

## REFLECTIONS

*After the general business was concluded, Dr A Campbell delivered a short but interesting lecture on the Etiquette of Golf which was appreciated by all present (Slice of history).*

On 12 May 1930, at a general public meeting held in the Parish Hall, Blackwood, a resolution was passed that 'a Golf Club be formed in the District to be called the Blackwood Golf Club'. The club patron, Mr Lachlan McTaggart made available a section of his property about a mile south of Blackwood for a nine hole course under a Peppercorn Lease for one shilling a year rental for ten years.

A second general public meeting, attended by 50 people, was held on 28 May when the appointment of office bearers and a committee was confirmed. At the same time a ladies committee was formed. A grounds committee was appointed and with the assistance of the Kooyonga Golf Club professional, Mr Rufus Stewart, the nine hole course was laid out using land on both sides of Coromandel Parade. Just two months after the first general public meeting, the opening of the club took place on 12 July 1930.

The club prospered throughout the 1930s which also saw the building of a log cabin style clubhouse. Following Mr McTaggart's death in 1938, his widow became the patron, a position she occupied until her death in 1964.

As was the case with most sporting clubs, World War II caused many changes at Blackwood. At a special general meeting on 31 March 1942 the following resolutions were passed:

- *That play be suspended for the forthcoming season and until such time as those in authority deem it advisable to resume play*
- *That when play is resumed the roll of members be the same as at present.*

Play was not to resume until 24 February 1946.

## A story of a stile

Access to the third hole from the second green on the McTaggart Course was via a stile which survived the move of the club to become part of the fence of one of the houses on the new estate. In 1996 club members Marg and Bill Hay alerted the president, Dale Wilson to the stile's existence in a very dilapidated state and approval was sought from the Mitcham Council to move it to Cherry Gardens. The owner of the house outside which the stile was located believed that it was on her land, as it was part of the front fence. However the Council deemed that it was on their property and gave approval for its removal. By way of compensation, she received a framed print of the stile, a copy of *A slice of history* and a voucher for free golf lessons from the professional.

Martin Ancone lovingly restored the liberated stile which is now found, with an appropriate plaque, in the small garden at the eastern end of the clubhouse.

Another link to the old course is that the house in which members Rhoda and Harry Blevin live was on the edge of the old course, and was the home of the McTaggarts' manager.



During the next ten years it gradually became apparent that the club would soon need a new home to accommodate the improved standard of golf and more members. The need became even more urgent when the McTaggart land began to attract attention as a site for possible residential subdivision.

After several unsuccessful attempts to purchase or lease land at various locations around Blackwood, at the annual general meeting in 1960 it was moved and carried unanimously that the club should move to the course at the Belair National Park. From the beginning it was obvious that the National Park course was neither an ideal nor a long-term home for Blackwood Golf Club. The sense of belonging which had been an important facet of golf at McTaggart's, and which was to become equally important at Cherry Gardens, was never felt at National Park.

Again the search for a permanent home began under the dynamic leadership of the president Brian Johnson, culminating in the purchase for £7,500 in May 1961 of 100 acres at Cherry Gardens. On 17 July a special general meeting was held at the Memorial Hall in Blackwood to amend the constitution, followed by a public meeting attended by 350 current and prospective members.

While the major work in creating the new course was undertaken by contractors, it was the valiant work of the weekend volunteers, many of whom gave up golfing at National Park during this time, which enabled Blackwood to open at its new home on 2 March 1963.

Kevin Salt remembers visiting Mrs McTaggart every year seeking her support, which was always forthcoming. On her death, Eric Haddrick the club secretary recruited six Blackwood members as pall bearers. Mrs McTaggart was by this time a very large lady. The McTaggart plot was at the top of the Coromandel Valley cemetery, it was raining and the clay path was slippery. After a few slips the group made it to the graveside.

The story of the Blackwood Golf Club from 1950-1980 is told in *A slice of history* which was published in late 1979 as part of the celebrations of the club's 50th birthday. *A slice...* ended with several predictions: houses would soon appear on the land adjacent to the 17th hole; the Jackson land adjoining the then 11th fairway could be used for the creation of a practice paddock, some new holes or even motel type units; and the restrictions experienced by women as members of sporting clubs would change.

*A second slice of history* takes up the story from 1980 to 2005, the year in which the club celebrates its 75th anniversary.





## THE COURSE

*'Is the principle of 6 hard, 6 medium and 6 easy holes being achieved?'  
The Captain's reply is recorded as a non committal, 'As far as possible.' (1986 AGM)*

By 1980 Blackwood was well on the way to fulfilling the prophecy made in October 1961 by Vern Morcom, the Victorian architect who designed the course at Cherry Gardens.

*You will have here one of the prettiest and best courses in Australia.*

Just how far the course had progressed in the years following the opening in March 1963 is apparent in a comment from the minutes of the associates' 1985 AGM.

