



A backbone made of steel with a swing through the generations



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All historic detail included in this commemorative reflection of Shortland Waters Golf Club's unique golfing club history has been compiled from various information sources including previously produced anniversary booklets, newspaper extracts, plus member memorabilia & documentation.

SWGC 50 years booklet - Bill Hawkins

SWGC 60 years booklet - Jack Jeffrey

SWGC 75 years ladies booklet - Marlene Edman

NDGA & Golf NSW

Shortland Waters Golf Club thanks all for their contributions.

Original clubhouse in Mayfield - 1921



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

When Steel Works Golf Club was formed in late 1921, it was known as Steel Works Recreation Club and took over an existing 9-hole course at Folly Park.

The course, on the corner of Kerr and Bull Streets, Mayfield, had been vacated by Waratah Golf Club when they moved to Cockle Creek.

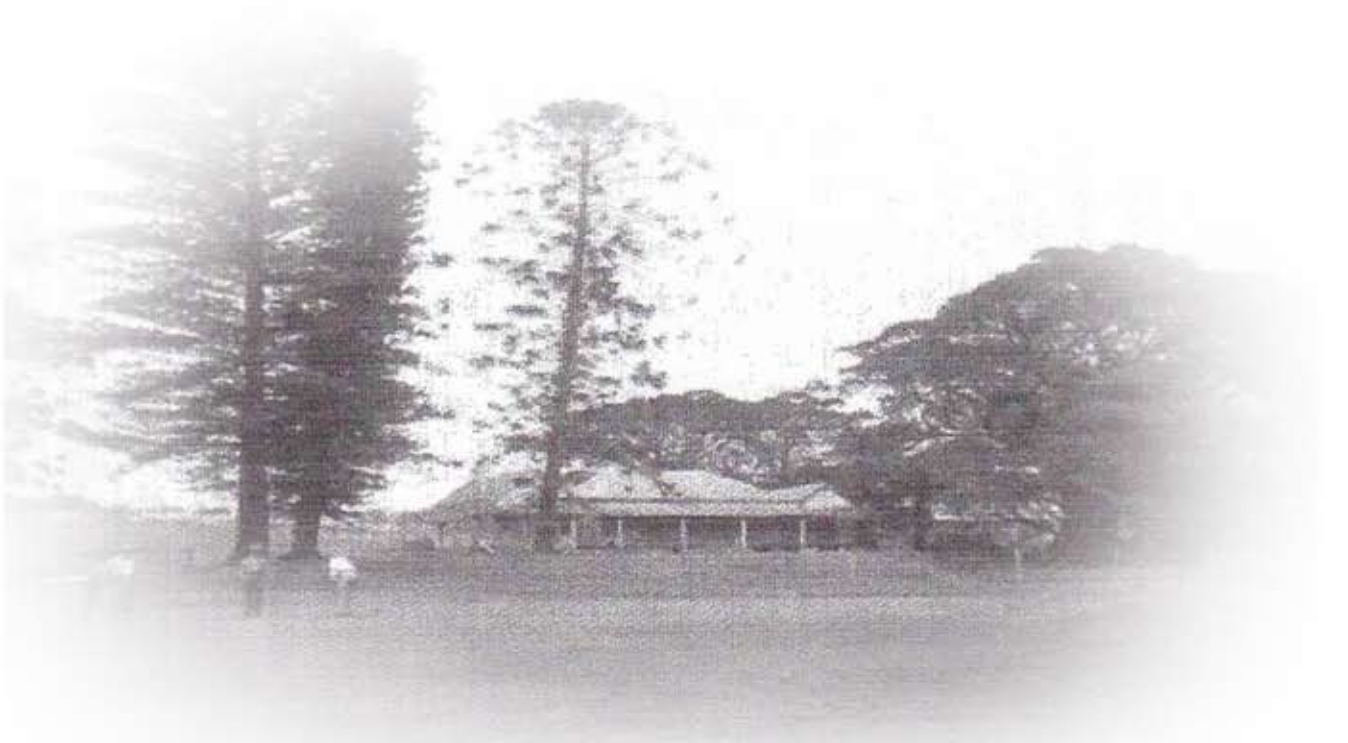
This area was owned by BHP and was earmarked for development at a later date for possible expansion programmes. In the meantime, the management group in BHP's Melbourne office decided that the course could provide great physical and social recreation for their Newcastle executive staff.

The new club affiliated with the Newcastle District Golf Association early in 1922. In 1931, it officially changed its name to Steel Works Golf Club.

There were 125 members, with 135 associates, who by this stage had formed their own committee and elected their own office bearers.

Maximum handicaps in those days were 24 for members and 36 for associates. The course rating was 72.

Membership numbers remained fairly static during these early years with the committees having to deal with the usual problems, like having a hand mower going missing while under repair at BHP, or the draught horse not being able to cope with the mowing duties. On one occasion, a replacement draught horse was purchased for around 10 pound, but was then found to be lame and had to be returned for a refund.





CLEEK
 MID MASHIE
 MASHIE IRON
 MASHIE
 SPADE MASHIE
 MASHIE NIBLICK
 PITCHING NIBLICK
 NIBLICK
 JIGGER

**BRASSIE
 SPOON
 BAFFLING SPOON**



Early golfers clubhouse - 1921

Around 1934, BHP was developing plans to use the property where the golf course was situated, so alternative sites were investigated and discussions between the then Club President LJ Griffiths, the BHP Chairman HG Darling, and Managing Director Essington Lewis took place. Soon after, plans were underway to build a new course.

