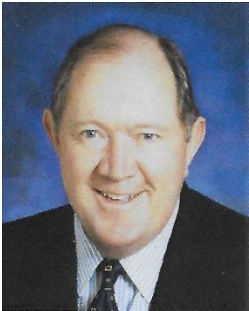


The Braggié

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.

2018 ISSUE 1

From the President



It is with a great degree of sadness but understanding that I have to announce the retirement from our committee of Tony Doggett. Tony has served our Society in an unselfish and dedicated manner. Nothing has ever been too much trouble for Tony, be it spending many hours at the museum or attending our displays at our many events particularly the Australian Open.

Tony is not well and has not been well for some time. In addition, his dear wife is also suffering from ill health. We wish them well and thank Tony for his wonderful contribution to our society. As a result of Tony's long serving and untiring efforts the committee unanimously agreed to award Tony life membership of the society.

On a more positive note we are continuing dialogue with our friends from the Golf Society of Australia seeking to, if possible, form a National Heritage body. This if it comes to pass will promote the same ideals as we currently do but help to eventually create a National Museum.

Our museum has never been in better shape and I encourage all members and their friends to pay us a visit.

Tax deductible donations

Donations to the AGHS are now tax deductible through the Golf Heritage Fund.

This project is run in partnership with the Australian Sports Foundation so our donors can receive tax deductions for donations of \$2 or more. By donating now, you help preserve Australia's golf history for the future.

Donate online through our page at the Australian Sports Foundation <https://asf.org.au/projects/australian-golf-heritage-society/> or the donation form.

IN THIS ISSUE

From the President

At the Museum	2
Meroogal and Golf	3
Captain's Report: To the Fore	5
Queensland Hickory Shaft Championships	6
Australian Heritage Festival	11
History Sub-Committee	11
Research into Early Golf	13

Upcoming Events

Kiama Hickory Golf Championship

- 22 April at Kiama Golf Club

J. J. Paine Trophy

- 7 May at Windsor Country Golf Club

Enquiries to the Captain

- Ross Howard 02 99757681

At the Museum



Development of Golf Ball Display

A new display on golf balls is under construction and will be ready shortly. Stay tuned to [Facebook](#) for news of its opening. The display features the transition of golf balls from the featheries through to gutties, rubber wound balls and the modern era. Display also include gadgets and accessories associated with golf balls and a bit of golf ball kitsch.

We welcome to the museum our new volunteers Debbie and Daniel who will be assisting with attending the museum on Sundays, collection care and photography.

Museum Manager Tony Doggett has been forced to step down due to ill health. Tony will be sorely missed. His knowledge of golf and enthusiasm for his history was remarkable and he was always ready to chip in and do any job required. We wish Tony and his family all the very best.

Join us

The AGHS Museum boasts one of the largest golfing collections in Australia. Join us in helping care for, display and promote the collection. There are many different roles, some of which can be done from home. Tasks include museum maintenance and cleaning, editing *The Brassie*, photographing objects, cataloguing and caring for objects, and publicity officer. Training and assistance provided.

In particular, if you can spare a few hours on a Sunday as a museum attendant it would be greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work!

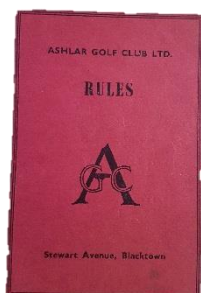
For more information or to offer your time, please drop Vicki a line at museum@australiangolfheritage.org.au



Membership Drive

The AGHS is committed to all things golf heritage: research and history, the preservation and display of golf objects and the playing of hickory golf. There are many fantastic things going on at the AGHS from joining with the National Trust in the Australian Heritage Festival to the museum's travelling exhibition being hosted by golf clubs around Sydney. The AGHS wants to reach out and find more enthusiasts of golf heritage. If you know anyone who might be interested in our activities let them know about us. Strength is in numbers. For more on membership, contact admin@australiangolfheritage.org.au

A-Z of Golf Clubs



This year, the museum's Facebook page is featuring an A-Z of golf clubs. Some will be gone, some will be old, some will be reborn and some will be brand new. Each week a new snippet of Australia's golf history is posted. Pop on over to our facebook page and have a look. Clubs have included Ashlar, Hunter's Hill and Boort golf clubs. Suggestions are welcome for upcoming posts. Pop on over to our facebook page to have a look: <https://www.facebook.com/ausgolfmuseum/> Remember to like the page and the post to get the word out there about the Society, the museum and golf history. Join the conversation about golf history by posting a comment.

Meroogal and Golf

The AGHS Museum was contacted by the people at Meroogal, Sydney Living Museums' property at Nowra, regarding a set of golf clubs. Research by the museum staff assisted Meroogal volunteer Susan Lenné in her story below, which now features on Sydney Living Museums' website. [Meroogal](#) is a fascinating home to visit and is open Saturdays 10am-4pm. Thank you to Sydney Living Museums for permission to reproduce this article.

(Note: Vicki Stanton is credited in the story. Vicki can claim no such honour; she merely forwarded the information.)

In the cupboard, under the stairs: Meroogal and golf

Tucked away in the hall cupboard under the stairs at Meroogal is one of the house's 'unsung' gems: a set of four, hickory-shafted golf sticks, held in a slim, cylindrical, dark brown leather golf bag.

New research (1) has thrown light on the clubs' origins and ownership, provided a glimpse of the original Nowra Golf Club, and evokes the connection between one of Meroogal's earliest residents and the foundation of the club in the early years of the 20th century.

Dating Tottie's clubs

The manufacturers' stamps and other insignia, and the fact that all the irons are smooth-faced, enabled the reliable dating of the clubs to the period between 1881 and 1906, the transition from the late Victorian to the Edwardian period, and prior to the outbreak of WWI.

