



GOLF SOCIETY

of

AUSTRALIA



**Members Handbook
2026**

Golf Society of Australia Inc.

Reg. No. A0003262H

Registered Office

7A Canberra Grove
Beaumaris, Victoria 3193

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WEBSITE:

golfsocietyaust.com

Patron

Mrs Anne Court AM

Office Bearers

President

Miss K. (Kim) Hastie

Treasurer

Mrs D. (Grace) Rew

Hon. Secretary

Mrs S. (Stella) Cugley

Committee

Collections and Library

Miss K. (Kim) Hastie
Mr G. (Grant) Nicholson
Mr I. (Ian) Weir

Website

Miss K. (Kim) Hastie

Dinners and Events

Mrs S. (Stella) Cugley
Mr M. (Martin) Maguire
Mr A. (Aaron) Newnham

Golf Historians

Mr D. (Doug) Turek

Social Media

Mr T. (Tim) Taylor

The Long Game Editor

Mr G. (Graeme) Ryan

Hickory Co-Ordinators

Mr J. (John) Trevorrow
Mr I. (Ian) Weir

Golf Australia Nominee

Mr D. (David) Greenhill

Hon. Auditor

Mr G. (Greg) Vawdrey

Past Presidents

The Society has been fortunate in having had Presidents and other office bearers who are well versed in the history and traditions of golf.

A red jacket decorated is accorded each President as their badge of office.

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|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Mr D. W. Bachli MBE | 1982 - 1986 |
| Miss B. Cheney MBE | 1986 - 1988 |
| Dr K. F. Shepherd RFD, VRD & Bar | 1988 - 1990 |
| Mr P. A. Rosenhain DFC | 1990 - 1992 |
| Mr D. H. Lawrence | 1992 - 1994 |
| Mr D. W. J. Cox | 1994 - 2000 |
| Mrs A. Court AM | 2000 - 2002 |
| Mr K. H. Wood AM | 2002 - 2007 |
| Mr I. Rennick | 2007 - 2011 |
| Mr G. A. Vincent AM | 2011 - 2016 |
| Mr G. J. Ryan | 2016 - 2022 |
| Miss K. A. Hastie | 2022 |

2026 Program of Events

February 16 Monday

Dinner

Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club

April 20 Monday

Golf Historians

Australian Golf Centre

May 12 Tuesday

Don Lawrence Trophy

Woodlands Golf Club

June 22 Monday

Dinner

Yarra Yarra Golf Club

July 5 Sunday - 7 Tuesday

2026 Australian Hickory Shaft Open Championship

Brisbane Golf Club

July

Golf Historians

TBC

August 31 Monday

President's Trophy

Commonwealth Golf Club

August 16 Sunday

Annual Hickory Day

Frank Shepherd Trophy for Men

Burtta Cheney Trophy for Women

Frankston Golf Club

2026 Program of Events *continued*

October 12 Saturday

Golf Historians
Queenscliff Golf Club

September 12 Saturday and 13 Sunday

Victorian Hickory Shaft Championships
Queenscliff Golf Club and Barwon Heads Golf Club

October 5 Monday

Dinner
Royal Melbourne Golf Club

November 9 Monday

AGM and Cocktail Party
Doug Bachli Trophy
Victoria Golf Club

January to December

Hickory Golf Events

*Monthly Hickory Heroes dates and locations to be advised
by the Hickory Coordinator.
Hickory clubs available for hire from GSA.*

Members are advised either by email or mail the dates,
times and locations of all Golf Society events.

Members are also reminded to regularly monitor the Society's website.

www.golfsocietyaust.com

Vision Statement

'Preserve, share and celebrate the history of golf in Australia'

Statement of Purposes

1. To collate and record the history of golf in Australia.
2. Bring together Society members to enjoy one another's company by arranging golf days, dinners and other events.
3. Arrange Golf Historians Forums with guest speaker's presentations of historical note and interest.
4. Manage, develop and enhance the heritage golf collection and work towards the establishment of a National Golf Museum with Golf Australia.
5. To co-operate with any club, association, society or individual within Australia and overseas whose purposes are like those of the Golf Society of Australia.
6. Communicate our aims and activities using appropriate technology to members and the wider golf community.

President's Summary

The Golf Society enjoyed a successful 2025 with members and guests enjoying a full program of traditional events. We visited many of our regular venues and some new regional ones.

Growing and maintaining an engaged membership is important to the Society and pleasingly member numbers remained stable for the year and we welcomed eleven new members.

The Golf Society of Australia acts as the Museum Committee for Golf Australia; our role is to manage their golf collection. Late in 2025 we engaged a new Archive Assistant to assist with our increased and improved focus on managing the Collection, whilst exploring potential new displays and sharing opportunities.

