

# THE LONG GAME

— Tribute to an art genius —



## GOLF SOCIETY

— of —

### AUSTRALIA

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The great Hickory Test Match • Early golf in Barwon Heads  
Farewell to Robert 'Bob' Wade • From the GSA history collection  
Dr MacKenzie book review • Saudi Arabia and international golf  
No1 senior golfer • History Forum

# President's Report

Kim Hastie

Welcome to the first edition of *The Long Game* for this year, and a warm welcome also to the newest members of the Golf Society, whose names you can see listed on this page. Our membership continues to grow, which bodes well for our future.

Our first dinner at the Metropolitan Golf Club opened the year's program of events. An entertaining and enlightening evening was enjoyed by 138 members and guests who heard from Edinburgh-based visiting speaker Dr Joshua Ralton.

Joshua gave us an insight into Saudi Arabia's move into world sport and most recently professional golf.

I wish to acknowledge and give thanks to Mike Clayton who put us in contact with Joshua.

A full report on the evening is featured in this issue. We also took the opportunity to record Joshua's talk, so if you would like to listen please visit our website [www.golfsocietyaust.com](http://www.golfsocietyaust.com)

For 2024 and this issue of *The Long Game*, we welcome Committee member John Trevorow as the new Editor and give huge thanks to Greg Bain who stepped down at the end of 2023.

Greg came to the Editor role in 2018. His passion for interesting and quality reading along with significant publishing experience has ensured our newsletter remains a signature benefit to our membership. We thank you Greg.

A bit more about John, a reporter, sub-editor, and newspaper and magazine editor for 43 years. He trained as a journalist at *The Herald* afternoon newspaper and worked at the *Herald Sun* and *Leader Community Newspapers*.

John served on the Australian Press Council for 3 years and is a life member of the Melbourne Press Club. He has been a golfer for more than 50 years and is currently a board member at Box Hill GC.

John is calling for contributions and suggestions for future content in *The Long Game*, so feel free to reach out to him.

At the Golf Society we seek to know more about our membership, enabling us to enrich our database and network of knowledge. If you are active in your club's heritage activities or have skills to complement archival heritage and research work, please let us know. We see a benefit to growing a community that can assist each other and the Society.



To close, it is with great sadness that we farewelled Robert "Bob" Wade, a dear friend to many and member of the Society. I hope you enjoy the fitting tribute to Bob in this issue.

We have a full year ahead and I look forward to seeing you at many of the events planned.

## New members

### Welcome to new members

New GA chair Peter Margin becomes an honorary member

Christine Dunn

Ann Forrest

Simon Hibbins

Elizabeth Knight

Cheryle Nye

Chris Wales

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*The Golf Society of Australia was formed in 1982 to research and preserve the history of golf in Australia.*

*As part of this role, the Society manages the Museum and Library for Golf Australia.*



# The great Hickory Test Match

By Ian Monks

The historic Barwon Heads Golf Club will be the setting for the 2024 Victorian Hickory Championships this May – and a unique match pitting Australia against Great Britain

The Golf Society of Australia has challenged the British Golf Collectors Society to a unique Hickory Test Match.

That challenge has been accepted and Paul East for the BGCS is already scouting for extra talent, rallying the English “troops” with references to playing a “familiar foe”. Ian Monks is doing the same for the GSA. Uniquely, the match will see two mixed teams face off on different days on different courses at different ends of the world 16,000km apart. The Australian team will play at Barwon Heads GC on Sunday 19th May as part of the Victorian Hickory Championships. England will play at Royal North Devon GC on 24th May.

GSA's Hickory Heroes co-ordinator, John Trevorrow, has played both courses and believes them to be a great choice with many comparable features and equally testing for hickory golf.

Both courses are steeped in history and both are located off Golf Links Road in their respective towns: Westward Ho! in Devon and Barwon Heads. Royal North Devon has been in continuous use since 1864, the oldest course still operating in England. The land is a town

common, and sheep and ponies graze parts of the course and ribbon fences protect the greens. A major obstacle is the 100-yard wide sleeper-faced bunker that must be crossed on one hole.

Golf at Barwon Heads dates from 1907 and moved to the current site in 1919 where Paul East's famous namesake, Victor East, laid out the course in 1921. (Ed: see story on next page that pushes BH golf back even further to 1900).

A visit by Dr Alister MacKenzie in November 1926 drew the following observation: *All that is necessary to make Barwon Heads the equal of the best British seaside courses of championship dimensions is to bunker it on modern lines. At present the greens, like those of most of your courses, are insufficiently guarded. To that end it has been one of our key objectives – to tighten up the green complexes not only with remodelling bunkers closer to and more across strategic lines but also by incorporating greater use of tightly mown contour hazards such as hollow and drop-offs to not only challenge the golfer but also to add interest and variety to their stroke making.*

The nearby Bass Strait, sand dunes and weather conditions provide a course

reminiscent of famed Scottish links. From early days, BHGC has been a country club offering accommodation. It has hosted the Marrum Cup inter-club event for ladies since 1925. This May, the club will host the Victorian Hickory Championships for the third time. As both BHGC and RNDGC are on the coast, the weather can be expected to be a major influence on the result. Golfers at RND look out over the Bristol Channel, where fierce storms can erupt and push football-sized boulders on to some of the fairways.

The great leveller of our game, the handicap system, will ensure an even contest. To further ensure a level playing field, all players in the ‘Test teams’ must use pre-1935 clubs. Based loosely around Ashes cricket matches, the best 11 stableford scores of a 15-player squad will be aggregated to determine the winning team. A prize for the best score among the 30 players will be awarded.

It is expected that GSA members who are regular players of hickory events will form the Australian team that will be led out by GSA President, Kim Hastie.

To register your interest in the Hickory Test Match, contact Ian Monks at [ianrmonks@bigpond.com.au](mailto:ianrmonks@bigpond.com.au)



Flying their Hickory Test Match colours: Kim Hastie, Mango Maguire, Ian Monks and John Trevorrow anticipate the coming challenge by the Australian team. In England, Paul East and David Adams proudly line up behind the Union Jack as part of the British force.



# Early golf in Barwon Heads

By Patrick Lockie

New research by past Captain Patrick Lockie reveals that golf was played at this coastal gem at least seven years earlier than first thought

The formal history of the Barwon Heads golf club is documented extensively in two official histories.

The first official meeting of the club was in 1907 with the first official tournament of the Club listed as the Easter tournament of 1908 (Ref 1). In both books, however, there is no mention of golf prior to that time in Barwon Heads, but there certainly had been golf played from late 1900.

The first mention of golf in Barwon Heads is an advertisement for the Barwon Heads Coffee Palace. This establishment was almost the only solid structure in Barwon Heads opened in 1889, providing accommodation and meals. The Palace was licensed in 1905, transforming to the Mt Colite Hotel which in turn later became the Barwon Heads Hotel. (Mt Colite is the now disused name for the Bluff).

The Coffee Palace advertised various activities that could be enjoyed as part of ones stay but until September of 1900 there was no mention of golf. In October 1900 and monthly from then on, golf was added to that list. Golf was not advertised in September but access to "First class golf links" was included in the October 29th issue.