The four clubs include a fairway wood, known as a 'brassie' and manufactured by the British Golf Company Ltd. circa 1906, and three irons: a 'mashie' developed for the approach shot, by the British firm of J.H. Taylor during the 1890s; a 'niblick' (equivalent to a No 8 iron) by George Nicoll, whose clubs were highly sought after between 1881 and 1898, and the toe of which is stamped with an 'L' indicating it was a ladies' club; and lastly, an iron made by USA Connecticut based manufacturer, Bridgeport Gun & Implement Co. (BGI), probably a Carruther's Model cleek, and made ca.1900.

Vicki Stanton from the Australian Golf Heritage Society Museum describes this as 'a reasonably desirable bit of gear from a collector's point of view.'

Tottie Thorburn

Meroogal was built for the Thorburn family in 1885 on the edge of the new town of Nowra, and originally occupied a five-acre block bounded by West, Worrigea and Plunkett Streets, with the Shoalhaven River escarpment to the West. The youngest daughter Kennina (1865–1956), known to her family as Tottie and who was then caring for her grandparents at nearby Cambewarra, did not join her widowed mother and sisters at Meroogal, and make it her permanent home, until 1893. Then aged 28, she was an accomplished horsewoman, bushwalker, and tennis player, later described by her great niece, June Wallace, as "lively and sparkling... the very best of dispositions having a song and a smile in her voice; Titian-hair and pale-skinned... a great beauty in her youth."



Detail of golf clubs in the bag by the door, showing 4 heads. Photo © Sue Lenne for Sydney Living Museums



Tot Thorburn in the garden at Meroogal, around 1905. Unknown photographer. June Wallace Papers, Caroline Simpson Library and Research Collection, Sydney Living Museums

THE GAME OF GOLF. The growing interest in this game is most encouraging. Golf is essentially a health bringing sport, because it cannot be played without the player taking HEAPS OF EXERCISE in the open air, and to those whose business compels them to keep indoors for long spells, open air exercise is of first importance.

From an advertisement for Anthony Hordern & Sons, Sydney Morning Herald, Saturday, 14 September 1901

The growing sport of golf

In the opening years of the 1900s golf was a rapidly growing sport. On the South Coast, clubs were formed at Wollongong and Kiama and, following a public meeting on 25 May 1904, a club was formed at Nowra.

“The annual subscription was fixed at 2s 6d. New members may be proposed at any meeting of the club. ...Play will be taken up immediately” announced the Shoalhaven Telegraph. (2)

Tottie was well-placed to join the inaugural club. The original course was established that year on the land directly opposite Meroogal known as the Recreation Ground, and today occupied by the Nowra Showground and neighbouring Shoalhaven Hospital. We know from reports of inter-club golf competitions printed in the local newspapers between 1905 and 1906, that Miss Tottie Thorburn was both an active member of Nowra Golf Club as well as being an office bearer - the Associate Secretary on the club's Executive Committee.

A folio in the Meroogal collection contains a series of humorous sketches satirizing the perils of playing golf on a country course: dodging cows and even a runaway car! They were copied from the book *John Henry Smith; A Humorous Romance of Outdoor Life* (1905), by Frederick Upham Adams.

Could they be by Tottie?

All the pieces of the jigsaw fit: the proximity of Meroogal to the original Nowra Golf Course, the timing of the establishment of the course in the early part of the 20th century, and the dates attributed to the manufacture of the golf clubs found at Meroogal; aligning with the period in which Tottie played golf at the new Nowra Golf Club.

GOLF.

On Wednesday afternoon a mixed foursome was played on the Nowra links between six pairs from the Kiama Golf Club and six pairs from the Nowra Club, and ample evidence of the increasing popularity of golf in Nowra was given in the large number of people who assembled on the links to welcome the Kiama visitors and watch the match. The result was as follows:—

Mr Minnett and Miss Caird v Mr Dudgeon and Mrs Hull	1-0
Mr Vaughan and Miss Alkin v Mr Dangar and Miss T. Thorburn	1-0
Mr Simmons and Miss S. Hindmarsh v Dr. Olivey and Miss Shannon	0-1
Mr Ryan and Mrs Vaughan v Mr Graham and Mrs Olivey	Square
Dr. Beith and Miss B. Hindmarsh v Mr Woodhill and Miss Inglis	1-0
Mr Nicholson and Miss Major v Mr Marriott and Miss B. Grant	1-0

Excerpt from Shoalhaven Advocate from 1905. Source: Trove.



'And throw it in the pond.' Humorous sketch after John Henry Smith [actually Frederick Upham Adams] ca 1910 Meroogal collection, Sydney Living Museums



'Run! Run boys!' Humorous sketch after John Henry Smith [actually Frederick Upham Adams] ca1910. Meroogal collection, Sydney Living Museums

Story by Susan Lenné

Volunteer Guide, Meroogal

Susan is a keen golfer who became hooked on the sport in her teens. Susan continues to play regularly on courses around the Shoalhaven and her interest in the sport, combined with her role as a Sydney Living Museums Volunteer Guide led to her investigating the story of the golf clubs under the stairs at Meroogal.

More information

You can [read Tottie's diaries](#), written between 1888–1893 and 1895–1896.

Learn more about [Nowra Golf Club](#).

Read '[Golf on the Recreation Ground](#)', an online story from the South Coast Register on history of the club.

Notes

- 1. Personal communication to the author from Vicki Stanton of the Australian Golf Heritage Society Museum / South Coast Register Historical archives.
- 2. *The Shoalhaven Telegraph*; 1st June, 1904. Source: Trove Newspapers Online

Captain's report "To the Fore"

Hi to all AGHS members and readers of *The Brassie*.

