

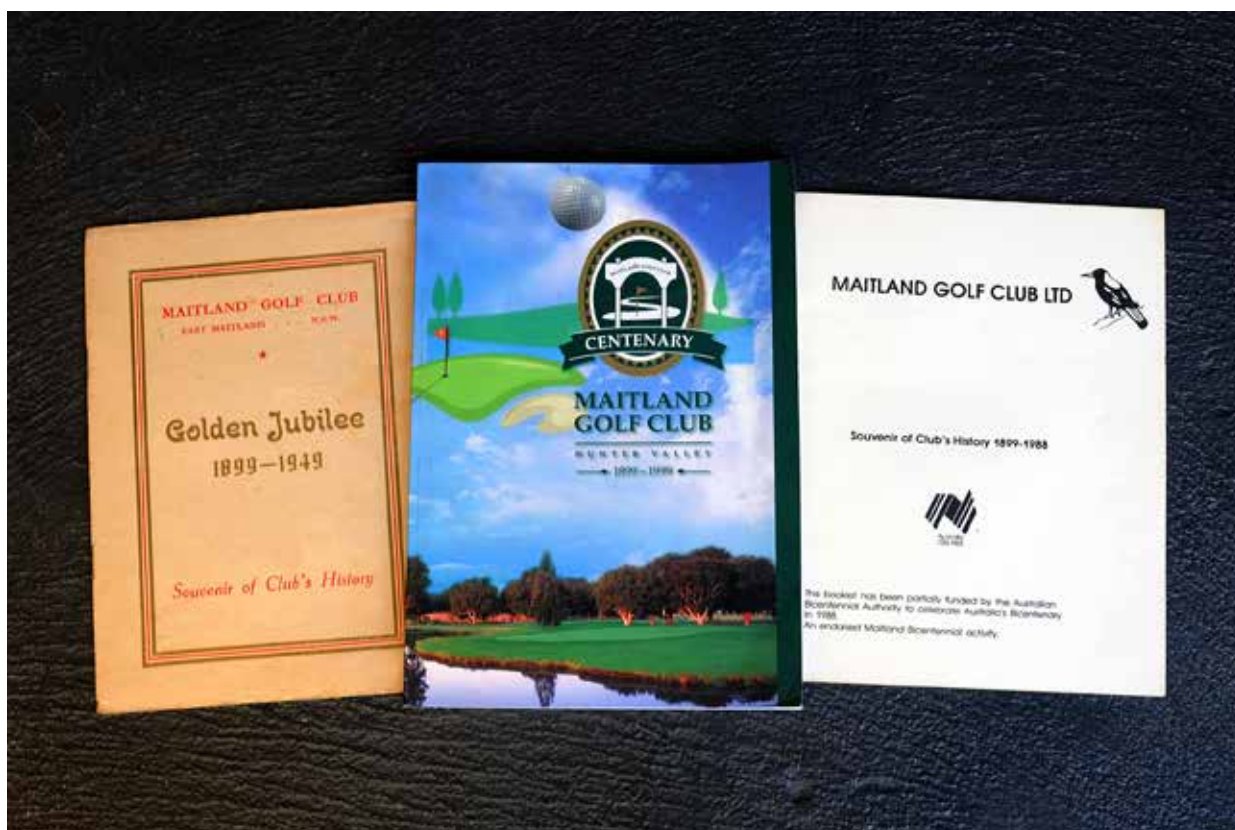
# 125 Years Anniversary

**MAITLAND GOLF COURSE**

*The past 25 years*

**1999 - 2024**





## PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

### Course Golden Jubilee

1899 - 1949

### Australia's Bicentenary

1899 - 1988

### Course Centenary

1899 - 1999

Front and rear covers: Taken from Collage of Maitland Golf Course (viewed from the 18th tee), circa early 1960s. Photograph and paint, artists unknown.

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# FOREWARD

In February 2024, Life Member and Patron, Joan Palmer, turned 101. Joan is by far our oldest living member (and probably the longest member ever), joining the Club in 1947. She has witnessed all the changes to the club and course since, and has been the ultimate resource in documenting and recounting our history.

Congratulations on reaching your milestone Joan we are eternally indebted for your contribution.

On 24th April, 2004, Joan cut the ribbon to open our new clubhouse at 2 Tenambit Street, East Maitland. The following is a copy of the address she gave at that occasion.

With this year being the 125th anniversary of playing golf on Maitland Golf Course coinciding with the opening of our clubhouse extension, it seems appropriate that we preserve these words in our history by using them as an introduction to this booklet.

“Mr Chairman, Mayor Blackmore, State Member John Price, other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you Harold Mayo, and your team from Easts for giving me the honour of turning the first sod and today cutting the ribbon to open this magnificent building. I see it as an asset to the whole community.

To the architects from EJE and the builders, Stevens Constructions, you have excelled yourselves. To Rebecca, for your innovative design of the carpet, you are to be congratulated.

Maitland Golf Club has existed for over 100 years and is one of the oldest in NSW. We have a proud heritage.

The Club was formed in 1899 by a group of men who met at the Bank Hotel in Melbourne Street. Among those founding members Mr Sam Clift, the first President; George Clift, his brother; Gordon Clift, Sam's son and Mr Hinder who was Headmaster of Maitland Boys High School. Gordon Clift, I believe featured in the early days of East Maitland Bowling Club. He was a champion bowler as well as being prominent in golf at state level.

I thought I would give you a brief overview of the clubhouses we have had over the past 100 years. The founding committee obtained a lease of a block of land belonging to George Clift in Victoria Street behind the Boys High School. George agreed to a 10 year lease with an option to purchase at anytime.

He also allowed 2 years rent free. A tender for £88/10/- (88 pounds, 10 shillings) from Mr H Compton was accepted and a “commodious” clubhouse was erected. Members guaranteed an overdraft to the bank.

“The clubhouse was a three roomed weatherboard building with an iron roof. The gentleman's and ladies' rooms each had a washbasin at the ends of the main room. There was



a sink for washing up, an ice chest and two gas rings. The rooms were lit by gas.”

Balls and euchre parties were held at the Mechanics Institute to help reduce the overdraft. Reports in the Mercury described in detail the lavish gowns worn by the ladies. The guest list read like a who's who of the landed gentry of the time. At these functions they played euchre from 8.00pm then had supper with dancing until 1.00am. Mrs Eales of Berry Park wore a black skirt with a pale yellow blouse for instance.

We have no records from 1906 – 1926, but in 1926 I noted the block in Victoria Street was sold to pay for a section of the site in Sinclair Street across the road. Meanwhile, negotiations were under way to secure a lease of Crown Land on which our present course is built. This land was originally gazetted for a racecourse but the trustees had failed in 1906 to gain a license. Most of us will remember the 8 furlong training track around the course.

The golfers obtained a perpetual lease in 1926. Many don't know that Posinatus who won the 1913 Melbourne Cup was trained here. Hence we call our special tournament on Melbourne Cup day Posinatus Day.

The golfers' lease was on condition the horses could train from daybreak to 9.00am. This arrangement continued until 1994 when the training track was moved along Raymond Terrace Road. The club charged the trainers 2/6d per horse per month. The trainers paid the Golf Club £20 per year towards the up keep of fences etc. The track had to be maintained by the trainers.

A clubhouse was built in 1926 on the new Sinclair Street



site. From photos it was of a "cottage type appearance". The builder was Frank Redhouse. It was not sewerred.

By 1936 this club house was in need of enlargement. Lady members offered to raise £50 towards it. However the matter was taken out of their hands, for on August 3 1938 the building was destroyed by fire. A temporary shed was erected until a 3rd club house was designed by Mr Pilgrim and built by Mr B Idstein. It was also of cottage appearance with one large room and two small change rooms. Living quarters were attached to the back of the building for the Pro and his family. The Pro's duties included on course work as a greenkeeper, a bar steward and his wife was expected to provide light refreshments from her kitchen.

The opening of this club house in 1939 coincided with the beginning of WW2. Members threw themselves into the war effort. A knitting machine and wool was purchased by the members to enable the ladies to knit scarves, balaclavas, socks and jumpers for the troops. Competition golf was suspended for the 6 years of the war. A group, who called themselves pacifists and who owned radio station 2HD, were caught sending messages to the Japanese lurking off Newcastle. Their license wasn't renewed and the station was closed down for the duration of the war.

1948 saw many improvements to the club. These included the second nine holes being opened and a liquor licence being obtained. A phone was installed in the lounge with the cost of a local call for members set at three pence (thruppence) and an honesty box was put beside it. Coloured canvas blinds across the front of the building added to its homely appearance.

In June 1949, scotch whiskey would be served on weekend only.

In 1950 we purchased two more blocks to provide for a car park.

The struggle to stay financial continued after a series of floods on the course. Various members gave interest free loans and debentures.

In 1954, disaster struck when the clubhouse was burnt down again and a tin shed was erected as a temporary clubhouse. The steel works (presumably BHP) loaned us a marquee for special occasions with lamps for lighting.

Thelander and Deamer provided plans and Arnold Avard was the builder of our fourth clubhouse.

Before the foundations were laid, the worst flood in living memory ruined the course. Helicopters dropped bread onto the 9th fairway as East Maitland was isolated.

A special general meeting was held in the Police Boys Club to discuss ways of raising money for the new clubhouse. I was present at this meeting. One fellow got up and said "Couldn't we have some more "adventures" like we did before to raise the money?" He meant debentures.

And so the clubhouse we have just vacated was built. It was thought to be a most innovative design at the time.

It has served us well though I have seen many changes. In 1960 ladies were permitted to wear slacks in the clubhouse. Shorts of course were banned. Up to the early 1980's ladies were asked not to enter the club house on Saturdays.

Though we were one of the few clubs in the black we could never see our way clear to raise enough money for a new clubhouse even with "adventures".

At the time, the directors of both clubs initiated discussions with a view to a possible merging of both Golf and Bowling Clubs for their mutual benefit. The net result of these initial discussions is the magnificent building in which we are now sitting today.

As with all new partnerships, there are teething problems, adjusting to new routines. We have to get used to the fact that we are sharing these premises but let's not lose our identity as one of the oldest golf clubs in NSW.

Let us remember that though many hands have made this building, many hearts will make our club."

**Joan Palmer**  
**LIFE MEMBER AND PATRON**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Chairman of the Course Committee Ken Brown approached me about celebrating the 125 Years of the Golf Course, although normally celebrations occur in 100 year and 50 year segments, or special occasions such as the Australian Bicentenary (1988) as stated in Ken's Report. With the Board's support, I agreed with Ken's request believing it proper to do so.

Next 25 years 1999-2024 brought about significant changes.

2003 the Amalgamation between the Maitland Golf Club and East Maitland Bowling Club, with Members of both Clubs voting yes to the Amalgamation. With the result of the Golf Club going into voluntary liquidation. With agreement of both parties, the course retained the name Maitland Golf Course.

The new clubhouse was constructed and given the trading name Easts Leisure & Golf having had three Managers, Frank Garment, Steve Duggan and Scott Driffield (current).

Major works on the course have occurred over the 25 years, a number of flood damage repairs, cart paths, replaced irrigation system, cart storage sheds and the course in general.

I congratulate the various Course Committees for their dedication and efforts towards the course over the years led by Chairmen Eric Hargy (1999-2006), Don Begg (2006-2009), Clarrie Coutts (2009-2019) and Ken Brown (2019-present).

We are very fortunate in having excellent Course Superintendents, Rod Waite (1997-2015), Damien Murrell (2015-2021) and David Buchanan (2021-present) and their staff managing the condition of the course, sometimes in very difficult circumstances. Ably assisted by the volunteers, I thank you all.

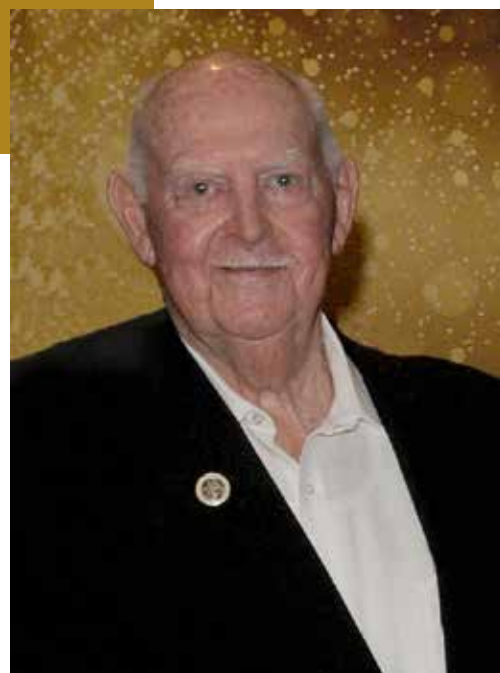
The vital role of Club Captains Bob McKenzie (1999-2006) and Rick Marsh (2006-present). Duties include liaison between all Committees, selection of teams and all matters in regard to play on the course etc.

The efficient control by our Pro Michael Holden and staff is greatly appreciated. In particular during the dreaded Covid period.

The condition of the course and control of the game is only possible by team effort of all the groups mentioned, working together. With the added support of you the Members.

Let the next 25 years be as successful as the past 25 years.

