

THE PINJARRA GOLF CLUB

The First 70 Years.

1912-1962 researched by H.A. Sear

1962-1982 researched by R.A.Adam

PART ONE

The First 50 years (1912-1962)

The playing of golf in any organized form first took place in Pinjarra in 1912 when a handful of enthusiast's discussed the formation of a club.

A meeting was called for the purpose and the outcome was the birth of the Pinjarra Golf Club. At this meeting Mr. Roy Paterson was elected first President and Mr. J Urquhart as Secretary. Messrs McLarty Bros were approached for the use of two of their fields adjacent to the town. This was agreed to by the owners and the area selected was the paddock east of the Railway Yards.

The First Tee was placed just east if the present Railway Goods Shed and the Ninth Green was where Elders Stock Yards now stand. The Nine Hole course was laid down and play commenced immediately after the initial work was carried out.

The First World was somewhat retarded play as a number of members enlisted and left for overseas in 1914.

After the War the club fell somewhat into abeyance and only spasmodic golf was played until 1926 when the club then again began to function on a full-time basis. When the club was reorganized it was decided to move the site of the course and again, by the courtesy of the Messrs McLarty Bros another of their paddocks became available to the club. This site was situated on the Perth Road just north of the town. Play commenced here with a 9 hole course in 1927 and continued until 1938.

When the club was re-established in 1926 Dr Maitland was elected President In 1934 he left the district. Dr Merritt, who took over the practice, was then elected President and held the office until 1942 when he left for service overseas, and on his retirement was elected a Life Member of the club for his sterling work for the sport whilst in the district.

It became apparent in 1938 that, for the club to function satisfactorily, some permanent home should be found. To put this into effect a committee consisted of Dr Merritt, H.A Sear and the then secretary, A.E Birch.

Inspections of different sites were made and after much deliberation, Reserve No 21099, situated on the Pinjarra-Mandurah Road was considered most suitable. However, there was some difficulty in securing this site for the Reserve was earmarked by the Lands Department as an Aerial Landing Ground. Considerable negotiation took place between the Murray Road Board and the Lands Department, the latter refusing to agree to any change of the Reserve's category until the Civil Aviation Department stated that they did not require the Reserve. After inspection of the Reserve by the Officers of the Department by the ground and the air it was finally established that the Department was prepared to relinquish its claim provided it was declared a "Reserve for Recreation". The Road Board had no objection to the change-over and an agreement was drawn up by which the Golf Club was to be given full rights to lease the Reserve for a Golf Course for a commencing period of 21 years with the right of renewal. A proviso was included in the agreement whereby the club had the right to remove the buildings it erected or any other moveable asset owned by it, if at any time it vacated the site.

This was the start of the Club on its present site. Mr. Eustace Cohen of Perth, whose hobby was Golf Architecture, was engaged to survey and layout the fairways for a nine hole course. He made a number of inspections and a plan was submitted and after some modification was accepted.

Work was commenced on clearing the fairways by contract and working bees, the fairways, after scarifying, were rolled but it took the best part of two seasons before any organized play was possible.

All members worked long and hard to get the course into shape and only their enthusiasm kept things moving. However, at long last play of a kind was possible and the reward was reaped for many long hours of hard work.

Mr. Cohen, who laid out the course; unfortunately, died before play was possible and because of this the Cohen Trophy came into being. His widow on being approached regarding payment for her husband's work, very kindly suggested that money be utilized in the purchase of a perpetual trophy to be known as the "Cohen Trophy". The club accepted the offer and the trophy is still competed for each year as a Mixed Pairs Competition. I might add that both Mr. and Mrs. Cohen were keen golfers.

No clubhouse of any pretensions was financially possible and members had to be content with an iron shed for a long time to come which today is superseded by a fine up-to-date clubhouse with all modern amenities, including bar.

