to put a moratorium on changes to the course until December 2007, two full years after the new course came into play.

One member was very keen for the 8th hole to once again become the 18th, believing that it was a good finishing hole for matches. He proposed this change at the 2006 AGM but his suggestion was defeated on the basis that many matches do not get to the 18th hole. The change would also have incurred some considerable expense.

At the 2007 AGM the President reported that the course had been in play for two full years after the completion of the development, and the scores were improving as we learnt to play the more challenging layout.

In June and July 2007, the course was closed for 6 days after heavy rain with no wind to aid evaporation. But since the development, this is now an unusual situation. Even after the heaviest rain, the course drains quickly and is seldom closed due to flooding. There are times when carts can't be used, but now that we are able to program no-go areas into the carts, even these days are fewer.

Once the moratorium was over, James Wilcher was asked to address access and egress of fairway bunkers which were proving difficult. He produced modification plans for bunkers on the 5th, 7th and 8th holes. He also produced plans for the redesign of the par 3s which had not been part of the development. The right-hand bunker on the 16th was removed, and the landing area on the 5th was widened.

Our interesting new course did suffer some dreadful setbacks however. In 2005 an act of vandalism resulted in a large area of the 4th green being poisoned. And in January 2011, at a time when the Club was getting a lot of negative publicity around the Narrabeen Lagoon Trail, the greens of the 1st, 5th, 7th and 10th were vandalised. Poison was sprayed on the greens resulting in 430

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

square metres of damage. The 10th green was irreparable and the entire surface had to be replaced. Shortly thereafter a corrosive liquid was used to draw vulgar pictures on the 15th tee and fairway, the 16th tee and down that fairway.

Our greens continued to struggle with poor root growth. Pitch marks were deep, muddy and difficult to repair. In March 2010 we received an AGCSA Tech report which identified black layer, (anaerobic decomposition), caused by lack of oxygen and moisture in some of our greens. Increased tining (hollow coring) and sanding was undertaken on a more regular basis to aerate the greens to improve condition. The water remediation regime was slightly changed. While the greens showed some improvement, and we received a positive AGCSA Tech report in September, the Board began discussing whether it was preferable to allow *Poa annua* (winter grass) to take over the greens rather than stress them further by keeping the G2 bent surface pure.

In April 2011 disaster struck. Over one weekend all our greens died. Sunday players noticed the greens looked a strange yellow colour and by Monday it was obvious that they were dead. It was clear by the patterns on the greens that a spraying session had precipitated this event. But it was just a normal application of the usual chemicals, products that had been used successfully over the years. Representatives of all the suppliers were asked to do site inspections to review processes and rates of application. Nothing abnormal was identified. All equipment was tested for poison residue and proved to be clear. Soil samples were taken and tested for all the herbicides used on the course. None was present. No cause of this event was ever found, so it was presumed that the continually stressed grass just gave up growing.

The Board decided to continue to play on these greens until it was no longer feasible. Many alternatives and plans of action were discussed and eventually it was decided to redo all the greens instead of over-sowing them.

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In July 2011, Mark Couchman having resigned in May, Leon Hennessy was appointed Course Superintendent, and he oversaw the remediation.

All the greens were surveyed to ensure the existing levels were retained. The top 25 to 75 mm of the existing surfaces were removed and left on site. An average of 50mm of sand was applied to each green and it was rotary hoed to a depth of 150 to 200mm, mixing the new sand and amendments with the soil. The greens were contoured back to the existing surfaces and the greens were all reseeded with a mixture of A1 and A4 bent grass.



*Figure 2 Construction of new 15th green (Vaughan Clarke, Geoff Dunlop, Leon Hennessy, Michael Horne)*

Before the work could begin on the greens, temporary greens were created using turf obtained from Manly Golf Course and Camden Valley Golf Course. Member volunteers helped lay the temporary greens under the guidance of the greens staff.

The Club bought 2 second hand fire-fighting pumps and a 1,000-litre tank plus trailer to use for the watering of the new greens with potable water. Volunteers watered the greens by hand twice a day. The work of stripping and reseeding the greens began on the front 10 greens in September, and by March 2012 all our greens were back in play.

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When the 13th was stripped it was found that it had been poorly constructed, so it was redone and the drainage improved. Shortly thereafter, a new, enlarged practice putting green was built near the Pro Shop. The top putting green became a garden and a chipping lawn.



*Figure 3 New putting green under construction (L-R Len Thomson, Michael Horne, Rod Davies, Lyn Smith)*

This event precipitated a search for better water, as described above.

In 2012 the Club faced a further challenge brought about by the construction of the Narrabeen Lagoon Terrestrial Walkway. For a period, we were without the tees of the 13th hole as that area was used by the Council to store building equipment, and the 12th fairway was crossed by a haul road. Play to the 15th green continued, but a designated public path with stakes and tape became part of the challenge.

To accommodate the loss of land near the Lagoon and the relocation of the 15th hole the holes had to be played in a different order. A concrete path suitable for course machinery as well as golf carts and walking players was built from the 11th green to the 12th (formerly the 14th) tee, and the holes renumbered.



*Figure 4 Path construction behind 13<sup>th</sup> green*

Our iconic 15<sup>th</sup> hole, where we used to hit over a section of the Lagoon, was on the Permissive Occupancy area and on the route of the walkway so it was resumed by Council. Jim Wilcher designed a new, more interesting 15<sup>th</sup> hole. The 16<sup>th</sup> tees were relocated and the dogleg removed. The fairway bunker on the left of the fairway was filled in, giving a straight shot to an open fairway.

One constant complaint from members has been our bunkers. We like to forget that bunkers are a necessary part of a course – hazards designed to make us think about our shots. But when the state-of-the-art bunkers built in 2005 deteriorated more quickly than anticipated, members had cause for complaint. Some faces washed away after heavy rain. The matting often came up through the sand, requiring a drop within the bunker if it interfered with the shot. The comment “there is no sand in this bunker” is often heard. This is not strictly true – rather the coarse grains of sand have broken down with regular use, and the clay from the base has risen and mixed with the fine sand, binding it into a harder surface.

In 2012 Leon created a new bunker behind the 4<sup>th</sup> green. This green had always suffered from too much shade and water run-off from the hillside. The new bunker was designed to trap some of this water, moving it away from the green. It was constructed using the latest bunker system – Bunker Matrix. The bunker is shaped and drainage lines are put in the base of the bunker then covered with gravel to the required height and shape. This gravel is then covered

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with the Matrix, a type of bitumen. It is very stable and does not have matting issues, and when eventually the sand breaks down into fine grains, the bunker can be shelled out and the sand replaced, without damaging the base.

Since 2016 we have been paying an extra \$2 in our competition fee for the bunker program. The Club plans to redo all our bunkers, removing some, altering others to make for easier access, egress and maintenance. As bunker work can only be done during early winter months, and only when the funds are available, it will take a few years for the program to be completed. Experience has shown that bunkers with the Matrix base drain more quickly than the old bunkers and they retain their integrity after heavy rain, reducing the workload for the staff. It is only the old-style bunkers that are now GUR after big storms.