**William Hopkins OAM JP  
PRESIDENT**



## FROM THE CEO

On the remarkable occasion of the 125th year anniversary of the Maitland Golf Course, I am very proud to be involved through my position as the Chief Executive Officer of East Maitland Bowling Club. This milestone is a testament to the enduring legacy and rich history that the golf course has cultivated over more than a century.

From its inception to its present stature, the golf course has been a venue for not only the sport of golf but a space to promote community and foster the creation of friendships. It has welcomed generations of players and spectators alike to enjoy its scenic nature and the different challenges that the courses layout presents.

The past 25 years has seen significant change. It has witnessed the amalgamation of the two clubs East Maitland Bowling Club and Maitland Golf Club which has brought a myriad of benefits to Club members and the local

## FROM THE MANAGER

As expressed by our Club President and Course Committee Chairman, I too am honoured to be a part of this great Club during the 125yr anniversary of the Golf Course.

I am very proud of the history of the Course and place in which the Club holds within our local area and the industry at large. Commemorating such a milestone is an amazing achievement made possible primarily through the support of our members and we are forever grateful to the generations of people that have called this Club their own.

2024 is a very special year as it also sees us celebrate 20 years in the current clubhouse and the completion of our major Club renovations. The Club continues to grow and the improvements to the Course and facility over the past 25 years only serve to validate the decisions and effort made during the previous 100.

I began my journey with Easts Leisure & Golf in 2006 and have been with Easts since 1996. I've called Maitland my home for my entire life, I know first-hand of the impact that we have on the local community. During my time with the Club, I have been lucky enough to experience a number of positive achievements, including various individual and representative team golfing victories, the construction of the Water Storage Dam, and installation of the irrigation system. There have been some negatives too, including incidences of flooding and the impact of Covid-19. The common denominator through all has been the support of the membership, Course Committee, Board of Directors and staff.

I have had the pleasure of working with some wonderful people throughout this continuing journey. I have learned from some very talented people, in particular the Golf



community. The amalgamation has created an opportunity to increase membership and also provide modern, up to date facilities for the total community.

Here's to many more years of success, growth, and continued excellence in golf.

**Steve Duggan**  
**CEO**  
East Maitland Bowling Club Ltd



Course Superintendents during this 25 year period. Rod Waite, Damien Murrell and now David Buchanan and their respective teams have nurtured and improved the Golf Course to provide us with the superior product that we experience today.

Thank you also to hard working Pro Shop staff, expertly led by Michael Holden. Thanks to the Administration Staff, Bar Staff, Caterers and Contractors that have made Easts Leisure & Golf and Maitland Golf Course what it is today.

On a final note, the Club Industry would not be where it is without volunteers. We are fortunate to have benefitted from some wonderful people who have dedicated vast amounts of time to the betterment of our facility. Whether that has been serving on a committee, helping with an event or getting their hands dirty on the Golf Course, your time and effort does not go unnoticed and we are eternally grateful to you all.

Here's to the next 25 years.

**Scott Driffield**  
**MANAGER**  
Easts Leisure & Golf

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is a great honour to be the Chairman of the Course Committee during the 125th year of golf being played on Maitland Golf Course.

As a club, we boast a rich history of members and visitors playing golf on this patch of ground and as the Chairman of the Course Committee comes the responsibility to ensure this history is recorded as it is the building block and foundation for the future of golf in this district.

This publication is our attempt to record our activities and growth over the past 25 years. For the full history of Maitland Golf Course and Maitland Golf Club former publications have been prepared as follows:

- Maitland Golf Club Golden Jubilee 1899 – 1949
- Maitland Golf Club Souvenir of Club's History 1899 – 1988
- Maitland Golf Club Centenary 1899 – 1999

These documents adequately cover the first 100 years of golf on this course and are available from the Club. This publication covers the next 25 years 1999 – 2024 as the extension of our rich history.

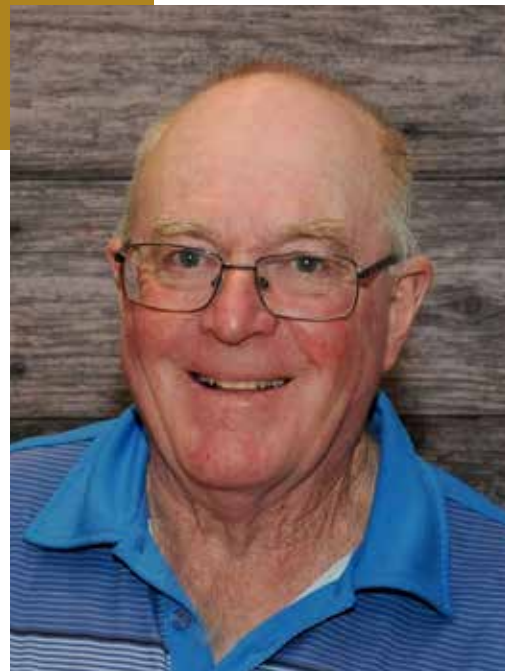
Our Club Professional, Michael Holden, has often used the phrase "How would you like to be 125 years old and be in the best condition of your life".

And he is right, the course is in magnificent condition, one can only imagine what it must have been like in 1899. But it is obvious that it has been under constant improvement over the past 125 years thanks to the dedication and commitment of members and employees. It is a credit to all and a constant source of pride and gratitude.

While Michael's statement was made to emphasise the condition of the course, my take was a little different. It bought me to the realisation the course is ALIVE; it is an actual living thing. We manicure it, we feed it, we water it, we add a few ornaments and order our behaviour with rules on how to use it – and call it golf.

What stories could the course tell?!! The challenges it has presented to us, the champions it has made, the champions it has destroyed, the stimulation it has provided, the frustrations it has caused, the friendships it has encouraged, the common interest it has provided families, the character it has built in all of us winning and losing with sportsmanship, respect for others.

At the end of the day the course has won, you've never played your best game; there is always one shot you left out there. So let's congratulate the course and give thanks to everyone who has kept it alive. Hopefully this booklet captures some of its secrets.



We currently have some 1,400 playing members and the course services over 50,000 rounds of golf per year. That's a lot of experiences and continued history in the making.

Enjoy the booklet, enjoy your golf, enjoy the challenge, enjoy camaraderie and look forward to the future.

**Ken Brown**  
**COURSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**



# THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024



Back L-R: R. Chalmers, G. Hogbin, K. Clarke, N. Ingham, R. McKenzie  
Front L-R: N. Lane, W. Johnstone – Snr Vice President, W. Hopkins OAM JP – President, S. Yates – Jnr Vice President, S. Duggan - CEO



## EASTS BOWLING CLUB EXECUTIVES 2024

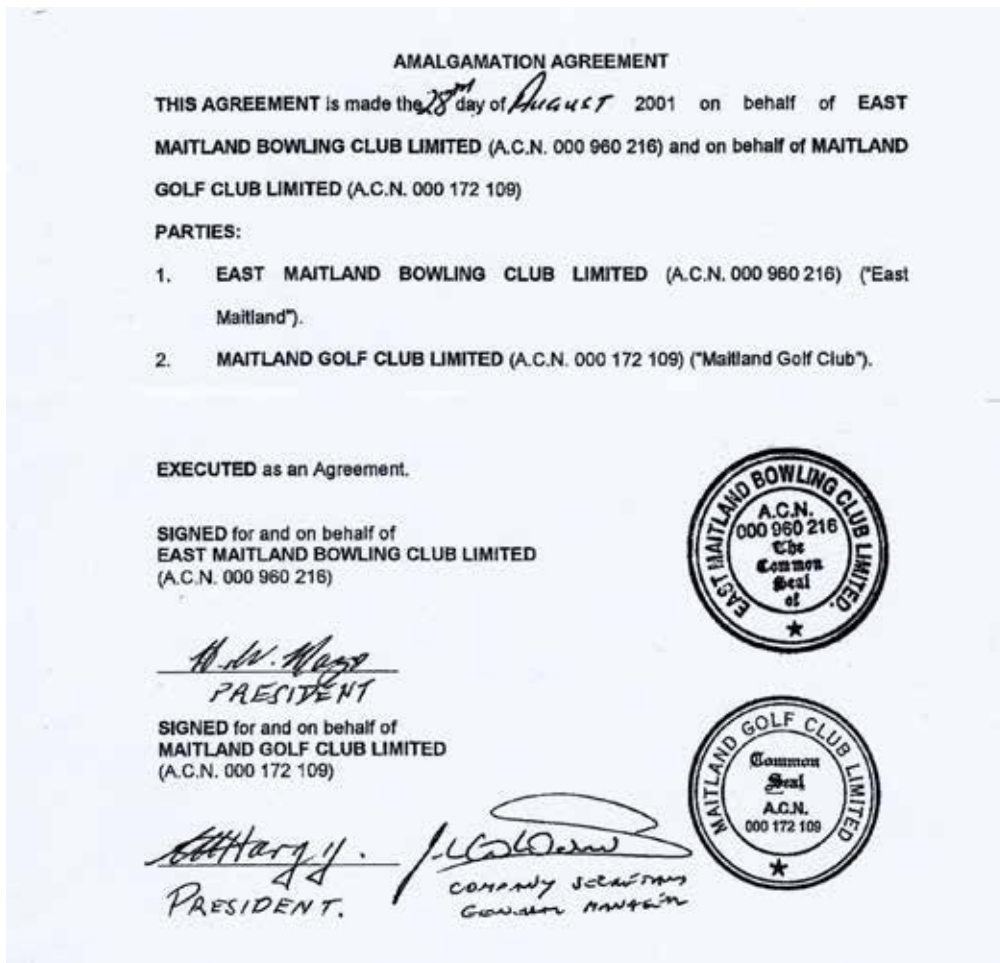
Back L-R: S. Driffield – ELG Manager, S. Duggan – CEO,  
Z.Davis – Human Resource Manager, J. Scanlon – Finance  
Manager  
Front L-R: J. Kelson – Marketing Manager, R. Maxted –  
Gaming Manager, J. Hearn – Event Manager



## GOLF ADMINISTRATION 2024

L-R: A. Rochow, S. Driffield, D. Stair

# THE AMALGAMATION



Excerpt from the Amalgamation Agreement

Maitland Golf Club was in need of a new clubhouse. While being profitable and growing for over 100 years, margins and balance sheet strength were not sufficient to service any funding requirements to build a new clubhouse whilst continuing to service the needs of the golf course.

The redevelopment of the existing clubhouse was not considered possible due to the size of the parcel of land. Car parking space was always a problem.

A proposal was put to the members to relocate the clubhouse to a park adjacent to the 4th and 14th greens (near the oval). A lot of discussion took place regarding this proposal due to the cost of course redesign and the necessary road works. When the proposal was put to the members it was defeated by a large majority.

The Maitland Golf Club Directors then decided to pursue the purchase of the parcel of Crown Land opposite the old clubhouse and adjacent to the golf course (the current site of East Leisure & Golf).

Whilst the club executives were pursuing finance it was decided, if necessary, that temporary buildings would suffice to keep the course operating.

In the early 2000's many larger clubs, for example Panthers, were looking for growth and expansion by taking over less financial clubs in the state.

East Maitland Bowling Club Directors were aware of the Golf Club's desire for a new clubhouse and were concerned that Maitland Golf Club could become an acquisition target for a larger expanding club. They had a parochial desire to keep our local community clubs in local ownership.

Around 2000 / 2001 the directors of both clubs came together to initiate discussions with a view to a possible merger of both Golf and Bowling Clubs for the mutual benefit of all members and the community.

After discussion and planning between the Boards of both clubs a meeting of Golf Club members agreed that Maitland Golf Club would be voluntarily liquidated and come under the governance of East Maitland Bowling Club as a sub-club (or committee).

The Amalgamation Agreement was signed on 28th August 2001 by Harold Mayo President of East Maitland Bowling Club and Eric Hargy, President of Maitland Golf Club.

The fundamentals of the Amalgamation Agreement were that the amalgamated club would fund the construction of a new clubhouse and car park on the parcel of Crown Land acquired for this purpose and that golfing activities would continue to be supported.

The transition of the merger was controlled by a sub-committee made up of members from both Boards, it was known as Easts Leisure & Golf. As part of the transition the name "Maitland Golf Club" was lost due to the voluntary liquidation and became known as Easts Leisure & Golf. The course was to be known as Maitland Golf Course.

The amalgamation was completed in 2003 and has been a great success.

At present, the Board of East Maitland Bowling Club is made up of both bowlers and golfers and represents the interest of its members as a whole. Golfing activities within the amalgamated club are the domain of the East Leisure & Golf. They are managed by a committee, as defined by the Constitution that is "the Golf Course Committee". The Committee has its own operating rules, and manages all golfing activities. This includes advising the Board of improvements / maintenance needs and requests for funding.

We now have two magnificent clubhouses servicing and supporting the growing local community and beyond.

The access to funding has not only built us a magnificent clubhouse in a wonderful location, it has also funded the purchase and continual update of our turf machinery and improvements such as the watering system and cart paths.

We currently boast one of the oldest and one of the best non-metropolitan golf courses in the state. We have some 1,400 golfing members enjoying an interesting course in the best condition of its life.