ROOM, Sitting-tram. 60 Mor-	Conveyances meet midday train at Woodend, others when requested. Letters, telegrams receive prompt attention. A. T. JAMES, Lesore.	TO-DAY
suit 2 business		TO-DAY
city, 30 Victoria-		TO-DAY
Kitchen, close		TO-DAY
te. 150 Montague-		TO-DAY
bed, unfurnished,		
17 Leslie-terrace,		
ON for gentlemen,		
family. 25 Gre-		
OM, Sittingroom,		
family, house good		
.. E. Melbourne,		
comfortable HOME,		
s. Terms Timore,		
BOARD, LODG-		
mar School, South		
refined country		

The next mention is in the Australasian. That newspaper, published from 1873 until 1946, ran many articles by a writer under the pseudonym *Bulger*, often articles about golf at Royal

Melbourne, making me wonder if the writer was a member at RMGC. The first article on golf in Barwon Heads ran on January 5th 1901; the writer tells us that golf has started, on a 10 hole course .

more widely known. Barwon Heads is one of those places which have started golf, and the lessee of the place is going the right way about it in looking after the links. As I was unable to go there lately I got a correspondent to send me a description of them. He says:—"There is a very nice picturesque ten-hole course. The ground is fairly good, and the lies good. The greens are fairly true, but on the slow side. This being the first year one must not be too fault-finding, but I may mention that last Saturday Messrs. P. C. Anderson, F. M. Douglass, and others played round them in the morning and afternoon, Mr. P. C. Anderson's round being 51 in the morning and 43 in the afternoon, which, I think, will give those who visit Barwon Heads during the summer something to beat. Mr. F. M. Douglass's round in the afternoon was 49, which I also consider very good."

Both names mentioned, PC Anderson and FM Douglas were stalwarts of the Geelong Golf Club, Anderson a previous British amateur winner and multiple Geelong Golf Club champion. The course is described as a ten-hole course at that stage.

The first note of women playing, in mixed foursomes, was on November 12th 1901 in the Geelong Advertiser. The suggestion of an opening, referred to opening of the season, not the links itself.

**GOLF.**  
The picturesquely situated golf links at Barwon Heads were opened yesterday with mixed foursomes, and the weather being delightful the players greatly enjoyed the sport. The winners were Mr N. Campbell and Miss K. Hope.

The Easter tournament seems to have been running by 1905, for several years as per the article in the Geelong Advertiser in April 1905, as it mentions "the annual Easter tournament". There is no earlier mention of results anywhere that I could find, but the terminology suggests the Easter tournament had been running for at least some years prior to 1905. This article also uses the formal term "Barwon Heads Golf Club". Names



very familiar to even current BHGC members including Douglas, Calvert, Bostock and McKewan appear in the results. I also think it worth noting that part of the biggest tournament for the club then, and for many years hence, was mixed.

GOLF.			
During the Easter holidays the annual tournament of the Barwon Heads Golf Club was held, and the course, which was in excellent order, was much praised by the many leading golfers who spent a few days at this popular watering place. The chief event on the programme was a mixed foursome, which resulted in a win for Mrs. F. M. Douglass and T. E. Bostock, who completed the round in 97-11-86; Miss J. Anderson and J. S. M'Gill and Miss Giblin and A. M. Douglass tying for second place, with scores of 90. The following are the best scores:—			
	Gross.	Hcp.	Nett.
Mrs. F. M. Douglass and T. E. Bostock...	97	11	86
Miss J. Anderson and J. S. M'Gill	98	8	90
Miss A. Giblin and A. M. Douglass	101	11	90
Mrs. Maberly Smith and J. S. B. Orr	104	12	92
Mrs. D. Aitken and A. J. Ritchie	104	12	92
Mrs. A. G. McKewan and H. W. Moore	105	11	94
Miss Calvert and S. Ross	107	12	95
Miss G. Poynter and K. Mackinnon	107	9	98
Mrs. H. De Little and F. M. Douglass	100	ser	100
Mrs. H. W. Moore and D. Aitken	120	14	106
Miss Champion and J. Ross	120	13	107
Miss Poynter and A. C. McKewan	132	22	110

That same year on Friday 13th October 1905, the results of a ladies competition to "open the season" appeared in the Australasian. Some very familiar names again appear, and women were clearly very active in the Club from early days.



**GOLF.**

The ladies of the Barwon Heads Golf Club on Tuesday last, at the invitation of Mrs. A. C. McKewan, lunched at her seaside residence, and played for two trophies presented by her to open the season, which commenced on the 1st inst. The course and greens were found to be in excellent order, and the outing was much enjoyed. The singles handicap, one round, 9 holes, was won by Mrs. M. Smith. The following were the best cards handed in:—

Name.	Gross.	Hcp.	Nett.
Mrs. M. Smith...	53	5	48
Miss G. Poynter ...	49	ser.	49
Mrs. McKewan...	50	1	49
Miss Hilda Morrison ...	55	3	52
Mrs. H. W. Moore ...	66	10	56
Miss B. Peebles ...	65	8	57
Miss Poynter ...	66	8	58
Miss Laura Peebles ...	65	5	58

The doubles handicap was won by Miss Hilda Morrison and Miss B. Peebles.

In that article, nine holes was “one round”. Whilst I could not find clear evidence of the location of the original nine holes, it seems extremely likely that it was on the 63 acre Challis farm, on the Geelong Road, the site of the course for the “official” club play from 1908 onwards, and also purchased by the Club in 1910. This land was later swapped, in 1960, for ownership of the 32 acres of government land on which the current first six holes had been built many years prior under Permissive Occupancy. This land and the swap will be the subject of a future article.

Possibly worth noting that although the land was purchased from the Challis family in 1910, the lessee and ratepayer of the land remained, until 1917, George Golightly. In those days the lessee paid the rates. Golightly purchased the Coffee Palace in 1905 and very soon after the premises were licensed to become the Mt Colite Hotel. Perhaps the reason the publican remained the lessee was to allow alcohol to be served in the rudimentary clubhouse at the original course? Notices, and a card at the Mt Colite hotel advertised that

green fees were payable either at the hotel or Club (Ref 2).

So golf started in 1900 in Barwon Heads. Women were active very early in the Club, and still remain proudly so, with club having a very high 38% of its membership female.

### References

1. Barwon Heads Golf Club 1907-23. G.C Adams 1973
2. Heads You Win, a History of the Barwon Heads Golf Club. Weston Bate 2007



GSA hickory golfers ready for action at Barwon Heads GC. Author and former captain Patrick Lockie is seventh from right in blue vest.



# Farewell to a great artist

By Kim Hastie, GSA President

It is with great sadness that the Golf Society mourns the passing of Robert (Bob) Wade OAM, a distinguished watercolour artist with international acclaim and a champion golfer and gentleman.

Bob died in January at the age of 93. He was a friend of golfers everywhere, and his wonderful portfolio of work is enjoyed all over the world, either through books, exhibitions, teachings, his own social media page, and the countless clubhouses around the globe that have a Bob Wade hanging somewhere. His beautiful watercolours grace the walls of all Melbourne's sandbelt clubs and dozens of others in Australia and NZ. The R&A clubhouse at St Andrews has his painting of the 18th hole at the Old Course, and his art also hangs in Royal Dornoch, Augusta, Wentworth, Gullane and the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Bob was a longtime member of the Golf Society. He was a 71-year member of the Metropolitan Golf Club – playing off single figures for many of those years – and a foundation member at The National. His wife Ann was also an accomplished golfer, a member at Metropolitan for more than 50 years and club champion at The National.