*Figure 5 New bunker on the 8th hole*

Improvement work continues – work that is described every year in the Annual Reports, such as branch lopping, tree removal, suitable planting and so on. The weir leaks and there are plans to fix this, but many authorities are involved, such as the Department of Fisheries, and getting the required permission will take time.

We now have a lovely course. The grass is thick and covers well. Every spring we say the course has come out of winter better than ever. Good quality water is the key to the good coverage, but also having the right grass for the microclimate. Sure, everything is not

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perfect. We have mixed grass fairways as unfortunately we were never able to change them all to couch and the couch / kikuyu discussion continues. The aging irrigation system needs updating and it leaves bare patches where the sprinklers cannot reach. Tree roots creep onto the fairways to access irrigation water. There are still bunkers that need fixing. There are shade areas where it is difficult to keep the grass in the best condition, in spite of tree removal. But we have a good base on which to build the most perfect course on the Northern Beaches. It is already the most beautiful.



*Figure 6 Farewell to the 15th*

## Chapter 2

### The Narrabeen Lagoon Trail

In 1903 the NSW Government created a 100-foot (30 metres) recreation reserve beside South Creek and along the shore of Narrabeen Lagoon. In 1956 Cromer Golf Club obtained permission to use a portion of this land from the Lands Department under a Permissive Occupancy licence. The Club was always aware that it could be asked to vacate this land at some stage in the future, and the public had the right to access this land.

Over the years Cromer has paid licence fees in excess of \$500,000. In 2012 the annual fee was \$9,711.74. Parts of the course which were on the Permissive Occupancy land were the men's 13th tee, the entire 15th hole and an area to the left of the 16th hole, running all the way from the Lagoon to Toronto Avenue, past the 2nd hole.

For many years there was a path round much of the Lagoon. Some of the path was well-made and some parts were an informal track. Particularly at the weekends, golfers and members of the public mingled on this area of the course.

Inevitably there were safety issues, particularly where the track from the Department of Sport and Recreation land crossed in front of the men's 13th tee. The concrete path disappeared through a small patch of vegetation, and, although there was a stop sign on the path, and a head-high sign warning of the danger of golf balls, people would occasionally appear suddenly, just as someone was starting his backswing. It was particularly unpleasant when it was a mother pushing a pram, a not uncommon event. Golfers always stood watch for their playing partners. The women's tee, on the green side of the path, did not have this safety issue.

There was also a clearly defined informal track along the length of the 16th, much of it inside the lateral hazard. Walkers could access



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this by crossing the weir at South Creek. It was not much used except by residents from Toronto Avenue who would walk their dogs there in the evenings.

As part of the Development Application for the 2003 course restructure, the Club undertook to build a proper path for public use within five years. \$150,000 was set aside for this project, but it was not built at that time as there was uncertainty as to the exact route, and the Club was naturally not in a hurry to build a path that would impact the playing area.

In 2007 Warringah Council decided to develop the 8 km long Narrabeen Lagoon Multi-Use Trail (NLMUT). The Lagoon circuit was to be on the ground and was to be suitable for cyclists, walkers and wheelchairs.

In March 2008 Warringah Council met with Rod Davies, Cromer General Manager, and formally tabled the proposal to build the trail, in conjunction with Pittwater Council. This plan would involve resuming part of the Permissive Occupancy and Cromer Golf Club would be responsible for constructing the part of the Trail in this area. Three proposals were mentioned, one of which was a boardwalk near the shore, parallel to the 15th hole. The cost to the Club of this option was to be \$650,000. The General Manager stressed that nothing could be done until it had been discussed with the Board and the members.

These discussions brought the issue of safety to the fore and the Club constantly stressed to the Council that any trail could not mix golfers and members of the public. The Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation was also heavily impacted by this plan, as not only was much of its land on the Permissive Occupancy, it could not have members of the public wandering through a facility where children participated in outdoor activities and resided overnight.

Discussions with Council continued over many months and by the end of 2008, no consensus had been reached for the route, the construction type, and the compromise expected of the Golf Club. Different departments of the Council seemed to have different

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priorities. At one stage in 2008 it was announced the route had been decided, but then a Council department identified a stand of trees with endangered fauna that had to be preserved. The position of the bridge over South Creek was an area of concern. Initially Council wanted to put it 230m east of the weir, which would have been severely detrimental to our 16th hole. The Council did acknowledge the danger of having walkers on the left of the 16th. In 2007 the Council, for safety reasons, fenced off the weir to prevent walkers accessing the course, but there was an outcry from the public and the gates were unlocked, although the fence remained.

One idea much favoured by the Golf Club and the Academy of Sport was to have an over-water pontoon trail from the peninsula south of Middle Creek to the RSL ANZAC Village. It would keep walkers safe from golfers, keep unvetted strangers away from the children, and keep the Academy yachts and canoes in a confined area. Sadly, the plan was not acceptable to Council as it was thought to be too expensive to construct and maintain, and it was committed to an on-ground trail. It was said that the Department of Fisheries was against the pontoon, although it never actually stated this formally. The influential green group, the Friends of the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment was opposed to the plan.

In April 2009 the NSW Government put \$4,000,000 towards the cost of the Trail on condition construction begin within six months. There was still a lot of work to be done before Stage 2, the section involving the Golf Club and the Academy, could begin.

One member of the public, Jim Sommerville, was very keen to get the Trail completed and he was relentless in lobbying local and state government. He had the ear of a sympathetic journalist at the Manly Daily so was able to get regular publicity for the plan. Sometimes the reporting was rather biased and occasionally totally inaccurate, for example when the Manly Daily wrote that construction through the golf course would begin in June 2010. The paper later apologised for this report.

It was unfortunate that much of the tone of the published information was negative to the Golf Club, and failed to mention

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facts such as the fees paid for access to the Permissive Occupancy. A general feeling seemed to develop in the area that Cromer was sequestering public land and that the whole golf course was on Council land, not just the small section. More and more people began to walk onto the course. It was not unknown for cyclists to ride in the front gate, through the car park and down the course paths, hoping for access to the water. On Sundays families with small children would walk down the track along the 16th, and once a family even picnicked on the 16th tee. Some walkers were quite aggressive, standing in the way of golfers, almost waiting to be hit.

In 2011 the Club suffered two vandalism events. The greens near the weir had 430 square metres of damage. Some time later vandals used something corrosive to draw ugly pictures in the grass of the 15th and 16th holes.

Cromer was fortunate to have as Club President Len Thomson who had worked for Warringah Council in the past. He, Rod Davies and Katrina Brown were in the forefront of negotiations with Council. The Board mobilised the membership well, and whenever public input was called for, we submitted letters and suggestions. This was particularly noticeable at the Community Workshop in May 2011, when the Club was well represented.

From the Club's point of view the issues were: the siting of the Trail, the loss and relocation of the 15th hole, reconfiguration of the golf course to accommodate the changed layout, the separation of walkers from golfers and, of course, the financial cost to the Club.

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*Figure 7 Final championship on the old 15th*

Negotiations with the Council took many months. The Council was adamant that it wanted to use the 15th hole, and that the course reconstruction and the Trail on the Permissive Occupancy were to be at the Golf Club's expense. It was pointed out to Council that we simply did not have the funds.