Harold Mayo



Eric Hargy



## A NEW CLUBHOUSE



4th Clubhouse as viewed from Sinclair St, circa 2004, Painting by Trevor Thornton

The first few years after the Centenary celebrations were dominated by the need to build a new clubhouse.

This desire drove the amalgamation which changed the course of history for Maitland Golf Club.

The old clubhouse, across the road in Sinclair Street, was rebuilt in 1955 after the original building was destroyed by fire in 1954. Major extensions were carried out in 1979 which serviced the members until the club's centenary in 1999.

By 1999 this clubhouse was an impediment to the growth of Maitland Golf Club.

It was a 2 storey building with the bottom storey housing the Pro Shop, Club administration office, Men's locker room (which had a snooker table), ladies room and the cellar.

Upstairs there was a central bar that serviced the "back bar" at the rear and the lounge bar towards Sinclair St. The original lounge area extended the full length of the building with glass windows at the front to over look the golf course on the other side of the road. The kitchen was on the back southern side of the building. It was not built as

a commercial kitchen but it was suitable for catering.

By 1999, dining out was becoming an entertainment outlet for club members and the public in general. A concertinaed screen (wall), approximately 2/3's to 1/3, was added to separate the lounge area from the dining area respectively.

These concertinaed doors could be opened to make the lounge as large as the original design for large functions or meetings, such as the meeting held for Golf Club members to accept the proposed Amalgamation Agreement.

A verandah, accessed by glass sliding doors was on the northern front of the building above the putting green and overlooking the 9th green and course. The verandah was rarely used, an exception being the last round of the Club Championships when the field teed off the 10th tee so the last hole would be the 9th. The gallery surrounded the 9th green and also viewed from the verandah as the last groups putted out.

There was a steep narrow set of stairs from the bottom storey to the top storey. The stairs were dangerous and not welcoming for visitors.



The number of members or guests that had accidents on the stairs is unknown but the story of Jim Higgins' fall is worth recounting.

Jim was a talented A grade golfer. He particularly enjoyed his golf on Thursdays with the group known as the "Burglars". Jim had a prosthesis, a glass eye, but managed to play good golf. This particular Thursday after completing golf, enjoying a few drinks and banter with his partners, Jim left for home. Unfortunately he tripped at the top of the stairs and tumbled all the way to the bottom. This caused quite a noise, people rushed to the bottom of the stairs and milled around the unconscious body. Mick Miller was the barman at the time; he got there a few seconds later and pushed his way through to see if he could help Jim. He knelt down and pulled one of Jim's eyelids back to look for signs of consciousness. He paused a second and announced "don't worry about him boys, he's dead!" Fortunately it was Jim's glass eye that he was examining. Jim came round, suffered no real injuries and was back to golf soon after.

Something had to be done. The clubhouse was of poor design, typical of its growth by extension on a block of land inadequate for a modern club and car parking facilities. There were health issues with the toilets and kitchen setup. Access was dangerous – golfers crossing the road, steep stairs.

The directors at that time sourced a parcel of land from Crown Lands across the road at 2 Tenambit St. Management was in the process of trying to source funding to build a new clubhouse.

East Maitland Bowling Club became aware of Maitland Golf Club's desire for a new clubhouse and initiated a discussion on how an amalgamation of both clubs could deliver a mutual benefit for all.

The Amalgamation Agreement is described in the previous chapter of this book.

Fundamental to the Agreement was that the amalgamated club would fund a new clubhouse for the community and continue to support golf activities. The Agreement was signed on 28th August 2001.

The Amalgamation has been a great success. The Clubhouse, East Leisure and Golf Club, was opened on 24th April 2004. Continued investment and support of golf has benefitted us all.

The Clubhouse was designed by EJE Architects and built by Stevens Construction.

All the issues apparent from the old site were addressed and surpassed. The clubhouse was a modern community facility with adequate space, restaurant and access. It included a gym available to the public and facilities to administer golf.

On July 28 2024, twenty years on, a major extension to the clubhouse with the construction of a terrace, full length to exploit the views of the course whilst increasing the dining space, lounge and entertainment areas, function centre and children's playground facilities was declared open for the enjoyment of our members and guests.

The growth of our local area will be well serviced by this club.



*New clubhouse as viewed from the 18th green, 2004*

## CLUBHOUSE CHRONOLOGY

1900

First clubhouse erected on a block of land near the Boys' High School between Pierce St and Victoria St (now Maitland High School)

1926

Second clubhouse of cottage appearance built on land purchased in Sinclair St, opposite Crown Land that was leased as Maitland Golf Links (co-existing with race course land)

1936

Clubhouse expanded

1938

Clubhouse destroyed by fire. Tin shed erected to serve as temporary clubhouse

1939

Third clubhouse was opened on the existing site, also of 'cottage type appearance'

1950

Additional land adjacent the clubhouse was purchased to provide for car parking.

1954

Clubhouse again destroyed by fire - a tin shed was again erected to act as a temporary clubhouse

1957

Fourth clubhouse opened on the Sinclair Street site, which was a large clubhouse designed for the future

1979

Major extensions carried out on existing clubhouse to cope with rising membership, extensions completed in March 1980

1999

Negotiations commenced to purchase a parcel of Crown Land across the road at 2 Tenambit St East Maitland

2004

New clubhouse, Easts Leisure and Golf Club, opened after amalgamation with East Maitland Bowling Club

2024

Major extensions completed

# DROUGHTS AND FLOODING RAINS

Droughts and floods are climate conditions well understood across all of Australia. Oscillation from one extreme to the next is part of our life. Our golf course is no exception.

With the growth in golf participation over the past 25 years on Maitland Golf Course, the impact of extreme climate conditions has a major effect on our financial performance. Successive committees worked hard to improve our resilience to such events.

In terms of drought, the lower Hunter Valley is blessed with abundant water compared with the rest of Australia. Getting water to the key areas of the course has always been a high priority. From watering greens by hand from a tank drawn by a horse and filled by hand from 2 Mile Creek to the fully automated system we have at present, the details of which are presented in the next chapter (Greening the Course) of this booklet.

Maitland has a reputation for being susceptible to flood events. This reputation was cemented in 1955 when the whole of Maitland was inundated by floodwaters. This is recognised as one of the most devastating natural disasters in Australia's history and received worldwide press coverage.

As Two Mile Creek flows through the lower part of the golf course, any rise above its banks can have a severe impact on our low lying holes, the 2nd, 3rd, 10th, 11th, 12th, 16th, 17th and 18th. Water levels can rise quickly and during flood events that close the Hunter River flood gates, this water will not recede until river levels drop and the flood gates reopen. This can take up to 5 days or longer depending on the quantity of floodwater coming down the valley.

The impact on Maitland Golf Course from rain events has been further exacerbated in the past 25 years by the continual development of East Maitland. There is now more run off from these areas. Downstream is also a problem. The suburbs developed towards Thornton have influenced the volume of flood water that can run off our course. It takes less rain to cause more pooling on the lower areas of the course than we have previously experienced.

In previous documents recording the course history, inundation occurred in 1949 (*water covered greens for 5 days, financial assistance was sought*); 1950 (*several greens were reseeded and temporary greens in place for a lengthy period*); 1955, our worst flood in living memory (*10th, 11th, 12th, 16th, 17th and 2nd greens totally destroyed, financial assistance from NSW Golf and Maitland Flood Relief Fund gave some assistance*).

Since 1955 the Course has suffered further damage caused by flooding in 1956, 1962, 1965, 1971, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1998.

In the past 25 years we have experienced 3 major flooding events:

## THE PASHA BULKER STORM 2007

The east coast low event that occurred on 8th June 2007 resulted in the grounding of the Pasha Bulker (76,000 tonne bulk carrier) on Nobby's Beach. This storm has been described as one of the most significant meteorological events in Australia's history. The subsequent flooding of the lower Hunter Valley meant that once again the lower sections of our golf course were inundated with flood waters for a number of days.



*Pasha Bulker on Nobby's Beach, 2007*

## THE SUPER STORM 2015

This intense east coast low occurred on 20th to 22nd April, 2015 and dumped 1.2m of rain in the Maitland, Dungog and Woodville areas. Extreme hourly rainfall rates of between 100 to 150mm were recorded. The rainfall was accompanied by gale force winds. Not only was our course inundated again, we also lost over 90 trees blown over by the wind.

The velocity and quantity of water down 2 Mile Creek washed away the creek banks, cart paths and also caused significant damage to the 2nd and 10th greens.

Immediately after the event member volunteers rallied to get the course to a playable state.

A resultant insurance claim was honoured and we were able to rebuild 2 Mile creek at the 18th fairway, rebuild the cart path in the same area, rebuild the two greens and the adjacent fairways and surrounds (taking the opportunity to raise their height) and rebuild all our bunkers.

## PROLONGED LA NINA EVENT 2022

During 2020 to 2023 Australia experienced a rare 3 year triple dip La Nina event. La Nina is the cool phase of the Eastern Pacific Ocean which typically brings rain and flood events to Australia. The impact of this extended event led to numerous natural disasters including extreme flooding, the most publicised was that experienced at Lismore in February 2022.



# DROUGHTS AND FLOODING RAINS



16th Green and Fairway, inundated, viewed from the 17th tee, 2015

On Maitland Golf Course we experienced 3 years of wet conditions. This culminated with a major inundation of the course in July 2022.

On 7th July, 2022 the Maitland Mercury reported “The city was smashed with 285 millimetres of rain at Maitland Airport this week – 123 millimetres more than the July monthly average – while the Belmore Bridge saw its average monthly rainfall of 130 millimetres fall in a single day. The gauge there has now received 255 millimetres in just 4 days”

This rain fell on sodden ground and the resultant runoff once again inundated the low holes at Maitland Golf Course. In all our floods, it is rare to see the 16th green go under water, but this was the case in this event. If the 16th green is under water then so are the 2nd, 10th, 11th, 12th and 17th greens.

Fortunately, as this was a low velocity flood, there was little long term damage to the greens. The water receded within a week and we were back playing golf soon afterwards, albeit on a restricted course layout.

The prolonged period of wet weather had a detrimental impact on the condition of our bunkers. Continual filling and draining of our bunkers meant that the sand was being compacted as well as acting as a filter for all course runoff, including mud, grass clippings and other course debris. The condition of our bunkers became a major issue for our golfing members. The Captain’s argument that “you shouldn’t go in them” or “learn how to play bunker shots” was not satisfying their growing discontent.



12th green, inundated, fallen tree towards the 13th green in the foreground, 2015

## FLOOD RESILIENCE ACTIONS

### Bunker Repairs

In April 2023 the Bunker Maintenance and Repair Program commenced. Funding was granted and involves reshaping bunkers where necessary, repairing and improving the drainage of all bunkers and filling them with new sand. The remaining bunkers will be repaired during the winter of 2024. Bunker maintenance is an ongoing program for our greenstaff.

### Cart Paths

In the past 25 years the motorised golf cart has become an integral part of the game. Many players now can only, or only want to play, if golf carts can be used.

To protect the course during wet periods carts are either not allowed or can only be used under “wet weather rules”.



Restricting cart usage has a dramatic effect on our golfing fields which in turn has a dramatic effect on course revenue.

Over the past 25 years the Board has approved several packages of cart path construction with the aim of keeping the course available during wet periods. This is a large initial cost but the investment will be beneficial in the long term.

At the present time the completion of cart paths on all holes is within sight. The Cart Path Completion Project will be staged as funding becomes available.

### Improved Course Layouts

It is rare that the course is completely closed due to wet conditions. Golf is an all weather sport and will only be called off if conditions are dangerous or course damage would be unacceptable.

For those who don't mind getting wet or wet shoes and socks, there is generally a course layout available that utilises the dryer areas of the course.

For example a 10 hole layout used during the La Nina period was: 1st hole as normal; the second hole was played from the dam wall to the 3rd green; Players then went to the par 5 14th, followed by the 15th, the 4th, the 5th and the 6th. The 19th hole was then played as the eighth hole in this layout, followed by the 8th and the 9th.

Other improvised layouts have been to play some of our par 4's and 5's as par 3's with the teeing areas on dryer areas within an iron shot to the green. We have also played the 18th as a short par 4 with the tee box at the start of the rise of the hill avoiding the low wet area.



*17th Green, partially inundated, viewed from the 17th Tee, 2015. Note the two ironbarks (the twins) the right hand tree was known as 'the bee tree', protecting the Green, both trees subsequently died and were removed*



*18th Fairway at 2 Mile Creek with cart path washed away, 2015*

# GREENING THE COURSE

Since the inception of the golf course getting water to the key areas of the course has always been a high priority. Earlier descriptions of watering greens by hand from a tank drawn by a horse and filled by hand from 2 Mile Creek have been described in previous documents. The use of travelling irrigators moved from fairway to fairway by tractor was a further stepping stone. The fully automated system we have at present is the result of the key actions described below.

## AUTOMATED WATERING - THE RED SCHEME (1974)

In 1974, Maitland Golf Course (MGC) applied for, and received, assistance from the recently elected Federal Labor Government in the construction of a fully automated irrigation system under the employment scheme known as the RED Scheme.

The plan was to pump treated water from Morpeth Sewage Treatment Works to irrigate the golf course.

The project provided for PVC pipes to be laid on all fairways, greens and tees together with the installation of some 450 sprinklers controlled by an automated watering system, at a cost to the Club of approximately \$99,000.