J Ford Pearson, later to become a life member, commenced the investigation and in February 1935, recommended the Shortland site.

Soil samples were taken and were considered satisfactory.

By June, experts from Sydney had inspected the proposed course and thoroughly agreed with the layout designed by Ford Pearson.

Essington Lewis advised that BHP would allow the club to use the land at a very nominal rental, but could not give any guarantees of tenure. However, there did not appear to be a reason why BHP would need the land for at least the next 20 years, so it was decided to proceed immediately with clearing the land and the installation of bent grass greens.

By December that year, timber had been removed and the course was resurveyed, establishing it to be 6,400 yards (5,850 metres), with a par of 70. Water reticulation to all greens and tees was also completed and tested by the Water Board.

Shortland proposed 5th fairway - 1935



FAREWELL TO WARATAH COURSE – NOVEMBER 1936



Members and Associates at final day's play at closing of S.W.G.C. Links at Mayfield, 9th November, 1936.

MEMBERS: (Back Row, left to right) G. Wiles, T.A. Griffiths, Dr. J.H.B. Brown, W. Vallender, V.R. Petney, E. McTaggart.

(Front Row, left to right) F. Lawson, R. Maddison, Dr. T. Hamilton, F. Pearson, R. Fussell, R.A. Donald, E. Strangeway-Jones, L. Griffiths, S.G. Rogers, K. Hemphill, J. Patey, F. Butcher, K. Corrigan, Dr. J.W. Smith, W. Joyce, O.C. Colley, N. Vaisey, K. A. Goodland, G. Brown.

ASSOCIATES (Back Row, left to right) Mrs. F. Lawson, Mrs. L. Griffiths, Miss Grieves, Mrs. T.A. Griffiths, Mrs. H. O'Neill, Mrs. F. Butcher, Mrs. H.T. Moore, Mrs. Crossman, Miss Barnett, Mrs. K.A. Goodland.

(Front Row, left to right) Mrs. W. Vallender, Miss Smith, Mrs. K. Corrigan, Mrs. McKenzie, Mrs. V.R. Petney, Mrs. N. Vaisey, Mrs. J. Rich, Mrs. J.H.B. Brown, Mrs. O.E. Colley, Mrs. K. Butler, Mrs. K. Hemphill, Miss G. O'Sullivan, Mrs. Grant.

The new club house construction began in early 1936 and by October was almost completed, with the course also nearing a playable stage. An exhibition by Gene Sarazen was held on the old course to raise funds in August. At the time, annual subscriptions were around 4 pound for members and 2 pound for associates, with the price for horse feed about 2 and a half pound per month. At the Associates Annual Meeting in 1935, on receipt of a letter from the members, each associate was asked to make a 1 pound donation to help furnish the new club house.

The BHP Review in February 1937 reported:

“Considerable thought was given to the design of the club house, with the result that an ideal arrangement for accommodation has been obtained, together with every facility for spending a happy day on the course.

The club house contains a permanent cafe, two lounge rooms (one being for associates), modern equipped dressing rooms, and a small shop where sweets, tobacco, etc may be obtained. Sliding doors between the dining room and lounge room may be removed, to convert the space into an excellent ballroom, the floor being specially prepared for the purpose.

The ballroom was used on the evening of Saturday November 21, when members and guests gathered for a house warming.”

The decision was made to close the old course on November 8, 1936 and to begin all play at the new Shortland course from November 9. The total cost of the course to that date was about 10 thousand Australian pound (\$20,000)

new clubhouse construction - 1936



Now at the new Shortland course, the Caretaker/Caterer and family moved into the downstairs flat of the club house in October 1936. The entrance to the golf club, which was surrounded by bushland, was built with a cattle ramp to stop straying horses and cattle from a neighbouring dairy farm entering the course.

When the club was formed, BHP, as the owner of the course property, insisted that the President and three Vice Presidents must be executive officers of the company, with the remaining positions open to any financial member of the club. There were objections in the early days, but BHP stood its ground. The rule eased over the years, with the President no longer having to be a BHP executive, but the nominee was to have BHP approval.

Golf buggies had not been thought of in those early days, so, unless you could afford a 'caddie', you carried your own bag. Caddies were generally recruited from the local area, but when the move to Shortland was made, quite a few of the boys from the Mayfield course followed. As there was no club professional, who would normally be in charge of the caddies, the committee appointed the lad who they considered to be the most senior and most experienced as the Caddie Master. His duties included seeing that the caddies were well behaved, taking bookings, and allocating caddies to the respective player. He was also expected to carry out other minor duties at the discretion of the Secretary. The job usually only involved Saturdays and Sundays and for this work he was paid a retainer of about 1 pound (\$2). Buggies were introduced in the early 1950s.

Shortland clubhouse - 1937



The first open competition was held on November 21, 1936. A mixed foursome event attracted 160 players from Sydney and Wollongong, as well as local clubs. A social function held on the same night in the new club house was declared a huge success. The Newcastle Herald reported the event, describing the dresses of almost every woman who attended. Photographs of the course and results of the competition were also featured.

Reporter Jim Ferrier played on the course early in 1937 and shot a 71, the lowest score to that date, and said...

