

# The Brassie

## Newsletter of the Australian Golf Heritage Society

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.

Winter 2011

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### Patrons

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Kel Nagle

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John Lock, *Secretary*

Malcolm McIntosh, *Treasurer*

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Stuart Cox

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Nicky Bethwaite, *Golf NSW Representative*

Richard Beer, *PGA Representative*

*Editor of The Brassie*

Gerry Bush

*Design & artwork*

Thomas Winter

### President's Message



Since my last report, Richard Beer, a Member of the PGA of Australia, has joined our Management Committee as the PGA Representative. We welcome Richard and thank Kyle Francis for his contribution during his time with the Society. Also I am very pleased to advise that Stuart Cox, former President of the NSW Golf Association, has been appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Peter Read. Stuart was instrumental in the amalgamation of The NSW Golf Association and Womens Golf to Golf NSW and we welcome his knowledge and expertise.

Recently Golf NSW has given (on permanent loan) the first Vardon Trophy (1959) to our Museum for display. The inaugural event was won by Vic Bulgin, a former NSW Amateur Champion and dual International – Rugby League and Golf. Vic passed away in 2009.

The 2011 Australian Hickory Shaft Championships will be held at Carnarvon Golf Club on 30th November.



Carnarvon Golf Club

The 2010 event attracted a field of 30 players which, for the first time included three ladies. Let's hope our member, Perry Somers, can defend his title after last year's excellent win. Note this date in your golfing calendar as we look forward to an increased number of competitors this year.

Emma Williams, our part-time Curator at The Museum, continues to make excellent improvements to various areas of The Museum.

She has highlighted the importance that the collection should not only be properly recorded and presented, but also that the exhibits are preserved and protected from harmful exposure. In this regard I am pleased to advise that the respective organisations of Golf NSW, the NSW Golf Foundation and the PGA have combined to donate funds to the AGHS to enable the air conditioning of The Museum to be upgraded, for which we are most grateful. This will be very beneficial to ensure the safe custody of displays of both permanent and collections on loan to The Museum. In addition it will provide a more comfortable facility for both volunteers and visitors. Emma has been able to make a great contribution since joining the Society and the Management Committee has renewed her contract with AGHS for a further twelve months to continue this work.

Your Management Committee is keen to foster the participation and involvement of existing members and to increase the overall membership of the Society. The overarching aim of the Society is to encourage and promote the preservation of the history of the game of golf and for Members to undertake or initiate and assist in the recording of their own Club's history. To date there have been some excellent golf club histories produced which are available for reference and these have made an excellent accompaniment for Members and their Clubs alike. I encourage all Members to investigate the prospect of preparing and producing the history of their Club.

*Good Golfing,*  
**Bruce Nairn.**

## Captain's Message

It is my ambition that the number of AGHS Members participating in the Society golf days increases. The games, in themselves, are unique in their use of hickory shafted clubs and, if preferred, period attire, and are part and parcel of the underlying initiatives of the Society. It is particularly useful in furthering our knowledge and enjoyment of the history of the game if we can experience it first hand through the hickory medium. There is a Table of Fixtures included outlining the events for the remainder of the year and while it is understandable that we cannot attend all of them it behoves every AGHS Member to arrange to play in the Australian Hickory Shaft Championship. The Championship is an open event for both men and ladies categories. It will be held on 30th November at Carnarvon and all Members are encouraged to include this fixture in their diary and to access the AGHS Website ([www.australiangolfheritage.org.au](http://www.australiangolfheritage.org.au)) for entry details.

Our golf days are held on weekends as well as mid week and are played both in the spirit of the game are also intended to be a very sociable and fun day. Members are invited to bring a friend along. If you have previously attended an event and had some comments or suggestions for our fixtures your feedback would be very welcome.

### Results to date

The Inaugural Bobby Locke Trophy (*donated by Des Froneman*) 18th February at Muirfield.

The final was played between Tom Moore and myself at Muirfield, which was presented in excellent condition. I was fortunate to get off to a good start using, ironically, a putter that had been supplied by Tom Moore. I maintained my early lead in this most pleasant of golf matches to defeat Tom 4 and 3.

### Dan Cullen Trophy :: 17 March at Long Reef

There was a good field for this event and it was pleasing to see both Dan Cullen and Al Howard in attendance showing an interest in the game and Jim Boots joining in for a game. In addition Peter Monks and his wife Heather also supported the day. Des Froneman and Rex McKay were the popular winners.