In July 2011 the Council offered the Club \$400,000 for the remodelling of the course. To keep the ratepayers happy, it was made clear that this funding came from the NSW State Government Grant for the completion of the Trail. Rod Davies persuaded the Council to agree to the following:

- 1 The Council was to pay contractors up to \$400,000 to cover the cost of rebuilding the golf course to accommodate the loss of the 15th hole.
- 2 Council was to enter into a revised agreement with the Department of Lands, on our behalf, to change the classification of the land currently occupied under a Permissive Occupancy licence, to a classification which provides use by the Club with no public access.
- 3 The weir across South Creek was to be adequately fenced to prevent access or egress from the golf course. Council was to pursue the removal of the weir with the relevant authority.

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- 4 The Trail along the golf course foreshore was to be fenced to ensure security of the Club-owned land, and the safety of trail users.
- 5 There was to be no requirement for the Club to fund construction of the Trail and this obligation was to be removed from the requirements of the Club's Master Plan.

Jim Wilcher was consulted regarding the redesign of the relevant parts of the golf course. He provided an indicative cost of the course realignment to Warringah Council of \$470,000.

While not backtracking on its offer of \$400,000, Council now added some conditions, not previously mentioned in the written proposal. This included that Cromer was to provide construction equipment and materials, and access and storage during the construction period.

Another intense period of negotiations commenced. The Council wished to access the construction area via our Ground Shed with a road constructed across the 11th fairway and along the edge of the 16th fairway to a site depot on the old 16th tee. Naturally this was unacceptable.

The agreed compromise was that site access would be through the Academy of Sport via a gate in the fence, using a temporary road across the 12th fairway. The site depot was to be our 13th tee. While this was very inconvenient it was a manageable result.

The actual route of the Trail on the 15th hole remained a problem as the Council wished to site the path as far from the water as possible and this took it close to the golf course. One proposed plan even showed a path going through a pond on Club property.

Construction was expected to take a full year and was supposed to begin in April 2013, but negotiations were still continuing between the Council and the Academy of Sport, so the start was delayed.

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The public continued to want access to the course and the Permissive Occupancy and the atmosphere became increasingly fractious. For a time golfers continued to play the 15th next to a track, clearly defined by stakes and tape, that directed walkers from behind the tee towards the 16th hole without getting close to the 15th green.

In December 2012 the Club began construction of the new 15th hole. The old hole involved a shot over the Lagoon to the green. The new hole faced away from the Lagoon. Once this hole was ready for play the Council was not yet in a position to begin construction, so we had a period when we could play both the old and the new holes, thus allowing the new green to bed down before it was fully in play.



*Figure 8 Construction of the new 15th hole*

When the Council began construction of the Trail the entire area was fenced off with secure fencing. Access across the weir and from the Academy of Sport was also blocked by fencing. Sadly, this increased public aggression. People would walk onto the course, demanding access to the Lagoon shore, and when told that it was impossible would be rude to golfers. Some people even took the trouble to hoist their bicycles over the fence at the weir to ride to the Lagoon only to have to reverse the process when they realised they were trapped. This aggression was disappointing because the construction and inconvenience was as a result of the Council's activities and not those of the Club.

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The Permissive Occupancy down the 16th was rezoned as an Environmental Zone and there is no longer any public access. The Club was responsible for revegetating this area and Jason Seagg, the General Manager, obtained a grant which allowed volunteers to receive training in the correct methods of bush regeneration, and to buy the necessary plants. The Garden Group prepared the area by removing asparagus fern and other noxious weeds, and then this same group, with additional volunteers and under the direction of Rachel Hofen, the Club horticulturalist, dug holes and planted 13,000 plants. Now, four years on, the revegetated area is a well-established part of the endangered wet sclerophyll forest that abuts the course, and birds can always be seen in the bushes.

Once the Council had completed its work, it took some time before the access road was removed and the full 12th and 13th holes were in play.

The Narrabeen Lagoon Trail was formally opened in February 2015. A steel school-style fence separates the course from the path with substantial planting screening the Trail. While we have lost our close-up views of the lagoon, members can now play that area of the course with no interference from walkers, and walkers are safe from errant shots.

Having part of the course on Permissive Occupancy meant we always had the Sword of Damocles hanging over our head. We are now in the secure position of having the course restricted to golfers only.

There is an ironic twist to the end of this tale. As the Trail has become increasingly busy, the Council realised it had to create a bypass for the narrow section of the path near the Wakehurst Parkway. With little room at its disposal and a swamp between the road and the Lagoon, it has built a wide, fenced, overwater pontoon trail. The insistence on the original requirement that the entire Trail should be on land has been abandoned.

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*Figure 9 Last tee shots on the old 15th*



*Figure 10 Farewell to the 15th (L-R Mark Felan, Ken Oates, Neville Smart, Nyorie Smart, Barry Davis, Helen Davis)*



## Chapter 3

### Cromer Golf Club Membership Changes

**I**n 1992 Cromer Golf Club had the standard golf membership structure. Men paid the full annual subscription as Playing Members. Women paid a lower subscription, had fewer rights and were called Associate Playing Members. These days one cringes at the thought!

These were the days of full membership, a reliable income stream from annual subscriptions, and a regular capital infusion from entrance fees. Potential new members were proposed and seconded by financial members of good standing, and were interviewed before being placed on the waiting list. Men waited for over a year before becoming members while women, as a rule, waited for a shorter period. Once accepted, the new members joined as Provisional Members with limitations on booking rights and the competitions in which they could play.

Male Provisional Members could not book tee times 7 days in advance of Wednesday and Saturday competitions, a right reserved only for members. Associate Provisionals had to play in the smaller Friday morning field until there was space for them in the regular Thursday field, or until their handicaps were low enough for them to be invited to join the Big Girls. Friday mornings were considered training mornings, and a lady Committee member had the responsibility of coming to the Club every Friday as a mentor.

Men could play all day on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and they also had late Monday morning available. Women could play early on Monday mornings and all day Thursday. The Provisional Associates played at a special time on Fridays and the rest of the day was for a mixed competition. On Sundays, men and women played in the medley fourball, men could play in an individual competition, and the Business Women had reserved tee times for their weekly competition.

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

With a full membership (1,472 in 1993) the Club could afford to reward members of long standing with Special Senior Membership which had a much-reduced annual subscription.

By the early 2000s there were so few Provisional Associate Members in the Friday field that it was amalgamated with the Thursday field. The category of Provisional Associate Member was not deleted, rather it was reassigned to a category that would encourage women to join the Club. With a low entrance fee and reduced annual subscription, they could play on Mondays and Fridays, and they could represent the Club in Pennant teams. The category worked well and attracted quite a few new members.

While Associates were the driving force in the social activities of the club, they had limited rights. Not only could they not stand for Board membership, they could not even vote at the Annual General Meeting. In 1993 the Articles of Association were changed at an October General Meeting and the following year, 1994, women attended the Annual General Meeting and voted for the first time.