We have already planned a number games for this year, including the Dan Cullen Trophy Ambrose event @ Long Reef, South Coast Hickory Championship at Kiama GC on 22nd April and the J J Paine Trophy event at Windsor Country GC on 7th May. Both the latter two events have been granted status in the National Heritage Festival schedule. I hope you have an opportunity to compete in these events and look forward to

seeing everyone “decked out” in their period gear. We are currently working on taking the hickory events to some new courses this year, so if your Club would like an event please let me know.

Later in the year we have the Craigieburn Cup on Sunday 9th September and I urge you to make the trip to the Southern Highlands to play in this event, where we hit off at 12 noon, play 18 holes with a scratch and handicap event. It is a great little course with the original 100-year-old layout intact and the nine greens “attacked” from 18 tees. Next year will be the centenary of the event and we would like to see a good field for this year as a prelude to the 2019 event.

The effort to provide a monthly hickory game suffered in 2017 from lack of numbers and in some cases games had to be postponed/cancelled. I would like to hear from members if we are trying to play too many hickory events or is the timing wrong in terms of the day of the week / month. Please let me know so I can modify the 2018 schedule. I do value your input.

The Australian Hickory Shaft Championship is currently scheduled at Long Reef Golf Club on Sydney’s Northern Beaches in September. However, we are in discussions to take the event interstate for both 2018 and 2020 to Queensland. I will keep you posted on any news as soon as possible so you are able to make arrangements to compete. In October 2018, we are hoping the Al Howard Memorial Trophy event will be played over two days on courses along the Murray River (possibly Howlong & Corowa) hosted by GSA.

The formation of a new National Heritage body is continuing to progress with a further meeting held in Melbourne on Monday 19 March to develop the submission to GA and the PGA. As the process unfolds we will keep AGHS members informed accordingly.

So, in closing I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming events and wish you the best of scoring as we play with our beloved hickories.

Ross Howard (Captain)

The Third Annual Festival of Tropical Hickory Golf — Queensland Hickory Shaft Championships

Between Friday 3rd and Sunday the 5th of November 2017, Australian Golf Heritage Society (Queensland Chapter) conducted hickory golfing events at three of Brisbane (and Queensland’s) premier golf clubs: the Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship at Royal Queensland Golf Club; the AGHS 4BBB event at Nudgee Golf Club; and the Queensland Hickory Shaft Foursomes Championship at The Brisbane Golf Club.

Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship — Royal Queensland Golf Club

Played on a beautiful spring day in warm and relatively calm conditions, the third annual Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship was once more contested at Royal Queensland Golf Club. The club’s par 72 links were in perfect condition and the Championship was played over a course of approximately 5900 metres with a scratch rating of 70.

This year’s course was significantly more difficult than those presented in previous years because our event was run in parallel with a RQGC fixture known as ‘Clayton’s Challenge’. Named after course designer Mike Clayton, this is a regular affair in which club members play from the course’s backmost tees to some of its severest pin positions. Even though the hickory championship was played from shorter white tees, the day’s extreme pin positions placed huge demands upon short-game play and presented a supreme test to players prepared to accept the ‘challenge’ with technologically inferior implements. In prospect, this should not have caused any trepidation within participants. Because they were competing in a ‘championship’, all players were potential ‘champions’, however . . .

Up one in number from last year, the field of twenty comprised regular AGHS players from local clubs Nudgee Golf Club, Royal Queensland Golf Club and The Brisbane Golf Club. This year we were joined by interstate and country visitors Peter Shaw (Hobart), Justin Ryan (Bendigo), Tony Mounstephens (Sydney), Peter Quinlan (Coffs Harbour), Matthew McCarthy (Townsville), Scott Hendry (Toowoomba) and Russell Michael (Caloundra). We thank them for making the effort to travel so far to compete with us.

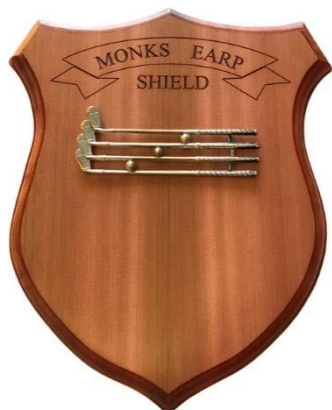


2017 Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship Participants



2017 Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship, Chris Cooper

Winner of this year's Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship, with a fine score of 83, was former Royal Queensland Golf Club Captain Chris Cooper. Chris won on count back from two-time previous winner Alan Grieve. Last year's runner-up, Rob King-Scott, came in third, just one stroke adrift.



Winner of this year's nett event was Alan Grieve with a score of 76 off a handicap of 7. Alan is the inaugural recipient of the Monks Earp Shield. Named in honour of the inaugural AGHS (Queensland Chapter) Captain, Peter Monks, and our Patron, Charlie Earp, this handsome new trophy was made and donated by master club maker and repairer Ross Haslam.



Winner of the Earp Monks Shield and runner-up (on count back) in the Championship, Alan Grieve

Results for the Championship (gross event) and the Monks Earp Shield (nett event) were:

Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship				Monks Earp Shield			
Pos.	Player	H/cap	Gross	Pos.	Player	H/cap	Nett
1	Chris Cooper	1	83	1	Alan Grieve	7	76
2	Alan Grieve	7	83	2	Rob King-Scott	7	77
3	Rob King-Scott	7	84	3	Scott Makiol	11	78
4	Joe Janison	1	86	4	Kevin Tuckwell	12	81
5	Scott Hendry	6	88	5	Scott Hendry	6	82
6	Peter Shaw	2	88	6	Graham Kildey	9	82
7	Scott Makiol	11	89	7	Bradley Tatnell	11	82
8	Graham Kildey	9	91	8	Ross Bishop	12	82
9	Justin Ryan	7	92	9	Matthew McCarthy	12	83
10	Kevin Tuckwell	12	93	10	Tony Mountstephens	13	83
11	Bradley Tatnell	11	93	11	Joe Janison	1	85
12	Ross Bishop	12	94	12	Justin Ryan	7	85
13	Matthew McCarthy	12	95	13	Arthur O'Shea	17	85
14	Ian King	8	95	14	Peter Shaw	2	86
15	Tony Mountstephens	13	96	15	Ian King	8	87
16	Andrew Baker	11	98	16	Andrew Baker	11	87
17	Ross Haslam	12	99	17	Ross Haslam	12	87
18	Arthur O'Shea	17	102	18	Peter Quinlan	18	92
19	Peter Quinlan	18	110	19	Russell Michael	16	109
20	Russell Michael	16	125				