## THE DAM (2008)



*The Dam*

With the slow deterioration of the existing pipeline from the Morpeth Treatment Works to the course, it was agreed by course staff and management that an alternative to pumping under full pressure through these pipes be sought. A plan to capture water in a newly constructed dam on the course that has been trickle fed from the Treatment Works, and then pump under pressure from there, provided the best solution.

The club applied for, and was approved for two Water Grants:

- A \$50,000 Commonwealth Government Community Water Grant in March 2006
- A 'dollar for dollar' Commonwealth Government Community Water Grant totalling \$168,500 in November 2006



*The Dam Opening, 2008*

*L-R D. Begg (Course Committee Chairman), R. Waite (Course Superintendent), Cr P. Blackmore (Maitland Mayor), H. Mayo (EMBC President), B. Baldwin (Federal Member), S. Hargy (for Eric Hargy)*

Brookley Consulting (Graeme Brooker) was engaged as the project manager and was responsible for determining the site for the dam. Lantry Earthmoving were engaged to excavate the chosen site whilst National Pumps and Irrigation installed the pumps and laid the pipework to connect the dam to the existing irrigation. The dam works, overseen by the then Course Superintendent Rod Waite, has a capacity of 12 megalitres

The project commenced in early October 2007 and was officially opened August 2008.

The overall cost of the dam was \$473,500 (earthworks \$110,000; pumps \$160,000; irrigation \$129,000; electrical \$60,000), this amount was partially offset by the \$218,500 received through grant funding.

## THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM (2019)

The Course Superintendent at the time, Damien Murrell, drafted a report to the club's board in August 2018, which outlined the maintenance problems he was encountering daily with the old inground PVC pipework and the financial costs associated with repairing leaking pipes and faulty sprinklers.

Based in large part on this report, the Board decided to irrigate the whole course and called for tenders in the last quarter of 2018. In January 2019, the board decided to accept the tender supplied by Gosford Irrigation and Water Solutions (GIWS) to install a Toro Infinity system. At the same time, the board appointed Water Wise Consulting (Peter Bruek) as the project manager.





*The Irrigation System Opening, 2019*  
 Back Row - EMBC Board 2019  
 Front Row L-R – W. Hopkins OAM JP (EMBC President), M. Swanson MP (Federal Member), Cr L. Baker (Maitland Mayor), C. Boyd (Snr Electorate Official for Jenny Aitchison MP, State Member)

The new irrigation system design increased the number of sprinklers on course by over 40% to 865 in total. The project was anticipated to last approximately 40 weeks. Within the GIWS quote was a software package (Toro LYNX) that monitors the performance, status and effectiveness of the irrigation system. This allows the Course Superintendent to manage watering times, sprinkler coverage areas and gather water usage statistical data.

The course irrigation system project commenced in March 2019 and was officially opened by Federal Member for Paterson, Meryl Swanson, in September 2019.

The overall cost of the Irrigation System was \$1,230,000 (pipeworks \$660,700; sprinklers \$362,400; pumps \$140,200; computers \$51,000).



*18th Green Irrigation*

## THE WEATHER STATION

The weather station was installed on a recommendation from Project Manager, Peter Bruek, at a cost of \$16,000 which was included within the irrigation system quote. The weather station is located between the 3rd green and The Dam.

The Course Superintendent regularly uses the data gathered by the weather station to view temperatures, wind speed, rainfall and humidity for specific timeframes. This information is used to set irrigation programs, fertiliser and chemical application dosages and for disease control applications.

The weather station has the ability to cease course irrigation should there be excessive wind or rain thus lowering the chance of recycled water escaping the confines of the course through wind drift. Regular monitoring of water usage and the impact of recycled water usage form a part of the club's recycled water agreement with Hunter Water.



# COVID-19



*Robin Walker and John Incher touch putters at the end of a game – shaking hands was banned*

During 2019, the world was coming under the influence of a worldwide pandemic of the Coronavirus disease, Covid-19. The first recorded case in NSW was in January 2020.

By March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic caused massive restrictions on every day life as we knew it. Due to stay at home orders, lockdowns, and social distancing measures, indoor and outdoor sports facilities like fitness centres, sports clubs and golf courses were closed for many weeks or even months. Australia remained gripped by the clutches of the virus until October 11, 2021, which some media dubbed "Freedom Day", when lockdown in NSW was eased, mostly for the fully vaccinated.

In this period some of the restrictions introduced by Governments included: State border closures; social distancing of 1.5m; only essential travel to be considered; visitors to households limited to 5 guests; compulsory mask wearing in all indoor non-residential settings, including workplaces and organised outdoor events; drinking while standing at indoor venues not allowed; singing by audiences or by congregants at indoor places of worship was not allowed; dancing at indoor hospitality venues not allowed; one person per four square metre rule introduced for all indoor and outdoor settings; outdoor public gatherings limited to two people; people must stay in

their Local Government Area or within 10km of their home for exercise and outdoor recreation, with no carpooling between non-household members; browsing in shops prohibited, plus only one person per household per day may leave the home for shopping; funerals limited to 10 people in total; contact tracing, it was mandatory for business to collect details of patrons and when they were there.

This had devastating impact on the club and hospitality industries, effectively shutting them down until restrictions were lifted.

The Board of East Maitland Bowling Club followed the requirements of all Government instructions. As such, both East Maitland Bowling Club and Easts Leisure & Golf were shut from 24th March 2020 to 1st June 2020 and again 5th August 2021 to 11th October 2021. The period between closures involved ongoing restrictions as listed above on all staff and patrons.

In terms of the game of golf and golf courses Governments, particularly NSW, relaxed many restrictions based on the argument "Golf can provide health enhancing physical activity. Regular physical activity is associated with physical/mental health, immune system and longevity benefits. Sense of belonging and life satisfaction significantly



*improved when golfing restrictions were relaxed after the first lockdown in the UK. Golf is an outdoor sport, where social distancing is possible, and if rules are followed, risk of COVID 19 transmission is likely to be low."*

After a 23 day period of closure, 27 March 2020 to 20 April 2020, the Board allowed golf to be played on Maitland Golf Course under the following rules:

- Available for members only who live in the LGA or members of other golf clubs who live in the Maitland LGA
- Maximum of 2 players in any group
- All golf rounds started on the 1st tee, with holes played in consecutive order
- Arrive 10 minutes before your tee up time, no congregating before or after the game
- Don't touch any common items
  - o Only one person per golf cart
  - o Score your own card and mark your partners score on your card as well, allowing cross referencing
  - o Flagstick to remain in the hole
    - Liner (pool noodle) placed in hole so ball doesn't fall to the bottom of the cup allowing easy retrieval or
    - Cups inserted upside down for the above reason
  - o Bunkers out-of-play (treated as GUR) as there are no rakes available
- Masks must be worn around the clubhouse, pro shop, but can be removed on the course

The Board followed the suggestions that were being released by Golf Australia and Golf NSW on how to comply with Government restrictions. Some members considered some of the restrictions draconian, but at the end of the day we complied with the law and kept people safe.

Allowing golf courses to operate caused some angst with the non-golfing community, but the rules adopted overcame the issues raised by the restrictions put on the community in that people were out doors, exercising, not in close proximity to each other and there is a record of where they were and when.

As a result, on Maitland Golf Course, there was constant activity in this shutdown period. During daylight hours there were two golfers teeing off every six minutes. This is not as active as 'normal' golfing operations but it was a valuable service to the community and a source of income for the club helping to keep green staff employed.



*Hole partially filled so the ball can be removed without touching the flagstick*

# THE COURSE



Course Layout

## HOLE 1 **HOLLYWOOD**

Par 4      ● 357m      ○ 342m      ● 338m      ● 326m

Dr JJ Hollywood served as President of Maitland Golf Club from 1929 to 1950. In 1948 Dr Hollywood saw the course develop from 9 holes to 18 holes. This hole is named in his honour.

## HOLE 2 **DUNK**

Par 4 Men      ● 418m      ○ 418m      ● 415m      ● 350m  
Par 5 Ladies

This hole is named after the legendary Australian Golfer Billy Dunk, who on his way to winning the prestigious 1960 NSW PGA Championship, made an albatross on the hole when it was a Par 5.

The water storage dam located left of the fairway holds 12 million litres of water used to irrigate the course. It was opened in 2008 with the assistance of a Government Water Grant.

## HOLE 3 **THE WEATHER STATION**

Par 3      ● 180m      ○ 180m      ● 177m      ● 125m

The longest Par 3 hole on the course is named after the weather station that sits behind the green and forms an essential part of the club's irrigation system. This state-of-the-art system was installed in 2019 and at the time was the largest project ever undertaken on the course.



Chinese Tallow Tree, Ladies 4th tee

### HOLE 4 THE OVAL

Par 5 ● 464m ○ 451m ● 418m ● 418m

Named after Tenambit Oval located "out of bounds" behind the green.

### HOLE 5 TUBMAN'S AVENUE

Par 3 ● 149m ○ 149m ● 140m ● 130m

Named after Harold Tubman, father of Beth Norrie, Molly Eicholzer and Ken Tubman. Ken Tubman, became a Maitland legend when he won the inaugural Redex Around Australia Rally in 1953. Legend has it that the decision to enter the race started over a glass of beer in the clubhouse.

### HOLE 6 BAKER'S FADE

Par 4 ● 304m ○ 304m ● 293m ● 274m

Named in honour of 7 time Club Champion, Eisenhower Cup representative and former Australian Amateur Champion, Barrie Baker. This short Par 4 requires a left to right 'fade' to leave a short iron to the green.

### HOLE 7 JIM'S TREE

Par 5 ● 465m ○ 428m ● 374m ● 374m

Named in honour of Jim Palmer, husband of Joan who famously hit the small bottle-brush tree situated in the middle of the fairway on a consistent basis. This tree will collect a low tee shot prior to opening up to a tight dog leg fairway and demanding green.



Jim's Tree

### HOLE 8 POSINATUS

Par 4 ● 308m ○ 283m ● 199m ● 199m

This hole is named in honour of champion race horse, Posinatus, winner of the 1913 Melbourne Cup. Posinatus was one of many racehorses that trained on the race track that encircled this very golf course until 1988.

### HOLE 9 THE ARBOUR

Par 4 ● 348m ○ 384m ● 332m ● 332m

The original entry point to the golf course was represented by an Arbour, with the remnants of this structure still visible on the right-hand side of this downhill, slight dogleg Par 4.

### HOLE 10 THE BILLABONG

Par 4 ● 326m ○ 311m ● 319m ● 299m

The 10th hole is known as the billabong in honour of the hazard that protects the green. Billabong is a Wiradjuri word that is used for an isolated pond that is left behind after a river changes course. Some golfers call this 'Bowen's Billabong' after Phil (Chippy) Bowen who fell backwards off the retaining wall, into the water, whilst lining up his putt.

### HOLE 11 PALMER'S CROSSING

Par 3 ● 169m ○ 152m ● 156m ● 92m

This hole and the bridge crossing Two Mile Creek are named in Honour of Life Member Joan Palmer, the club's longest serving member. Joan's storied history with the club began in 1947 and the club was thrilled to help celebrate Joan's 100th birthday in 2023.

### HOLE 12 THE DOG LEG

Par 4 ● 335m ○ 315m ● 312m ● 240m

This hole has a sharp dogleg to the right following a bend in Two Mile Creek. Big hitters can take an advantage by driving their ball straight at the green (308m direct line), and take off as much of the dogleg as they are game. The risk is not making it and hitting the ball out of bounds.



Swan Family nesting in the quarry – photograph courtesy of Neville Foster

### HOLE 13 THE QUARRY

Par 3 ● 116m ○ 116m ● 101m ● 34m

The old gravel quarry that divides the tee and the green makes this Par 3 one of the Course's most memorable holes. Black swans have nested on reed islands they build in the dammed water that sits in the quarry.

### HOLE 14 THE PIPELINE OR BELL TREE

Par 5 ● 464m ○ 399m ● 400m ● 400m

Named in honour of the tree and affixed bell at the midway point of the fairway, used to inform players on the tee that they are allowed to proceed. This Par 5 is also split by 'The Pipeline' which is now buried between the fairways. Golfers once had to contend with the above-ground concrete pipe that deflected many a golfer's shot.

### HOLE 15 R.A.P.

Par 5 ● 432m ○ 432m ● 364m ● 364m

A small structure, said to be a part of an old slaughterhouse, once adorned this hole. Referred to as the RAP, short for Regimental Aid Post, this served as the club's half-way house where golfers could purchase light food and refreshments (especially beer) for many years.

### HOLE 16 DARCY

Par 4 ● 367m ○ 344m ● 343m ● 258m

Arguably the course's signature hole. A long hole with a dogleg to the left and a creek crossing 40m from a challenging green. This hole is named in honour of Maitland boxing legend Les Darcy (World and Australian middle weight and heavy weight champion), who was born in 1865 and died tragically at the age of 22 in the USA. When his body was returned to Australia, an estimated half-a-million people came to pay their respects. He is buried in the cemetery near the golf course.