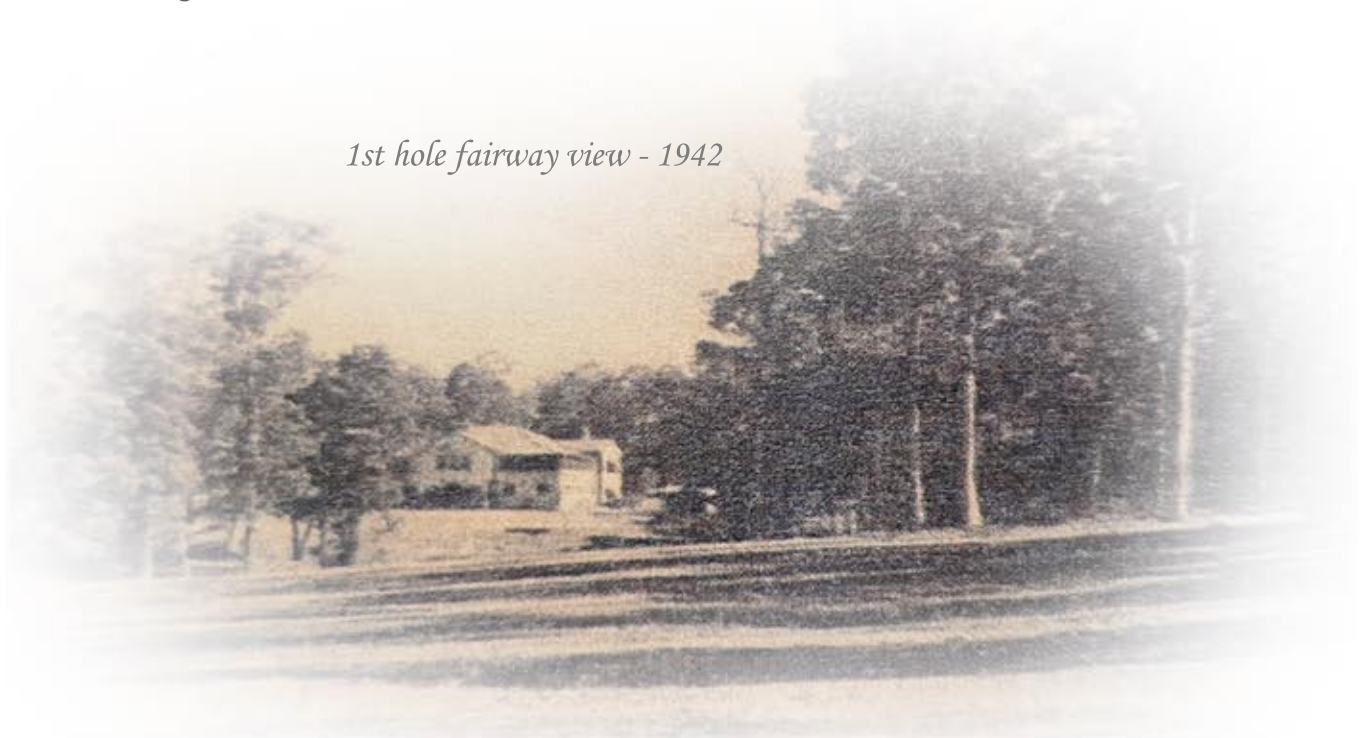
“ It is the finest country course I have yet seen in NSW and it presents an exacting test of golf. The greens are of bent grass and the equal of any Sydney course. In time, the course should be as hard as any championship layout.”

Another article by Jim appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald in August 1937, with specific references to the 366m 4th hole (*now 15th*), and the 411m 5th hole (*now 16th*)...

“ these are two of the hardest par fours in the State.”

The same year, J Ford Pearson was made a Life Member for his major contribution to the design and construction of the Shortland course. He maintained an interest in the golf club until his death in 1978.

1st hole fairway view - 1942



Many important events were held on the course during its first season, including high profile district events. Steel Works course was allotted the three-day Central Northern District Golf Associates 1937 Championship Meeting, with daily fields of as many as 200 players. Great interest was centred on the 'Close' Cup for which Mrs S G Pearce and Miss M Wansey tied. Mrs Pearce, an associate member of Steel Works, won the play-off, and also took the 'Champion of Champions' Cup.

In an exhibition in October 1938, Bobby Locke, who was a South African professional generally regarded as one of the greatest players of all time after winning four Open Championships and fifteen PGA Tour events, took on one of Australia's finest golfers who became a regular winner on the British tour, Norman Von Nida. Locke won the challenge by two shots with a score of 72, and both players were lavish in their praise of the new Steel Works course.



South Africa's Bobby Locke



Australia's Norman VonNida

Whilst at the Mayfield location the club employed Harry Leslie in a dual role as resident Club Professional and greenkeeper. Later the committee decided that for the new Shortland course it would only engage a greenkeeper with a diploma in grass culture with no provision for the golf professional role, and as a result, Mr Leslie's services were no longer required. During the first couple of years, numerous professionals applied for a position at the club. Mr H Sinclair served a short time in 1938 on a casual basis. In 1940, Norman Von Nida was appointed club professional, in conjunction with Reg A Baker Sports Store. Although Von Nida only remained for a couple of years, this arrangement existed until Maurie Waugh took over as professional in 1947.