Twelve years later, at the Annual General Meeting of April 2006, a special resolution was proposed to allow Associate Members to stand for Board positions. This was passed and the Constitution was amended to include the following:

“Only persons who have been members of the Club for at least 3 years and are Life Members, or financial members in the classes of Playing Membership, Senior Playing Membership, Provisional Playing Membership, Associate Playing Membership, Associate Senior Playing Membership or Associate Provisional Playing Membership are eligible to be nominated for, elected to, and hold office on the Board.

Nominations for election to the Board must be made in writing signed by two members being Life Members, Playing Members (and all the classes of membership listed in the previous paragraph).”

The following year Katrina Brown was elected to the Board of Cromer Golf Club, and in 2008 she became the first female Vice

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President of Cromer Golf Club. She subsequently was the Club President for a number of years. Since then Su Trathen and Jenny Wickens have served on the Board.

By 2008, attracting and keeping members was starting to be discussed. In his Treasurer's report to the 2008 AGM David Smart stated that while the Club was travelling well, attracting new members was going to be an issue in the future. Although our figures were constant, golf club membership generally was starting to decline. And, as at other golf clubs, the general membership was ageing.

The Club had not neglected younger potential members. In 1998 a Junior Development Squad, run by volunteers, was begun. It is now a more formal school run by the Pro Shop with the assistance of volunteers, and there is always a waiting list of local hopefuls. Many current members have come through this scheme.



*Figure 11 Junior development squad*

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In 2005 the Cygnet Programme aimed at women wishing to learn golf, or to return to the game, started. This has been highly successful and every year one or two new women members have joined the Club. In the first year 35 young women went through the programme and they all joined Cromer. Again, it is run by the Pro Shop with assistance from volunteers, particularly during the three months extension when they play a few holes followed by coffee.



*Figure 12 Cygnet scheme instruction by Nicholas Robb*

At various times a beginner group for men has been suggested but this has never been successful. It would appear men don't seem to enjoy learning in a group.

By 2010 the difficulties of attracting and retaining members was seen as a major issue. The Club runs on annual subscriptions and with members getting older and giving up golf, the reduced membership was detrimental to our cash flow. To attract new members the entrance fee was lowered, and if a couple joined together one new member would pay no entrance fee at all. Cromer was not the only club facing this problem, and we were competing with other Northern Beaches clubs for new members.

At the time we had 52 categories of membership. Not only did we have the Full Playing and Associate Members, and the Special Senior categories, we had various levels of Junior and Cadet membership, Overseas and Country Memberships, as well as a Holding Category. There was also a lower priced category for

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

younger adult members currently studying or otherwise unable to pay the full fee, in the hopes of retaining them as future Full Members. Every year the Board went through the agonising decision of working out the subscriptions for the following year. Generally, subscriptions were increased in line with the Cost of Living Index. The problem with this method was that members became very fluid in their use of categories. Members would move into cheaper categories when they felt their golf was getting too expensive. This annual category slippage made it difficult for the Club to budget appropriately. The cost of operating a golf course is almost fixed each year and varies only slightly with the number of rounds played.

The Board decided to look at the whole membership structure in order to simplify it, discourage category changes, and make budgeting easier. They examined the structures of other clubs and a number of different ideas were discussed.

Playing Members had the highest annual subscription, but many men were working full-time and could only play on Saturdays, making their golf expensive. Associate Members paid quite a lot less but, apart from the working women, they were able to play in competitions at least twice a week. Retired men played a lot of golf, some up to four times a week, but many of them were in cheaper categories. The spread of annual fees compared to access to competitions and social play was unfair, with the more expensive categories effectively subsidising the cheaper ones.

The initial thought was to have a structure similar to other clubs with 7-day membership and 5-day or midweek membership. This did not really address the issue of parity as the Wednesday field had more regular competitors than the Saturday field. Many, particularly older men would rather play midweek than in the more competitive Saturday field. Looking at the number of rounds played by individuals, it was apparent a 5-day membership would allow those who played most, up to 2 or 3 times a week, to be paying less than those who could manage only one, or at the most 2, games over a weekend.

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Some clubs had bitten the bullet and deleted their long service reward categories. The logic is obvious as, with an ageing membership, more and more members would expect to pay the discounted rate and no club could afford this regular diminution of income while, at the same time, operating costs increased each year.

In early 2011, Cromer introduced an inexpensive weekday afternoon category in the hope it would attract new members from the local area, and also tempt people soon to retire from full-time work, to take up golf. Existing members could not move into this category.

Sexual discrimination was becoming an issue. The Club had received letters from working women wishing to join and play in the Saturday field, something we could not, at that time, accommodate. Some clubs had allowed women to pay the same rate as Full Playing Members and have access to competition all weekend. A neighbouring club had been taken to court by a female member demanding equality of access. With women in leadership roles at Cromer, and the desire to avoid litigation, the Club was determined to create gender equity.

In April 2011 we lost all our greens and it was decided that this was not a time for radical membership changes.

In February 2012 the Membership Review Subcommittee, under Geoff Dunlop, was re-established. Various ideas were discussed, some of which would need a change in the Club Constitution. We were once again faced with the perennial problem of retaining members, keeping them satisfied, and at the same time increasing our annual income. The Board wished to bring course and competition access more in line with the amount members paid.

In May of that year the Board decided to look at the issue of subscriptions from a different angle. Instead of tweaking the categories to keep members happy and get the necessary annual income, we should establish the required annual income, and create categories that would bring in that amount of money. To run the Club to a standard the members expect, an annual income of \$2.4m was needed.

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A radical new membership structure was proposed. There were to be only two categories of golfing member – Full Playing Member and Restricted Member. There was to be no gender qualification. All old reward categories were to be abolished. Other cheaper and reward categories became Sunset Categories. Existing members could remain in them, but no new members could join. Women would continue to have single sex competitions early on Monday mornings and Thursdays, and men would continue to have their own competition on Wednesdays. The regular Saturday field would be open to women. Restricted Members could only play during the week, in the afternoons, but they could play 6 competition rounds a year and the Club would maintain their handicaps. Junior and Cadet categories, where age is a defining factor, would continue.

The Board knew that this was a risky idea and would need a lot of negotiation. We had no idea how many people would give up golf completely. The subscription fee was set at a point where Full Playing Male Members would pay less per annum and Associate Playing Members would pay more. Married couples, when their annual subscriptions were added together, would pay a bit less than they had been paying. Some categories of member would be disadvantaged, particularly women who only played during the week. They were resentful that they had to pay for the weekend access they did not use. This resentment lasted for a good few years. The other group of members who were particularly upset were the Cavaliers, many of whom, while still playing on Wednesdays, were considering becoming Special Senior members, something they would no longer be able to do. The Restricted Category did not suit them as the Cavaliers Monday competition started at 10 a.m. After much negotiation, it was agreed that Cavaliers in the Restricted Category could have a special dispensation to play in the mornings.

The new membership structure was presented to the Club at an Information Night in June. At an Extraordinary General Meeting in August 2012 the motion to change the Constitution to accommodate the new membership was passed by the required 75%.

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While some members remained unhappy about this change, it gave us great pride to be the first golf club in NSW to be totally gender neutral.

In September 2012, the Saturday tee sheet was open to women and on the first Saturday twelve women played. Since then the field has fluctuated, and often there are only a handful of women playing. However, they are now very much part of Saturday golf.

