

# The Brassie

The aim of AGHS is to encourage the collection, research, recording and preservation of information and objects connected with the history of golf in Australia, to inform golfers, golf clubs and the community in general.

June 2009

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## Patron

Dan Cullen

## Management Committee

Bruce Nairn,  
*President & Chairperson*  
John Lock, *Secretary*  
Malcolm McIntosh, *Treasurer*  
Michael Sheret,  
*Captain & Publications*,  
Tom Moore, *Museum*  
Peter Read, *Historians Group*  
Jim Glenday, *NSWGA Representative*  
Nicky Bethwaite, *WGNSW Representative*  
Kyle Francis, *PGA Representative*

## President's Message

Our website <[www.australiangolfheritage.org.au](http://www.australiangolfheritage.org.au)> is now up and running. We have to thank Tom Winter and Michael Sheret for developing this website to the operational stage and to enter the initial information. Our thanks also go to Women's Golf NSW, who are now managing the website on behalf of AGHS.

All 400 NSW affiliated golf clubs received the Golf Club Invitation Booklet last month, with the three-way suggestion to club boards: (1) create a golf history group, (2) join AGHS and (3) complete a history survey form that can help update David Innes's 1987 book *The Story of Golf in New South Wales*. We welcome the ten clubs that have now joined the Society: Bonnie Doon, Concord, Cronulla, Maitland, Oatlands, Pennant Hills, Port Macquarie, Royal Canberra, Wakehurst and Windsor. Other clubs are waiting for approval from their boards. We look forward to more clubs joining in the coming months. I would like to thank Barry Leithhead for his hard work in getting this new category of membership established and preparing and distributing the Invitation Booklet.

The Society is fortunate to have found volunteers to fill the two vacancies on the Management Committee. We welcome John Lock, Vice Captain of Camarvon Golf Club and also a Councillor of the NSW Golf Association as our Secretary and Peter Read of Muirfield Golf Club, a former Australian and World Left Handers Champion as the new Convener of the Historians Group.

Frances Crampton, CEO of Womens Golf NSW, is taking up a new position with Golf Australia. We thank Frances for her excellent contribution to AGHS, as the WGNSW representative, and wish her every success in her new appointment. We welcome her replacement, Nicky Bethwaite, the recently appointed General Manager of WGNSW.

Finally a special mention and thank you to Tom Winter and our Captain Michael Sheret for once again producing this the June issue of *The Brassie*. Michael is going on an extended visit to Europe to escape the Australian winter and indulge himself with some interesting golf. Jim Glenday will be Acting Captain while Michael is away.



Bruce Nairn

## Captain's Message

The Dan Cullen Trophy was played on 13 March over 11 holes at Long Reef Golf Club. The format as usual was 2-ball ambrose stroke. We had a field of nine pairs plus an extra player, who played simply for the joy of wielding the hickories. The winners off a handicap of 2¾ and a net score 38¼ were Les Browne and Tony Pickrell. Dan Cullen, our patron, was there in person, not only to present the trophy but to play with a swing, though somewhat abbreviated, is as sweet and smooth as ever.

On 9 April the Society played a 4BBB 18-hole match against the Windsor Country GC Vets. The Society won by the narrowest of margins, one hole up. The event was arranged to be in conjunction with the Vets regular Thursday competition. Our thanks to Barry Leithhead and Vets Captain Rod Hartas for setting up the match.



Dan in action  
Photo: Marianne Lennie

After a lapse of two years we revived our annual match for the Al Howard Trophy with the Golf Society of Australia, our sister society based in Melbourne. The two teams met on 13 May at Thurgoona CC. Six singles matches were played over 18 holes. We played to an old scoring system as used in the first inter-state match between Victoria and NSW in 1897, when Victoria had a resounding victory. Alas, GSA seems to have lost some of the Victorian flair since 1897, and AGHS had a comfortable win by seven holes up. The dinner after the match at the elegant Adamshurst Restaurant was a splendid affair, attended with much merriment and diversion by nineteen players, partners and guests.

AGHS Players		GSA Players	
Michael Sheret	4up	Ian Rennick	
Barry Leithhead	1up	Cliff George	
Anne Quinn		Havel Rowe	1up
Ken Hughes	5up	Dick Kirby	
Roger Weik		Paul Burgess	2up
Rod James	Square	Neville Pearce	Square

Results after 18 holes : AGHS 10 – GSA 3

Our next playing events will be over nine holes at Rosnay followed by show-and-tell on 6 August, thirteen holes singles at Port

Kembla on 15 October and, of course, our Championship at Georges River on 10 November. Registration forms for the championship are enclosed with this issue of *The Brassie*. You might like to make a copy of this form to post on your club's notice board.

Later this year we'll start working on the playing program for next year. If you would like a Society event to be played at your club in 2010, please get in touch with me and we can work out a date and the form the event will take.

*Michael Sheret*

## Museum Report

The Golf Museum is located upstairs in Golf Mart, 4 Parramatta Road, Granville. It is open every Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. On Sundays there is plenty of parking on site. I am there every Sunday to open and close the Museum and to show visitors around. I do need some of our members to volunteer to look after the Museum from time to time to give me a break or a helping hand. A volunteer for a full day or a half day would be a great help. There is a roster sheet at the Museum. Telephone me at the Museum, 9637 4720, any Sunday if you would like to be put on the roster.

Andrew King, our part-time computer assistant, has completed entering all Museum items into the computer. His next job will be to enter the location of each item.

There will be a seminar at the Museum on Saturday 5 September from 10 am to 4 pm. The topic will be the basic repair and maintenance of hickory clubs. The cost is \$80 per person and includes lunch.