Annual Trophies played for, in addition to the Cohen Trophy, included the Pinjarra Cup of 27 holes stroke – donated by Dr E, J Green, a past president; the Colin Clarke Trophy – a memorial trophy in memory of member killed in action in 1944; The Sam Dawe Memorial Trophy – in memory of a past President who gave many years of

splendid service to the club; The Dick Keel Memorial Trophy – in memory of a very popular member and the Mengler Cup – Donated by Mr. George Mengler of Dwellingup.

Over the years some members and associates of the club have played the perfect shot, as is the case in most Clubs. Hole-In-One have been scored by members in the following cases:-

Mrs. E Harolld, 8th hole – Old Course

Mr. G.S Williams, 5th hole – Present Course-old layout

Mr. R Hamilton, 5th hole – Present Course-old layout

Mrs. D Eddy, 2nd & 4th holes – Present Course-old layout

Mrs. B Smith, 2nd hole – Present Course-old layout

Mr. R Jucker, 17th hole – Present Course-old layout

Mr. J Kuhnberg, 17th hole – Present Course-old layout

Mrs. Eddy, therefore, holds the record for this feat with the two perfect shots. There may have been others accomplish this feat but no records held disclose it.

Another record that is held by a member and which will be hard to break is the winning of thirteen Club Championships by Mr. Tom Brayn. It is a record id which any member might be proud.

The club is now on a sound footing with an energetic committee. A 12 hole Course is now being played and arrangements are in hand at the moment to acquire additional land in order to established requirements for a full 18 holes.

The natural trees on the course have been sadly depleted but foresight has been shown by a vigorous program of tree planting along the sides of the fairways and which are flourishing and should soon be a great asset to the course.

Additions to the Clubhouse are also in hand.

One of the oldest Golf Clubs in the state with 50 years behind it; it is a record to be proud of and should be so old and present members.

In conclusion, I would like to thank those persons who gave me authentic information over the early periods which were even before my time as a member in the compiling of this short history.

PART TWO

The Years 1963-1982

Preface

Foremost my thanks to Mrs. Jerese Rocchi for entrusting me with the honor of compiling this continuation of "50 years of Golf in Pinjarra 1912-1962" by Mr. H.A (Horrie) Sear.

I had the distinct advantage over Mr. Sear in that all minutes and records pertaining to the 1963-1982 period were available for my perusal and I found the task most enjoyable and enlightening.

It is only when one can read of the years of achievement in the space of an hour that one fully appreciates the tremendous contributions that have been made to the Pinjarra Golf Club by the presidents, committee's, members and associates to create, to promote and to maintain a first class golf course such as ours.

In addition to regular meeting attendance, the management of various sub-committees, secretarial and house and ground staff has always been carried out with completed efficiency and cooperation. Junior coaching, voluntary labor of many and varied forms, fund raising, donations, sponsorships and catering are other commendable contributions made by the members and associates of the Pinjarra Golf Club.

The managerial and constructive accomplishments of the club are complimented by there golfing prowess of our many players who have achieved notable successes at home and on other courses both as individuals and as members of the Pinjarra Teams.

My apologies to the many persons who have also contributed to the success of the Pinjarra Golf Club and who were not referred to in this brief history. I have endeavor to mention those who have made exceptional contributions, these who have brought honor and glory to the Pinjarra Clubs and those who have provided some of the lighter moments of our game.

The Pinjarra Golf Club (Inc) 1963-1982

1963 It is appropriate that the Pinjarra Golf Club should commence the second half century of its being on a similar mission to the first; the quest for more land on which to play the ever popular game of golf.

It was in the 1963 that the Committee, presided over by Mr. H A (Barney) Parkhill, entered into negotiations to purchase 35 acres of land from the adjoining Cooper

Estate, to establish six additional fairways and greens and so bring to fruition the long cherished hope an 18 hole course.