### HOLE 17 TWO MILE CREEK

Par 3 ● 146m ○ 134m ● 134m ● 114m

Two Mile Creek passes behind and the right of the green on this mid length Par 3. The creek will catch an over clubbed or errant tee shot and also is a feature on the 11th, 12th, 16th and 18th holes.

### HOLE 18 FRY'S FOREST

Par 4 ● 366m ○ 330m ● 328m ● 236m

This hole is named in honour of one-time President Charles Fry who began the tree planting program on the golf course in 1948 when the course became 18 holes.

### HOLE 19 NOT THE BAR

Par 3 ● 88m ○ 88m ● 88m ● 88m

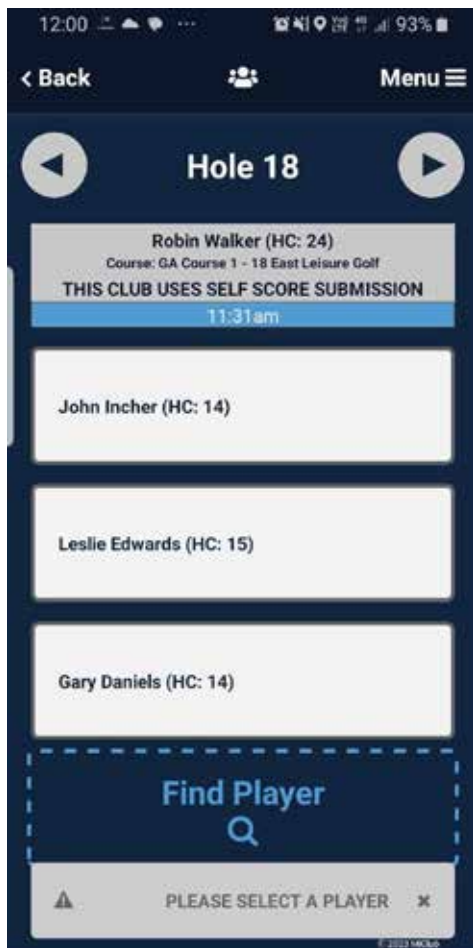
This additional green was constructed for use when other holes are taken out of play. It has proved invaluable over the years and has been used to great effect during the construction of the dam in 2006 and the course irrigation system in 2019.



# TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS



MiScore 11th Hole



MiScore round set up

Technology has always played a big part in the sport of golf and the past twenty-five years have been no exception. The early 2000's saw the internet taking hold of our everyday lives, the release of the Smartphone and a wider use of social media. Golfers began to utilise computers and the internet to access their personal handicap and golf round history via GolfLink, and email and text messaging was becoming the main source of communication.

The use of range-finders on the Course became common and Satellite Data allowed players to utilise technology to calculate distances via hand-held and wearable GPS units instead of relying on traditional distance markers.

The Club moved from paper timesheets to digital timesheets and in the 2010's launched online timesheets, allowing members to book tee times from the comfort of their home.

Around this same time, computer kiosks were installed in the Club allowing players to input their own scores following their round and a digital leaderboard permitted for up to date score displays on TVs throughout the Club.

2023 saw a huge advancement in technology with the Club moving to the MiClub Golf Operations Software system. In an installation and implementation that took most of the year, the system provided a number of improvements to both members and staff and was the single biggest allocation of financial resources for a Golf Management software system in the Club's history.

At the time, MiClub was the most popular Golf Operations Software in use, with over 640 Australian Clubs already benefiting from its services. An extensive process was undertaken to select an appropriate system and the decision was helped by the fact that it was in use at a number of Hunter Valley Clubs including Waratah, Newcastle, Belmont, Nelson Bay, Shortland Waters and Charlestown.

With MiClub came the use of the MiScore function. MiScore is an application available on Smartphones allowing members to score both competition and social golf via their phone. This was a huge departure from the traditional scorecard and one that had necessitated a change to the Rules of Golf. Scoring via the MiScore App allows for live updates and instant submission of the scorecard. MiScore also provides additional features such as course position and distances. Whilst there certainly were some members hesitant to utilise this new technology, by the end of 2023 MiScore had replaced traditional scorecards as the main form of score entry.

The Club continues to investigate how technology will improve the sport of Golf and looks forward to the advancements over the next twenty-five years.

## MELBOURNE CUP COMES TO TOWN

East's Leisure & Golf has an interesting history and relationship with the Melbourne Cup dating back over 100 years. 1913 Cup winner Posinatus was trained at the track that formed part of the Golf Course. The 1600m dirt track remained until the training licence was revoked in 1994.

Posinatus was trained by Morpeth trainer Jim Chambers, who leased the gelding from Richard Clancy. Posinatus was stabled in a shed in Chambers' backyard and was trained on an old track that encircled what is now the golf course. Newcastle jockey Albert Shanahan was offered a last-minute ride on Melbourne Cup outsider Posinatus and left his decision to a coin toss. When the penny landed on heads, Shanahan accepted Chambers' offer to ride the 80/1 shot in the 1913 Melbourne Cup. Posinatus was the only horse to lead from start to finish until Might and Power in 1997.

On his retirement, Posinatus was given to Morpeth priest, Father Patrick Corcoran to ride around his Parish.

In honour of the Melbourne Cup winner, the 8th Hole at the golf club was named Posinatus. There is also the Posinatus Cup, which has been played on Melbourne Cup Day for many decades. This day includes 150+ players who enjoy champagne breakfast, tournament and lunch.

Since 2003, the three handled cup has travelled locally and internationally in the lead up to the Carnival, giving hundreds of communities the opportunity to hear amazing stories and get up close and personal with the iconic trophy. The President became aware of the 2023 Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour and with agreement of the board, an application was prepared by the President, CEO and Marketing Manager for Maitland to become a destination.

The host being East Maitland Bowling Club Ltd, highlighting Posinatus, winner of the 1913 Melbourne Cup's association with Maitland Golf Club (now East's Leisure & Golf).

A program was required, provided and accepted when East's representatives met the VRC group on Tuesday 8 August.

On Wednesday 9 August, a full day of events allowed hundreds of people the once in a lifetime opportunity to see and hold the actual 2023 trophy that was later presented to the winner of the Melbourne Cup.

The programme for the day was organised by President William Hopkins, CEO Steve Duggan and Marketing Manager Jill Kelson.

The first stop on the visit was to Calvary St Joseph's Residential Aged Care where around 50 residents were delighted to see the Cup firsthand. Next was East's Leisure & Golf for a luncheon with almost 90 golfers as part of the charity golf day, the Posinatus Parade. Following lunch, the Cup was greeted by the smiling faces of pupils and families at Morpeth Public School for a special assembly. After this exciting visit, the touring party finished the day at East Maitland Bowling Club with a community viewing and wonderful dinner in the Scarborough Function Centre.

The following morning the Cup was farewelled with a special visit and firing of the gun at Fort Scratchley in Newcastle.



Local golfers took the opportunity to hold the 2023 Melbourne Cup trophy.



2/13/98

The Sydney Morning Herald

## Slowest cup a starter for quick sale



By LEONIE LAMONT  
Posinatus's name has faded into history, forgotten by all but the most dedicated followers of the track.

However, the Melbourne Cup he won in 1913 has survived the passage of time, and will be auctioned by Christie's at the end of the month.

Christie's director, Mr Richard Gordon, said the cup was owned by an elderly relative of Posinatus's owner, Mr R. W. Chance. It was expected it would fetch \$60,000 to \$80,000.

The solid silver trophy is actually a Victorian centrepiece, rather than a cup, and was made in Birmingham in 1866 by Elkington & Co. Shields detailing the cups, the names and the horse's name are interspersed between three female figures representing "Health, Good Fortune and Wisdom".

"It would be valuable just as an antique, but the fact it was given as a Melbourne Cup probably doubles its value," Mr Gordon said.

Christie's has sold only two Melbourne Cups. One, in 1995, went for \$76,000.

"It sounds like the horse was about the worst horse that ever won the Melbourne Cup," Mr Gordon said. "The owner was going to give up racing and use it for steeplechases."

Posinatus was the slowest recorded winner of the Cup, due to the "funeral pace" set by his jockey. Last year's win by Nigha and Power, Posinatus was the only horse to have led from start to finish.

The trophy is on view at Christie's from noon to 5 pm this weekend, at its rooms in Woolahra.

**"About the worst horse that ever won the Melbourne Cup" ... Martina Rakus of Christie's with the 1913 Melbourne Cup won by Posinatus, inset.** Main photograph by ROBERT FRANK



Posinatus with trainer Jim Chambers (Maitland Mercury)

### Lyn McIntyre waits for a horse - October 1989



Maitland Golf Course with horse training track defined



## THE GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE



*Golf Course Committee 2024*

*Back L-R Rhys Crush, David Johnson, Ken Brown – Chairman, Rick Marsh – Captain, David Keith  
Front Row L-R Kim Clarke, Simon Dillon, Lyn Wootton, Rod Butler – Vice Captain*

In 1999, the centenary year of Maitland Golf Club, the course and operations of the club were under the governance and management of the Board of Directors of Maitland Golf Club Limited.

The Amalgamation Agreement was signed in August of 2001 and the merger completed in April 2003. During this merger period the affairs of the golf course and club were under the control of a Sub-Committee made up of representatives from the Board of Directors of East Maitland Bowling Club and Maitland Golf Club known as Easts Leisure & Golf.

With the merger complete, golfing activities within the club were the domain of East Leisure & Golf and managed by the Golf Course Committee. The Golf Course Committee operate as a committee as defined by the East Maitland Bowling Club Constitution.

The Golf Course Committee represents all golfing members, with its own operating rules, and manages all golfing activities including course and competition needs. It advises the board on improvements / maintenance needs and requests for funding.

The Match Committee is a sub-committee responsible for the administration of all competitions and course development within the Rules of Golf. It is chaired by

the Club Captain who is a key link between the Course Committee, the Course Superintendent and the Club Professional.

The major highlights in developing golf over the past 25 years have been covered in individual chapters of this booklet. Other major initiatives involving the Golf Course Committee over the past 25 years are:

- 2015 Developing the Course Masterplan, a 10 year strategic plan for the development of the golf course, this plan has been reviewed annually since its inception and guided the direction of course improvements
- 2016, Major change in membership categories – introduction of Open Membership, Weekday Membership and Pay Play Membership, the concept of 'pay as you go' golf with lower subscriptions and higher course fees
- 2019, Implementing and adapting to the international update of 'The Rules of Golf'
- 2020, Implementing and adapting to the 'World Handicap System.
- Documenting and developing By Laws and Local Rules as required.
- In conjunction with the Pro Shop and Course Superintendent, set the Annual Program with key



objectives: - establishing and developing champions;  
encouraging all golfers at all levels with suitable  
competitions and course layout; encourage camaraderie;  
maximise fields whilst allowing time for course maintenance  
and improvements.

- Setting fees and subscriptions annually.
- Developing and documenting policy and procedures on course operations and cart usage
- Developing and implementing a 'Yellow' course for developing and aging golfers

In December 2023, we were privileged to have some 1,400  
golfing members playing over 50,000 rounds within the year.

OFFICE BEARERS	PRESIDENT	CAPTAIN	TREASURER
1999	G. Cook	R. McKenzie	J. Stein
2000	E. Hargy	R. McKenzie	J. Stein
2001	E. Hargy	R. McKenzie	J. Stein
2002	E. Hargy	R. McKenzie	J. Stein
2003	E. Hargy	R. McKenzie	J. Stein
2004	E. Hargy	R. McKenzie	J. Stein
2005	E. Hargy	R. McKenzie	W. Johnstone
2006	E. Hargy	R. McKenzie	W. Johnstone
2007	E. Hargy	R. Marsh	W. Johnstone
2008	D. Begg	R. Marsh	W. Johnstone
2009	D. Begg	R. Marsh	W. Johnstone
2010	C. Coutts	R. Marsh	S. Yates
2011	C. Coutts	R. Marsh	S. Yates
2012	C. Coutts	R. Marsh	R. Butler
2013	C. Coutts	R. Marsh	R. Butler
2014	C. Coutts	R. Marsh	R. Butler
2015	C. Coutts	R. Marsh	G. DeVos
2016	C. Coutts	R. Marsh	G. DeVos
	CHAIRMAN		VICE CAPTAIN
2017	C. Coutts	R. Marsh	R. Butler
2018	C. Coutts	R. Marsh	R. Butler
2019	K. Brown	R. Marsh	R. Butler
2020	K. Brown	R. Marsh	R. Butler
2021	K. Brown	R. Marsh	R. Butler
2022	K. Brown	R. Marsh	R. Butler
2023	K. Brown	R. Marsh	R. Butler
2024	K. Brown	R. Marsh	R. Butler

## OUR GREENSTAFF

Our greenstaff are at the frontline in the presentation of Maitland Golf Course. Whilst there have been many changes in our personnel over the past 25 years there has been a constant improvement in our course layout, presentation and condition.

We must thank all those who have worked on this course for their expertise, diligence and dedication in keeping that momentum going. Being a clay based inland course and subject to drought and flood conditions, as described in other chapters of this book, it has been a source of both frustration and satisfaction for greenstaff.

Maitland Golf Course is highly regarded within the Hunter Region, as a challenging layout with enough latitude to stimulate and differentiate all levels of golfers from beginners to champions.

It is a credit to all the staff that have developed and maintained it.