During the year, we started a magazine and journal audit. The main task was to sort the duplicates, list by title and store appropriately. This worthwhile project is almost complete and revealed several titles and interesting vintage pieces. A second and on-going project is an audit of the Golf Australia Library. The many duplicates identified were removed and will be offered to the membership along with some de-accessioned artworks.

Several representatives from the National Heritage group continued to connect through Zoom meetings. These informal discussions are productive and the sharing of each other's activities and goals is beneficial. Discussions focus on the National and International hickory calendar and joint history projects. An online Australian golf history time line is the first project planned.

Three issues of our newsletter, *'The Long Game'* were produced. We are proud of our newsletter, which we share nationally and internationally. Editor John Trevorro stepped down from the role, and I give thanks for producing such informative and enjoyable reading these past couple of years. This year we welcome Past President and Life member Graeme Ryan as our new Editor. Graeme brings a wealth of experience and passion for golf history to the role.

Our website is kept up to date with member news, event reports and photos along with information about the Collection and Library.

The Society maintains a Facebook page, and we are fortunate to have members who regularly contribute to our page. We wish to see it grow, so I encourage members to use the page and welcome appropriate and interesting content.

Interest and participation in hickory golf continues to grow. This year we held the 2nd Victorian Hickory Shaft Championships at Yarrowonga Mulwala Golf Resort. It was a successful few days, combining golf with an Historians forum, a Buy Swap and Sell session and a dinner with a guest speaker.

We had a good field, with entries from our AGHS - NSW counterparts. A pleasing aspect of their participation meant we were able to play for the Al Howard Trophy. This challenge event between two the history entities has not been contested for some years. The GSA team were victorious.

The Australian Hickory Championships were held in South Australia, a well organised and attended event, saw several Society members feature well in the main events.

We are fortunate to have many members volunteer their time and expertise, ensuring committees can grow the Society, improve members benefits and commit to the objectives of our visionary founding members.

In closing, I give thanks to the clubs we visited during the year, their generosity and hospitality is appreciated and lastly thank our members for all their support during the year. I look forward to seeing many of you at the golf events and functions that are planned for 2026.

History of the Society

The concept of an Australian Golf Society was initiated by Dr Ken Shepherd. Early in 1981 at Royal Melbourne Golf Club. He suggested to Mr John Snell that a society should be formed to research, document and preserve the history of golf in Australia.

They were in agreement and invited Messrs Doug Bachli, Bill Edgar and Peter Rosenhain to assist in the formation of the Golf Society of Australia. Each invited five interested golfers to the inaugural meeting which was held on 24 November 1981. Of the twenty-six invited, eighteen attended and agreed to form a society which became known as the Golf Society of Australia Inc.

After several meetings, the following objectives were determined:

- *Establish a golf museum*
- *Create a collection of golf memorabilia Arrange regular golf days*
- *Arrange dinners with guest speakers*

A constitution for the '*Golf Society of Australia*' was prepared, and the first annual general meeting was held on the 26 October 1982. A copy of the current constitution is available for perusal by members from the Honorary Secretary.

The inaugural Office Bearers and Committee were:

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President | Mr D. W. Bachli MBE |
| Vice President | Mr P. A. Rosenhain DFC |
| Treasurer | Dr K. F. Shepherd RFD, VRD & Bar |
| Secretary | Miss B. Burgess |
| Committee | Miss B. Cheney MBE Mr W. A. Edgar MBE Mr B. Green Mr J. A. Snell and Mr F. A. Lester |
| Auditors | Mr J. M. Hilliard and Mr K. A. Christian |
| Publicity Officer | Mr D. H. Lawrence |

The first committee meeting was held on 29 November 1982 at the offices of the Victorian Ladies Golf Union (VLGU) at 589 Malvern Road, Toorak.

The Society's activities were launched at Royal Melbourne Golf Club on Sunday 27 February 1983 in the form of a 'Hickory Day' with members playing a 9-hole competition on the West Course using hickory shafted clubs.

In 1985, when the Australian Golf Union (AGU) moved to its building in Cecil Street, South Melbourne, space was provided for a museum in which an excellent collection of golfing memorabilia was displayed.

When the newly formed Golf Australia moved to smaller premises in Coventry Street, South Melbourne in 2006, a large proportion of the collection was moved into storage.

At this time, golf became one of the sports to be included in the National Sports Museum (NSM) at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Items were displayed from 2006 to 2019 and due to redevelopment of the NSM (now the Australian Sports Museum) items on display were returned to storage in December 2019. In the near future it hoped that golf will be represented again in a more contemporary way.