The land was eventually purchased for the sum of £524 (\$1048) and the services of the well known golf architect, Murray Dawson, were enlisted to advise on the course layout as proposed by committeeman John Munday. Some necessary improvements to the Clubhouse and land purchase were made possible by a Shire loan of £1200 (\$2400).

In 1963 the Pinjarra Golf club became a foundation member of the Pinjarra Sporting Council which, for the next ten years, was to provide subsidized labour and machinery usage, through the shire, in return for voluntary barmen's duties at Pinjarra Race and Trotting meetings.

The P.G.C. Captain and the Associates champion of 1963 were Stan and Ruth Hughes respectively; new, of-course, better known as the parents of Australian and West Australian cricket captain, Kim Hughes.

An amusing story from the early 60's tells of a playing member named Jack who found that he just could not "cope". Jack became so frustration on the 3rd fairway that he hurled his bag of clubs into the bush and stormed back to the clubhouse. Later that evening, after much chiding, from his fellow-members, Jack ruefully retrieved the offending clubs by torchlight.

1964 Negotiations by Barney Parkhill's Committee saw the 35 acres of land purchased incorporated into the "A" Class Reserve, and leased back to the Club at a nominal annual rental of £12-10-0 (\$25).

Greens Committee chairman, Ken Venn, and a most energetic group of members then set to work to develop the virgin land. After the bulldozer, the land was burned, rotary hoes and harrowed. Following confirmation of the architect's plan, the fairways were pegged, planted with Indian couch obtained from Capel, fertilized and lined with some 500 Swamp Mahogany seedlings.

In 1964 the Committee decided to affiliate with the Outer-Suburban Golf Association and retained membership with the South West Association until 1966.

The success of Don in the 1964 Club championship, was to be the fore-runner of a further 10 victories in this prestigious event up to and including 1982.

1965 It was in 1965 that club member, Archie Burt, offered to coach the Pinjarra school children in the game of golf and it is fitting that a protégé of Archie's, in Andrew Makoweiki, should win the inaugural Pinjarra Senior Championship in 1969 and again in 1970, 71 and 75.

To recognize the Presidents, Captains and champions of both Members and Associates of the club, Honour Boards dating back to 1953 were installed in the club House.

Mr. Parkhill, in his final President's address, stated "that Mr. Murray Dawson was amazed at the growth on the new fairways and he predicted that they would be playable by 1967."

1966 On the recommendation of the 1966 President, Mr. J.A. (Tony) Dixon, a Building Sub-Committee was elected to evaluate the proposed extensions to the Club-house incorporating a new Bar, Bar Lounge, Cool Room and Ablution Facilities. A Shire loan of \$16000 made it possible for this project to proceed under the supervision of committeeman Don Glass.

The 1966 Club Championships were significant in that Tom brayn was to win his seventeenth and possibly his final title, while Pat Smedley (nee Eddy) gained the first of her thirteen Associate Championship titles in 16 years, including 8 consecutive victories from 1974-1981.

1967 Life-Membership was conferred on the popular Club Member, Mr. Nelson Mann on April, 22nd 1967 for long service rendered to the Club.

July 22nd 1967 was indeed a proud day for the Pinjarra Golf Club when the new 18 hole course and the modernized Club-House were declared open to the Members by the Club Patrol, Mr. E. Runciman, M.L.A.

Twilight Mixed Foursomes were the beginning of Summer golf at Pinjarra in November 1967 and this brought an important break-through for "Women's Lib." When a successful motion decreed, "that ladies be given permission to wear Bermuda shorts or slacks on Competition Days."

1968 Another break-through occurred in April 1968 when the fence surrounding the flag pole was demolished. This fence was erected in 1963 "to contain the children of playing members". We have all heard of Golf Widows, but surely, this must be the first written reference to Golf Orphans!!

1969 There is no doubt that it was most gratifying to Tony Dixon in his fourth and final year as President to see the Bar Lounge completely refurnished and carpeted.