On 23rd March 2013 we had the first Club Championship Saturday. In the past, women had played their championship golf on Thursdays. Now the finals are always played on the same Saturday as the men, and the event has become an annual Cromer celebration with good galleries and a lovely atmosphere in the Club.



*Figure 13 23 March 2013 – Mixed Championship Day*

Over time, it became apparent that some changes needed to be made to our membership. There was simmering resentment that the cheaper senior reward category had been removed, so Loyalty Playing Membership was introduced. It was passed at the AGM in February 2017. It is a very limited category with only 30 members in any one year, and the annual subscription is 60% of Full Playing Membership.

The other issue that was recognised by the Board was that there was no suitable introductory category. It was particularly difficult for beginners. At a stage when a person is considering whether golf



## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

is the game for them, it is quite hard to commit to an annual fee of thousands of dollars. The Club was investing time and money in Juniors and Cygnets for them only to join other, cheaper, clubs at the end of the training.



*Figure 14 Cygnet scheme*

Now there are three categories of playing membership, all of which are gender neutral. As well as Full Membership we have an Active Membership with access to the course on four weekdays, and a Social Membership with afternoon access to the course and limited competition access. Junior, Cadet, Loyalty, Corporate and Overseas members also may play in competitions. The Sunset Categories remain, but their numbers are dwindling. Community Members have no playing rights but they have the full use of the Clubhouse.

Golf is not the only sport that has difficulty with its image amongst non-participants. When the Mirror World Championship was held on the Harbour in January 2019, an article in the Sydney Morning Herald mentioned that participation in sailing is decreasing. Yachting Australia commissioned a survey which found that sailing was seen as elitist and inaccessible. This was in an article about a very accessible, reasonably priced, family racing boat.

It would appear that with our current membership structure, Cromer could not be accused of being elitist and inaccessible. We will remain a welcoming club.

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*Figure 15 Try golf day for women*

## Chapter 4

### Developments in the game of golf at Cromer

**H**AS golf changed in the 28 years since 1991? Yes and no is the clichéd answer. It is still the same old game of reward and frustration played in the outdoors with good mates. But the running of the competitions is vastly different and the rules have been updated.

The 2018 men's golfing year runs much the same as it did in 1991. It begins on 1st January and ends on 31st December. Apart from the weekly competitions, monthly medals, and various championships, there are special male-only trophies such as the Geoff Berkman Bowl and the Max Cooper Plaque. The competitions are usually stroke or stableford with very rare, and much disliked, par rounds. The golfing calendar is run by the Club through the Golf Operations Manager and by the Pro Shop.

Women's golf follows a different annual calendar, largely dictated by Women's Golf NSW (now Golf NSW) and by tradition. The year begins with a formal Opening Day (with lunch) at the end of January and Closing Day (with lunch and themed dress-up golf) towards the end of November. There are six medal rounds, a gold medal playoff, a trophy for the best three of five par rounds, as well as teams events and the most important Grandmother's Trophy. The Ladies' Committee designs the golfing calendar and it is slotted together with the Men's calendar for the annual Fixture Book. The role of Golf NSW has diminished at Cromer but we still participate in its Grade Competition and the Coronation Medal. In the summer period the women continue to play on Mondays and Thursdays but the Ladies' Committee is not involved in organising the competitions.

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*Figure 16 Ladies closing day 2017*

Men can represent the Club in the Major Pennant, the Interclub Challenge Cup, the Masters Pennant and the Northern Peninsula Interclub Challenge. Women can represent the Club in the Metropolitan Grade Championship and in the Silver II Pennant, the Bronze I Pennant and the Bronze II Shield. These last three competitions have handicap limits.



*Figure 17 Masters Pennant team*

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*Figure 18 Women receiving representative shirts*

In the past both men and women put their names down on paper tee sheets. John Montgomery AO controlled the Saturday men's sheet and Monty was not above leveraging his position to solicit contributions to his annual Charity Day. The Club held the men's handicaps, but women were responsible for maintaining their own handicaps.

The Ladies' Committee would check the cards and enter all the scores into the computer at the end of a round. The results were sent to WGNSW by dial-up modem and WGNSW would inform the Committee of the Calculated Course Rating. All lady golfers had a yellow card, and once the CCR was known they could write their results on the card and calculate the correct Australian Ladies' Golf Union handicap for their next game. This card was used as proof of handicap when playing at other clubs.

To obtain a handicap, new golfers had to put in six score cards, (called Day Cards) marked by a player who had a registered AGU or ALGU handicap. Women started on a handicap of 45 (previously 36) and men on 36 (previously 27). It was not unusual for new golfers to have a good round and lose 3 or 4 shots off their handicaps, only to find they took months to play to it.

In 1999 GolfLink came into operation. Each registered golfer was given a personal 10-digit Golf Link number which identified the golfer's home club and club membership number. GolfLink

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calculated and maintained all official Australian Golf Union Handicaps. We were issued with a green swipe card which could be used at participating clubs. Some women found it difficult to give up the yellow card as we were so conditioned to taking responsibility for our own handicaps.

For male golfers the change to GolfLink was seamless as their home clubs had always been responsible for calculating and maintaining their handicaps.

In 2005 the Club set up a web site where members could get news and information and view competition results. Electronic entry sheets on the web came in some time later. While they were fairly well received, there were teething problems. Names would disappear off the timesheet inexplicably. Once members were unable to access the tee sheet without a password this problem lessened.

In the mid 2000s a totally new way of managing handicaps was being discussed. In the USA the Slope System had been used for some time. All golf courses were rated for the differential between the difficulty for a scratch golfer and for a bogey golfer. Courses would have a rating between 55 for an easy course, and 155 for an extremely difficult course, with 113 being regarded as the neutral slope.

Discussion continued for some time as would it be a major change to the Australian handicapping system. The new system would involve not only education in the highly technical aspects of course rating, but some courses would need to make alterations to their layouts to enable them to be rated.

Individual handicaps would no longer be just one figure, adjusted after every game and valid for all courses. Instead, each player would have a Golf Australia handicap which was calculated using the best 10 of the 20 most recent scores. When playing in a competition a Daily Handicap would be used. This was the GA handicap adjusted for the Slope Rating of the course being played.

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A Board minute in July 2009 states that Cromer's tee designs were correct for the new system, with three different permanent tee plates per hole. USGA ratings would begin in September 2009 and all Sydney metropolitan courses would be rated by December 2010. In fact, it took considerably longer before all courses were rated.

In April 2010 Golf Australia announced the launch of the new handicapping system. GolfLink continued to maintain players' handicaps, and golfers could go on line and see a list of the last 20 results, the slope played to for each game, and the new GA handicap.

Once the system had been in use for a time, Golf Australia made some changes as a result of feedback. In September 2011 the calculation was changed to the best 8 out of the previous 20 rounds, and an "anchor" was introduced, so that no player could increase his handicap by more than 5 in a rolling 12-month period. On 23rd January 2014 a more sophisticated version of the Calculated Course Rating, the Daily Scratch Rating, was implemented.