### Presidents Putter at Auburn Golf Club

This event is handicap matchplay with eight qualifiers from the previous Australian Hickory Shaft Championship. Bruno Pase (10) and Tony Pickrell (15) teed off in the final and, while the match was all square after nine holes, Bruno pulled away on the back nine to win 3 and 1.

### The Al Howard Trophy

The annual match between the AGHS and The Golf Society (Victoria) was held this year at Eden Golf Club. The golf, the course and the friendliness of the Eden Club were all very enjoyable and our thanks are extended to Lisa Newling and Lorraine Lambert and staff and for their hospitality. Lisa open proceedings by teeing off on the first hole – her very first shot with a hickory shaft – straight down the middle. The AGHS were able to win back this prestigious trophy after a Herculean battle with a final score of 19 holes to 3.

Arrangements are under way for this year's event at Peppers Craigieburn Resort, Bowral and Sunday 18th September is the planned date. This was a very enjoyable last year and more details will be provided to members as they are finalised.

*Good golfing,*

Tony Doggett,  
Captain.

## Stamp Collecting and Golf

Stamp collecting has been a popular hobby since 1840 when the United Kingdom issued the famous Penny Black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp, to pay for sending a letter in a public postal system. Traditionally, collectors concentrated on stamps from a particular country or geographic area. Today, collecting stamps centred on a theme has become just as popular. Golf-themed stamps are, of course, my special interest.

The three stamps here issued by Australia Post and in my collection.



The 7 cent stamp showing a stylised golfer was issued in 1974.

The \$1.10 stamp shows a junior receiving instruction and was issued in 1989. Australia Post celebrated the centenary of the Australian Open in 2004 by issuing a generic 50 cent stamp with a commemorative tab featuring the Stonehaven Cup.

Serious collecting is referred to as philately and involves much more than simply collecting stamps. Philately is a detailed study of the passage of mail. Postmarks and postal markings become as important as postage stamps. Commemorative postmarks are highly sought after by thematic collectors.

The two pictures below are good examples from my collection.



## Exciting New Addition to The Museum Collection

The Museum has received four golf woods from Mr Jack Groese of Rathmines, NSW, which were previously owned and used in the late 1930s by the great South African Champion, Bobby Locke. Jack's uncle, Mr James McNicoll, was a marine engineer with the Blue Funnel Line upon which Bobby Locke was a frequent traveller as he journeyed around the world. During many of these journeys, James, who was himself a competent golfer, played many games with Bobby and they became firm golfing friends and, subsequently, Bobby gave these four woods to James.

James McNicoll eventually settled in the Newcastle (NSW) area and played golf with The Merewether Golf Club. During the 1960s James gave the clubs to Mr Groese for safekeeping and, for the past forty years, have been kept in a cupboard in Mr Groese's home at Rathmines. Mr Groese felt it was time to pass them on and was delighted to find that The Australian Golf Heritage Society considered them to be a very special addition to its collection.

**The Golf Museum at Granville is proudly sponsored by Golf Mart and supported by Golf NSW, PGA of Australia and Museums & Galleries New South Wales**

**The Golf Museum (located above Golf Mart), 4 Parramatta Rd, Granville  
Telephone 9637 4720 + [www.australiangolfheritage.org.au](http://www.australiangolfheritage.org.au)**

**Open on Sundays from 10am to 4pm. Admission FREE.**

*The Museum can give advice on collecting, restoring and preserving old or antique golf clubs and other golfing artefacts.*

## Museum Report

### PGA Centenary Exhibition

Preparations continue in earnest for the planned PGA exhibition celebrating 100 years of professional golf in Australia, with a revised opening date in September 2011. The exhibition will showcase objects from the AGHS collection, as well as items loaned from the NSW Sports Hall of Fame and the Golf Society of Australia. These include a set of Carnegie Clark's clubs, a PGA of Australia Life Member ticket and a copy of the PGA of Australia Rules and By Laws 1912.