1969 heralded the Inaugural Pinjarra Junior Championship which was won by Andrew Makoweiki, as mentioned previously, and an Honour Board was erected to recognize Andrew and all future Junior champions of the Club.

Don Glass won his fourth Club Championship and later out-played a large field in the 1969 Pinjarra cup. This was the first home-club success since Charlie Brennan had won the Cup in 1960.

1970 Sixteen years of continuous service to the club Committee was recognized and appreciated when Ken Venn was made a Life Member on May 2nd 1970.

With the election of Mr. J.C. (Jim) Paterson as club President, another important chapter in the history of the P.G.C. was about to unfold. On the suggestion of Committeeman Ken Green, a Sub-Committee was elected to investigate the possibility of establishing grass greens and the future reticulation of the course.

A Survey and master plan was prepared by "Golf and Recreational Management" (Mr. Murray Dawson) at a cost of \$2000, and after numerous inspections and considered alternatives, a General Meeting of Members, empowered the committee to raise a loan of \$45000 to effect the installation of grass greens and tees and to reticulate the course where and when required.

The Shire loan was approved and the development of a Championship course was commenced. The quotation of \$27,315 by Southern Cross to develop and equip the bore and to supply and install reticulation to greens and tees was accepted. The excavation of the storage dam and the contouring of the greens was contracted by Ken Green at a nominal figure. It was at the latter of 1970 that the word "Alcoa" was first to appear in the P.G.C. Minute Book and since that time a most cordial and mutually beneficial relationship has existed between the two bodies.

The 1970 Pinjarra Sportsman of the Year award, sponsored by the Pinjarra Sporting Council, was won by Club Champion, Don Glass, as a nominee from the Golf Club.

1971 In 1971, following the extensions and improvements to the club-house, the Licensing Court saw fit to raise the limit of our membership from 250 to 420 with a maximum of 200 Associates.

Frequent burglaries in the early seventies necessitated the installation of a warning alarm system and initially several committeemen suffered the embarrassment of explaining to the Officers of the Law that they had neglected to switch off the alarm before opening the protected doors to go about their duties!

The 1971 Championships were another triumph for Andrew Makowieki when he claimed both the club and Junior titles. Pat Smedley also completed a unique double in 1971 when she won the Associates Championship and was later acclaimed the Pinjarra Sportsperson of the year as the nominee for the Club.

1972 The successful establishment of the grass greens and tees was the culmination of two years planning and despite some early reticulation problems, the requirement of additional machinery, equipment, sprays and fertilizers and the increase in our loan commitments, the present indications are that the reticulated greens have contributed most significantly to the popularity of the Pinjarra course.

The first full-time Green keeper, Mr. Harry Roberts, was appointed in February 1972 and under his guidance seeding of the greens commenced in early March and it is to Harry's credit that the greens were played on ten weeks later.

The Club colours were registered by the 1972 Committee as Black and Gold, Kevin Beacham, one of the longer-standing members and a Committeeman for a number of years, tells of the day that he was following a threesome which included the late Karl Rosentals, one of the most popular and philosophical playing members of the Club. As Kevin putted out on No1, Karl and his partners prepared to drive to the No2 par 3 green (now No 16 green) which was protected by a water hazard. From behind the spearwood curtain, the sound effects and the monologue went like this. Whack – Plop. “Nefer mind. Not to worry, not to worry” Then a pause, Whack – Plop. “Nefer mind, not to worry, not to worry.” Another pause, Whack – Plop, “Oh sh-t !!” Apologies to Karl.

1973 Mr. R.W. (Roy) Skidmore was elected President in 1973, the first of which proved to be a most challenging but extremely vital three year period in the history of the club. The encouragement of new members to the Club, fund raising, voluntary labour and donations were to become the prime considerations of Roy's Committee.

The first “Alcoa Day” was conducted on May 13th 1975 for trophies donated by Alcoa of Australia and it is now a very popular and well patronized annual event.