At Cromer we have a number of different courses, all with different ratings. The men have the Black Championship Course, the Blue Course and the White Course. Women have the Red Course and the Yellow Course. We also have an Orange Course which is very short, but this has not been rated. The Cavaliers and the Juniors play off the Yellow Course, and women use it for some competitions.

An issue that caused a lot of unhappiness was the unfairness of prize allocations in medley competitions. Cromer is a harder course for women than for men, as shown by the difference between the par and scratch ratings of the men's and women's courses. With a par of 72 the Red women's course had a scratch rating of 75. A woman playing to her handicap would score 33 points. We know that playing to one's handicap (or perhaps better) is a rare and wonderful thing. A man playing to his handicap on the Blue course with a par of 70 and a scratch rating of 71 would score 35 points. The ball rundowns which were on points scored always had a preponderance of male winners. For a woman to score 35 points she would have to play two shots BETTER than her handicap to be have

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an equal score to that of a man scoring 35 points who (merely) played to his handicap. The discrepancy of two points continued for higher and lower scores.

Golf Australia provided a formula to address the differences in the difficulties of courses played in mixed gender singles competitions to enable equity in prize allocation. Using this, it was decided to add 2 points to the score of any woman playing in a medley for prize purposes only, and not for handicapping.

Speed of play and the tricky nature of many golf rules has been a problem for a very long time. These issues were seen as among the reasons that golf was losing popularity. An 18-hole game takes just too long to play. The R&A Rules of Golf are generally revised and updated every four years, but an exception was made when, in January 2019, new, very different, rules became official. Many rules are simpler, and with Ready Golf being the order of the day so games should be quicker.

At Cromer we have had some exceptional golfers, and some extraordinary events.

- Eric Couper, whose photograph stands in the trophy cabinet, was the Australian Amateur Champion in 1982. The list of his achievements, starting with NSW Stroke Play Champion in 1970, is long and glorious. In 1982 he represented Australia against Japan and New Zealand, and between 1974 and 1982 he represented NSW seven times.
- In 2004 Linda Davis went to Sweden to play in the Women's World Deaf Championships, a competition she won by 14 strokes. She successfully defended her title in Canada in 2006 and again in Australia in 2008. Sadly, Linda has had to give up regular golf for health reasons.
- On 8th October 2001, when our current 18th hole was the 8th, Mr Brin McGeorge scored holes-in-one on consecutive holes, the 8th and the 9th.
- On 4th February 2015 there were four holes-in-one in a single competition. Jack Ireland got one on the 2nd hole,



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Russell Lumb on the 4th, Craig Plimmer on the 9th and  
Chris Michael on the 15th.

- On 12th January 2013 Matthew White scored a hole-in-one on the 14th, a 301-metre par 4.

## Chapter 5

### Membership involvement as Volunteers

**T**his is a long chapter which covers the many and varied ways in which volunteer members make our Club what it is.

We have wonderful, dedicated staff at Cromer, without whom the Club would not run as smoothly as it does. But the volunteers give the Club its extra energy.

Unless absolutely necessary, I am not going to name individuals, as that way lies unhappiness as I would be sure to leave out someone who deserves mention. It is in the nature of the volunteers at Cromer that, as a rule, they don't boast about the work they do, so their names are often unknown. Added to that, there are many people who did work in groups that are no longer functioning, or they are no longer members of the Club, or even still living, so I have no way of knowing about them. The examples that follow are just a few of many wonderful contributions to the Club.

In researching this subject, I notice how often things that happen at the Club have a limited life. People get a good idea, everyone loves it, members work hard to make it happen for a few years, and then they get tired, or find other interests, or are no longer members of the Club, or their circumstances change, and enthusiasm wanes. Occasionally, sadly, this is because the lead organiser sometimes feels he is not receiving the recognition he deserves.

In every Annual Report the President thanks a list of volunteer groups. Over the years the mix of this list has changed slightly, as some groups no longer exist and others have grown. However, this list does not cover all those volunteers who do hundreds of large and small jobs that are never seen. And in times of need, many members put up their hands to do the heavy lifting.

The Club makes every effort to make volunteers feel rewarded. Workers get lunch and a drink on the house, and the gathering

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round the food table after hard work is always a good time. In some years a Thank You BBQ or lunch is held. For very special service to the Club, over a long period, a member, or a group of members, might be presented with The Cromer Medallion.

We tend to forget that Board Members are all volunteers. These dedicated men and women give up a lot of time to meetings and discussions, and they work very hard to guide the Club in the desired direction. They take no decisions without due consideration and always with the best interests of Cromer at heart. Their tasks are wide-ranging – caring for the course, for the Club finances, keeping the members happy, and occasionally disciplining members, are just a few areas of their work. Sometimes they are presented with very strange challenges. A member once sent the Board a letter written entirely in Latin. The Board Members managed to translate it but decided their Classical language skills were inadequate so they could not reply in the same vein.

Under the main Board are other committees where the volunteers work for the good of the members, and for golf at Cromer. The Ladies' Committee, the Lady Veterans' Committee, the Golf Operations Committee, Membership Committee and the all-important Finance and Planning Committee, and the Men's and Women's Captains give up hours of their time.

And then there are other areas where the volunteers are part of less formal groups. Those who work in the gardens come to mind. Annual Reports refer to a Gardening Group that began in 1993 and worked on Thursdays. One report refers to work being done along South Creek and I suspect that this group planted many of the trees along the path between the first green and second tee. The first year that this group is not mentioned in the Annual Report is 2005 so it must have disbanded by then.

In February 2006 Bob Symonds, then a member of the Board, started a new Gardening Group working on Monday mornings, under the supervision of the Course Superintendent. Planting had to be done in accordance with the Vegetation Management Plan as

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part of the Course Reconstruction Development Approval conditions.

Initially quite a large group, it divided itself into a gardening division and a project division. The gardeners continued their work around the Clubhouse and out on the course, and the project division, under foreman Jack Ireland, did minor building works such as retaining walls and paving.

In October 2008 a large project began on the 4th tee where an ugly storm water drain runs under the tee bench. The Gardening Group built a wall to disguise the culvert. This project involved collecting the correct stones, breaking them into the right size and building the facing wall. They even had to erect scaffolding. When they weren't actually working there a red bellied black snake used the cracks in the wall for sunbathing. Once the wall was finished, the date was carved into the capping stone. In February 2009 a formal opening was held. Champagne and nibbles were served under a bright tent on the course, and Jack Ireland, dressed in a toga, made a speech that was a combination of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and Monty Python. The wall was magnificent and had given the builders a lot of pleasure, but sadly it was not many years before it peeled away from the culvert. For safety reasons the wall had to be removed and a more prosaic, but robust, grey wall was built in its place by the ground staff.



*Figure 19 Jack Ireland opening the 4<sup>th</sup> bridge*

Members of this group continued to work for years on the course. They did a lot of planting near the new 15th hole and then later made the garden near the north entrance to the Clubhouse. They also cleared and then planted the rockery garden on the slope near the 9th tee and the herb garden near the kitchen. Their final project was the construction of the water feature near the Pro Shop. This project took a whole year to complete as it could not begin in earnest until a tree stump was removed, something that required big machinery. Water flowed for the first time in September 2016.