Bob contributed to the Society's activities in several ways either as a guest speaker at our dinners, presenting at Historian's forum or writing an article for the Long Game newsletter.

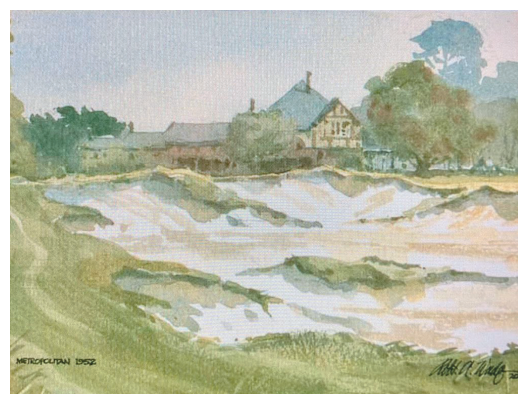
We are indebted to the Wade family for many anecdotes. One delightful Bob Wade story is how he found a deep friendship with international singing star (and fellow watercolour artist) Tony Bennett, who was visiting Melbourne from the US. Bob received a phone call at home from the Hilton Hotel, asking if they could put through a call from "a Mr Tony Bennett". The singer told Bob he admired his art, and asked if he could visit him at home that day.

Bennett in his autobiography calls Bob "the finest watercolourist in the

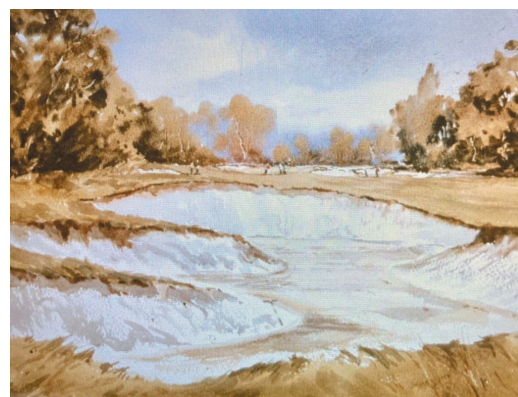
world" and proudly calls him his art teacher. Bennett also told of the time he brought fellow singer k.d.lang to Bob and Ann's home in Melbourne for dinner. "When the meal was over, k.d. jumped up and said 'Can I help with the dishes?'" Bob later told how he and Bennett retired to his art studio after the meal and k.d. said "you guys go off and I'll help Ann".

Bob was honoured with dozens of major art prizes from institutions in Australia and around the world. He touched our lives in many ways, and we will remember him with great affection and will always have his beautiful art to enjoy. He was a true gentleman who will be much missed.

The Society is fortunate to have on file an interview that Bob did with Society members Brendan Moloney and Virginia Gorrell in 2012. An edited version is on these pages. We are grateful to Brendan and Virginia for providing the text, it is a wonderful read and tells us so much about the legendary man.



Robert A Wade OAM – Metropolitan's clubhouse 1952



Robert A Wade OAM – watercolour 5th hole



The 18th at St Andrews Old Course



# In conversation with Robert Wade

GSA members Brendan Moloney and Virginia Gorrell sat down with Robert Wade OAM at his Malvern home in 2012. In this edited conversation, we learn more about the life of this renowned artist and family man.

Robert Wade was born on 29 July 1930 in Box Hill, son of Albert and Lillian (Harding) and has a younger brother, Jim. He was educated at Auburn central school and Scotch College. At the beginning of World War II the family moved to Hawthorn and then Glen Iris.

"My father was an artist," he recalled. "From the time I could walk and talk, I believe at the age of 11 months, people used to ask me what I would do when I grew up. My answer was always to be an artist like my Dad. I never wavered for my whole life. You won't see any of my father's work. He was a graphic artist or a commercial artist as they were called in those days. He did a lot of work, for the Regent, State, Majestic and Lyceum (theatres). They were big displays. That's where I cut my teeth. I was allowed a bucket of paint and a three-inch brush to paint an area of the desert for Gary Cooper in *Beau Geste*. My children don't paint. I am so thankful and grateful that it passed from my Dad to me.

"After Scotch I went to the university of hard knocks. My Dad was 39 and I was in my last term at school and 18 when he died. That was the day I left school and took over the company and ran it for the next 40 years.

"I got into golf because Tom Crow was a mate of mine at school. He and a few others were always talking about golf. I came home one night and said to Dad that I'd love to play golf. I played football, cricket, tennis, baseball and anything else that was going. He said he'd talk to Uncle Bill, his brother. My uncle took me up to Croydon and before I even stepped on to the golf course he had a lesson arranged with Des Ferguson, the pro. Then we went out and played. I loved it. Uncle Bill told me I had a great idea of the swing and I had to be a member of a club. Two weeks later I was a junior

member at Croydon. Uncle Bill gave me a bag of clubs - two wood, three iron, five iron, seven iron and putter.

"I started with a 27 handicap and it rapidly came down to eight. I played in the Croydon pennant team for a couple of years. I think I only lost one game. I am doing a painting at present for Southern GC. I played my first pennant match there in 1952. The previous Sunday we had gone there and played 36 holes in practice, which was the normal thing then. In the morning I hit a five iron into the par three on the front nine and it went into the hole and came out and sat on the lip. In the afternoon, into the wind with a four iron, I did exactly the same thing again. I turned to the blokes I was playing with and told them I was destined never to have a hole in one. I was right.

"My best handicap was four. When I started to run the company I worked and worked and worked. It was not a happy thing for an 18-year-old to come in and tell them how to run the company. I said to my mother that I would never rest until I could do every single thing in the place better than anyone else. I worked until 10 o'clock every night and then I'd go home and practise drawing and painting until two o'clock and be back at work at seven. I did not have a great deal of time for golf. I just played on Saturday. The business, A.A. Wade Displays, was at 606-608 Burwood Road, Hawthorn.

"Croydon did not have enough players for a junior championship. Hal Kent and I were the only ones so they put us in the B grade championship and we met in the final. I beat him 2 and 1. Afterwards he invited me down to Metro for a game. I'd walked around the course and watched Peter Thomson win his first Australian Open there in 1951 but I'd never played it. We played on the Saturday and on the Sunday night Ian McIntyre, a mutual friend,

rang and asked if I would like to play at Metropolitan. I said I'd love a game. He said he did not mean coming down for a game but becoming a member. I could not believe it. It was like winning Tatts. You could not get into Metro with a gun. It was like Fort Knox. By Wednesday night I was a special member at Metro. That was June 10 1952.

"Things have changed over my 60 years at Metro. So has the big gum tree in front of the clubhouse. It is sicker than ever, wired up all around.

"I'm told the wires holding the tree together are similar to those holding up the big magnolia in front of the clubhouse at Augusta National. I would not know. I've never been there. When I was going to America a lot my agent told me he had arranged a game for me there and I knocked it back. He said most golfers would die to go there. I said, Not this golfer. I think it is the most trumped up, artificial golf course I've ever seen. The courses I like to play and particularly the courses I like to paint look as if they have been there for ever, as if someone has just come in and mown them and put in a flag and a tee. So I told him, Thank you but no thank you. He could not believe it. I have no regrets about this and it has made a good story over the years. I'd much sooner play the Moonah or Ocean courses at the National. They are as natural as you can get."