A selection of clubs, items, trophies and photographs are displayed at Moonah Links Golf Course, Fingal, on the Mornington Peninsula.

Golf Events

The 'Hickory Day' was the first golfing event held. Men compete for the Frank Shepherd Trophy, whilst the women play for the Burtta Cheney Trophy which is in the form of a mounted club bearing the name of the great Joyce Wethered. Originally 9 holes but now played as an 18-hole event.

In 1995, the Don Lawrence Trophy a 4BBB event was introduced to commemorate this extremely gifted golf writer who was a President of the Society.

President's Trophy 9-hole Stroke event for which a morning qualifying round is held to determine the leading four players who then play sudden death match play to determine the winner.

To close the year the Doug Bachli Trophy is played for at the Society's Annual General Meeting Day. It is competed for by both men and women members.

9 holes Hickory golf rounds are arranged regularly.

Dinners

Whilst the golfing events attract a strong representation of Society members; it is our dinners that attract the greatest numbers of members and guests. The Society has been fortunate to have had many quality speakers ensuring entertaining and informative evenings.

There are usually three dinners each year, but additional dinners have been held when a significant speaker becomes available.

We are always looking for guest speakers; if you know of someone, please let us know.

The Long Game

In 1996 the first edition of Society's, now regular publication, '*The Long Game*' was produced. Since then, it has kept its members up to date with Society activities.

It features a variety of articles about early Australian golf, as well as items of interest from like organisations throughout the world. The newsletter is produced in print and digital form. All issues of *The Long Game* can be found on the website. To assist with an article search, a two-part Index can be found on the website.

Golf Historians Forums

Another successful initiative by the Society has been the Golf Historians Forums which commenced in 2004 and have become regular fixtures on the Society's calendar. At these meetings, we invite members, their guests and members of the visiting club to a daytime meeting – which can be either a city or country golf club. We encourage the club we visit to share and showcase their history.

There are presentations on a variety of matters relating to the collection and preservation of records, cataloguing of museum items, writing club histories and the like.

These Forums provide an opportunity for attendees to learn more about the history of clubs and golf in Victoria, and in the Show and Tell segment share information significant golfing memorabilia and artefacts. In recent times most Forums now include 9 or 18 holes of golf.

Like the dinners we are open to suggestions for topics presenters and venues.

Golf Australia Museum Committee

Golf Australia is the governing body of golf in Australia. Under a Golf Australia by-law, the Golf Society of Australia acts as the Museum Committee and is responsible managing Golf Australia's golf heritage collection and library.

A Collection Committee with guidance of a part-time Archivist Assistant undertake various activities managing and curating the collection and library. The archive collection software 'Mosaic' is used to catalogue the collection.

We welcome donations of books, magazines and memorabilia – they are subject to review by the Committee, using our collection criteria. Our emphasis is Australian golf and its many facets.

This coming year, we will work to improve the accessibility and visibility of the collection with the use of new display opportunities and improved technology.

If any members would like to assist in this area, please contact any Committee members for further details.

Display Locations

The Australian Golf Centre is now open with various items from the collection on display in the Thomson Room. A rotation of displays is planned in this well utilised room.

A selection of items from the collection are on loan and displayed at:

Moonah Links Golf Course

Mornington Peninsula
Peter Thomson Drive
off Truemans Road, Fingal, Victoria 3939

www.moonahlinks.com.au

Open:

Clubhouse hours

Museum Collection List

The collection of anything pertaining to Australian golf heritage or the history of golf in Australia.

Clubs, balls, tees and bags - range of styles and types over time, including those noteworthy for their style, maker or use, unique and unusual designs.

Trophies and medals - relating to significant events and winners.

Photographs - golfers, winners of significant events.

Apparel and golf fashions - range of styles or used by significant golfers in major events.

Score cards - course records and other significant scores, changes to courses.

Rules - records of rules, changes, and decisions.

Golf tuition - any related items, including books, films and training aids.

Courses and green-keeping - material relating to design and architecture, construction and management.

Books - printed materials relating to all aspects of golf including tuition, courses and course design, biographies and autobiographies, club histories, handbooks, and Australian golf magazines.

Historical accounts - written by notable people, or about events and places.

Club records - historical records of golf clubs and courses.

Australian club histories - are especially welcome for inclusion in the library and for listing on the database of Australian golf club histories.

Golf course locations - details of changes to golf course locations are being compiled in three sections: metropolitan, country, and those no longer in existence.

Collection - Some Significant Contents

The collection contains many items of golfing historical interest including about 1500 different objects and several thousand books and magazines. Recently there have been some notable additions to the collection such as books, magazines, Peter Toogood awards, trophies, and memorabilia along with a Hickory Driver used by Alf Toogood in the 1906 British Open. Items relating to Jarrod Lyle's golfing career have also been placed in the collection.