*Figure 20 The water feature*



*Figure 21 Eddy Messiter and Barry Davis working on 9th rockery*

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Age, injury and paid employment meant that this Garden Group has largely disappeared, although a few old members help Rachel Hofen, the course horticulturalist, on an ad hoc basis.

Another important group is now at work on the course under the leadership of Michael Horne. These men help the ground staff with course presentation. On Tuesday mornings they mow the rough and generally tidy the course. Cromer Golf Course looks very neat thanks to their work.

There is a gentleman who, for years, has taken a Gaitor out onto the course once a week to fill divots on the tees. He does this quietly, usually on his own, and I doubt many people are aware of the work he does.

In times of crisis Cromer members are quick to volunteer to help the Club. In April 2011 we lost all our greens, an event described in another chapter. Once the Club had a plan of action, Leon Hennessy needed more workers than he had in his employ. He sourced greens turf from other clubs and members helped lay the temporary greens. We cut and placed the turf. After we had done our tessellations, sometimes using tiny bits of turf to fill in corners, the ground staff would come back and rectify our work. It was not because they didn't appreciate our efforts, but because they knew that the tiny bits with which we filled in corners would die. Filling the little triangles with sand was far more effective.



*Figure 22 Volunteers laying temporary greens*

When the new greens were seeded a group of volunteers spent hours watering them by hand. This involved filling the tanks on a trailer behind the tractor at a standpipe with town water, then driving onto the course where they watered the greens with a fine spray from a large hose. It usually took two trips to the standpipe per green. All the greens were watered twice a day.

In June 2016 an East Coast Low storm did considerable damage to the Northern Beaches area and Cromer was not spared. The eastern side of the course was flooded and mounds of debris littered the course and filled the bunkers. The call went out and more than twenty volunteers cleared branches and picked up rubbish. Some of the volunteers were not even members of the Club.



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*Figure 23 Cleaning up after the big storm*



*Figure 24 Cleaning up after the big storm*

The next big volunteering effort was not a crisis, but it was a time when many unpaid hands made the work possible. Once the Environmental Zone down the side of the course near South Creek was declared, it needed to be vegetated. The Garden Group received training in bush regeneration and weed removal and it prepared the area, mainly getting rid of asparagus weed. Over the course of a few weeks in June 2014 13,000 plants were planted by the Garden Group, augmented by a large group of generous volunteers. Holes were dug, fertiliser and water-saving gel were put in the holes, and

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the plants were placed and bedded down. Plastic protective sleeves were necessary as there was considerable enemy action from the purple swamp hens who pulled up the plants to eat the roots overnight.

Now this area looks as though it is part of the bush and no-one would know it was just a bare pathway with a mess of weeds a few years ago. It has a large and interesting bird population.



*Figure 25 Regeneration training*



*Figure 26 Rachel Hofen and Bev Fagan planting the environmental zone*



*Figure 27 New plants in their sleeves, environmental zone*

The gardens are not the only area where volunteers make a huge contribution. The Junior Development Squad was started by volunteers in 1998 and now, although it has a more formal structure and is run by the Pro Shop, volunteers come out every weekend and during the school holidays to mentor and help the young players.

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*Figure 28 Junior golf with Matt Grenot and Nicholas Robb*

The same is true of the Cygnets Programme which began in 2005. Women wishing to learn golf, or return to the game, receive a number of lessons from the Professional, followed by three months of social golf. Lady members of the Club mentor these women and encourage them to integrate into the main field.

Major golf events would not run at Cromer without volunteers. Championship finals require referees, men and women who have learnt the rules and are prepared to walk with the finalists, counting shots and helping with rules queries. Ron Manson, a regular club referee, not only became a State rules official, he also learnt all there was to know about course rating when the Slope System came in. He helped the Club with the transition and is always available with advice. When other teams visit Cromer for Pennant matches members volunteer to spot on difficult areas of the course. Every Cromer representative team has a volunteer manager.

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*Figure 19 Refereeing*

The Barrenjoey Peninsula Week of Golf is an annual event involving seven Northern Beaches Golf Clubs, including Cromer. Lady golfers come from all over NSW to play and it takes a great deal of organising. All the local clubs have organising committees who collect entry fees, find sponsors, sell raffle tickets for the charity (in 2018 the Manly Women's Shelter was the beneficiary). These women make a highly complex competition run like clockwork.

And then there are Charity Days. In 1994 John Montgomery ran Cromer's first Club Charity Day. This massive annual event involved many members, not only as players, but as workers taking money on the course for hole-specific competitions, members cooking the sausage sizzle, finding sponsors and prizes, and much more. The beneficiaries were all local charities. Some examples were The Dee Why Women's Refuge, The Northern Beaches Youth Community Fund, and the Cubby House Toy Library. By the time John retired after 15 years as organiser the Club had raised \$617,722 for charity.

Eddy Messiter took over from John and the Club had a few more similar Charity Days before the format changed. Getting enthusiastic about such a complex event year after year takes its toll, and the economic climate made raising money difficult. For a short period, Cromer did not have a Club Charity Day.

In 2013 a member who worked with Sailability asked the Club to sponsor a suit of sails for a modified special needs yacht as a



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Charity Day beneficiary. The Club was able to buy the whole boat, not just the sails, and this bright little yacht, called Black Swan, can be seen on calm Saturday mornings sailing near the Manly Wharf. She has bright lime green sails with the Cromer logo.



*Figure 20 The Black Swan*

In the past the women have run two charity days a year. The women decided at the AGM on the beneficiary for the main charity day the following year. Earlier in the year a minor charity day raised funds for the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research. In 1994, when fires threatened the Club the women gave the Beacon Hill Volunteer Fire Brigade \$1,800 and Camp Quality \$4,500. The biggest sum raised was in 2004 when the charity of choice was a children's playground at the Dee Why Women's Refuge. We hoped to raise \$10,000 and instead raised \$14,000.

On occasion the women raise money for non-standard charities when they see a need. \$3,700 was raised to help send Linda Davis to Canada for the first Women's World Deaf Championships in 2004, and a sum of money was raised when the daughter of another member had to retire due to ill health in her early 40s.

Since 2017 the main Charity Day and the Ladies' Charity Day have been combined and a different format is used. In the morning a 9-hole competition is followed by a high tea, and the 18-hole afternoon competition is followed by dinner. This day is run by a committee of volunteers. No longer does one person shoulder all the

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responsibility. The proceeds are shared between the Burdekin Association and Stewart House. In 2017 \$35,637 and in 2018 \$38,392 were raised.

To replace the minor women's charity day, for some years a Pink Flag competition was held. Everyone who chose to would put \$2 in a pink box on the 18th tee and the Nearest to the Pin for the month received a prize. Later this became a Teal Flag for ovarian cancer research.

Within the golfing community there are a couple of sub groups, also run by volunteers. One such is the Ex-Servicemen's League. In 1992 the League had 127 members from a total membership of 1,470. It ran an annual Remembrance Day ceremony. It also held the AIF Cup and had a Moss Vale weekend. All money raised went to Legacy. Sadly, due to the aging of WW2 veterans 2002 was the last year for the AIF Cup, and the Moss Vale weekend did not eventuate. In his report for the AGM the Convenor, Chris Nicholson, wrote "The traditions and spirit of the Ex-Service Section will always be a bright flame at Cromer". By 2006 there was no Ex-Servicemen's report at the AGM.