**Did you introduce fellow Golf Society member Mike Clayton to Metropolitan GC?**

"Yes. Mike's grandfather, Mr R.F. Clayton, was senior history master at Scotch. He taught me British history. His son Geoff, Michael's father, and I were friends at school. When his name started coming up in the schoolboy events, somebody said that was Geoff Clayton's son. I thought, Good Heavens, because Geoff

was hopeless at sport. I played in a trade day out at Eastern and I spotted a great swing. Someone told me that was young Mike Clayton. At that stage he was about 14 and playing No. 1 in their pennant team. That night I rang Geoff and told him that while he had a great swing, his ability would not be realised to its fullest if he stayed at Eastern. He said he'd been thinking about that and had been approached by a few clubs. I asked him about Metro and he said it was out of their reach. I told him it wasn't and took Mike down and we had a game. He was seconded by John Wilson who was also a member of Karrinyup. In his first game as a member Mike hit his shot from the rough on the left of the fifth fairway to about six feet. I said, Great shot, and he said, That's three. He said his ball moved when he addressed it. He was the only one who saw it. I thought this kid was okay. He has always been like that."

#### **Is it true that you carried him to victory in the club foursomes championship?**

"Oh yeah. Some years later he said we should play in it. I said, You wouldn't want to play with me. He said, You are kidding. I could never thank you enough for what you have done for me. We won. It was a great excitement for me. It was 36 holes of stroke at that stage and we were playing the 35th hole with Glynn O'Collins, the club champion at Peninsula and Metro, and John Coffey, another old school mate. Scotch blokes bob up all over the place. We are square and Michael has hit his second on the very front of the 17th green and the pin was right up the back and on the slope. I knocked in a 75-footer for a three and the opponents three-putted. We won the last as well.

We won it twice. In the third year we were beaten by John Wilson and John Kelly who eagled the 16th. Still, I am proud to have my name on the honour board with Mike.

"All I ever wanted to do was paint. I designed and did the artwork for all the printed matter we did. With a young family, time was limited. I painted when I could, always in watercolour. I think watercolour and golf are the same. You never get on top of either of them. Then just when you think you've got it...I don't want to sound egotistical but I had five

rounds in a row at Metro of 72, 73, 72, 73, 71. I thought I would never fail to break 80 again. It was terrific. Next week was the Medal of Medallists and guess who did not break 90.

"In 1977 I decided to concentrate on painting. I went to see an exhibition by an old friend, Robert T. Miller, whose work I had always admired. He told me I should be a member of the Watercolour Society. He was the impetus. I got going again. I set myself a plan of what I hoped to do in five years. It all happened in about a year. I had luck running with me hot and strong. Because the business could be left with the manager, I started travelling overseas. Being recognised and accepted there gave me more confidence. I wrote my first book and it was a world best seller in its class. They wanted me to teach in America and all around the world. I'd had 40 years in the business and had done what I had wanted to do with it. It had provided the kids with a good education. At this stage I met Ann who was so encouraging in what I did. That is how it all started."

#### **Can you remember the first painting you sold?**

"It was to a lady at 25 Weybridge Street, Surrey Hills. I'd always had an incredible memory, until about five years ago. It was a funny little painting of an outdoor dunny in the back yard of my uncle's home at Shoreham. It was surrounded by magnificent trees. I turned it into a little work hut rather than a dunny. The price I asked was four guineas. It was in an exhibition of the Victorian Artists Society and I still have that catalogue. I am a hoarder. Four guineas was not a lot. Eight guineas was a good price and if you were talking about Hans Heyson or John Loxton, you'd be looking at 25 or 30 guineas ...

Greg Norman has one of my paintings of Turnberry where he won the British Open. David Graham saw some of my work when he was playing the Victorian Open at Metro. He contacted me and said he'd love a painting of Metro. I sent it to him but he did not pay. After 12 months I wrote to him and told him I was only an artist and did not play for \$1 million each week. He paid. He apologised that his manager had not taken care of it.

Ben Crenshaw has one. He has a great interest in the history of golf. His painting is of the course at Brookline in Boston where he won the American amateur championship. The course is also famous for Francis Ouimet winning the US Open with a tiny caddie called Eddie Lowery. Eddie went on to make a fortune out of scrap metal. So did Tom Crow.

"Tom rang me out of the blue to tell me he had just sold Cobra to American Brands before I read it in the paper. He did not tell me it was \$75 million. At school, if you were trying to guess who would be the most successful businessman, Tom would have been at the bottom of the list. He would have been at the top for the most successful sportsman. He could play any ball game you mention.

"He was later manager of Precision Golf Forging in Sydney for Clare Higson. We went out to the factory and Tom took me for a tour. He knew every member of the staff and their families. He could also perform any job that was being done in the factory. He knew the whole thing backwards. He decided to have a go on his own after that and went to the States and started Cobra."

#### **You also know Tony Bennett. How did you meet him?**

"It was nothing to do with golf. I was at home when we were living just near Riversdale. The Melbourne Hilton called and said Mr Bennett was on the line. I thought that he was unable to sing that night and wanted me to fill in for him. He said, Mr Wade, my name is Bennett and I am one of your greatest fans. I asked him if he was the Tony Bennett who left his art in San Francisco. He said, That's me. He asked if he could come and visit me right away.

"He arrived at about two o'clock and stayed until about five. He said it was one of the best days of his life. He invited us to the show and we went in to the Hilton. They had tables of 10 but they'd set a table for two in the middle. Just before the show finished the head waiter said Mr Bennett would like to see us at the stage door before we left. He said to let him know whenever we were going to the States. At that stage my son was a stockbroker with J.B. Were in New York



and we were going to the States quite frequently. I gave him a call when we next went there and he flew down from New Jersey where he was performing with Frank Sinatra. He flew down to have lunch and then flew back again for the performance. He is the loveliest man. He is so natural and humble. We've laughed together and cried together when one of his best friends died and they rang while he was here. He is a good painter. He went to art school before he sang."

**Your paintings are seen in some unexpected places, including at public golf courses. How did this come about?**

"About 20 years ago I donated a golf painting to the then Anti Cancer Council and have been doing it every year since. The first one was Bright and the second Ararat. There is also one at Royal Park. It all came about through Tony Charlton. He has been a member at Metro for 60 years and we have been friends for ever. He said they were raising money and asked if I would help. The deal was that the top fund raising clubs would go into a hat and the winner would get a painting of the course. The winners for the last three years have been Kingswood, Keysborough and Southern. They were all on the way to the Cape (Schanck) so it was handy. It was easier than going all the way to Toongabbie."

**How did you find a good hole to paint at Royal Park?**

"With difficulty. I saw Peter Thomson at a funeral, actually, and asked him if he could give me a clue as to where I should look. He said he did not know what I was going to do but he would be very interested in the result. I went out on a shocking day. There was a howling northerly blowing and the temperature was in the 40s. I wandered around and suddenly saw a green with a bunker and a lovely tree. As I was doing some sketching a group of players came along. One of the guys asked, What are you doing there, mate? I told him I had a painting to do for the club. He said, Jeez, aren't you Robert Wade? He told me he was doing art at the University of the Third Age and he'd just finished a wonderful self-portrait of himself. You can't really do a self-portrait of anyone



else. We had a nice chat. The painting is bolted to the wall for security."