Around the time of Maurie's appointment, first grade golf balls were one shilling (10 cents), wooden clubs were one pound (\$2), and hickory shafts were common but on the way out.

The club was involved for some years with annual social interclub visits with their Singleton and Muswellbrook counterparts, and it was Maurie's big city connections that led to a similar arrangement with the Roseville Golf Club starting in Sydney in 1949. Growing from just 12 Steel Works players travelling in three cars in the first year, to a train trip involving a team of 40, it proved so successful, that it developed into a visit to each other's club year about.

Maurie's golf professional role with the club continued for the next 30 years.



Allan Roack (President), Bill Hawkins (Captain) and Maurie Waugh (Professional)

During World War II, old golf balls were collected and recovered by Spalding when time outside War work permitted. New balls were rationed on the basis of one for every four rounds of golf – if you were lucky. A local rule was introduced allowing old golf balls to be used in general play and substituted with a ‘good’ ball for putting. At times, labour was so short that only nine holes of the course were in play. At the Associates’ Annual Meeting in 1940, it was decided to abandon championships and knock-outs for the duration of the War. Regular donations were made to Prisoner-of-War Fund, Merchant Navy Relief Fund, Australian Comforts Fund, Victoria League and the Red Cross.



In 1946, there were 204 members and 89 associates with a policy to restrict numbers to 250 members and 125 associates. At a special general meeting in February 1947, a new Constitution was adopted, which enabled the club to apply for a liquor licence which was granted in August that year, and the Associates in 1948 gained their own Constitution. Towels and tablecloths were hard to come by because of clothing and food rationing. An approach to the authorities for coupons for towels was rejected. However, the members and associates came to the rescue and donated 336 coupons, sufficient for 14 dozen towels. 1947 also heralded complete mechanisation, when the last of the club’s horses were sent to grass.

In June 1949, the biannual competition between Steelworks Golf Club and the Roseville Golf Club saw the introduction of reciprocal rights and a cup donated by F Ebbeck. That same year, the then 2nd hole (*now 13th*) was extended from a par 3 to a par 5. Also the then 7th, which was a long par 4, was split to make a par 3 (*now 17th*) and a shorter par 4 (*now 18th*). This work proceeded as time and labour permitted and without interruption to play. The redesigned course came into play in May 1952 and remained basically unchanged until 2016.



In 1951, the club house was extended to the east and a cool room established. The extension covered only the bar area in the upstairs portion, with the cool room immediately below. The club house was again extended in 1953. In 1955 a half-way house next to the old 10th tee, known as Hawken's Rest, was completed by Bert Hawken. Bert was later made a life member of the club. By 1957, membership had risen to 467 members and 260 associates. Sunday lounge dress rules for members applied after 1.30pm. This entailed the wearing of a white shirt with tie and/or coat, with no coloured shirts or shorts permitted. Coats were compulsory in the dining area. In 1958, the club house was extended to the west and included the associates' locker room plus dining room. In 1962 the committee room was removed and a patio added. As late as 1968, associates were still banned from wearing tailored slacks upstairs. Thursday competitions were held, with the proceeds going to a Furnishing Fund, and by 1962, \$1,400 had been collected and spent on furnishings in the associates' room. Later, a Tuesday raffle to assist the Furnishing Fund was introduced, with the ladies being asked to donate a gift to be raffled. By 1973, these raffles had raised over \$4,000. This enabled the associates' room to be recarpeted, as well as new carpet and furnishings for the club's foyer. New associates' room chairs were also purchased, as were pelmets and new drapes for the area upstairs. At that time, the club was given a prestigious 'Number One' rating by The Country Golf Association.

1977 saw a young local Tony Mangan take over from Maurie Waugh, with a reputation throughout the Newcastle area as a leading golfing professional. He won an NDGA schoolboys' championship, a NSW Assistant Professionals' Championship, then switched to the tournament circuit where in his first year in 1969, won seven events including the North Coast Open and the Forbes Open. A wrist injury put him out of the circuit in 1970, which led to golf coaching and administration employment in Borneo. With a plan to introduce the latest coaching trends, the next stage of Tony's career began at the Steel Works Pro Shop lasting over two decades. His highly rated golfing ability was certainly confirmed when he was away with members on one of his infamous golfing trips, and had an albatross one day and a hole in one the next.

After Tony's retirement in 2001, the Club had a number of professionals including Michael Achurch, Steve Pepper, Simon Gough, Bruce Alderson, Andrew Rollo and Mitchell Pryor all take on the role of providing tuition, support and retail sales services for members and guests.

Pat Henry began his role in 1972 as course superintendent where he remained until his retirement. He was followed by Craig Molloy who also went on to be the club's manager for a short time, leaving the position most recently entrusted to Lee Goldie.

The early 2016 golf course redevelopment stages coincided with the loss of many old holes to make way for the new Aveo property preparation. The need for a constantly shifting golf layout with temporary tees & greens was required, which saw the course drop to a par 66, until the multi-million dollar transformation was completed in 2019.



Tony Mangan

When golf commenced in Newcastle back in 1908 players competed in the Northern Championships, which covered an area from Hornsby up to the Queensland border. In 1920 the areas changed and the Newcastle & Hunter River Championships were formed, comprising of Newcastle, Waratah and Steel Works clubs. Steel Works teams won the A Grade Pennant in 1938, 1939, 1983 & 1994, when there was only the one division, and also won the MJ England Pennant Shield for A Grade Division 2 in 1977. B and C Grade District teams contested for the OC Colley Cup, named after prominent Steel Works Golf Club member and District official.