Another popular event on our calendar is the R.R. McKenzie Memorial Veterans' Day which was also first contested in 1973, for the perpetual shield donated by Bob McKenzie. Bog will be long remembered for his unselfish desire to assist all Pinjarra Golfers, both young and older, to improve their golfing techniques and it was fitting that Honorary Life Membership was awarded to him in March 1977. On Bob's demise late in 1977, Mrs. McKenzie kindly donated \$1000 to a Trust Fund to ensure a supply of trophies for the Veterans' Day.

A most generous donation of \$7500 was made by Alcoa towards the reticulation of the fairways along with an interest-free loan of a similar amount for the purchase of reticulation equipment. This gesture and the voluntary labour of members allowed the reticulation of the nine longest fairways to be completed for the summer of 1974.

Don Glass capped off another fine season by winning his sixth club Championship and being awarded the Sportman of the Year Trophy for the second time.

1974 Life Membership was bestowed on Jim Paterson at the Annual General Meeting on 12th March, 1974, in recognition of his dedicated service to the club.

The true Club spirit became obvious in mid-1974 when the club's financial position deteriorated to a serious level. Only the co-operation of the Shire Council and the Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac), donations of \$3000 by Alcoa, a Toyota truck by Ernie Hogan and live stock by Jim Paterson, together with more voluntary labour by members, saw the position improve considerably by the end of the year.

The acceptance of Social Members and the provision of a Pool table, Dartboard, and Table Tennis had increased the use of the facilities and also the Bar turnover.

Pat Smedley brought further renown to herself and the club in 1974 when in her first year as Associates' Captain, she was again Club Champion and also Sportsperson of the Year for the second time as a Golf Club nominee.

1975 In 1975 Junior Golfer, Tony Rocchi, won the club championship and served notice that he was to become prominent in future Junior and club championships. Tony was in fact Junior Champion for five consecutive years from 1976 – 1980 and took the Club Title again in 1978 and 1980.

The A.G.M. of 1975 was held in November for the first time and concluded the three year term of President Rou Skidmore who must be congratulated for the manner in which he guided the club through this most difficult period.

1976 The 1976 season opened with the election of C.W. (Claude) York as President and K.B. (Kevin) Sear as Secretary. Claude's years of 1976 and 1977 were, in the main, a period of consolidation, although the condition of the Course was improving rapidly, necessitating the acquisition of a greens mower at a cost of \$6000.

Kevin is the younger son of Mr. H.A. Sear, the author of the first history "50 Years of golf. Pinjarra 1912 – 1962" and he was largely responsible for the outstanding success of the inaugural Pinjarra Pro-Am Tournament held in April 1977.

1977 The first request to use a motorised buggy on the course received Committee approval in September, 1977. The bar Lounge was further enhanced by the purchase of a T.V. set (to be replaced in 1978 by a Colour Set) and a Public Address System was donated by the associates Committee.

1978 The two-year term of D.O. (David) Lansbury as President (1978 – 79), almost began with disaster. On the Tuesday prior to the 1978 Pro-Am Tournament, “Cyclone Alby” battered the course and with only four days to spare, a major clean-up was organized David and green keeper, Frank Hodge, Members and Associates. It is recorded that Frank was granted one weeks leave in appreciation of the overtime that he worked to present the course in excellent condition for the Pro-Am.

Honorary Life Membership was awarded to Mr. Alan Taylor on August 15th 1978 in recognition of his splendid service to the club as Honorary Secretary and treasurer during the difficult financial years.

The passing of Max Abbott was a great loss to the club in 1978. Max was a former Honorary treasurer and popular Bar Manager and a donation was made to the Diabetics Research Foundation in memory of his association with the club.

The annual “Max Abbott Memorial” Trophy is one of the most keenly contested by the Pinjarra associates and comment is still made of Max’s “alcoholic” and “non-alcoholic” punch at their Melbourne Cup Luncheons. Only Max knew why the girls who had “abstained” were giggling as much as the others by the time the cup was run!