Drinks in the clubhouse were followed by presentations and a convivial dinner in Royal Queensland Golf Club's Silver Boomerang Room.

We thank the members and committee of Royal Queensland Golf Club for making their wonderful Michael Clayton-designed golf links and exceptional facilities available for this year's event. We also thank the club for waiving green fees for visitors to this event — our most important of the year. Despite recent illness, it was wonderful to greet our Patron, Charlie Earp, at the dinner and to hear and enjoy his reminiscences of days gone by. As always, Royal Queensland Golf Club Manager Tim Gahan and his staff ensured a faultless day of golf and evening of festivity. Also, special thanks to Steve Rhind who so efficiently looks after AGHS events all year and his colleague Andrew Vanstone from the club's golf centre.

AGHS 4BBB Event — Nudgee Golf Club

On the lay-day between the individual and foursomes championships, AGHS Treasurer Ross Haslam organized an informal 4BBB event at his home club Nudgee Golf Club. Played over the club's relatively flat and short par 69 South Course, the event was contested by an elite field of eleven players. Ross reports that participants had a 'great afternoon' and winners with nett 59 strokes were the dynamic pairing of Alan Grieve and Chris Webster, both from The Brisbane Golf Club.



Thank you to the members and committee of Nudgee Golf Club for making their course and facilities available to AGHS for this event

and for waiving green fees for visitors. Also, many thanks to the clubhouse staff for the lovely pre-round luncheon they provided.

Queensland Hickory Shaft Foursomes Championship — The Brisbane Golf Club



2017 Queensland Hickory Shaft Foursomes Champions, Alan Grieve and Joel Negline

On the morning of Sunday 5th November, having participated in events at Royal Queensland and Nudgee Golf Clubs in the preceding days, twenty keen hickory golfers assembled at The Brisbane Golf Club to contest the second annual Queensland Hickory Shaft Foursomes Championship (six more participants than the inaugural event). Having hosted the Queensland Open on the previous weekend, The Brisbane Golf Club's beautiful and historic Yeeroongpilly links were again in superlative condition.

In a wonderful display of golfing prowess, the winners of this event for its second running were again local pairing Alan Grieve and Joel Negline with 75 strokes off-the-stick (three strokes fewer than their winning score last year). Runners-up with a gross score of 85 were Rob King-Scott and Andrew Baker. In third place, with 89 strokes were last year's runners-up, Justin Ryan from Bendigo and ex-touring professional Don Fardon, on count back from Matthew McCarthy and Allard Bernhofen.

The Treasurer's Trophy for the best nett score was won by last year's winners Rob King-Scott and Andrew Baker with 76. They edged out their playing companions Russell Michael and Tony Mountstephens by four strokes. Third in this event for the second year running were Allard Bernhofen and Matthew McCarthy. This beautiful new trophy, featuring an ancient split-shaft driver head and a mesh ball, was also made by our Treasurer Ross Haslam.

Results for the Treasurer's Trophy (nett event) were:

- 1 Rob King-Scott (7) and Andrew Baker (11) 76
- 2 Russell Michael (16) and Tony Mountstephens (14) 80
- 3 Matthew McCarthy (12) and Allard Bernhofen (2) 82
- 4 Scott Hendry (6) and Mick Pett (12) 83
- 5 Justin Ryan (7) and Don Fardon (+1) 86
- 6 Ross Haslam (11) and Chris Webster (13) 86
- 7 Geoff Egar (11) and Don Fardon (+1) 89
- 8 Paula Biscaya and Donna Vessamn 89.5
- 9 Andrew Cheyne (6) and Sayad Hussain (10) 95



The Treasurer's Trophy

Drinks, presentations and a most convivial lunch were held in the beautiful and historic clubhouse of The Brisbane Golf Club. This year we were joined by eight family members of Sydney-based AGHS member Tony Mountstephens. Tony's wife's grandfather, Dr. Eugen Hirschfeld, an early member of The Brisbane Golf Club, was also a founding member of Victoria Park Golf Club in 1898. Tony only recently came across this reference in the Norm Richardson article 'Early Golf in Queensland' in *The Brassie*. A number of Dr. Hirschfeld's grandchildren still reside in Brisbane and surrounds and it was they (and their families) who joined us for the luncheon at The Brisbane Golf Club.

AGHS sincerely thanks the members, committee and staff of The Brisbane Golf Club for hosting our foursomes championship for the second year in a row and also for waiving green fees for visitors. This contribution to the growth of hickory golf in Queensland is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Alan Grieve who managed all arrangements with the Club in the lead-up to this event. Surrounded by a wealth of historic photographs and antique golfing memorabilia, no more appropriate setting could provide a finale to such a memorable and delightful three-day weekend of hickory golf.



Special thanks to renowned sports photographer Neville Sandford.

Australian Heritage Festival

This year the AGHS has doubled its efforts for the National Trusts' Heritage Festival and is hosting two hickory golf efforts: the Kiama Hickory Golf Championship and the J.J. Paine Trophy.