Some other interesting items are the clubs used by Louis Whyte in 1894 to win the first Australian Amateur Championship; clubs used by Warren Bennett who won the 1994 Centenary Australian Amateur 100 years later; clubs used by Doug Bachli, until recently the only Australian to win the British Amateur Championship and a putter used by Peter Thomson when he won one of his five British Open Championships. The driver which David Graham used to win the 1981 US Open Championship is also in the collection. There are many other items in the collection ranging through clubs, balls, tees, trophies, score cards, regalia, photographs, books, and other golfing paraphernalia.

Golf Clubs and Equipment

Clubs used by Louis A. Whyte, first Australian Amateur Champion, 1894.

Club used by P. C. Anderson, winner British Amateur Championship, 1893.

Clubs used by greats of Australian golf including Doug Bachli, Peter Thomson, Greg Norman, Lindy Goggin, David Graham, Ossie Pickworth, Betty Kernot and Karrie Webb.

Golf balls of various sizes and makes, tees, etc.

Golf club making tools and equipment.

The Peter Toogood Collection.

Trophies

Multiple VGA, VLGU, WGV and Golf Australia trophies and 'presentation' items.

Trophies won by Harry Williams, W. A. Higgins, Alf Toogood and Peter Toogood.

Mona Macleod, Judith Percy et al.

Photographs

Individual photographs of players, teams and events.

Set of photographs of each Australian amateur and open champion, men and women.

Clothing

Royal & Ancient Golf Club Captain's jacket and medal.

Australian team uniforms. Burtta Cheney's personal clothing items.

Collection of signed golf gloves.

Library Collection

Books on all aspects of golf, including instructional, courses and course design, biographies and autobiographies, club histories, handbooks and Australian golf magazines.

There are more than 1,000 books and 2000 magazines on file.

The library is in the Thomson Room at the Australian Golf Centre, Sandringham.

Essentially a browsing and research library, if you wish to visit or borrow a book contact the Secretary to arrange.

Ephemera

Scrapbooks, programs, scorecards, and tickets.

The collection includes several tournament programs from national and international events.

Resources collected by golf journalists Don Lawrence, Brendan Moloney, Trevor Grant and Jack Dillion.

Membership Guidelines

To maintain membership levels and the ongoing future of the Society, members are encouraged to invite friends and colleagues who meet the membership guidelines to consider nomination for membership.

Nominees to be considered for membership require a proposer and seconder and will need to complete a nomination form. When nominating a candidate proposers and seconders are encouraged to consider the following guidelines.

The primary aim of the Golf Society of Australia is to preserve the history of golf in Australia and members should have a genuine interest in the traditions of the game. Prospective members should be able to demonstrate this in one or more of the following ways.

1. Achieved life membership of their club.
2. A club member of good reputation who is a proven and substantial collector of golf memorabilia and/or who is recognised as being well versed in the traditions of the game.
3. Served as an office bearer or other voluntary capacity at their golf club for several years.
4. Achieved major golfing successes at club, state, or national level.
5. Represented their club at Pennant.
6. Worked in a voluntary capacity at state or national administrative level for some years.
7. In the opinion of the committee, a person of integrity and significant contributor to the game who has made a positive impact and expected to be a valuable member.

Membership Categories

1. Ordinary Members have voting and full playing rights
2. International Members may be accepted if they reside permanently overseas.
3. Youth Members are 30 years of age or younger. Upon reaching 31 years they are eligible, subject to Committee approval for Ordinary Membership and full yearly fees will be applicable with no joining fee.

Fees for categories 2 and 3 shall be:

- a) Decided by the committee for International Members initially set at sixty percent but may be altered by the committee as required.
- b) Youth Members shall pay no fees.

These categories will not have voting rights yet are able to fully participate in society events.

Life Members

Mr D. W. (Doug) BACHLI MBE*

Miss B. (Burtta) CHENEY MBE*

Mr D. W. J. (Daryl) COX*

Mr W. A. (Bill) EDGAR MBE*

Mr D. H. (Don) LAWRENCE*

Mr P. A. (Peter) ROSENHAIN DFC*

Dr K. F. (Ken) SHEPHERD RFD, VRD & Bar*

Mr J. A. (John) SNELL*

Mrs R. E. (Rosemary) WAKEHAM*

Mrs J. (Anne) COURT AM

Mr J. (John) LINDSAY*

Mr K. H. (Keith) WOOD AM*

Mr I. (Ian) RENNICK*

Mr G. A. (Geoff) VINCENT AM

Mr R. (Dick) KIRBY OAM

Mr G. J. (Graeme) RYAN

**DECEASED*



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