## CURRENT GREENSTAFF



*Greenstaff 2024*

*Back L-R D. Buchanan, K. Pearce, R. Barker*

*Middle L-R C. Jurius, M. Chapman*

*Front Row L-R T. Stirling, L. Crawley, S. Gibson*

## **DAVE BUCHANAN**

### **Golf Course Superintendent**

"I began work at Easts in December 2021.

I completed my Apprenticeship at Morisset Country Club and continued to work there for a further 20years, 15 of them as the Golf Course Superintendent. I then worked at Belmont Golf Club as the Golf Course Superintendent for 17 yrs.

I'm fortunate that I get to work at this magnificent course & club most days. I enjoy that every day is a new challenge.

My favourite part of the course is Two Mile Creek as I believe that it makes a number of holes interesting. Unfortunately it can also make you cry when it floods.

My most memorable event would have to be the floods in July 2022. It had not rained for a day or so and the water levels on 12 were getting higher and the next day we had 6 greens under water and a number of fairways and tees. I never knew that water would flow uphill that quickly. It takes up to week to subside. I now understand how the flood mitigation system works – the things you learn even after all this time."

Cheers Dave.

## **ROD (ROWDY) BARKER**

### **Assistant Golf Course Superintendent**

As Acting Course Superintendent, Rod played a valuable role, leading the team during the period after Bobby Barnes passed.

"I began work here at Easts in April 2021

I completed my Apprenticeship at Narooma Golf Club. I spent 2 years as the Assistant Superintendent and then 3 years working for Melville City Council in Western Australia as a greenkeeper. I was then Head Greenkeeper at Nelson Bay Bowling Club for 32 years.

What I like here at Easts is that everyday is so different from the previous. Working and interacting with the other staff and hopefully being able to share my experience with them is part of my role here and I really enjoy that aspect of it.

My favourite part of the golf course is the practice putting green. It still fascinates me that this green is the best on the course because it is watered with town water while the rest of the course is irrigated with the treated water from Morpeth.

Morning food break is always a great time here on the course. Up to 8 blokes sitting down for a feed and some banter. You can only imagine what goes on."

Rowdy.

## **MATTHEW (CHAPPY) CHAPMAN**

### **Golf Course Foreman**

"I began work here at Maitland Golf Club (Easts )in 1996.

I completed my apprenticeship in 2000 at Maitland Golf Club and was then employed by the club as a groundsman as there were no tradesman (greenskeepers) positions available.

I gained the role of Greenskeeper around 2 years later. I was then later promoted to Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, a position that I held at Easts till January 2021.

I was an employee of the club for 25 years prior to heading to a position at Maitland City Council for nearly 2 years as a greenkeeper.

I was then lucky enough to return to Easts as the 3IC greens foreman position in February 2023 till current.

The thing that I find most enjoyable about my role is working with the team and accomplishing great results on the course.

My favourite part of the course is seeing it all striped up when mowed.

As I have worked at the club for such a long time, I really enjoy seeing all the new and exciting things and how the course has changed over the years.

I enjoy being involved in the construction of new greens, and seeing concrete cart paths constructed and also seeing the construction of the new clubhouse and last of all seeing the construction of the big dam on the 2nd and installation of the irrigation system. All of these have really improved the course tremendously over the years."

Cheers Matt



## OUR GREENSTAFF

### VALE BOBBY BARNES

Bobby Barnes was our mechanic from 2016 to 2021. He left work on Friday afternoon 4th December 2021 proud of the condition of the course and the role he played in it. Unfortunately he passed away on Saturday 5th December 2021 the result of an unexpected heart attack. His loss not only devastated his family and friends but from our context his workmates, colleagues and the entire golfing fraternity. A loveable rogue, good at his job, a below average golfer but loved the camaraderie. Always looking for a laugh even at himself. RIP. Glory, Glory.



*Course Mechanic Bobby Barnes*

### COURSE VOLUNTEERS

Throughout the history of Maitland Golf Course there is continual reference to work done on the course by volunteer members.

The past 25 years has been no different. In fact there has been increased activity due to longevity, the aging demographic of golfers and retirement conditions. We are now fortunate to have a group of relatively fit, healthy retirees with time and desire to improve the condition of the Course. Activities are generally doing the unskilled jobs such as painting, cleaning sprinkler heads, picking up sticks, trimming around trees, creeks and drains allowing our staff to concentrate on their greenkeeping skills.

It is impossible to name everyone who has been involved. It is also dangerous to miss anyone because every volunteered hour is appreciated. But at this stage it is appropriate that we recognise the efforts of Sammy Whitehouse, who unfortunately passed away in 2023 after a short battle with cancer. Sammy worked on the course for years cleaning up and improving its presentation, often organising working bees after storms and floods to pick up debris. In 2019, he was nominated and became a finalist recognised in the NSW Golf Volunteer Awards. He was an inspiration to us all.



*Course Volunteer Sammy Whitehouse*



## PRESENT AND PREVIOUS GREENSTAFF 1999 - 2024

### GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

Rod Waite 1997 to 2015

Damien Murrell 2015 to 2021

David Buchanan 2021 to Present

### ASSISTANT GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

Darren Goodhew

Matthew Chapman\*

Rodney Barker

### GOLF COURSE MECHANICS

Bill Wilson

Garry Scully

Merv Brunner

Bobby Barnes

Martin Collins

Colin Jurius

### GROUNDSMAN

Tony Higginbottom

Allistair Walker

Peter Roworth

Chris Pullin

Jeff Barr

Lachlan Crawley

Ben Golledge

### GREENKEEPERS

Tom Anderson

Stuart Campbell\*

Sam Fitzsimmons\*

Martin Urane

Andrew Parkinson

Simon Flannery

Jake Lawton

David Wells\*

Brett Edwards

Joel Padgett

Paul Champion

Joshua Willard\*

Hayden Callinan\*

Sean Gibson\*

### COURSE APPRENTICES

Lachlan Sheeley

Daniel Adams

Dylan Patyka

Thomas Stirling

Kai Pearce

\*Apprenticeship served at Maitland Golf Course

## THE PRO SHOP

It's hard to believe it's been twenty-five years since the golf course's Centenary. What an exciting and at moments challenging period in the facility's history that this time has provided for the Professional Shop and its people.

The club has changed for the better on so many levels in this era and it's been a pleasure for all the Professional Shop staff to be part of such a progressive organisation. The Professional Shop has a scope of operations that run every day of the year from 6 and 7 o'clock in the morning to 5 and 6 o'clock at night. Except for closure on Christmas Days and 23 days of the Covid Pandemic in 2020, there has been and is a lot to achieve.

All the functions that need to be accomplished in the golf operations of the club could not be fulfilled without the combined efforts of a wonderful team over all these years. In a chronological order since the 1st of January 1997 the Professional Shop Staff have been – Mick McKenzie, Troy Martin, Brad Burrows, Vikky Wrigley nee Tutt, Ryan Henshaw, Johnno Towns, Chris Burdekin, Brendan Smith, Leigh Williams, Leigh Akers, Dave Johnston, Trevor Tutt, Charlie Baxter, Blake Palmer, Rod Butler, Ray Cook, Neil Dorsett, Beau Lisoff, Dave Leary, Hayden Gulliver, and Paul Gibson.

Interestingly, 9 of these wonderful people are either still serving at the club or have returned. In the case of Mick McKenzie, he has returned after a 19-year hiatus.

Watching the club and its facilities blossom over these years supported by its passionate collection of members has been heart-warming. Whilst a lot of the faces have changed the strength of any club is its members. In many of the club's darker times it's the members that have risen together to help the facility move forward.

With 2024 seeing the 125-year celebration of the golf course and the opening of the club's new Terrace and improved facilities, it's going to be great to watch what transpires in the next 25 years of this wonderful club's history. Easts Leisure & Golf and its East Maitland Golf Course are truly the "East Maitland Local Legends, that are 125 years old and in the best shape of their lives".

It's been a pleasure to serve as the Club's Professional over the last 27 years and counting. I can't express my gratitude enough to the past and present people of the Easts Boards, Golf Committee's, club's management, greenstaff, caterers, volunteers and especially the Professional Shop staff who have all helped to run the golf operations of the club in such a proficient and professional manner.

Yours in Golf  
Michael Holden



2024 Pro Shop Staff L-R: Ray Cook, Mick McKenzie, Neil Dorsett, Vikky Wrigley, Michael Holden, Rod Butler, Hayden Gulliver, Paul Gibson

# LADIES GOLF

Miss May Clift is recognised as being the first lady golfer at Maitland Golf Club. She was nominated as an Associate Member on 28 July 1899. This is one month after the formation of the Club on 12 June 1899. Lady golfers have been an important and active group in our Club ever since.

During 1908 a General Meeting was called to advance associates golf, twelve ladies were recorded as present. In January 2024 we had 128 playing lady members.

During 1980, and as a result of anti discrimination legislation, lady golfers were gaining greater recognition in the administration of the club and access to the course. The title of 'Associates' was gradually being replaced with 'Lady Members'. It was considered that Lady's Day was Wednesday.

By 1995 ladies were eligible to become Directors of the Maitland Golf Club. Pat McGilvray and Bernadette Heagney became the first Directors appointed in that year. Jan Hinds served as a Director in 1998 and Lyn Wootton was elected in 1999.

Membership categories were changed to Seven Day, Six Day or Five Day hence eliminating the "Associates" which was seen as discriminatory. However the general consensus was that men joined as Seven Day Members and Ladies as either Six Day or Five Day Members, depending if they wanted to play Sunday competitions as well as Wednesdays.

After amalgamation Maitland Lady Golfers became a Sub Club of East Maitland Bowling Club.

In 2016, the Golf Course Committee implemented a major change in membership categories. Open Membership, Weekday Membership and Pay Play Memberships were introduced thus eliminating any reference or implication to gender. With this change all competitions, independent of the day of the week, became available to all golfing members with the competition fee being dependent on the member's category. The exceptions being gender based competitions such as Championships and the retention of a ladies competition on Wednesdays.

Our Lady Golfers showcase our golf course and club twice a year with major open events: The Westcott Cup and Breast Cancer Gala Day. Both these events attract good fields and are well known for the magnificent morning tea presented before tee off. Our hospitality is further extended to participants with lunch and presentation.

## THE WESTCOTT CUP

The first Westcott Cup was played in 1929. It is an open tournament for lady golfers and attracts participants from all over the district.

It has been held every year since inception except for the war years 1942 – 1946, flooding in 2015 and the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

2023 was the 94th year of the Westcott Cup so the event is well embedded in our history.



2023 Westcott Cup Winners | L-R Felicity Laczina, Sponsor; Lyn Redman, Hollywood Bowl; Louise Mullard (Wyong), Westcott Cup; Kaye Thornton, Shirley Dorn Memorial Trophy

## BREAST CANCER GALA DAY

Breast Cancer Gala Day was instigated by Wendy Pryke, a breast cancer sufferer herself.

The first gala day commenced in 1997 when Bernadette Heagney was President.

In 2016, a memorial trophy was introduced to honour Wendy, who sadly passed away from breast cancer earlier that year.

In 2023, Maitland ladies celebrated 25 years of continuous involvement with the Breast Cancer Trials Newcastle region. To date, Maitland ladies have raised a phenomenal \$65,000 for breast cancer research which contributes to new treatments and prevention options being investigated.

The event has grown over the years to become a major event on the ladies golfing calendar with clubs from all over the Newcastle, Hunter Valley and Central Coast districts attending the gala day function.

In current years the event has attracted maximum field of 140 ladies, all dressed in pink!