**You were a foundation member of the National. Why did you join? A lot of people were predicting the scheme would never get off the ground.**

"That's what I said about it too. Who would go to Cape Schanck to play golf? When it was advertised in the paper, I thought if there was ever a project doomed to fail, this was it. Two of my boys played the Cape Schanck (public) course and looked at the new layout. One of them who is quite entrepreneurial came home and said I had to see it. We drove around and Peter, my son, said the only word for it was sensational. Ann was taken up by the whole thing as well. We sold the house at Phillip Island and built a new one down there. We moved in on 11 March 1988 and the club opened the next day. I hit off not long after seven o'clock on a wet, windy Cape Schanck day and putted on greens that were quicker than a table top. I thought, Bloody hell, what have I done? We thought that life without Metropolitan did not exist. Ann has been a member there for 57 years. But we soon realised what a great place it is. It appeals to me in two ways. The Old course is magnificent. And it is a magnificent area with the ocean and coast views. We've had 24 very happy years down there."

**You have taught a lot of artists. Do you enjoy this?**

"Yes. Painting is a very insular occupation. You are stuck in the studio

all day long. I'm an outgoing bloke. One of the leading teachers in America said I should do some workshops. She offered to organise one for me in Maine. Teaching carries the thing on. I've had so much from the profession. I want to give something back. It just grew. I made so many wonderful friends. That is what I miss. We don't travel now. I've had heart surgery, prostate surgery, two new knees, you name it, and I can't get travel insurance any more. I miss the wonderful companionship. The e-mail and the phone are great but nothing beats being able to put your arm around someone or shake hands."

**Have you based your style on the works of other painters?**

"Everyone starts out copying. I copied Hans Heysen and Harold Herbert. That is okay as long as you don't copy for the rest of your life or exhibit them and claim it is your painting when it is not. The golf painting came a long time after I'd made my name as an artist. Tony Charlton came into my office in Burwood Road where I had a painting of Metro on the wall. He asked if it was mine and said he did not know I painted golf courses. He asked me to do three for the brochure for the Vic Open. I did three of Metro and Kingston Heath saw them and wanted three done. Then Commonwealth wanted one and it went from there. I am one of the luckiest blokes you will ever see. Apart from losing my Dad and being forced into the business, my life has been spent doing what I love doing and getting paid for it."

# From the GSA history collection

The display cabinets in the Peter Thomson Room at the Australian Golf Centre in Cheltenham house a selection of items from the Golf Society/Golf Australia history collection.

These displays are about to be updated, paying tribute to two trail-blazers in Australian golf history – Peter Thomson AO, CBE and Jan Stephenson OAM. Here are some of the artefacts that will soon go on display, and the text describing their sporting lives.

In the early 1940s in Melbourne, the fairways at Royal Park Golf Club in inner-urban Parkville were largely deserted as the nation was preoccupied with the struggles of World War 2. A young Peter Thomson, who lived nearby in Brunswick, first got to know the golf course helping his uncle train greyhounds on the empty fairways. Soon, young Peter acquired a single hickory-shafted golf club and would scour the bushes beside the fairways to find lost balls. Peter was born in 1929, the same year the R&A approved the use of steel-shafted clubs, but hickories were still in common use in the early war years in Australia.

Peter taught himself to play golf. Brilliantly. By the time he was 13, members at Royal Park would occasionally find several balls on a deserted green, all close to the pin. They looked around to find who had hit them there, only to see a shy teenager hiding in the trees or bushes. And golf history turned on the fact they didn't scold this young boy as an interloper. Rather, they saw his talent and encouraged him to play the game and join the golf club. By 16, Peter Thomson had his handicap down to scratch and won the Royal Park GC championship in 1945 against men much older and stronger than him. Thus began a life forged in golf, tournaments

and diplomacy, and golf course design and pro tours around the world.

Peter Thomson AO, CBE is famed for winning the Open Championship in Britain five times, from 1954 to 1965. Before those famous victories, he toughened himself for pro competition by playing hundreds of exhibition matches, particularly on long tours with Australia's Norman Von Nida and South Africa's Bobby Locke in Australia, Africa, Britain and other parts of the world. He played and competed often in Asia and helped to develop the Asian tour and had a close relationship with Japan and Japanese players.

He went to America for the first time in January 1950 and made a number of short return visits to tackle the US Tour throughout the 1950s. He won one tournament there, and despite making several friends among local pros, he didn't enjoy the lifestyle or the golf courses and the American golfers' obsession with yardage charts, target golf and money. "The life in America was completely foreign to me," he recalled.

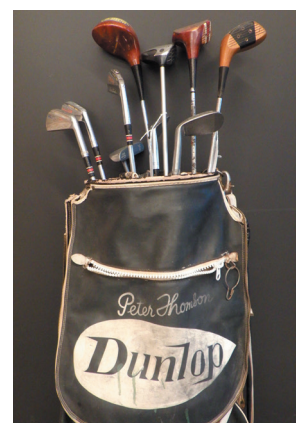
His natural milieu, in golf and social life, was Britain, particularly northern England and Scotland where he won his five Open Championships. He was a 'feel' player who judged which club to play by the run in the ground and the wind

and the terrain on the British courses he loved so much. He also respected manners and etiquette and was always impeccably dressed, so he fitted in comfortably in Britain and found an affinity with its people and customs.

He silenced any critics who thought he couldn't succeed in America by returning – 35 years after first setting foot in California – to play on the US Senior PGA Tour in 1985. He won nine tournaments and finished top of the money list and said later it was the most lucrative year of his whole tournament career. In 1988 he was inducted into the USGA Hall of Fame.

Away from the golf course, Thomson was a hugely respected father figure and occasional disciplinarian to two generations of Australian pro golfers as chairman for 32 years of the Australian PGA. He was also a man with wide interests outside golf – in art, music, literature and theatre – and is also remembered as a fine writer of many thoughtful press articles and by-lined columns in Australian newspapers.

In the late 1960s, Thomson added golf architecture to his repertoire and with a number of colleagues over three decades helped to design or remodel scores of golf courses in Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Japan, Africa, Europe and the Americas.



At St Andrews in 1957 with No.1 caddie Wallace Gillespie; an instructional LP; 1950s bag with clubs owned and used by the master



Jan Stephenson OAM is a trailblazer for women's golf. She took her golfing brilliance from winning schoolgirl championships in 1960s Sydney to winning majors on the US LPGA tour. Along the way she mixed glamour and sex appeal with sporting ability to help shine a media spotlight on women's professional golf and drag thousands of extra paying spectators through the gates at tournaments. She combined winning and notoriety in equal measure, and was never afraid to stand out, or to stand up to her many critics unused to bold, independent women in sport.

Stephenson was born in December 1951, the daughter of a Sydney bus driver who encouraged her to take up golf at the age of 10. She won five consecutive NSW Schoolgirl Championships from 1964 and then three straight NSW Junior Championships. She turned pro in 1973 and burst on to the national scene by winning the women's Australian Open title in her first year. She quickly turned her eyes to the richer American tournaments and joined the US LPGA tour in 1974, being named its rookie of the year. She went on to win three majors among 27 pro victories in the US, Japan and Europe. Her return visits to Australia included winning a second Australian Open in 1977.