Organised in conjunction with **Kiama Golf Club**, the **Kiama Hickory Golf Championship** will be played on 22 April and is an 18 hole heritage golf event:

- Players will use pre-1940 hickory shafted clubs (loan sets available).
- Players are encouraged to wear “period clothing”.
- Check-in 8:30am and hit off from 9:00am.
- Lunch to follow after the round and presentation of prizes.
- The event will be individual stableford with prizes for the best scores.
- The fee for green fees and lunch will be \$25, an extra \$10 if you wish to hire clubs.
- Golf bookings via the Pro Shop (4237 7339) by 15 April.



Kiama Hickory Challenge 2017: Raymond Flynn, Trish Wilson, Andrew Wilson, Tony Doggett.

The **J. J. Paine Trophy** celebrates the first golf played in Windsor at Gosper's Paddock in 1905. Research suggests the practice area and adjacent land at nearby Rum Corps Barracks Golf Course is Gosper's Paddock. This 9 hole heritage golf event is jointly coordinated by the **Windsor Country Golf Club**, the Hawkesbury Historical Society and the Australian Golf Heritage Society.

- Players will use pre-1940 hickory shafted clubs (loan sets available).
- Players are encouraged to wear “period clothing”.
- Check-in 8:30am, morning tea from 8:45am and hit off from 9:30am.
- Lunch followed by a history talk to follow and presentation of prizes.
- The event will be individual stableford with prizes for the best scratch score, best handicap scores for men and women and Best Dressed.
- The fee for green fees, morning tea and lunch will be \$40, lunch only \$20.
- Golf bookings via the Pro Shop (4577 3718) by 1 May. Those wishing to attend the lunch should book with the Club Office (4577 4390) by 4 May.

History Sub-Committee

It has been a while since there was a report from the History Sub-Committee in *The Brassie*. August 2016 was the last one, when we reported on the Gibson lecture at the AGHS Museum. So there is a lot to catch up on.



John Buckley delivering the vote of thanks

We had another interesting lecture from another overseas historian in February 2017. The talk was delivered at the **Australian Golf Club** and was jointly organised by AGC and AGHS. The talk, *Dr Ewan Frazer – Pioneer of Golf*, was given by British golf historian Dr Colin Strachan. It went very well indeed, with a splendid dinner afterwards. Seventy one people attended. A quality talk like Colin's to a discerning audience does a great deal to advance the prestige of AGHS. More details are on the [website](#) and in a separate article in [The Brassie April 2017](#).

A lecture on the **1839 Grose Farm golfers** was delivered on three occasions at very different venues. In April 2016 at the Kogarah Historical Society, May 2017 at the North Turramurra Nursing Home, July 2017 at the biannual conference of the Australian Society for Sports History at the University of Technology Sydney.

The **Australian Society for Sports History** is an interesting organisation. Australian universities have a strong influence on ASSH. It produces a journal, *Sporting Traditions*, which concentrates on aspects of sport such as governance and social impact. It is very much an academic journal with blind reviews prior to publication and formal referencing procedures. *Sporting Traditions* will provide an excellent vehicle for research articles on Australian golf history. At the conference there were 3 keynote speakers, 2 panel discussions and 74 individual papers. A huge range of sports was covered. My own little paper on the Grose Farm golfers was the sole contribution on golf history. Pleasingly, ASSH would welcome more contributions on golf in the future. There is also an NSW Chapter of ASSH which plans to run sports history seminars at UTS roughly every two months.

We have had interesting correspondence with the **British Golf Museum** at St Andrews concerning their interactive display on the spread of golf from Scotland to the rest of the world. On a visit to BGM in late 2016 I noticed an error in their display on the first golf played in Australia. I visited BGM again in September this year and am pleased to report that the mistake has been corrected, thanks to efforts made by AGHS.

Our little **AGHS History Sub-Committee** has expanded to three members with Hugh Jolly from Royal Sydney joining Norman Richardson and myself. Hugh recently joined the AGHS Management Committee. His current research interest is the evolution of the Royal Sydney golf course. We had our first three-person meeting at The Lakes, mainly to discuss our current and future research projects. One of our missions is to educate golfers on the golf's rich history in Australia and in the world at large. To this end we have been running a monthly golf history quiz since 2015, published on the AGHS website and in the Golf NSW e-newsletter. The questions tend to be quite short and the answers long and informative. The quizmaster has been having break. The quiz will resume in a couple of months with Norman taking over the reins.

Research articles published outside of those in *The Brassie*.
Playing out of Water: the water iron and the Rules of Golf by Michael Sheret in *Through the Green*, magazine of the British Golf Collectors Society, September 2016

Michael Sheret

Research into Early Golf in Australia

Michael Sheret undertakes a research journey to determine if golf was played in Australia at a hitherto unknown date.

In April 2016 BGCS member, Bill Gibson, on a short visit to Sydney, gave a lecture to the Australian Golf Heritage Society. Bill has a particular interest in the contribution of military personnel to the spread of golf throughout the world in the 19th century. During his research, using *Trove*, he came upon an entry in an Australian newspaper that indicated that golf might have been played in Australia as early as 1833/34. This



Classic water iron

clue that Bill had uncovered clearly required further research. This research was undertaken by Norman Richardson and myself, as the History Sub-Committee of AGHS.

Trove

Before describing the research, it is useful to say something about *Trove*, the search engine of the National Library of Australia for finding, among other things, specific items in Australian newspapers. As at the 15th of December 2016, one thousand two hundred and thirteen Australian newspapers had been digitalised and can be searched through *Trove*. These include national, state capital and provincial newspapers.