At the club's request I organised a hickory day for Coolamon GC on Sunday 7 June. The hickory day was part of the club's centenary celebration. It was a very successful day as the Coolamon members took to playing golf with the old hickories as in days gone by. Coolamon GC has an interesting history. Why not read about it at <[www.coolamonsportandrec.com](http://www.coolamonsportandrec.com)>.

*Tom Moore*

## Coming Events in 20

**Thursday 6 August** :: 2 pm start. 9 hole Stableford followed by :

**Saturday 5 September** :: Seminar at the Museum from 10am t

**Thursday 15 October** :: Port Kembla. 12.30 pm start. 13-hole :

**Tuesday 10 November** :: 18 hole Australian Hickory Shaft Ch  
Pre-registration forms enclosed.

## Historians Group Report

**Historians Group Convenor** :: Peter Read, a former Captain of the Society, has offered to step into the role vacated by Erwin Huber and the Management Committee has accepted his offer. Peter will provide practical leadership to the Historians and sound advice to the Management Committee.

**April Seminar** :: Terry Smith was a very welcome guest speaker at our well attended April seminar, *Writing About Golf*. The centrepiece was an "on stage" interview, with Jim Webster interviewing Terry. Recognised for his prodigious research and an acknowledged devotee of the Mitchell and State Libraries, Terry has four significant golf books to his credit: *Australian Golf - The First 100 years*; *The Complete Book of Australian Golf*; *Aussie Golf Trivia*; and *The (Australian Open) Champions and the courses they played*. Another highlight of the seminar was an impromptu golf lesson from the ever-young Al Howard, using his walking stick as a stand-in seven iron.



**The Story of Golf in New South Wales** :: During 2007-8, NSWGA decided to update *The Story of Golf in New South Wales* and they accepted Erwin Huber's suggestion to circulate a comprehensive survey. The survey has two purposes – to update the Innes book but also to inform clubs of their club histories as the basis for writing their own history books. A discussion in early July will plan the actions needed, guided by Sports Historian, Professor Richard Cashman and with very helpful suggestions from Don Dunne.

**The GCH Software Toolkit** :: When a golf history group at a golf club gets established one of the first decisions is about how the collection of objects, documents and images will be recorded. One option is for a database, and *Mosaics* is preferred for objects whereas *Archive Manager* is better for documents. These systems are too complex for part-time computer users and a simpler option is *Image Master* for photographs. With encouragement from the AGHS Historians Group, one golf club history group is working with a software specialist to see if a GCH software toolkit can be developed, with supporting IT services as needed. **Publishing a Golf Club History** :: A companion to the *Writing* booklet has been produced for AGHS by Longueville Media. It can be downloaded from the AGHS website later in June.

*Barry Leithead*

## News of Members

**Welcome to our New members:**

**Richard Hattersley** (*Royal Sydney GC*).

**Kenneth Hughes** (*Waratah GC*).

**John Lock** (*Carnarvon GC*).

**Martin Rotsey** (*Avondale GC*).

**Stephen Tieck** (*Alice Springs GC*).

**Greg Stone** (*Dunheved GC*).

If we've missed out any new members in this or the previous issue, please let the editor know.

## Editor's Note

This issue of *The Brassie* will be the last that I shall edit. We need a new editor for the October and subsequent issues. We need a volunteer from our membership to take on the task. There is quite a lot involved and, before they volunteer, I would be happy to brief potential volunteers. I can be contacted at <SheretMA@bigpond.com>. I won't be contactable by phone as I'll be out of the country for the next two months, but I pick up my e-mail regularly.

I'd like to pay tribute to Tom Winter, our graphic designer, for his skill and dedication to the production of *The Brassie*. He and I have made a good harmonious team, and I believe we have vastly improved *The Brassie* from where it was just over a year ago.

*Michael Sheret*

## 09 (for your diary)

show-and-tell. Rosnay GC

o 4 pm. *Basic Repair and Maintenance of Hickory Clubs*.

singles. PKGC members invited to join in.

ampionship. Georges River GC. 12 noon start.

## Postcards and Golf

Postcards offer a means of writing a short informal message and posting it to a friend, often at a reduced letter rate. They are popular with tourists, providing a souvenir of a place the tourist has visited.

As souvenirs, postcards often carry a photograph of an interesting feature of a town.



*Golf attire has evolved somewhat over time. This early 1920s postcard of the Hamilton GC Victoria, typifies the dress of the day and style of clubhouse.*



*The practice of a gistment was common on our early country courses. Putting greens were protected from grazing sheep, cattle and horses. This Bowral NSW postcard is postmarked 1911.*

Today, while postcards are still popular, they have largely been superseded by e-mail and SMS texting. However, collecting postcards, particularly old ones, grows and grows as a popular hobby. It is a fascinating and informative hobby. Collectors usually focus on particular places or topics. Naturally, the author of this article has a special interest in golf postcards. They give us an insight – sometimes a unique insight – into the history of our great game. Australian golf postcards prior to the 1930s are somewhat elusive. The sample here of three cards illustrates just how fascinating the hobby can be.

The author is a member of the NSW Postcard Collecting Society and welcomes correspondence.

*Roger Weik*



*The clubhouse is a focal area of any club. The original clubhouse of the Launceston GC in Kings Meadows, Tasmania, shows a rather charming building. This postcard is postmarked 1909.*

The Golf Museum at Granville is proudly sponsored by Golf Mart and supported by the NSW Golf Association, Women's Golf Australia and Museums & Galleries New South Wales.