Stephenson is blessed with an athletic stature and cover-girl beauty and quickly realised that sex appeal sells. In the early 1980s she earned public fame – and the wrath of some tour officials and some of her playing contemporaries – by

taking part in promotional photo shoots that earned her front-page exposure in magazines and newspapers and made her one of the world's best-known female athletes. In 1983, Stephenson agreed to compete against fellow Australian professional Jane Lock in a winner-takes-all \$10,000 challenge played over 72 holes in conjunction with the men's Victorian Open at Metropolitan GC. It was Stephenson's first return to Australian golf for several years, and she ruffled official feathers by announcing she was bringing a stock of posters with photos of herself in lingerie and fashion wear produced by a Japanese company under her signature label. She would sign the posters and sell them to golf fans at the tournament for \$2 each, she said. Perturbed Victorian golf officials called an emergency meeting to decide whether this would be allowed, eventually deciding that the lingerie pictures were not indecent!

Stephenson's most successful sporting years were in the early to mid 1980s, where she regularly kept the engravers busy winning tournament trophies, and the ticket-sellers busy as fans poured in through the gates, attracted by the showbiz mixed with her extraordinary sporting ability. She employed a personal secretary to help handle the thousands of fan letters she received each year. She championed the creation of the women's senior US golf tour, and won several times on this tour of champions.

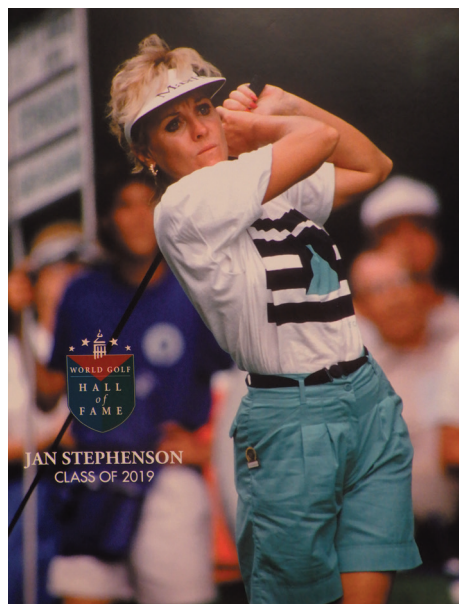
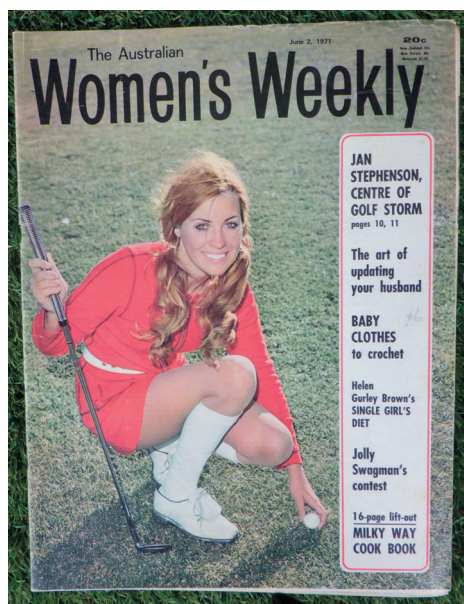
She has been recognised for her services to golf and charity, notably multiple sclerosis. In 1985 she was

inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the 2018 Australia Day Honours list. She was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2019.

Home for Stephenson these days is in the Tampa area of Florida, USA. In 2017 she bought a rundown golf course called Tarpon Woods, which she modernised and created as a retreat for military veterans, first responders and disabled people. For this work, she was awarded the Military Order of the Purple Heart.



In 1983 Jan Stephenson autographed this glamour poster for Metropolitan Golf Club professional Brian Twite. In 2009, she returned for the Australian Women's Open at Metro and she signed the poster again for the much-loved veteran Twite: "Brian, we are still playing!"





# ‘The Good Doctor’ – book review

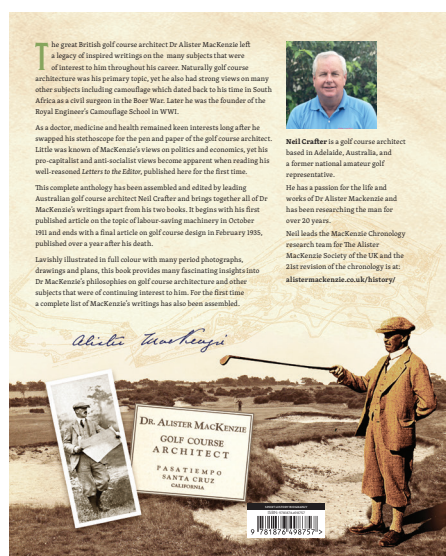
By Andrew Thomson

**T**his wonderful effort by Neil Crafter will satisfy golf tragiacs all over the English-speaking world, such as the new areas of Alister MacKenzie’s thoughts and writings that the book exposes and so entertainingly records. Many scholars of MacKenzie know of his profession as a medical doctor, but fewer know that his golf architecture sprang from experience in the trenches in South Africa during the Boer War observing failures in British mounding and earthworks meant to disguise artillery positions (or confuse the enemy as to their exact locations).

My father admired MacKenzie’s architecture all his life. He also took pleasure in reading that, as a doctor in Leeds, MacKenzie had once seen a habitually sickly patient and advised the man to play at least 18 holes a week instead of begging for more medicine. I can remember myself once pestering my father to buy me a radio. “Listen to the birds sing,” was the reply, which looking back on it strikes me as rather MacKenziesque.

MacKenzie had strong views on subjects outside golf and expressed these views in writing in several ways – letters to the editor of newspapers and magazines, as well as articles in such journals. One of his particular concerns was the notion of standardizing golf courses – the old standard scratch score or SSR – for the purpose of handicapping.

Writing about medical matters he put forward instructions as to how to prevent sepsis in wounds (which often arose from factory accidents around Leeds). He was also critical of an American doctor “who has been



able to collect twenty seven cases of sudden death while playing golf.” The doctor seems to have accused the game of golf of giving rise to excessive high blood pressure. MacKenzie would have none of this: “When the writer was actively engaged in medical practice he frequently advised heart patients to take up golf, and they became so well as a result that he rarely, if ever, saw them in his consulting rooms again.”

MacKenzie’s views on economics were firmly capitalist. “It appears to me that a lack of a universal knowledge of economics is at the root of all the world’s troubles ... In a country like America, where there are a great number of capitalists, the working classes are the most prosperous. In countries like Russia ... where there are few capitalists, they are the poorest.” He wrote numerous letters to the editor about the evils of trade union restrictions on production and chastised politicians for giving in to Socialism.

On politics, MacKenzie railed against proposals to ban golf and other sports

on Sundays. “There are few things so bad for the morals of the community as loafing about doing nothing on the Sabbath day.” Above all he was entranced by the prosperity and the economic system he found in America.

The picture one gets from reading MacKenzie’s words on matters both golf-related and about politics and economics is that of a man imbued with the values of the Scottish enlightenment, of common sense being the basic principle we should all strive to fulfil. This book will leave the reader both thoroughly satisfied and inspired.