Like many search engines of its kind what appears on the screen is a facsimile of a newspaper page alongside the digitalised text. Here a limitation of *Trove* becomes apparent. Some digitalised articles appear as accurate transcriptions of the article. Other digitalised articles are somewhat confused translations of the original. The original digitalised version would have been produced by character recognition software, which is far from 100% accurate. Some articles have been carefully ‘tidied up’ post-digitalisation, some have not. If, for example, the word *golf* has not been correctly digitalised it may not show up in a search.

The Clue

The clue that Bill found in *Trove* for the possibility of golf in Australia in 1833/34 appeared in the *Trumpeter General*, which was added to the *Trove* list in June 2015. The *Trumpeter General* was published by Edward J C Strachey, a prominent Hobart auctioneer. The *Trumpeter General* had four pages and consisted mostly of classified advertisements, most of which were for forthcoming auctions, Strachey’s auctions being prominent among them. The newspaper did not publish auction results¹.

The clue appeared in notices of an auction conducted by Strachey in New Norfolk on the 18th of June 1834. New Norfolk is a town in Tasmania some 30 km inland from Hobart, connected to Hobart in 1834 by road or by the River Derwent. The auction was an important one and was advertised in the *Trumpeter General* on the 27th and 30th of May and the 3rd, 6th, 10th, 13th and 17th of June. The notice of sale is reproduced in the image below. The sale is for ‘the property of Captain Doyly [sic], who is about to return to India’. There was a large quantity of household goods, about which the auctioneer became quite lyrical, describing their ‘elegance’ and their ‘eastern magnificence’. The indications are that Captain D’Oyly brought these goods to Tasmania from India. Among the goods listed is the item of interest to golf historians: **‘a set of Golf clubs are very rare’**.

There are some aspects of the sale that are puzzling. Captain D’Oyly’s stay in New Norfolk lasted about ten months. It seems an extraordinary amount of household goods to bring with him for such a short stay. Why was he selling his golf clubs when he was about to return to India, where he would have many opportunities to play golf? Why was there no mention of golf balls, which in the era of featheries would have been as valuable as the clubs? What interpretation can be put on the description of the golf clubs as ‘rare’?

Captain Thomas D’Oyly

There is a lot of general information on Captain Thomas D’Oyly². This arises because, during the family’s return voyage in 1834 from Hobart via Sourabaya to Calcutta, their ship was wrecked on the reefs in the Torres Strait. The circumstances were tragic. D’Oyly and his family, apart from his infant son William, did not survive.

Thomas D’Oyly was a Captain in the Bengal Artillery, the Bengal Army of the British East India Company. He was on sick leave in Tasmania, arriving in Hobart on the 8th of September 1833³ and departing from Hobart for Calcutta on the 6th of July 1834⁴. He was granted sick leave in the first instance to proceed from his posting, at Chunar Fortress in the Mirzapore district of northern Bengal, to Calcutta commencing the 1st of January until the 1st of April 1833⁵. On the 13th of February 1833 under the General Orders of the Bengal Army he was granted sick leave in Tasmania and could be absent from Bengal for up to two years⁶.

Allowing maximum time for the voyage, not necessarily direct, he could have spent up to fourteen months in Tasmania. Because of its climate Tasmania, a stark contrast to Bengal, was a favoured destination for convalescent officers. New Norfolk, where he rented a house, had additional advantages because of its hospital facilities.

Thomas D'Oyly was the son of Edward and Hannah D'Oyly of Sion Hill Hall, near Thirsk in Yorkshire. He was born on 12 July 1794. The family had many connections with the British East India Company. Young Thomas joined the Bengal Army of the British East India Company in 1810. In 1812 he was posted to Bengal. Lieutenant D'Oyly was based at the Dum Dum artillery station, a short distance from Calcutta. He married Charlotte Williams in 1820. In India he had good family connections in Sir John Hadley D'Oyly and Sir Charles D'Oyly. He clearly did well in India. He was able to purchase a bungalow outside the Dum Dum station for the family, rather than stay in allocated quarters. On his promotion to Captain he was posted to Chunar Fortress, which was some 700 km inland from Calcutta and said to be one of the hottest and unhealthiest regions of India.

The Research Journey

With the firm evidence that there was a set of golf clubs, belonging to Captain Thomas D'Oyly, in New Norfolk, Tasmania, in 1834 there are obvious research questions to be answered. Was golf actually played in Tasmania in 1833/34 and, if so, where and by whom and when?

Trove is the obvious source of evidence for the playing of golf but, apart from that one reference in the *Trumpeter General*, there is no reference to golf being played in Tasmania during D'Oyly's stay or in the years before and for many years after.

The New Norfolk Historical Society was contacted to find out if previous research into the early years of the New Norfolk settlement and its hospital could shed any light on how D'Oyly had spent his time in New Norfolk. The Society could provide no relevant information.

Bill Gibson provided a list of persons, both military and civil, known to be golf club members in UK, Ireland or India and to have spent time in Australia within the period 1790 to 1870. Further research, principally through *Trove*, tried to connect three of the military personnel to Captain D'Oyly or to golf in Australia. Captain James Briggs of the 63rd Regiment was in Australia from 1831-33. Captain John Cartwright of the Bengal Artillery was in Australia 1825-26. Captain Harvey Welman of the 17th Regiment was in Australia 1831-39. No evidence was found to link any of these three to D'Oyly or to golf in Australia. As they were both officers in the Bengal Artillery, it is likely that Cartwright, a founding member of the Dum Dum Golfing Club in 1829, knew D'Oyly. Cartwright's brother George was a solicitor in Hobart and became an executor of D'Oyly's will⁷. No copy of the will itself could be found.

Shortly after D'Oyly arrived in Tasmania he was assigned three convicts⁸. Sometimes convict narratives are archived in state libraries, and these narratives have proved useful in other areas of research. Unfortunately, the names of D'Oyly's convicts were not given and all searches for their names were unsuccessful. If the names were known and the convicts did leave archived narratives they might have revealed how D'Oyly spent his time in New Norfolk.