### Grants and Funding

I am pleased to advise that the AGHS Museum was successful in its bid for funding from the 2010 Museums and Galleries NSW Volunteer Initiated Museums program. We were awarded a grant of over \$1,400 towards the upcoming centenary of professional golf exhibition. This grant will pay for image reproduction fees, materials for pre-display treatments, environmental monitoring equipment, and a small children's area comprising a mini putt putt course and activities to keep children occupied while their parents enjoy the exhibition.

We have also applied for the 2011 Community Heritage Grants Program. Over \$100 has been raised from the sale of surplus steel shafted clubs and I am happy to say that they have all been sold!

### Collection and Conservation

Using funds from the Museums & Galleries NSW grant, the museum has recently purchased some environmental monitoring equipment.

We will be able to measure the temperature, relative humidity and light intensity in the museum. This will allow us to determine the most suitable areas within the museum to store fragile collection items.

### Staffing

The University of Sydney museum studies program has agreed to advertise a volunteer opportunity at the Museum to their current students. It is hoped that we will recruit one or more museum studies students to assist us with a variety of tasks including database work, object research and collection storage. The museum has also been added to the list of recommendations for the Professional Experience program at Macquarie University. Our museum can offer students a wide variety of practical, hands on experiences.

**Australian Golf Heritage Society Website** <[www.australiangolfheritage.org.au](http://www.australiangolfheritage.org.au)>

Many thanks to Tom Winter for all the recent updates he has done to the website. The Events/Fixtures page has been updated with 2011 events and the new membership form has been uploaded. The Museum will soon begin to use the website to highlight significant objects and upcoming events such as the PGA exhibition in September.

### Let's Face It.

The Management Committee has approved the trial of an AGHS joining Facebook page. Facebook, as a social networking site, will allow members to communicate and share content with each other. It will also importantly allow the Society to post information about our Museum collection and events, photographs and results of competitions in a much more timely and interactive basis. Facebook will broaden the appeal of our Society and engage with new audiences. Members are encouraged to utilise this medium to provide comments and feedback about matters of interest to the Society management and to other Society members. The AGHS Facebook page can be viewed by visiting the following web page: <<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Golf-Heritage-Society-Museum/163599337026751>>.

Create your own Facebook profile to view the page and society members are welcome to contact me if they would like assistance with this.

Emma Williams,

*Museum Collection Manager / Curator*

Meter postmarks, where envelopes for large mail-outs are franked in bulk, are also collectable. One of the best examples in my collection shows the frank combining a stamp with a small advertisement carrying an endorsement by Peter Thomson no less.



With the advent of the World Wide Web collectors and stamp dealers are able to communicate with each other quickly and easily. Auction sites like e-bay are flourishing and many dealers now operate from home. Sadly, memberships of philatelic societies are declining.

The author is a member of the International Philatelic Golf Society and welcomes correspondence to <[royal@westnet.com.au](mailto:royal@westnet.com.au)>.

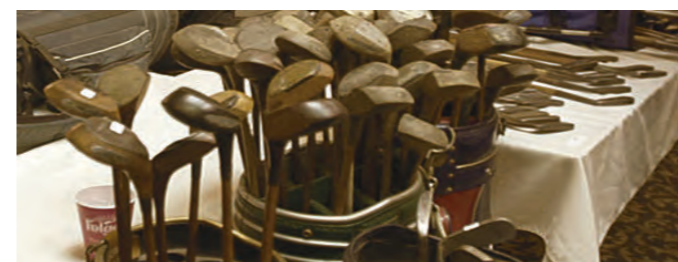
Roger Weik

*(Roger Weik is a member of the Australian Golf Heritage Society. His interest was recently cited in a Sydney Morning Herald article featuring his collection of postcards with a golf theme. "...A nurse in a public hospital, Roger has been a stamp collector and keen golfer most of his life. It was when a friend gave him a vintage postcard showing the Bowral Golf Club that he realised these two interests could be combined. He began to collect postcards showing Australian courses in their earliest days. Now he has about 120, all printed before 1960. The most prized are those dated pre 1910. The first postcard of the Bowral Links shows that fences were constructed around the greens to protect them from livestock. Other postcards show the original clubhouses, which no longer exist or have been modified." Perhaps other Members of the Society may have some postcards that Roger would be*

The four woods numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 are plain faced persimmon heads with rear weighting. They are fitted with brown coated steel shafts (with steps) and black leather grips. No maker's name is visible but possibly they were made by Graddidge, either in Britain or South Africa.