*Blackwood has been reclassified to 74 Scratch Score putting it in the 'A' category championship standard alongside only four other courses in the state.*



Planting new couch on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole

Nonetheless the members at Blackwood in the 1980s were no exception to the general rule that golf club members everywhere are always able to find fault with the place where they choose to spend so much of their leisure time. Some of the problems identified were the lack of an adequate practice fairway; the danger posed by the blind shot over the hill on the then 11th hole; the bottleneck caused by the proximity to the clubhouse of the 13th, 14th, 15th holes and the 18th green; and the inadequacy of the car park.

In 1983 the general committee undertook a planning exercise, part of which involved developing priorities for the club for the next five years and beyond. Some of the proposals were:

- an automatic watering system
- proshop with buggy storage
- master plan for future layout of the course including 11th fairway and Crafter's ideas re 7th and 8th holes on the Jackson land
- more positive promotion of junior golf
- course drainage as an ongoing project
- use the Jackson land, eg for a nursery
- possible acquisition of the house at the rear of then 10th green (now adjacent to the 12th green) for use in future for the secretary manager, or chef, or professional
- tennis courts, bowling greens, possibly in association with Cherry Gardens Oval
- walkways through scrub areas of club's property
- fencing
- clubhouse extension, improved locker rooms
- residential units
- course machinery.

As can be seen from the above, the Jackson land adjacent to the southern boundary was beckoning seductively.

In November 1987 a course re-development subcommittee was established consisting of Fred Brown (president), Jim Walsh (captain), Ian Hillier (vice-president), David Woodard (chair of

greens) and Murray Crafter (club professional). The first recorded outcome from the subcommittee appears in the October 1989 minutes of the general committee which stated that Murray Crafter and Colin Wade were to design two holes on Jackson's block, but that no development was to be done along Cherry Gardens Road which was to be used later for a car park, clubhouse extensions etc.

Members David Booth and Andy Ford from Woods Bagot, the architects of the original clubhouse, were later added to the subcommittee.

In January 1990 the plans for the new holes arrived but the subcommittee was still unable to agree on the proposal. The secretary manager was then asked to contact the South Australian Golf Association as to the availability of a course architect to advise on the plans. Shortly after the captain began negotiating with Tony Cashmore who had designed the new McCracken course at Victor Harbor. In May it was agreed that Mr Cashmore's quote of \$3,800 be accepted, following which he spent half a day at the club with a further visit occurring later in the year.

In March 1991 the report and plans for the new holes were received and work began in earnest. Course superintendent Dene Goldsack became project officer for the course redevelopment, with Peter Harfield acting as course superintendent in his absence. A subcommittee was set up to work with Dene.

Course architect Tony Cashmore boldly stated that the new fairways would need no drainage and that, if there were to be a drainage problem, he would have failed. Committee member Ian Hillier, who had mapped the wet areas from an aerial photograph, was still not convinced.

During the major construction period the subcommittee held a course inspection every Tuesday at 6:30pm. After one such event, in November 1991, it was reported that the majority of tree clearing had been completed and that construction of the 11th and



Construction of the 12<sup>th</sup> dam and green



The pulley from the 15<sup>th</sup> green to 16<sup>th</sup> tee

### Money for old rope

In 1992 the ladies minutes reported that the ladies wanted a mechanical pulley from the 15th green to the 16th tee, like the one at Victor Harbor, to ease some of the pain of the steep back nine. The idea was that the moving rope would take some of the weight of their golf buggies and clubs from the suffering members' aching shoulders.

In June 1994 the manager reported that the pulley boxes were in place and the wiring had been installed. In July the minutes noted that the pulley would be ready in two weeks. In December it was announced that the club had been awarded a sports grant of \$1000 and that the money would be spent on a new rope for the pulley. In the new year it was reported that the pulley was fully operational with a new polyethylene silver staple three strand UV heated rope, purchased for \$1433.

In April 1995 the news was that the pulley would have a new rope of similar diameter. The end of the saga came in February 1998 when it was reported that the rope had to be replaced at a cost of \$900 and that the old rope had been sold to Heathfield High School for use in tug-of-wars.

In May 1998 the minutes reported that new spring loaded buttons had been fitted to the pulley leading to the 16th tee. If any of the buttons were pressed, the rope pulley would stop and could only be restarted by pressing the green button at the start of the pulley...

12th greens had begun. Truran Earthworks was contracted to do major earthworks starting in November, with Mini Trench contracted to install the irrigation system, starting in mid December. By January 1992 the earthworks component was reported as being over budget and behind schedule. This was caused by a lack of filling, which had to be dug out of the nursery area, and a water truck having to be brought in.

In a return to the culture of the early days of the club, a working bee of members was organised in January 1992 to remove the sticks and stones from the new fairways.