1978 saw Pat Smedley notch up her tenth associate championship title and also become the inaugural winner of the Jim Banfield Trophy. In addition to receiving a handsome trophy, the Associate’s name is also inscribed on the magnificent Grandfather Chiming clock which was made by Jim Banfield and presented to the club in memory of his wife, Ivy.

1979 In July 1979, the club was honored with a visit by the Governor’s Golf team. Associate Life Membership was bestowed on Mesdames Joyce Brayn, Doreen gree and Ida Perry on August 13th 1979. All three ladies are Past Presidents of the Associates Committee and have dedicated a great deal of their time and energy to the interests of the Pinjarra Golf Club.

During the year, the Driveway and Parking Area was bituminized and the Main Entrance was adorned with an engraved timber archway to present an impressive approach to the Clubhouse.

David Hickling became the first male member of the Club to achieve a second hole-in-one on the Pinjarra Course when he aced the sixth hole on 30th September, 1979. David had previously holed No 2 on 6th August 1978 with a perfect shot.

1980-81 Former President Claude York was re-elected in 1980 and again in 1981, to find the club now in a most satisfactory financial position.

The Course was now in excellent condition and the fairways and greens were receiving favourable acclaim from all who played them. The fields for all Club Competitions were increasing steadily and numerous requests were now being received from Metropolitan Social Clubs and individual players to use the Course and the Clubhouse facilities.

With the increased use of the amenities, further alterations, to enlarge the Lounge bar area were carried out by Club Members, supervised again by Don Glass, resulting in a saving of approximately \$5000 on a quotation received. The tiled area surrounding the bar was donated by the Associates and prompted Claude York in his Report to the 1981 annual General Meeting to say, "Without the Associates this club would not be what it is today; a place to enjoy, entertain fellow-players and all in a friendly and social atmosphere.

"Honorary" Membership was granted to popular playing member, Jack Nie, in 1980 and again in 1981 in appreciation of the many hours of voluntary work done on the Course and as Golf Club Representative on the Sports Council bar Roster.

1982 The President elected to lead the club in 1982 was M.B. (Mick) Eddy a member of the well know Pinjarra sporting family and son of Associate Life Member, Doreen (now Mrs. Murray) who has the distinction of playing the perfect shot twice of the Pinjarra Course in 1960 and 1962. Once comparatively new member to the club was lucky to avoid grievous bodily harm with a five iron when partnering Doreen in a Mixed Foursome, he unwittingly made the comment that, "only mug golfers ever get a hole-in-one!!"

Because of the disappointing support given by the Professional to the 1981 Pro-Am, a major amateur tournament was held in 1982 and proved to be a resounding success.

One thousand trees and shrubs donated by Alcoa were planted and will add to the inherent quality of the course as they mature and bloom.

The sterling services of two of the longest-standing members in Tom Brayn and Mick Waller were recognized when Life Membership was conferred on them at the 1982 A.G.M. Both Tom and Mick have served many years on the committee and have contributed enormously in the clubhouse and on the Course.

The final committee motion of the Seventh Decade of the club was, "that the Finance Committee investigate the possibility of setting up a Sinking Fund for machinery replacement and for Building and Grounds development."

With this attitude of fore-thought and the election of such a conscientious achiever as Mick Eddy to lead the Club into the Eighth Decade, the continued progression of the Pinjarra Golf club seems assured.

Foot note: The writer of this history – the years 1963 -1982 – is our Patron, Mr. Roy Adam. He was appointed Patron in recognition of his services to the club over a number of years, especially in the development of the grass greens and his work as Grounds Chairman for several years. He is a very active Patron who; carries out his duties with great dignity. At present he is a non playing member. However, as a keen golfer in the past he has left his mark on the “Hole-in-One” Board with an ace on No 2.

He is also President of the Pinjarra Trotting club and an energetic contributor to many organizations.