Ampol Pro Am Tournaments were played in June 1959 (*won by Kel Nagle & Frank Phillips*) and in September 1960 (*won by Darryl Welsh*).

In December 1960, Peter Thomson, Kel Nagle, Norman Von Nida and Maurie Waugh featured in an exhibition match which drew tremendous interest around the country.

Sponsored Wednesday competitions were introduced in February 1977, and would remain as one of the more successful midweek competitions in the Newcastle district, and then later that year, a Lion's Charity event featuring an exhibition by American trick golfer Wedgy Winchester was held and was reported as being something that "had to be seen to be believed".



More recently, Steelworks Cup Pro Am events were held the October long weekends of 2011 and 2012 which featured club favourite, Australian Open winner Craig Parry.



*1959 - First Pro Am
Alexander, Bailey, Mathieson, Nagel & Steel*



*1960 - Steel Works Event
Peter Thomson with president Ferguson*



1992 - Craig Parry Members Demonstration

Steelworks Golf Course 18 hole layout from 1952 up to 2016



About 1966, Newcastle City Council began filling the large swamp area between the golf course proper behind the old 14th hole (*now 3rd*) and the Great Northern Railway, which continued until around 1970. An ambitious tree planting scheme also took place with the aid of the Forestry Commission and more than 1,000 trees were planted.

Later due to the proposed Highway 23 route plans, and the major course alterations required as a result, it was decided in 1969 to form a finance committee to monitor all spending and advise sub-committees on their budgets and monthly financial positions. Project committees for special purposes were formed to oversee a range of planned course improvements including an automatic sprinkler watering for greens and tees, and the heightening of the dam wall for additional water storage. Although the club's finances were in a satisfactory and improving state, the scope of planned expenditure was outside its resources. BHP was approached, and they generously offered a donation of \$10,000 plus interest-free loan of \$12,000 repayable over ten years, but only if the club raised a further \$10,000 itself.



BHP executives Frank Ferris (and Mrs Ferris), Bill Burgess and Brian Loton with President Alan Roach at the official start up of the fairway watering system in 1970.

Members and associates readily rallied behind the club and the amount was heavily supported in the matter of a few weeks, and then still more members came forward offering appreciable amounts. The oversubscribed monies were then returned pro rata to members who participated in the fundraising process. In August 1970, preliminary work began for both the construction of a wall for the pump pond, as well as the dam wall to help improve water storage capabilities. Contracts were signed with Southern Cross Machinery Company for the fairways and greens watering systems with some provisions also made for electricity supply. This began the most significant step in the later development of Steel Works Golf Club. Construction of the course toilet block, new professional's shop, and fairway watering system for all but the first four holes were all completed that year. The club house foyer was then also refurbished by the associates in 1971, just in time for the Steelworks Golf Club's 50th Year Anniversary celebrations, which were held from October 3rd to the 10th. Golfing competitions were held every day of the week to help commemorate the milestone event which culminated in a highly successful anniversary ball enjoyed by members and guests.



In 1972, the then Department of Main Roads (DMR) advised deferment of the highway next to the course for some years, so it was decided to move ahead and complete the fairway watering for the first four holes. By 1973 the associates, once again through fund raising raffles, accumulated over \$4,000 in a furnishing fund which provided new curtains, pelmets and carpeting for the upstairs area of the club house.

A unique event also occurred in the club's history at this time, which saw both Alan and Cath Roach elected life member and associate life member in a matter of months.

During this high inflation period, fees rose to \$75 for members and \$46 for associates.

The club improvements continued. The cool room was extended and modernised in 1978, a new bar was completed the following year, and course machinery was being updated constantly to cope with the continual improvements of the golf course. The rebuilding of Hawken's Rest project was also completed partly financed by the Ex-Servicemen's Committee. An extended period of drought in 1981, 1982 and 1983 led to extremely challenging times for the management teams and greens staff. The course became dry and the dam almost dried up completely. The situation prompted further work to deepen the dam and raise the wall. Sponsorship boards were also introduced and the tee areas were generally improved and upgraded.

In August 1983 discussions were held with the DMR regarding the proposed route of Highway 23 on the western side of the course and its subsequent encroachment on the club's property. Later, Kel Nagle & Associates were retained to submit a proposal for course alterations that would hopefully compensate the club for the loss of any playing area. The plans were received in July 1984, with new designs finalised and approved by the DMR in February 1985. A decision was then also made to proceed immediately with changes to the 1st fairway (*now 12th*) and build a new green and the associated pathways. This project was completed in April 1985.



The 1st fairway that originally went straight along the western boundary was redirected to form a dogleg right, with a drop off to a new green & surrounds created. In 2015 the green was remodelled after storm damage by eventual course developers Turnpoint.

1981 also saw the associates celebrate their 50th anniversary, having been officially formed in 1931 on the Mayfield course. Various playing options, rules and conditions specifically for the lady golfers have been adopted over the years. Business Girls competitions on Sunday mornings, Provisional 'week day' memberships, Thursday 'furnishing fund' competition days, knockout events and club championships, plus Tuesday raffles, charity events, Gloucester and Scone interclub visits, and golfing clinics, all part of the colourful associate's golfing history.