Wendy Pryke



# LADIES GOLF



Gala Day 2016

## WESTCOTT CUP WINNERS

1929 Mrs A.A. Rankin, Newcastle	1930 Mrs E.Harrison, Maitland	1931 Mrs W. Nerve Waratah
1932 Miss McFadyen, Waratah	1933 Miss M. Bannister, Tamworth	1934 Mrs T. Moore, Steelworks
1935 Mrs J.H.B. Brown, Newcastle	1936 Miss K. Tulloch, Cessnock	1937&38 M.M. Rankin, Newcastle
1939&40 Mrs V.W. Chaplin, Maitland	1941 Mrs T. Moore, Steelworks	1942 – 46 Suspended WWII
1947&48 Mrs CL Shoppee, Newcastle	1949&50 Mrs W. Nerve, Newcastle	1951 Mrs T. Price, Newcastle
1952 N. Broadbent, Muswellbrook	1953 Mrs C.L. Shoppee, Newcastle	1954 N. Broadbent, Muswellbrook
1955&56 Miss H. Ash, Newcastle	1957 Mrs W. Clarke, Merewether	1958 Mrs D. Robertson, Waratah
1959 Mrs B. Tobin, Waratah	1960 Mrs L. Davies, Maitland	1961 Mrs D.J. Batten, Newcastle
1962 M. Turner, Cessnock	1963 Mrs D. Wilson, Muree	1964 Mrs J. Hogg, Cessnock
1965 Unknown	1966 J. Scott, Steelworks	1967&68 Mrs D. Wilson, Muree
1969 Mrs M. Armstrong, Belmont	1970 Mrs W.E. Thomas, Branxton	1971 Mrs M. Armstrong, Belmont
1972 Mrs B. Davies, Maitland	1973 Mrs L.Allomes, Maitland	1974 Mrs R.Edwards, Merewether
1975 Mrs D. Wilson, Muree	1976 Mrs R Edwards, Merewether	1977 Mrs J.Middleby, Merewether
1978 Mrs D. Edwards, Merewether	1979 Mrs M. Sproule, Nelson Bay	1980&81 Mrs C. Middleby Ncl
1982 Mrs P. Thomas, Branxton	1983 Mrs M. Watson, Branxton	1984 Mrs D Edwards, Merewether
1985 Mrs R. Bellamy, Maitland	1986&87 D. Edwards, Merewether	1988 Mrs G. Gannon, Waratah
1989 Mrs D. Edwards, Merewether	1990 Miss K. Skinner, Maitland	1991 Mrs J Swanson, Muree
1992 Mrs K. Pawley, Newcastle	1993,94,95 Mrs J. Swanson, Muree	1996 Miss K. Skinner, Maitland
1997 Mrs L. Wootton, Maitland	1998 Mrs J. Swanson, Newcastle	1999 Miss M. Beavis
2000 Miss A. Flanery	2001 Miss M Beavis, Maitland	2002 K Skinner-Oyston, Maitland
2003 Mrs J. Blenkey, Newcastle	2004 Mrs J.Blenkey, Newcastle	2005 Miss M.Beavis, Maitland
2006 Miss A.Howell, Newcastle	2007 Mrs J.Swanson, Newcastle	2008 Mrs J.Swanson, Newcastle
2009 Mrs J.Blenkey, Newcastle	2010 J. Swanson, Newcastle	2011 K. Skinner-Oyston, Maitland
2012 Mrs S. Puddy, Toronto	2013 S. Sinclair, Maitland	2014 M. Beavis, Maitland
2015 No event held, flood	2016 K. Skinner-Oyston, Maitland	2017 G. Allen, Maitland
2018 J. McCallum, Belmont	2019 M. Beavis, Maitland	2020 No event held, COVID19
2021 D. Kelly, Merewether	2022 Y. Boardman, Toukley	2013 L. Mullard, Wyong



## 2024 MAITLAND GOLF LADIES COMMITTEE



Back L-R, Patricia Maher – Treasurer, Faye Jupp, Kathy Fetterplace, Kate Johnson, Katrina Skinner-Oyston – Secreatry  
 Front L-R Joanne Warby – Vice Captain, Gillian Allen – Captain, Caroline Norrie – President; Carol Crotty – Vice President

OFFICE BEARERS	PRESIDENT	CAPTAIN	SECRETARY
1999	B. Heagney	J Hinds	N. Ryan
2000	W. Pryke	J. Hinds	N. Ryan
2001	W. Pryke	R. Greedy	J. Bradbury
2002	W. Pryke	R. Greedy	J. Bradbury
2003	D. Coutts	R. Greedy	J. Bradbury
2004	D. Coutts	R. Greedy	J. Bradbury
2005	D. Coutts	L. Wootton	J. Bradbury
2006	D. Coutts	L. Wootton	J. Kildey
2007	A. Day	L. Wootton	J. Kildey
2008	A. Day	Y. Brown	J. Kildey
2009	A. Day	J. Kildey	J. Swanson
2010	H. McLaren	J. Hinds	J. Swanson
2011	H. McLaren	J. Hinds	J. Swanson
2012	H. McLaren	J. Kildey	F. Gardner
2013	H. McLaren	E. Cousins	F. Gardner
2014	D. Coutts	E. Cousins	F. Daley
2015	D. Coutts	E. Cousins	J. Ernst
2016	J. Hinds	E. Cousins	C. Norrie
2017	D. Coutts	G. Allen	C. Norrie
2018	D. Coutts	G. Allen	C. Norrie
2019	D. Coutts	S. Curley	S. Sherman
2020	D. Coutts	S. Curley	M. Beavis
2021	D. Coutts	S. Curley	M. Beavis
2022	C. Norrie	G. Allen	M. Beavis
2023	C. Norrie	G. Allen	K. Skinner-Oyston
2024	C. Norrie	G. Allen	K. Skinner-Oyston

# MAITLAND VETERAN GOLFERS

## MAITLAND VETERAN GOLFERS COMMITTEE 2024



Back L-R Ken Haddow, Michael Cooper, Paul Richmond, Wayne Cambourn, Paul Lindeman  
Front L-R Barry Smith, Garry Minotti, Peter Fleming, Alan McLaren

On the 29th October 1985, the first event for the Maitland Veteran Golfers hit off with eight players. Mr Vic Hockley, who was the oldest player at the age of 75, was given the honour of hitting the first ball.

Since amalgamation, Maitland Veteran Golfers have been a sub-club of East Maitland Bowling Club.

Today the Maitland Veteran Golfers have 194 members and all but five are full golfing members of Easts. Tuesdays are Veteran Golf days and, depending on weather, the field can vary from 38 to 136 (maximum field is 144) players with an average of 108.

Veterans Golf has flourished over the past 25 years allowing members to play competitively into their 80's and occasionally their 90's. In 1985 Vic Hockley, at 75, was an old man. Today, many 70 year old golfers are looking forward to another 10 years of competitive sport.

Population longevity coupled with accessibility of golf carts has prolonged golfers' playing time. The course has made improvements such as the concrete cart paths and a shorter yellow course to encourage the aging membership and keep them involved in the game. With the valuable ongoing

support from the Board of East Maitland Bowling Club, Easts Leisure and Golf management and the Golf Pro Shop, Maitland Veteran Golfers will continue to grow.

The Maitland Veteran Golfers Committee works tirelessly to provide weekly competition which continues to grow in popularity. Two weeks a year are devoted to the MVG Championships to establish all three division champions and winner of the John McEntyre Trophy for the best net score.

Weekly presentations, Monthly BBQ's and Veterans Dinners improve the social aspect of the club.

Maitland Veteran Golfers current committee:

<b>Chairman</b>	Peter Fleming OAM
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Allan McLaren
<b>Secretary</b>	Garry Minotti
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michael Cooper
<b>Captain</b>	Paul Richmond
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	Ken Haddow
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Paul Lindeman
<b>Assistant Captain</b>	Wayne Cambourne
<b>Committee Member</b>	Barry Smith

	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>CAPTAIN</b>
1999	J. McEntyre	D. Hamer	M. Bailey	D. Wyborn
2000	J. McEntyre	D. Hamer	M. Bailey	D. Wyborn
2001	J. McEntyre	J. Stein	M. Bailey	D. Wyborn
2002	J. McEntyre	J. Stein	M. Bailey	D. Wyborn
2003	J. Stein	L. Hart	B. Whyte	D. Wyborn
2004	J. Stein	L. Corcoran	B. Whyte	D. Wyborn
2005	J. Stein	L. Corcoran	B. Whyte	D. Wyborn
2006	J. Stein	L. Corcoran	B. Whyte	D. Wyborn
2007	J. Stein	L. Corcoran	B. Whyte	D. Wyborn
2008	J. Stein	L. Corcoran	B. Whyte	G. Parsons
2009	J. Stein	L. Corcoran	B. Whyte	G. Parsons
2010	J. Stein	L. Corcoran	B. Whyte	G. Parsons
2011	J. Stein	L. Corcoran	A. McLaren	G. Parsons
2012	J. Stein	L. Corcoran/G. Oswald	A. McLaren	G. Parsons
2013	J. Stein	G. Oswald	A. McLaren	G. Parsons
2014	J. Stein/T. Lachmund	G. Oswald	A. McLaren	G. Parsons
2015	T. Lachmund	G. Oswald	A. McLaren	G. Parsons / P. Fleming OAM
2016	T. Lachmund	G. Oswald	A. McLaren/B.Allen	P. Fleming OAM
2017	T. Lachmund/G. Cannon	G. Oswald	B.Allen	P. Fleming OAM
2018	G. Cannon	G. Oswald/G. Minotti	B.Allen	P. Fleming OAM
2019	G. Cannon	G. Minotti	M. Cooper	P. Fleming OAM
2020	G. Cannon	G. Minotti	M. Cooper	P. Fleming OAM
2021	G. Cannon	G. Minotti	M. Cooper	P. Fleming OAM
2022	P. Fleming OAM	G. Minotti	M. Cooper	P. Richmond
2023	P. Fleming OAM	G. Minotti	M. Cooper	P. Richmond
2024	P. Fleming OAM	G. Minotti	M. Cooper	P. Richmond

The success of the MVG is due to the outstanding effort of a few members since the first event in 1985. Recognition of this service has been rewarded by awarding Life Membership. These members are:

Vic Hockley*	John Stein	Doug Wyborn
Arthur Smith*	Barry White*	Gary Parsons
Ted Lachmund	Tommy Winterburn	
Alan McLaren	Barry Smith	Geoff Cannon

\*Deceased



## LADY VETERANS

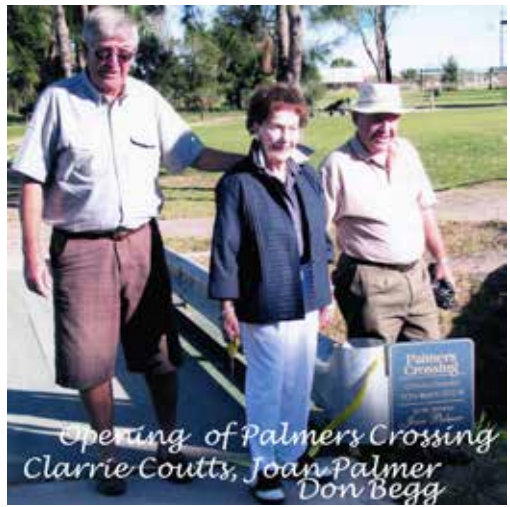


*Ladies Veteran Committee 2024*

*L-R Judy Daniels, Margaret Whyte, Dianne Coutts*

In November 1998 the Maitland Golf Club Ladies Auxiliary established a veterans group and competitions were held on the second Monday of each month at Maitland Golf Course. To be able to join this group you had to be 50 years, Pat McGilvray was the chairperson and Doreen Taylor was the Captain after the amalgamation in 2002. The lady veterans increased in numbers and competitions were increased to fortnightly.

The Lady Veterans are now captained by Dianne Coutts with Margaret Whyte acting as secretary and treasurer.



Opening of Palmers Crossing  
Clarrie Coutts, Joan Palmer  
Don Begg



Dr. J. J. Hollywood  
President Mayland Golf Club  
1927-1927

Walker Hagan - Most Honorable of the World  
Professional Golfer - 20 March 1916



## LONG TERM MEMBERS

**In 2017 the Golf Course Committee instigated the recognition of members who have been playing golf on Maitland Golf Course for 50 continuous years. This was as a result of research carried out by Life Member and Patroness, Joan Palmer.**

**The following is an address Joan made on 9th July, 2017 the first recipients of 50 continuous membership recognition, reflecting on her 70 years of golf on our Course.**

"Having graduated from Sydney Teachers' College, a part of Sydney University in 1942 during World War 2 (aged 19) I volunteered to go out West as 50 small schools were shut. Most of the 17 and 18 year old men in training with us were required in the Air Force, Army and Navy for War Service. Volunteers were called for to go to these schools. I did 3 small schools in isolated areas.

When the war finished in 1946, my aunt who was a member of Maitland Golf Club, appealed to the Director of Education, whom she knew, saying that I'd done my war service and she wanted me here with her.

In 1947, I was appointed to East Maitland Primary and my aunt, Mrs Markey, joined me up to the Club. She gave me a little canvass bag and about 5 golf sticks. It was a 9 hole course but expanded to 18 in 1948. I played on weekends and with the Ladies in the school holidays. My best handicap was 17.

The clubhouse was of a cottage appearance – the Pro Fred Belle lived on the premises, his wife did the sandwich catering – pull buggies and golf carts had not been invented so you walked unless you paid for a private two legged caddy. A small locker room ladies and gentlemen was provided. I had left some lollies in the bottom of my canvas bag in my locker to find that a rat had devoured the contents so I simply stitched up the hole.

During the war years, formal competitions were abandoned and members of military camps and members of clergy were given honorary membership. I found the name of Father Dally Messenger in the records. In 1950, Von Nida visited, giving an exhibition match and in 1951 Bubby Locke was here. In 1952, small extensions to the club house were paid for with members' debentures.

In 1954 the club house was destroyed by fire and replaced by a tin shed. I lost my sticks. Insurance company, Manufacturer Mutual, had just set up in Maitland. We had contents insurance with them and within 24 hours of the fire an insurance rep came to me and said I could order a full set of sticks as replacement – remember I only had 5. One week after, my gleaming new sticks arrived and the insurance company said it was great publicity for them. Jim was so jealous and wished he had left his sticks in his locker.

Then in the 1955 flood, East Maitland was isolated and helicopters dropped bread on the 9th fairway. A meeting in the Police Boy's Club in Maitland was called in regards to raising money for the new club house. One man suggested we had more "adventures" like we'd had previously to raise money. By the end of '55 the new club house was built.