It would have been useful to know the nature of D'Oyly's illness (or injury) as this would have had a bearing on his fitness to play golf while on sick leave. The New Norfolk Hospital records were searched at the State Library of Tasmania⁹. This search found nothing related to D'Oyly. Advice was sought from the Asian and African Studies Team and the India Office Archives Team at the British Library, where the original records of the British East India Company are kept. They replied to say that they could find nothing in the records giving the medical reasons for granting D'Oyly sick leave to Tasmania and that information of

this kind was unlikely to have been archived. After twenty years of service in India D'Oyly's illness could have been almost anything, for example malaria, cholera, dysentery or severe heat exhaustion.

Charlotte D'Oyly, Thomas's wife, was a letter writer. Two of her letters in original manuscript are held in the State Library of NSW¹⁰. One is to her two sons in the care of her brother, William Bayley, in England; the other is to her brother. The letters are very difficult to read because the lines are overwritten at right angles. However, the letters are completely and accurately transcribed by Veronica Peek in her comprehensive and fully referenced book Charles Eaton: *Wake for the Melancholy Shipwreck* (see Endnote #2). The letters state that D'Oyly had fully recovered his health and that he anticipated a promotion on his return to Calcutta. D'Oyly had very nearly put in enough years with the British East India Company to retire. The promotion would have had a big effect on his pension. This would explain why he did not stay longer in Tasmania, as his sick leave entitlement would have allowed. Unfortunately, Charlotte's letters give no information about how D'Oyly spent his time in Tasmania.

The next phase of the research was to try to see if relatives of D'Oyly, starting with his father Edward, had any connection to golf. The best source was the reports of family historian William D'Oyly Bayley¹¹. On page 17 of *The Topographer and Genealogist* the marriage of Edward D'Oyly of Sion Hill to Hannah Marston is reported as taking place on the 17th of May 1789 at Rothwell, county York. On page 21 it is reported that Edward's wife Hannah died at St Andrews, Scotland, in the autumn of 1818. In 1820 Edward D'Oyly, Esq. won the R&A Gold Medal¹². The R&A membership records for 1817 show Edward D'Oyly as a member and resident at St Andrews¹³. It is interesting that the winner of the R&A Gold Medal in 1818 was 'Captain Hugh Lyon Playfair, of the Hon. East India Company's Bengal Artillery'. Playfair is an important figure in golf history and was a founding member of the Dum Dum Golf Club in 1829¹⁴. It is highly likely that Playfair knew both Edward and Thomas D'Oyly. Thomas would therefore have been encouraged to play golf from two directions.

On page 27 of *The Topographer and Genealogist* it is reported that Emma D'Oyly, younger sister of Thomas, married Major William Geddes 'in the East India Company's service'¹⁵. Geddes was, like Captain D'Oyly, in the Bengal Artillery¹⁶ and was a founding member of the Dum Dum Golfing Club. Captain D'Oyly would most likely have been encouraged by his brother-in-law to play golf.

The next phase of the research was to find evidence of D'Oyly as a golfer in India. Three principal sources were used: *The Calcutta Magazine & Monthly Register*, *The Oriental Sporting Magazine* and *The Bengal Hurkaru*. The first two are digitised and searchable online; whatever information they yield is scant and already covered in the *Bengal Hurkaru*. Unfortunately, the *Bengal Hurkaru*, a daily newspaper, is only available in microfilm format. This led to four days spent at the British Library reading through issues from mid-1829 (the year of the earliest known golf in India) to slightly after March 1833, when D'Oyly sailed from India to Australia.

There were golf competition reports from Mitzapore and Benares¹⁷. Both locations are reasonably near Chunar, where D'Oyly, was stationed; his name, however, was not mentioned in the reports. D'Oyly would have had opportunities to play golf in Calcutta, if not during visits from Chunar then during his three months sick leave before sailing for Australia. The *Bengal Hurkaru* reported on the Dum Dum Golfing Club and the Calcutta Golf Club membership lists¹⁸ and competitions; D'Oyly's name, however, as not mentioned.

There was the possibility of Captain D'Oyly playing at Royal Blackheath Golf Club. In the 1830s Royal Blackheath frequently entertained, as visitors, sea captains and military officers on leave from their postings in the British Empire. Blackheath also had a rather special relationship with the Dum Dum Golfing Club from its inception¹⁹. The archived minutes and betting books of Royal Blackheath were examined from 1817 to 1833, including those of the Knuckle Club and the Winter Club, both being clubs within Royal Blackheath. There was no mention of D'Oyly ever having been at Royal Blackheath.

Conclusions and Speculations

I trust that describing this research journey has been of some interest to golf historians, even though the results are somewhat inconclusive. It does illustrate the difficulty of turning up primary source evidence when there is so little to go on. It also illustrates some of the limitations of websites and search engines similar to *Trove*.

The best prospect of taking the research further is the continuing improvement and expansion of *Trove*. To this end Norman Richardson and I will run the occasional check on *Trove* to see if any new evidence turns up.

At the end of the research journey what we do have in the way of evidence is that in 1834 there was a set of golf clubs in Tasmania. What we do not have is any evidence that golf was actually played in Tasmania in 1834 and, of course, no evidence of when, where and by whom. Nor is there any evidence of D'Oyly as a golfer in India or England. It is of course possible to speculate, in other words to jump to conclusions. To illustrate the pitfalls of jumping to conclusions, two plausible speculative scenarios are presented. The two examples illustrate very contrasting possibilities. There are, of course, many possibilities in between.

First speculative scenario. D'Oyly learned to play golf in India. He brought his clubs to Tasmania, thinking golf would be good healthy exercise during his convalescence. He met up with some fellow officers and other gentlemen in Hobart. A small group then commenced playing golf in 1833/34 somewhere in Hobart and occasionally in New Norfolk.