BACK - *Beryl Collins, Dot Simpson, Leila Phillis, Cath Horner, Doris Wellig, Peg Wingrove, Elaine Lang*



*Mrs C Roach & G Crossman
Associate Life Members*

FRONT - *Flo Raine, Elsie Pilgram, Betty England, Dot Cann, Liz Purcell, Wilga Hawkins* - Nov 1979.

The 'Steelworks Salver' was introduced in 1986, an event open to district clubs in the C.N.D.G.A. (N.H.D.L.G.A. since 1989). An open competition was played in conjunction, the Steelworks Scratch Score Shield. Club open days were very popular events attracting large fields, so it became necessary in 1987 to play this event over two days, usually in July or August. On the Monday, associates with handicaps 25-36 played two divisions, and those 0-24 played two divisions on the Tuesday, a format that continued until 1995. The event reverted to a one day competition in 1996.

To be eligible to win the Salver, each club nominates a team of three in advance, and it is awarded to the club team with the best aggregate nett result. The Shield is awarded to the player with the tournament's best individual scratch score.

As a traditional area of heavy industry, Newcastle was not immune from the effects of economic downturns that had plagued New South Wales and wider Australia since the 1970s. The early 1990's recession caused significant job loss across the country and during this time the Newcastle region experienced a peak unemployment rate of 17 percent in February 1993. When BHP closed steelmaking in Newcastle in 1999, the Steelworks Golf Club's course and club was purchased by the membership, who then became the custodian of this incredible industrial heritage.

With hope of energising new interest in golf, in the year 2000, the same year Australia hosted the Olympic Games in Sydney, Steelworks Golf Club changed its name to Shortland Waters Golf Club. Being situated on the fringes of the beautiful Hunter Wetlands and surrounded by water, flora and fauna, the club's new logo now featured a black swan, which was a regular sight from the nearby fairways.



The region experienced the effects of a 'commodities boom' from 2003, as prices for products like coal and iron ore rose significantly. This provided a large incentive for key investment in the region due its status as a major coal mining and export hub. Whilst golf remained popular, the club continued to suffer from the burden of financial debt it acquired when purchasing the property from BHP. As early as 2008, the board of that time recognised the declining position for many golf, bowling and sports clubs across the country. In an effort to secure the club's long-term future, they decided to explore potential opportunities and a number of proposals that were submitted to the club. Change part of the club property, change the course layout, incorporate a motel, were all parts of suggested proposals, but unfortunately, none fit with the board's view for the future, or were able to attain council approval.

In 2015, the club entered a development agreement with leading owner, operator and manager of retirement communities, Aveo Group, that would deliver a new clubhouse and improvements to the golf course, along with a substantial retirement development set amongst the course as part of the plan. On its completion, the staged \$220 million dollar development looked to incorporate around 300 independent living units and a community centre for residents. Work on building a new golf club facility got underway in December 2016, along with early modifications to the golf course.



The proposal to purchase land that had previously been the Newcastle Council's Lorna Street garbage dump was a critical element, and in May 2016, approval was finally granted for the development to proceed. For the club, this meant that in return for the land and six holes lost to the proposed location for the retirement village, the developer would build six new holes on the adjoining Lorna Street property, rebuild two existing holes to better suit the new layout, and construct a new clubhouse and car park. Then to attain suitable roadway access and parking, the old clubhouse would be demolished.



Work commenced with the redesign of two existing holes, but development of the new retirement village appeared to become a priority, and construction of the new six holes was delayed. As a consequence, it became necessary to temporarily modify some of the existing golf layout and close off some car parking areas to allow work to proceed. The course reduced to nine par three holes and a mix of par fours and par fives, with a number of temporary greens introduced. The impact on club membership renewals and playing numbers was significant, and as a result, a decline in club house trade continued.

Hope remained that the construction of six superb new holes on the Lorna Street area and improvements to the existing course would not only rejuvenate trade and playing numbers, but also deliver more positive long term projections. What was previously an old garbage dump was to be transformed into an open parkland style links layout that would potentially become the envy of the district. The contracted new course creators, Programmed Turnpoint from Melbourne, who design and build in consultation with US PGA course designers, planned to deliver a new layout which would complement the existing golf course, with minimal impact on adjoining Hunter Wetlands, and provide wide fairways, magnificent greens and a new golfing experience for the members and guests of Shortland Waters Golf Club. The project involved considerable environmental considerations which saw the whole area covered with over 105,000 square metres of protective fibre mesh and then a layer of orange fabric warning indicator to prevent any future works penetration. A one metre layer of new soil was then added, about 70,000 cubic metres, with the origin and placement of every truckload recorded by the EPA for future reference, and access roads appeared busier than major highways. Soon after, thousands of metres of electrical cable for the watering system and drainage pipe were added, and the new area started taking shape.





Although a transition to the new clubhouse took place in January 2018, the golf course redevelopment was taking much longer than expected. The less than expected course conditions at this stage, with many temporary greens still in play, resulted in a decline in memberships and playing numbers which severely affected the club's financial position. Negative trading trends became a significant issue and a developer enacted caveat, that was supposed to prevent the further sale of land to any competing business of the retirement village, also restricted the club's ability to borrow funds as a short term cash flow solution until the golf course was completed.