*Neil Crafter is an Adelaide-based golf course architect and has been researching Dr Alister MacKenzie’s life and work for more than 20 years.*

*‘The Good Doctor’s Prescriptions’ is an illustrated anthology edited by Neil Crafter with foreword by Tom Doak.*

*Available from Ryan Publishing  
[www.ryanpub.com](http://www.ryanpub.com)*

## IDEAS, PLEASE

The GSA normally holds three dinners each year. We are always looking for speakers, so if you have any suggestions, please let us know. And we are keen for contributions to *The Long Game*. Stories, pictures and suggestions are always welcome.



**Golf Society Discussion Group**  
Join our robust discussion on all things Aussie golf, on our Facebook discussion group [www.facebook.com/groups/golfsocietyofaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/groups/golfsocietyofaustralia)  
We now have over 400 members and some wonderful stories about our golfing heritage. Open for all to join and contribute.



# Why Saudi Arabia plays international golf

By John Trevorrow

## The GSA's first dinner for 2024 gets an insider's view on the Saudi Kingdom's disruptive LIV Golf League

**H**ave you ever wondered why the rulers of Saudi Arabia have spent billions of their petro-dollars buying into international golf by creating and funding the LIV Golf League?

The answer, according to academic Dr Joshua Ralston, is deeper than the common assumption that the authoritarian Saudi regime simply wants to 'sports wash' its dubious international reputation for human rights.

Dr Ralston is from California, a late convert to golf and a member at North Berwick Golf Club in Scotland. He is an associate professor of religion and politics at the University of Edinburgh and has written studies on religious diversity in Europe, populism and religion, and Christian-Muslim relations. Dr Ralston is currently a visiting scholar at Trinity College, University of Melbourne and was guest speaker in February at Metropolitan Golf Club for the Golf Society's first dinner of the year. His talk, titled "Saudi Arabia and the politics of golf", drew a packed house of 138 GSA members and guests.

His view is that Muhammad bin Salman al Saud, the crown prince and Prime Minister who is the probable next King of Saudi Arabia, is aiming to diversify his nation's future from reliance on oil and gas to broader economic interests. Sport, including top-level soccer and golf, is among his targets.

Dr Ralston laid out three essential reasons he believes are behind the Saudis' investment of more than \$3billion so far on LIV Golf, which this year will play its second Australian tournament in Adelaide.

### 1. National

The Saudi regime wants to transition its society, build new economic hubs, and attract wealthy and influential foreign investors. Golf is one of the ways of doing that. It is also a sport that is



Kim Hastie and speaker Dr Joshua Ralston in front of an image of North Berwick's unique 13th hole

appropriate within Saudi culture because it can be played together by men and women in culturally acceptable ways.

### 2. Regional

Saudi Arabia is playing catch-up against its more international neighbours Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia already contains the two most important sites for Islam -- Mecca and Medina -- and LIV Golf gives them another chance to increase their reputation and influence within the Middle-East region. "Why buy a team when you can buy a whole sport? LIV Golf helps to set the Saudis apart in their regional rivalry," said Dr Ralston.

### 3. Global

Golf is a mid-range sport compared to soccer and basketball, he says, but is a very rich sport. Fortune-100 companies and executives are involved in golf, and the game also gives unique opportunities to build personal relationships on the golf course with important and influential people. It gives the Saudis a key foothold in international connections.

"LIV Golf is part of a broader group of aims for the Saudis to make themselves indispensable both economically and

globally," Dr Ralston says. Finally, he pointed out that western nations have for more than 70 years made a "Faustian bargain" by dealing economically and militarily with Saudi Arabia while not looking at what the Kingdom does in terms of women's rights, human rights and authoritarian behaviour.

Golf gives us a window into our morally complicated world, he says. Understanding and respecting different cultures is vitally important to global understanding and international relationships, but so too is holding fast to values of justice and human dignity.

Dr Ralston's timely talk was enthusiastically received by the diverse and influential crowd. The audience included board members from a number of golf clubs, Golf Australia CEO James Sutherland, many key people from Metropolitan GC, and a large number of guests. Two old friends with a combined 150 years of playing golf were also there. Metro's legendary pro Brian Twite and Peter Stickley, who caddied at Metro in 1951-52 and was assistant to Brian in 1955-57, enjoyed 9 holes together before the dinner. They were joined on the course by Tasmanian former champion and professional David Good.



# Hickory Heroes' end-of-year celebration

**G**SA members and guests enjoyed a delightful Hickory Heroes end-of-year event at Woodlands GC in December, with some very special surprises courtesy of long-term GSA and Woodlands member Paul Burgess.

Paul arranged a putting competition on Woodlands' large practice green, and 13 players were able to arrive early to enjoy the challenge. Paul surprised everybody by having the course superintendent cut 18 holes on the undulating green, all laid out in the same routing as the main course was from about 1919 to 1927. He even hunted out a scorecard from approximately 1919 and had facsimile copies printed for each player to record their putting score and keep as a memento of the day.

There was much laughter and fun as the players negotiated the tricky contours on some of the 'holes'. The winner with 37 putts was Jamie Holland, who was presented with a hickory putter donated by Paul. Paul's intention is for the Hickory Heroes group to donate a putter each year as a prize to re-create this entertaining competition.

18 players, many in hickory period dress, teed up in the main hickory event. This was played over 12 holes in recognition of the number of holes played in the first 13 Open Championships, beginning in 1860 at Prestwick GC in Ayrshire.

Dean Mottram was the winner with 24 stableford points. Runners-up were Mango Maguire and Jamie Holland each with 22 points. Nearest-the-pin on the 11th hole was won by Dean Mottram, and Woodlands member Mike Smith -- playing his first game with hickories -- won NTP-second-shot on the challenging 4th hole.

The day concluded with a gourmet BBQ dinner and prizes presented by President Kim Hastie in the members' bar, with its delightful outlook over the course.

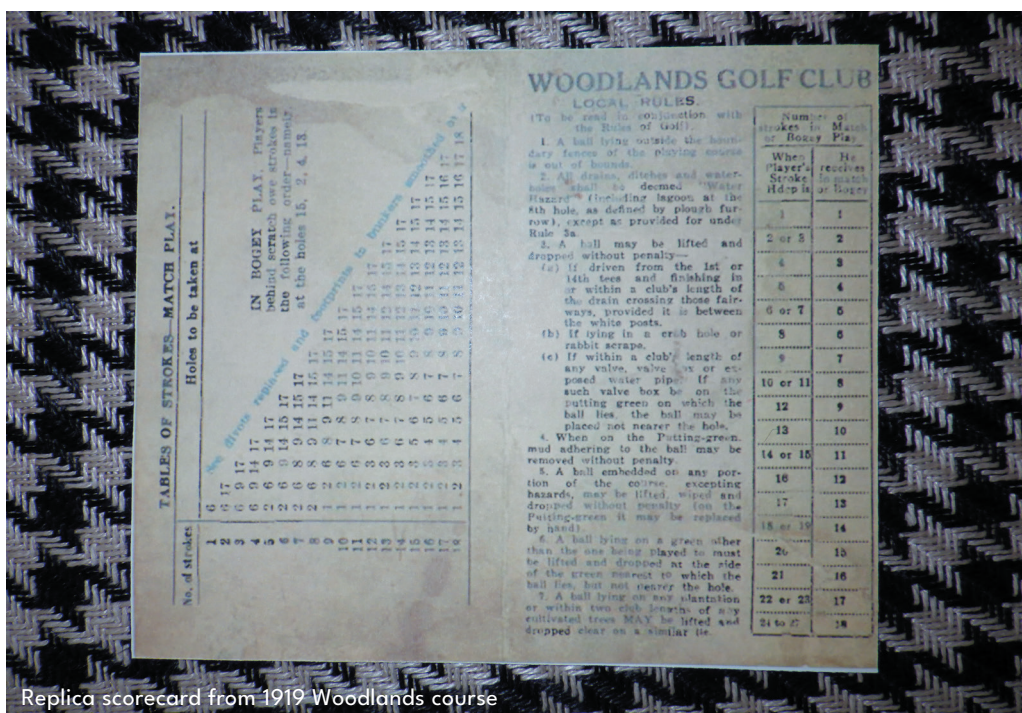
Special thanks go to Paul Burgess for organising such an enjoyable end-of-year Hickory Heroes event and to Woodlands GC for hosting us so well.