Second speculative scenario. D'Oyly was not a golfer. He brought to Tasmania a large quantity of household goods and furniture. These could be bought quite cheaply in India and sold in Tasmania at a profit before he returned to India. Golf clubs and balls were being made in India in the 1830s. Clubs could be bought for as little as two rupees each, balls were more expensive²⁰. Believing that the golf clubs would fetch a high price in Tasmania, D'Oyly added them to his baggage. The clubs were not used as golf was not being played in Tasmania in 1833/34. This would explain the use of the term "rare" in the auction sale. Could it be they were the only set of clubs in Tasmania at the time, 1834?

Endnotes

1. The lack of auction results has an important bearing on the research. Where the research had to be done at the State Library of Tasmania (aka Linc) a researcher on Library's list of private researchers was engaged. Her advice was that there was no known source of information where the results of those early Hobart auctions could be found. There would appear to be no way of finding out which items in the sale were sold or not sold.
2. *Charles Eaton: wake for the melancholy wreck* by Veronica Peek, 2012. This is available only as a digital book at www.veronicapeek.com. It is very detailed, is properly referenced and uses many primary sources
3. *Hobart Town Courier*, 13th of September 1833, p3.
4. *Hobart Town Courier*, 11th of July 1834, p3.
5. *Calcutta Magazine & Monthly Register*, 1830-32, available on line via the Hathi Trust. On page 368, 1832, vols 33-36 there is this entry. 'D'Oyly, T. Captain; Deputy Commissary of Ordnance, Ordnance Department, leave from 1st Jan, 1833, to 1st April, 1833, to proceed to the Presidency [Calcutta], on medical certificate. Oct 27.'
6. This extract was supplied by the Asian and African Studies Team at the British Library, 'Captain Thomas D'Oyly, Deputy Commissary of Ordnance, is permitted to proceed to Van Diemen's Land [Tasmania], for the recovery of his health, and to be absent from Bengal on that account for two years'.
7. State Library of Tasmania, Call# AD961/1/2.
8. *Colonial Times* (Hobart) 24th of September 1833, p4.
9. Titles and call numbers: *Admissions, 1830-1954*, HSD 247; *Patient Records, death or discharge, 1830-1966*, HSD 254; *Book by Dianne Cassidy, mental patients only, 1830 – 1930*, SD_ILS_905217.
10. Call # A1074. The two letters are bundled together with other original material by various authors concerning the enquiry into the wreck of the Charles Eaton and the aftermath.
11. *A Biographical, Genealogical and Heraldic Account of the House of D'Oyly*, by William D'Oyly Bayley, London 1845. This book is difficult to track down but Bayley published extracts in *The Topographer and Genealogist: genealogy physiologically considered, with a "tail female" pedigree of D'Oyly*, by Marston, by Kirby, by Kynnersley, by Clarke, by

Clerke, by Holman. This can be read as a facsimile online at <http://fmg.ac/phocadownload/userupload/scanned-sources/tpg2/pp001-027_88-89.pdf>.

12. *Delineations of St Andrews* by Rev. James Grierson, 1833, p216. This book may be read online at: <<https://books.google.com.au/books?id=VCUNAAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>>.
13. The fact of Edward's wife, Hannah, dying at St Andrews is confirmation that Edward D'Oyly, the Gold Medal winner, was indeed Thomas D'Oyly's father. During 1817 and 1818 Edward D'Oyly was in the process of selling Sion Hill Hall, his Yorkshire residence, which was eventually sold in 1820.
14. *The Oriental Sporting Magazine*, May 1830, vol 1, p407, the foundation of the Club is reported in a letter to the editor dated the 23rd of December 1829. This can be read online via the Hathi Trust. Also, *The Bengal Hurkaru*, 23rd of December 1829, p2. This can be read on microfilm at the British Library and other leading libraries.
15. Date of marriage found at <<http://bdespain.org/gencol/famline/nlh-anc/pafg07.htm>>
16. *Alphabetical List of Officers of the Bengal Army*. This can be read online at: <<https://archive.org/stream/alphabeticallist00dodwrich#page/121/mode/1up>>.
17. *Bengal Hurkaru*, 30th of March 1831, 1st of April 1831, 2nd of February 1832.
18. *Bengal Hurkaru*, 23rd of December 1829, 30th March, 3rd of April, 15th of April 1830. Each club, Dum Dum GC and Calcutta GC, had its own course and its own Secretary. While the membership in each was different, there was considerable overlap.
19. Royal Blackheath Archives, minute of 12th of June 1830, where Dr Charles Ferrier, Assistant Surgeon in the Madras Army and prominent member of Royal Blackheath, sends news of the formation of the Dum Dum Golfing Club, and Royal Blackheath undertakes to send a copy of their Rules to the Dum Dum Captain. *Bengal Hurkaru*, 23rd of March 1831, contains a covering letter from Blackheath Secretary, George Lindsay, with said copy of the Blackheath Rules.
20. *The Oriental Sporting Magazine*, May 1830, vol 1, p407. *The Bengal Hurkaru*, 23rd of December 1829, p2.

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1. Thelma M'Kay, a private researcher at Linc, the State Library of Tasmania, examined and reported on the medical records of the New Norfolk Hospital. She also advised on other aspects of the research.
2. Ruth Binny, New Norfolk Historical Society.
3. Laurie Rae, Senior Curator at the British Golf Museum, checked the R&A archived membership lists to confirm Edward D'Oyly's membership in 1817.
4. Bill Gibson, for launching Norman and me on this interesting, though at times frustrating, research project.
5. The photographic lab of the Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office produced the image from the original *Trumpeter General* and gave permission to use it for non-commercial purposes.



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