This bright flame has not disappeared, and in 2010 Lyn Astley and John Heald organised a golf day followed by dinner and entertainment to raise money for Legacy.

Another golf group run by volunteers is the Cavaliers. They began in 1979 and meet every Monday for a game of golf off the short course using a unique handicapping system. They come in half way round for lunch and a drink, and after the round exciting prizes such as cans of sardines and brown eggs are distributed and radical handicap adjustments made.

The Bridge Club started in 2004. Initially there were only a few tables and most players were beginners. Now the standard is quite high, some members do well in the State-Wide Pairs and Bridge for Brains, and every week there are about 14 tables. While the staff sets up the room, it is a regular group of volunteers who put out the cloths, the stationery and the bidding sheets. Another group of

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

volunteers clears away, putting the stools back in the store room and the bridge paraphernalia in its cupboard.

Many members are unaware that Cromer has a Library, also run by volunteers, open to all members. As access is through the women's locker room men seldom use it which is a pity. We have a good selection of books donated by members, and there is a regular turnover as older books are sent on to other organisations.

Louise Hewett runs a yoga class on Wednesday mornings. Tuition is by donation and Louise gives all the proceeds to the Cromer Charity Day.

And where would the social side of the Club be without volunteers?

Older members speak with fondness of the Cromer Capers, a review put on annually from 1992 until 1996 when Ray and June Holmes, the organisers, moved away from Sydney. The show was a very professional production with careful planning and many rehearsals. Initially it ran for two nights but eventually it ran over three nights to full houses. Almost everyone in the Club was involved in some way or another, both members and staff, not only as performers, but as costume makers, designers and set builders. Allan Denton designed a traditional stage with a proscenium arch, a curtain and a proper backstage area. June was a hard task master and the resulting show was of a very high standard. In 1994 there were 36 cabaret acts in the show.

Jack Ireland has told me he believes that the Cromer Capers united the Club in a way that nothing else has done before or since. The members involved became the backbone of the highly successful Sunday Medley Competition which is still one of the most important weekly golf competitions.





*Figure 21 Capers 1*



*Figure 22 Capers 2*

For many years there was a strong social committee which organised regular member events such as Carols by Candlelight, Trivia Nights, a June Ball, the Melbourne Cup golf and lunch, night golf, a crazy whist night and a New Year's Eve dinner dance. As the years passed support for many of these events dwindled and the big dinner dances were dropped.

The Australia Day golf celebration was a popular event for a number of years in the mid 2000s. Players dressed up according to a theme. The day at the beach was great fun, as was the one where members dressed in the costume of their country of origin. The day always finished with the Cromer Bush Band playing for a singalong

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

of Cromer related songs. Who can forget the song “his ball’s in the water and he’s 15 off the tee” which referred to the old 15th hole. The evening finished with the National Anthem.

The band, consisting of Andy George, Keith Burton, Joe Sciotto, and John Courtney, with Tony Hickey as their MC, was also known as The Cromer Skinheads. They played in this guise at a highly successful Rock and Roll evening in 2005.

In 2012 which was, sadly, the final Australia Day party, some men put on a couple of sketches. A rather risqué urinal sketch was followed by synchronised swimming. The troupe was piped in by Kevin English and they performed behind a green plastic pool edge.

When Viv Ashton was the Lady Veterans’ delegate the Vets’ Closing Days became big events. The most successful perhaps was when Abba performed. Four men dressed up as Bjorn, Benny, Agnetha and Anni-Frid and lip-synced to Mama Mia and Waterloo. Their costumes and make-up were totally over the top and it was well rehearsed and well received. One year the Closing Day was run by some pretty scary women dressed as Vetzilla, and on another occasion Viv produced a video of Santa arriving that morning at the airport. The video finished just as Santa walked into the Clubhouse. Bill, her husband, was a very willing accomplice.



*Figure 23 Bjorn and Benny (Jack Ireland and Eddy Messiter)*

And back to the course – many people will have noticed boxes in the trees. These were built by a volunteer in an attempt to replace nesting hollows in old growth trees that had to be cut down for safety reasons. There are six powerful owl boxes, and seven boobook and king parrot boxes. Two of the owl boxes are insulated. Northern Beaches Council paid for the boxes to be put into the trees by a professional climber, and they also paid for data loggers to be placed in some boxes and tree hollows for a year to monitor temperature and humidity. While the boxes have not yet been used by the owls, the data obtained from the loggers has increased our understanding of nesting complexity. Cockatoos and wood ducks have been seen in the smaller boxes.



*Figure 24 Nesting box*

In 2007 the Board decided that the course furniture was shabby and mismatched. Tom Fagan, a Board member, researched commercially available bins and bucket holders. They were very expensive and when the first couple of items arrived they were of different colours and texture. It was decided to make the bins inhouse. Graeme Bastock designed wooden bins and bucket holders and these were constructed by a small group of men. They also made wooden pillars for the bubblers. For some time, a volunteer regularly painted the green benches and pillars to keep them neat and tidy.

## Cromer Golf Club 1992 to 2018

I am sure I have neglected to mention many large and small things that members do to make Cromer the Club that it is. People pick up rubbish and move sticks into piles while playing golf. People pull out the odd weed when waiting to hit. Forgive me if I haven't mentioned the things that you do – I can't cover everything. But everything that is done is incredibly valuable and much appreciated. Thank you from everyone at Cromer – you know who you are.



*Figure 25 Mulching the new 15th*



*Figure 26 Environmental zone work*

## Conclusion

There is something about Cromer that doesn't fit into any particular section of this history. I believe it is unique in its intensity and generosity – and that is the friendliness of the Club. I don't know why it is particularly strong at Cromer but it is something that is often commented upon. Is it because we come from so many different walks of life – and we just get on with one another, always finding something in common, something to chat about? Is it the Staff who are so welcoming and friendly? Is it the attitude in the Pro Shop where everyone knows your name and always smiles? Is it because many members put their names down with just anyone, knowing they will have a good game? Is it just tradition? Whatever the cause it is wonderful.

I hope that anyone reading this will appreciate the rich history of this kind, welcoming Club, and understand a little of the why things happen in a particular way.

In 2019 at the Patron's Dinner two members of over 50 years standing, Ken Oates and Helen Davis, were interviewed about their time at Cromer. Ken, who proudly tells me that he is the oldest playing member, spoke of the fun he has had, of the parties which went on to the small hours. He said that he had seen massive changes and great improvements over the years but that the Club is as friendly as ever.

In her interview Helen too emphasised the friendships and the continued improvements. She made us laugh by mentioning a couple of things that newer women members would not understand – how scary the Thursday Ladies were, and how good it was to have every Saturday to herself while her husband Barry was playing golf. She thanked the Club for 50 years of peaceful Saturdays.

I will end with a quote from Ken, "Friendship is the heart of the Club".

My wish is that our beautiful Club continues to thrive – and that Ken's definition never changes.