Some of the Woodlands competitors



Putting comp winner Jamie Holland with prize putter donated by Paul Burgess



Replica scorecard from 1919 Woodlands course



# James on top of the world

By Michael Church with John Trevorrow

A liking for tournament golf propels Northern GC's James Lavender to become the best senior golfer on the planet

**N**orthern Golf Club champion James Lavender is the Number 1 senior male golfer in the world, and he is hoping that 2024 can match the history-making year of golf he achieved in 2023.

Lavender climbed to Number 1 spot in over-55 ranks with a win late last year in the Asia-Pacific Senior Amateur Championship played at Vinpearl Golf in Hoi An, Vietnam. Fellow Melbourne golfer Nadene Gole, from Victoria GC, had the women's world Number 1 senior ranking since February 2023, and it is believed to be the first time that two Australians have held both world top spots at the same time.

Lavender's Asia-Pacific title gives him an exemption to play in the 2024 British Senior Amateur in July, which is widely recognised as the world championship for senior golfers. He said the exemption was invaluable, because even with his +1 handicap, he might not have made the field otherwise.

Lavender, 62, has been a member at Northern GC for 44 years and has won his club championship a remarkable 24 times.

His 2023 record of senior championships is an impressive list:

- 1st Tasmanian Senior Amateur
- 9th National Senior Masters
- 1st Cobram Barooga Senior Amateur
- 2nd Queensland Senior Amateur
- 11th Victorian Senior Amateur
- 1st Australian Senior Amateur
- 1st West Australian Senior Amateur
- 1st Asia-Pacific Senior Amateur
- His Australian Senior Amateur

championship, won at Lake Karringup in Western Australia, was his second national senior title. He made the most of his trip to WA by winning the WA senior amateur title at Royal Perth. In the space of just eight days, Lavender won both titles over 54 holes. It's



Lavender becomes the Asia-Pacific senior champion in Vietnam

testament to his appetite for tournament golf.

"I seem to have a knack for playing big events and tournaments," he told *The Long Game*. "I enjoy competing. The pressure doesn't worry me, which is a good thing. I guess I'm just fairly good at playing against other people!"

He started 2024 in good style by becoming joint champion in his defence of the Tasmanian Senior Amateur in early February. The third round of the event at Kingston Beach GC was abandoned due to high winds, and Lavender was declared joint champion with local David Pretzman.

Lavender's recent record is an impressive one. By the end of 2023 he had amassed 6 wins and 8 top-10 finishes from the 10 events he played over 104 weeks. This is a better strike rate than any other amateur players -- all of them younger than him -- and from

playing considerably fewer events than the other leading players.

In 2024, Lavender is looking to play about 6 events, but is still making up his mind. He runs his own business, which gives him the luxury of time and freedom to concentrate on golf at the top level. And the results keep on coming. He says he regards himself as a club golfer, and enjoys playing at Northern which has been his golfing home since he was a teenager.

"I don't play golf full time, so the results lately have been a bit overwhelming. But saying that, I have set myself goals and I like to build up to events, so it has been exciting."

Ironically, the only top-10s he has missed in the past two years have been at the Victorian Senior Amateur, twice. If his recent record is anything to go by, he might be looking to make amends in his home state come September.

# History forum at Latrobe Golf Club

**L**atrobe Golf Club is one of three Melbourne clubs celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2023, and a group of GSA members and guests enjoyed a history forum at its Alphington clubhouse in late November.

The club has updated its history book 'Riverside Masterstroke' thanks to the hard work of club members Paul Robinson, June Senyard, Brendan Mathews and the late and much-missed Murray Cropley. These four dedicated members added to the earlier history written by former champion player and member Garry Mansfield.

Those at the forum heard the fascinating story of how the club has developed on a 19th century estate once known as 'Lucerne Farm' established by early settler Thomas Wills. A grand oak tree planted in 1842 by daughter Kate Wills still spreads its stately boughs beside the 7th green. Known as the Noble Oak, it is the club's emblem. Thomas Wills was an influential and successful businessman. He was a friend of Charles La Trobe, who was appointed Superintendent of Port Phillip District in 1839 and became Victoria's first Lieutenant Governor when it became a separate colony in 1851. The club is named after him.

Brendan Mathews and Paul Robinson told the forum guests about Latrobe Golf Club's evolution. Between 1948 and 1955, the fledgling



Brendan Mathews (left) and writer Paul Robinson with Latrobe's new history book

club managed to buy the 9-hole public Latrobe Golf Course on the old estate, later expanding to 18 holes with the purchase of extra land parcels. Today, the club has even developed a 5-hole short course called 'The Island' on land surrounded by a loop of the Yarra River between Latrobe and neighbouring Green Acres GC. It opened a year ago.

They pointed out the site at the top of the clubhouse carpark of the rundown Lucerne mansion which was demolished by Whelan the Wrecker in the 1960s. They proudly described their clubhouse as a social melting pot popular over many years with sporting and racing identities. One former member was a noted SP bookie, and there is a theory

that the Great Bookie Robbery might have been hatched in the front bar by shady characters overhearing talk of large amounts of bookies' cash at the Victoria Club.

GSA member Peter Stickley was a special guest at the forum and told of being a young assistant pro at Latrobe in 1958-59 under club professional Stan MacGeorge. Peter brought a number of historic clubs to display at the forum and explained how he restores old hickory and steel implements. He also donated to Latrobe a left-handed driver stamped with Stan MacGeorge's name.

After the forum, 10 players enjoyed 9 holes of hickory golf around the picturesque front nine.

## Coming Events

The year ahead is busy with history, golf (modern and hickory) and social events. Here are some diary dates to note:

### April, Monday 22nd

Don Lawrence Trophy. 18 holes 4BBB and lunch at Spring Valley GC

### April, Monday 15th

Hickory Heroes 9 holes at Sandhurst GC

### May, date TBC

Historians forum at Lonsdale Links

### May, Sunday 19th

Victorian Hickory Shaft Championships at Barwon Heads GC

### June, Monday 24th

Dinner at Kingston Heath GC

### July, Monday 22nd

President's Trophy. 9 holes golf and lunch at Royal Melbourne GC

### August, dates TBC

Historians forum at Shepparton GC

### August, Sunday 18th

Annual Hickory Day 18 holes at Frankston GC.  
Frank Shepherd Trophy & Burtta Cheney Trophy