Unfortunately by July 2018, the club's board felt that there was no other option but to place the club into administration and avoid insolvent trading. Over the months that followed little success was achieved in trading out of the situation. Members arranged meetings with the hope of raising funds to overcome the club's financial shortfalls. Whilst encouraging, the Administrator advised that the amounts offered would not be enough to resolve the problem, and indicated that the best outcome may be to place the club and its property up for sale. By December that year, Aveo Group confirmed its purchase of the club and its assets for just \$1.8 million dollars.

Approximately \$11 million dollars had just been spent on the new clubhouse and the course improvements, so why the 'bargain price?' A condition of the offer was that the club could purchase the property back for \$3.25 million within the following three years. With an inability to borrow funds that outcome seemed unlikely. The club was also granted a 20 year lease over the property at just \$1 per year rent, and the board was able to convince the Administrator to seek an option for a further 20 years and this was also granted.

The new course configuration was finally opened in late February 2019, and quickly gained praise from members and visitors. Although the unfortunate demise of other local golf clubs highlighted the difficult times the industry may continue to face, new upward trends in membership numbers and social golf rounds presented the potential for a brighter Shortland Waters Golf Club future.

Throughout 2019, 2020 and early 2021 extreme weather events further challenged the club's resilience, with drought, fires and floods, followed by a Covid-19 pandemic all becoming a true test of strength for the golf industry, and more broadly, communities across the region. New South Wales was faced with tough water restrictions not seen for over twenty five years, during one of the worst drought and bush fire periods on record. Temperatures and weather conditions fluctuated dramatically, with heatwaves, hail storms, torrential rain and flooding once again having a significant impact on the golf course and trade. Around the end of 2019 the huge dam behind the second green was almost completely drained, then only months later, water levels were replenished after significant rainfall and flooding in the area.



A variety of Covid-19 restrictions were also introduced to try and manage the impact of the virus, which included limiting playing numbers per group, allowing only those in local government areas to play, and a requirement for face masks to be worn within the club and its surrounds. During these difficult times and periods of isolation, it was also clear that the club would play a significant role in keeping the local golfing community connected, and highlighted a clear realisation of the physical and mental benefits of the “game for life”. The ability to continually adapt operations and provide a safe sporting environment while other sports were sidelined for extended periods, saw a growth in golf participation with a rise in memberships and social rounds alike. A new wave of keen golfers which included ‘millenials’, traditionally an age demographic that the golf industry had difficulty connecting with, demonstrated the inherent appeal of the game, and how after its proud one hundred year golfing history, Shortland Waters may be set for the century ahead.

Planned events to commemorate the club's amazing milestone were delayed due to the ever changing Covid situation, but only until an ambrose golf day and evening celebration events were staged on Sunday March 27 and Thursday March 31, 2022.



1921 - 2021 LIFE MEMBERS

Sir Colin Syme

J. F. Pearson

L. J. Griffiths

H. A. Gresham

R. K. Ferguson

B. E. Hawkens

C. P. Jordon

J. Wright

Mrs G. A. Crossman

A. E. Roach

Mrs C. Roach

W. L. Hawkins

D. Purcell

A. R. Hardy

J. A. Wingrove

Mrs B. Collins

Mrs B. England

D. C. Wettig

Mrs D. M. Wettig

Mrs E. Purcell

Mrs R. Millard

J. Jeffrey

E. Wiggins

K. Hawkins



1921 - 2021 PRESIDENTS

1926 - L. J. Griffiths
1927 - L. J. Griffiths
1928 - L. J. Griffiths
1929 - L. J. Griffiths
1930 - L. J. Griffiths
1931 - L. J. Griffiths
1932 - L. J. Griffiths
1933 - L. J. Griffiths
1934 - L. J. Griffiths
1935 - L. J. Griffiths
1936 - L. J. Griffiths
1937 - K. Butler
1938 - K. Butler
1939 - K. Butler
1940 - G. Brown
1941 - G. Brown
1942 - H. A. Gresham
1943 - H. A. Gresham
1944 - H. A. Gresham
1945 - H. A. Gresham
1946 - H. A. Gresham
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1955 - H. A. Gresham
1956 - H. A. Gresham
1957 - R. K. Ferguson
1958 - R. K. Ferguson
1959 - R. K. Ferguson
1960 - R. K. Ferguson

1961 - R. K. Ferguson
1962 - R. K. Ferguson
1963 - R. K. Ferguson
1964 - R. K. Ferguson
1965 - H. A. Gresham
1966 - F. Hutchens
1966 - A. E. Roach
1967 - A. E. Roach
1968 - A. E. Roach
1969 - A. E. Roach
1970 - A. E. Roach
1971 - A. E. Roach
1972 - A. E. Roach
1973 - A. E. Roach
1974 - A. E. Roach
1975 - A. E. Roach
1976 - A. E. Roach
1977 - J. C. O'Neill
1978 - J. C. O'Neill
1979 - J. C. O'Neill
1980 - J. C. O'Neill
1981 - J. C. O'Neill
1982 - J. C. O'Neill
1983 - J. C. O'Neill
1984 - J. C. O'Neill
1985 - J. C. O'Neill
1986 - L. P. Nicholas
1987 - L. P. Nicholas
1988 - L. P. Nicholas
1989 - L. P. Nicholas
1990 - E. F. Rowland
1991 - E. F. Rowland
1991 - J. A. Thomson
1992 - J. A. Thomson
1993 - J. A. Thomson