These items, and many others, are on display at The Museum at Parramatta Road, Granville, above Golf Mart.

*The Museum is open each Sunday from 10 am and is well worth a visit.*



**Australia's own Perry Somers,**

*2010 World and Australian Hickory Champion.....*

In the mid-nineteenth century the life of a skilled professional golfer was very different to today. Their main source of income was in caddying or playing money matches for profit to themselves and for the entertainment of their wealthy backers. Some of the most famous of these matches were between Willie Park (Senior) and Old Tom Morris. The match of 1870 is best known – not least because it ended in controversy and an ambiguous result. It was played as a series of four 36 hole matches, one each at St Andrews, Prestwick, North Berwick and Musselburgh.



Prestwick



From 12 to 16 April this year the Park/Morris match was re-enacted with Perry Somers and Randy Jensen as the players. Both players have form. Perry plays a lot of hickory golf in Europe and UK having won several major titles – including Scottish, German, Czech and Dutch Opens. Randy has long been regarded as the best hickory player in the world and has written the authoritative guide to playing with hickories. Hickory clubs were of course used in the 2011 match. On this occasion the four matches were played over consecutive days with each match being over 18 holes. *The results were as follows:*

12 April, The Old Course St Andrews

Perry, 7 down after 15, finished strongly to be 4 holes down

13 April, Prestwick

Temperature 5 degrees Celsius, wind 30 knots. Perry gained 5 holes to be 1 up after 36 holes.

14 April, North Berwick

Match square. Perry still 1 up after 54 holes

15 April, Musselburgh

All square after 67 holes. Perry then went par, birdie, birdie to win by 3 & 2.

Hickory Golf is a growing game. AGHS is proud to have Perry, the leading hickory golfer in the world today, as a member.

You can get details of the original Park/Morris match at <[www.electricscotland.com/history/sport/morris11.htm](http://www.electricscotland.com/history/sport/morris11.htm)> and pictures of the 2011 match at <[www.worldhickorygolfer.com](http://www.worldhickorygolfer.com)>.

**Michael Sheret**

*Captain's note – All members are invited and encouraged to play in the Australian Hickory Shaft Championships to be held at Carnarvon Golf Club on 30th November. Full details available on Society's website <[www.australiangolfheritage.org.au](http://www.australiangolfheritage.org.au)>*



Perry Somers teeing off,  
Randy Jensen looking on

**Coming Events in 2011 (for your diary)**



Cammeray Golf Club

**Thursday 7th July 2011 :: 12.00pm Hit-off  
"The Bobby Locke Trophy"**

Qualifying Round at Cammeray Golf Club

*Competition will be followed by a light dinner and presentation of the 2010 trophy.*

There will be a short talk on the life and experiences of Bobby Locke by Des Froneman.

Competition Fee :: \$5.00 :: Green Fee : \$15.00

Dinner :: \$28.00

Entries to Tony Doggett at  
[apdoggett@hotmail.com](mailto:apdoggett@hotmail.com) or 9639 2849  
Entries close 1st July 2011

**Thursday 11th August :: 2pm start**

**"Show & Tell"**

Auburn City Golf Links

*followed by refreshment in*

Rosnay Clubhouse at 5.00pm

5 Weymouth Avenue, Auburn

9 holes - 2 ball ambrose

NB. to be eligible for a prize, you must accompany a visitor

Cost \$2.00 per person

Bring along items from your collection to discuss at our Show & Tell

Entries to Tom Moore at  
[teemoore@tpg.com.au](mailto:teemoore@tpg.com.au) or 9871 2798  
Entries close 1st August 2011

**Sunday 18th September**

**"Craigieburn Hickory Cup"**

Peppers Resort Golf Course, Craigieburn, Bowral

**Sunday 25th September :: 3pm start**

**"9 hole stroke"**

Liverpool Golf Club

Hollywood Drive, Lansvale

*27th October commencing at 7.30 pm.*

**Australian Golf Heritage Society –  
2011 Annual General Meeting**

This is an early reminder to make a diary note for the Society's 2011 AGM.

The Meeting will be held at North Ryde Golf Club

This is an opportunity to meet the Management Committee and perhaps add your opinion to the activities of the Society.

**Wednesday 30th November**

**Australian Hickory Shaft Championship  
Carnarvon Golf Club**