I suppose one of the highlights of my 70 years was the NSW PGA Championship being held on our Course in 1960. Von Nida had told me about a 21 year old golfer from Gosford who practised until his hands were bleeding so I put my money on him. Big names such as Bruce Crampton and Kel Nagle were here but I decided to follow the unknown 21 year old Billy Dunk playing with another man from Newcastle. He shot a 10 under par record with an albatross on the 2nd which was then a par 5.

In 1978 the club started its own catering, employing Mr Foster and Mrs Schula. On special days, volunteer lady members helped in the kitchen making sure they did not enter the lounge on Saturdays. It was a club rule; women were not to be seen in the club house on Saturdays.

In 1974 a second hand air conditioner was installed and we also celebrated the Club jubilee with a dinner dance hosted by Hedly Ingham and the directors. We had Peter Tutt, Vicki's dad from South Africa as Pro – he later went to Waratah and was replaced by Kevin Mudiman who was succeeded by Paul Connell and then by Michael Holden who is still with us. He has the most up-to-date Pro shop in the district.

Courtesy of Gough Whitlam we received a grant of \$99,000 to install fairway watering in 1976 under the RED scheme. By 1980 we were experiencing drought and were thankful for the water. We thought we were made in 1987 when a dishwasher and microwave oven were installed in the kitchen.

With the Melbourne Cup winner Posinatus having been trained on our Course, Terry Hunt started Posinatus Day which has become a tradition.

For many years, women golfers were not allowed to wear shorts or slacks, and skirts were to be worn below the knee. In 1988, the club received a small grant for bicentennial celebrations and my job was to prepare a souvenir booklet, with sketches done by Lyn Wootton, to be given free to members. A dear old man called Vic Hockley, in his 80's, was a member of the club who I was told remembered the original course behind Maitland High School. So I asked, through one of his friends, for a rough drawing of the course. He was horrified to think they'd asked a woman to do the book, - "She'll make a mess of it for sure" he replied.

And so I could go on about how we have progressed, but now to the present.



The amalgamation with the bowling club has been a great success. We are the envy of many clubs, when they see this lovely club house with a restaurant, up to date machinery and the green staff who keep the course in excellent condition.

I favour our club being a friendly, family club.

In conclusion may I add, this is our club.

Let peace dwell here,

Let the spaces be full of contentment,

Let love abide here,

Love of one another,

Love of Mankind,

Love of life itself,

And love of God."

**Members who have received 50 year continuous membership recognition to date are:**

Mrs Joan Palmer  
Mr Kevin Price  
Mr Leigh McIntyre  
Mrs Nan Vogt  
Mr Frank Dodds  
Mr Robert Scarr  
Mrs Joan Price  
Mr Richard Fry  
Mr Zig Grzanka  
Mrs Shirley Dorn  
Mr Les Edwards

Mr Peter Wyper  
Mr Warren Johnstone  
Mr Bob McKenzie  
Mr Don McKenzie  
Mrs Lyn Wootton  
Mr Bruce Gray  
Mr Tom Driffield  
Mr Peter Rutherford  
Mr Peter Keith  
Mr Trevor Lawrence



*Inaugral Recipients 2017  
Shirley Dorn, Frank Dodds, Joan Palmer,  
Leigh McIntyre, Nan Vogt, Les Edwards*



*2023 Recipients  
Lyn Wootton, Peter Rutherford,  
Peter Keith, Tom Driffield*

# CHAMPIONS

A key objective of our club is to establish and recognise our Champions.  
Ultimately we are a sporting club and our best golfers deserve recognition.

## MENS CHAMPIONS SINCE 1999

	A GRADE	B GRADE	C GRADE	JUNIORS
1999	R. Campbell	G. Daniels	O. Smith	B. Burrows
2000	R. Walker	L. Williams	K. Hure	P. Champion
2001	M. Chapman	S. Pryke	A. Foster	M. Jones
2002	M. Chapman	R. Marsh	D. Skafte	M. Jones
2003	R. Walker	T. Knox	L. Markwort	M. Jones
2004	M. Jones	G. Riley	Z. Holt	C. Burdekin
2005	M. Chapman	M. Hodson	A. Marriott	J. Towns
2006	M. Jones	S Tudor	N. Gulliver	J. Towns
2007	M. Jones	R. Ford	J. Chapman	M. Laney
2008	A. Marriott	B. Matthews	C. Williamson	A. Marriott
2009	M. McPhee	R. Butler	A. Gannon	N. Gulliver
2010	M. Laney	O. Smith	N. Lane	N. Gulliver
2011	S. Pryke	R. Cook	J. Stoneman	K Hardy
2012	M. Laney	M. Cook	E. McKensie	H. Gulliver
2013	M. Laney	D. Mudd	M. Heagney	H. Gulliver
2014	C. Small	N. Ingham	D. Johns	C. Small
2015	H. Gulliver	N. Ingham	L. Charnock	T Park
2016	M. McPhee	P. Adams	D. Brennan	C. Small
2017	H. Gulliver	P. Fairweather	D. Brennan	C. Small
2018	H. Gulliver	S. Wooderson	T. Gannon	C. Small
2019	C. Small	N. Small	K. Bower	L. Charnock
2020	J. Knott	D. Miller	J. McCloy	B. Small
2021	H. Gulliver	K. Rees	S. Redman	B. Small
2022	M. Wallington	R. Potter	G. Little	T. Barber
2023	B. Small	D. Miller	S. Redman	T. Barber



*2023 Club Champion Bowen Small*



*2023 Club Champion Melissa Beavis*



# CHAMPIONS

## LADIES CHAMPIONS SINCE 1999

	<b>A GRADE</b>	<b>B GRADE</b>	<b>C GRADE</b>
1999	K. Skinner-Oyston	Mrs. W. Bradley	Mrs. J. Mungoven
2000	K. Skinner-Oyston	Mrs W. Pryke	Mrs. C. Fleming
2001	K. Skinner-Oyston	Mrs. J. Bradley	Mrs. E. Taylor
2002	K. Skinner-Oyston	Mrs. C. Murphy	Mrs. M. Dunkin
2003	K. Skinner-Oyston	Mrs. C. Murphy	Mrs. M. Lawrence
2004	M. Beavis	L. Barnett	M. McIntyre
2005	K. Skinner-Oyston	J. Price	R. George
2006	K. Skinner-Oyston	S. Sinclair	V. Bell
2007	K. Skinner-Oyston	D. Coutts	V. Bell
2008	M. Beavis	D. Coutts	J. Ernst
2009	M. Beavis	E. Cousins	S. Edwards
2010	M. Beavis	J. Kildey	P. Montgomery
2011	K. Skinner-Oyston	R. Searle	P. Montgomery
2012	S. Sinclair	C. Whitchurch	W. Pryke
2013	S. Sinclair	C. Whitchurch	J. Ernst
2014	S. Sinclair	J. Warby	J. Ernst
2015	S. Sinclair	M. Thompson	V. Lennox
2016	M. Beavis	E. Eyb	L. Redman
2017	M. Beavis	S. Hargy	J. Boyle
2018	M. Beavis	M. Whyte	C. Norrie
2019	K. Skinner-Oyston	J. Wyper	R. Brown
2020	M. Beavis	T. Taylor	J. Halliday
2021	M. Beavis	S. Eyb	R. Friis
2022	Not Played	Not Played	Not Played
2023	M. Beavis	K. Hasset	D. Stehr

## COURSE RECORD HOLDERS

For a Course Record to be considered the conditions of play must be:

1. A stroke round
2. Played off the deck
3. The full course is in play – holes 1 to 18, bunkers in play.

If and when the course is modified a new course record will be recorded for that course.

### BOBBY WALKER

25 October 2003, 65



Course modified after 2015 storm damage, two new greens 2 and 10.

### HAYDEN GULLIVER

6 January 2018, 67



Surpassed by Bowen Small

### BOWEN SMALL

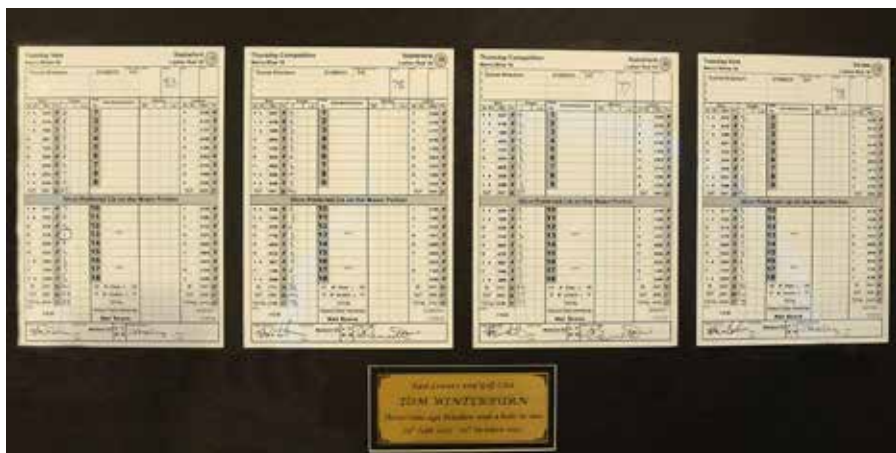
10 October 2020, 65



Surpassed by Clayton Small

### CLAYTON SMALL

23 November 2023, 64



## NOTEABLE ACHIEVEMENT

In 2017, long term member, veteran and club legend, Tommy Winterburn, had the pleasure of playing his age in 3 competition rounds and shot a hole in one within one month. To date Tom has played to his age, or better, 62 times! Keep on golfing!

# PENNANTS

Maitland Golf Club and Easts Leisure & Golf, since amalgamation, have been active participants in representative golf throughout our long history.

## MENS

Our male golfers, over the past 25 years, have maintained affiliation with the Hunter River District Golf Associations. With the HRDGA we enter teams to compete in A, B and C grade pennants as well as Seniors. Unfortunately HRDGA has not offered a Junior Pennant since 2017 due to member clubs being unable to field junior teams. Our male golfers also compete in both Masters and Super Seniors Pennants run by Golf NSW.

In 2023 HRDGA also offered a mixed pennants, a 2 ball match play competition which we entered.

### HRDGA Maitland Winning Pennant Teams since 1999

A Grade, The Bettington Cup: -  
1999, 2001, 2006, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2020

B Grade, The Pogonoski Cup: -  
2004, 2013, 2020, 2021

C Grade, The Bercini Cup: -  
2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2011, 2013, 2019

Juniors: - The Hancock Shield: -  
1999, 2001, 2004, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017

Seniors: - The Frame Cup: -  
2004, 2006

### Individuals

A Grade: -  
2012 Bryan Gulliver  
2013 Hayden Gulliver  
2017 Clayton Small  
2018 Clayton Small  
2021 Hayden Gulliver

B Grade  
2003 George Millar  
2007 Wayne Clements  
2011 Wayne Clements  
2016 Wayne Cambourne  
2017 Peter Bloomfield

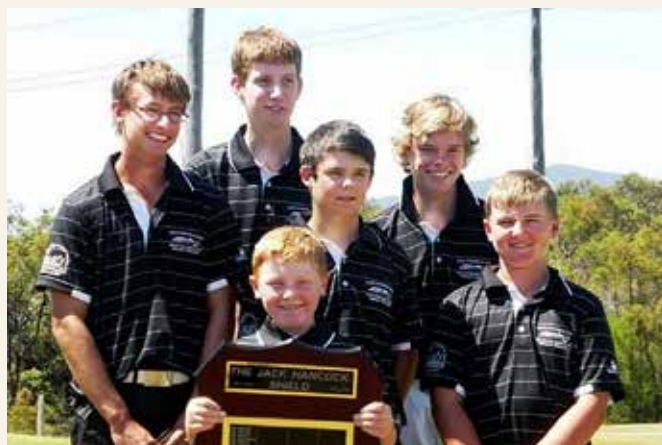
C Grade  
1999 P. Towns  
2003 C. Claherty  
2011 Steve Oswald  
2015 Shane Redman

Juniors  
2003 Matthew Jones  
2007 Mitch McPhee  
2022 Lachlan Standing

Masters  
2010 Peter Gibbs  
2012 Peter Gibbs  
2013 Bryan Gulliver  
2014 Bryan Gulliver  
2016 Greg Thomas  
2023 Shane Muir



A Grade 2020



Juniors 2014 - pick the future club champions



B Grade 2006



## LADIES

Our female golfers, over the past 25years have maintained affiliation with the Newcastle and Hunter District Ladies Golf Association. NHDLGA offer Competitions for Division 1 Division 2, Divisions 3 etc and Bronze North and South.

The number of divisions depends on the number of teams entered in each year. The competition is match play off scratch. The winner of each division is promoted to the next division for the following year and the loser relegated. The bronze division is a match play handicapped event.

### HRDGA Maitland Winning Pennant Teams since 1999

Division 1:-  
2022 (first Division 1 victory in the club's history)

Division 2:-  
2000

Bronze Shield: -  
2009

### Champion of Champions Trophy

2002 Katrina Skinner-Oyston;  
2011 Katrina Skinner-Oyston;  
2014 Samantha Sinclair;  
2015 Samantha Sinclair;  
2018 Melissa Beavis



*Ladies 2022 1st Div 1 winners in our club's history*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Ken Brown – Author and Editor

Gary Daniels – Photographer – capturing the Clubs history for over 30 years

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Thanks to all.



*Gary Daniels*