1994 - J. A. Thomson
1995 - J. A. Thomson
1996 - J. A. Thomson
1997 - J. A. Thomson
1998 - J. A. Thomson
1999 - J. A. Thomson
2000 - J. A. Thomson
2001 - G. A. Jones
2002 - G. A. Jones
2003 - G. A. Jones
2004 - G. A. Jones
2004 - K. Hawkins
2005 - K. Hawkins
2006 - K. Hawkins
2007 - K. Hawkins
2008 - K. Hawkins
2009 - K. Hawkins
2010 - K. Hawkins
2011 - R. Freeman
2012 - R. Freeman
2013 - R. Freeman
2014 - R. Freeman
2015 - R. Freeman
2016 - R. Freeman
2017 - A. Milton
2018 - A. Milton
2019 - A. Milton
2019 - K. Simmons
2020 - K. Simmons
2021 - K. Simmons
2021 - M. Baber

2021 PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Welcome to the Shortland Waters Golf Club Centenary eBook, a reflection on the unique history and 100 year journey of the Steelworks Golf Club, from the very beginning at our original Kerr Street site in Mayfield in 1921, to the move to Off Vale street Shortland in 1936, right through to the our recent multi million dollar redevelopment project that continues today.

I joined the club in 1981, a young 21-year-old who just wanted to play golf, and never thought that 40 years later I would be proudly serving the club as its President during such a significant milestone event.

Just in my time as a member there have been many changes and challenges, and I would like to thank all previous and current club executives, board members, committees, staff and membership for making Shortland Waters Golf Club so much more than just a place to play golf. It's a club that continues to be true to its working class values, with a welcoming smile and fond memories for all who visit. My thanks also to our members for their loyalty, patronage, ongoing support and friendship, to the many volunteers who invest so many hours of their own time to assist around the course, gardens and club surrounds, and to all who shared the historical photos, media clippings, and information included in this 100 year commemorative eBook.

Congratulations SWGC

Mark Baber

President - Shortland Waters Golf Club



DISTRICT SNAP SHOT

- 1908** - The first move was made to control and organise golf in the Northern Districts of New South Wales when an Association was formed.
- This Northern Golf Association comprised of all clubs between Newcastle and the Queensland border which at this stage only included the Newcastle GC, situated at Hamilton, and Waratah GC at Mayfield. The main purpose of this Association was to organise the playing of the annual Northern Championship on the links of the Newcastle Golf Club.
- 1914-19** - World War 1. No competitive golf played.
- 1919** - A new Association was formed known as the Newcastle & Hunter River Golf Association, embracing all clubs in the Hunter Valley and Newcastle Districts. This included Newcastle GC (moved to North Stockton in 1915) and Waratah GC with the Northern Association main objective remaining the playing of the District Championship.
- 1921** - Waratah Golf Club moved to Cockle Creek. The Steel Works Golf Club was also formed and admitted to the Association, using the land at Mayfield vacated by the Waratah GC.
- 1925** - The Hunter River clubs withdrew and formed their own Association, with the three remaining local clubs, Newcastle, Steel Works and Waratah then forming the Newcastle District Golf Association.
- 1934** - The Brisbane Water clubs applied for affiliation. A sub-Association consisting of Gosford, Wyong and Terrigal clubs was set up under the control of the N.D.G.A.
- 1935** - The Hamilton Golf Club (Situating on the Newcastle Racecourse) Racecourse) was admitted to the Association.
- 1936** - Merewether Golf Club was admitted to the Association and the Steel Works Golf Club moved to the new Shortland site.
- 1939** - Macquarie Golf Club (situated at West Wallsend) granted affiliation.
- 1941** - Hamilton Golf Club disbanded and the Brisbane Water clubs withdrew and formed their own Association.
- 1946** - Macquarie Golf Club ceased to operate.
- 1949** - Muree Golf Club (at Raymond Terrace) granted affiliation.
- 1954** - Belmont Golf Club granted affiliation.
- 1961** - Kilaben Bay Golf Club granted affiliation.
- 1962** - Tomaree Golf Club (name changed later to Nelson Bay Golf Club) granted affiliation.
- 1968** - Sugar Valley Golf Club (at West Wallsend) granted affiliation.
- 1972** - Kilaben Bay Golf Club transferred their course to Wangi Road, Toronto and changed their name to Toronto Country Club.
- 1974** - Hillsborough - Charlestown Golf Club granted affiliation.
- 1977** - Tea Gardens - Hawks Nest Golf Club granted affiliation.
- 1982** - Tanilba and Districts Golf Club granted affiliation.
- 1983** - Karuah Golf Club granted affiliation.
- 1995** - Horizons GC and The Palms GC granted affiliation. Hillsborough - Charlestown GC changed their name to Charlestown Golf Club.
- Tea Gardens - Hawks Nest Golf Club changed their name to Hawks Nest Golf Club.
- 1998** - Nelson Bay Golf Club opened their 27 hole complex.
- 1999** - The Newcastle District Golf Association became legally incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act of 1984
- 2000** - Steelworks Golf Club changed their name to Shortland Waters Golf Club . Beresfield Men's Golf Club granted affiliation.
- 2005** - Pacific Dunes Golf Club granted affiliation.
- 2016** - The Palms Golf Club ceased to operate
- 2017** - Beresfield Men's Golf Club ceased to operate. Viney Creek Golf Club granted affiliation



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