The three new holes were opened for play in early 1993 becoming the 11th, 12th and 13th with the only holes on the back nine not affected by the changes being the 16th, 17th and 18th. There was no doubt in the minds of the members that the course had become more challenging, and there was not a little concern about the steep gradients encountered on the new holes, particularly the 13th. However even the most sceptical members could not deny that the course was better for the changes and that the criticisms about bottlenecks and dangerous shot positions had been overcome. Despite Tony Cashmore's confidence, the bottom of the new 13th was to prove very wet indeed in the winter, with water draining into it from the practice fairway. Not only was it wet, but the plovers which nested there in spring also made it dangerous too for the unfortunate player whose tee shot did not carry up the hill onto the fairway.

A major decision relating to the new fairways was to plant Windsor Green couch which had a prostrate growing habit and stayed green during winter. Purchased at a cost of almost \$20,000, the grass was brought from Western Australia by semi-trailer across The Nullarbor and had to be cleared by WA Quarantine and the South Australian Department of Agriculture. A series of dry summers in the mid 1990s saw some fairways dying off, so a trial of Santa Anna couch was undertaken at the bottom of the 18th fairway and later on the south facing practice fairway.

Do you remember September 1992 when, at the request of several members who believed that it would be easier if the more physically challenging back nine were played while energy levels were higher, the course was played in reverse for one month?

Early in 1999 club officials visited Glenelg Golf club which had previously switched to Santa Anna. On their return they reported

*To see what Darrell Cahill the course superintendent has achieved in such a short time is amazing. Many questions were fired at Darrell from all directions in relation to when they planted; how they planned the time of planting; fertilisation of fairways, amount and costings; watering—when, how much (Newsletter April 1999).*

The outstanding success of the trial and the visit to Glenelg led to the bold decision in 1999 to replace the remaining 11 soft grass fairways simultaneously. The die was cast for a major program of replanting which began early in October when the remaining winter grass was sprayed in preparation for the new couch fairways. A second application was made later in October, with planting beginning at the end of the month and continuing for the next two weeks. In January 2000 club professional Bruce Milgate led 260 members in Operation Sand Fill to sand the fairways once the couch reached the stage of sending out runners. In another return to the early working bees held during the club's establishment, the evening's work was followed by a barbecue and a few drinks.

What followed was two years of pain, when players had to tee up and take preferred lies. However the long-term gain more than justified the decision made by the course committee.

Since 1980 many of the greens have been rebuilt, with better drainage than the original greens which frequently drained towards the next tee. The high quality of the newer greens has been maintained through regular maintenance, including dusting with sand to allow air, and hence water, to drain through the thatch. The poa annua growing in all the fairways and greens to some extent has always challenged the greens staff and various attempts have been made to eliminate it. These include applying a selective herbicide and encouraging the bent grass to outgrow it, using the bent grass SR10/20 which begins life in the nursery near the 4th green.

Another improvement to the course was the replacement of the sand and shellgrit mix in the bunkers, which packed down hard after being wet, with Mount Compass sand.

*On the one hand the problem facing the committee was how to get enough water; on the other hand the problem was how to get rid of the excess water in the wet Cherry Gardens winters (Slice of history).*

Average rainfall at Cherry Gardens—which is not far from Stirling, South Australia's wettest area—is 937mm. Ridding the course of the excess water is a problem which has continued to plague club management every time there is a wet winter. Throughout the 1980s course improvements aimed at moving the water as quickly as possible away from the wet spots into the dams.

In September 2004 a detailed article in the newsletter reported that the greens and tees held up well during the wet winters of 2003 and 2004, despite well above average rainfall, ie 334mm in June/July 2003 and 321mm in the same period in 2004, in comparison with the average of 265mm. However, as has been the case since the early days of the club at Cherry Gardens, water retention on most of the fairways was disappointing.

On the other hand, early in 2002 a new bore was drilled approximately 30 metres behind the 13th green. After two days of drilling, it was producing 4000 gallons per hour of drinking quality water. The bore was then cased and capped to be activated when deemed necessary.

As the president reminded members in the July/August 2003 newsletter,

*Without this resource [water supply] which is sourced from a number of bores around our golf course tapping into various aquifers below ground level, we would not have our golf course in first class condition during spring, summer and autumn. ...Our founding members had the foresight to not only seek a picturesque site but they*



*made sure there was adequate water to meet the club's needs. In these times when water is becoming a more valuable resource I acknowledge the vision of our foundation members.*

Golfers who played at Blackwood during the 1980s remember the inconvenience caused by the profusion of sprinklers on tees, greens and along the fairways. Trying to work out the timing of the cycles, putting a tee in the sprinkler head to stop the flow, being hit by a forceful spray of cold water just as players took up their putting stance or were at the top of their back swing, seeing the ball strike a sprinkler head and bounce off into the rough or even out of bounds, and greenkeepers on motor bikes weaving between groups of players as they moved the sprinklers, were everyday challenges.

An automated watering system programmed to operate at night was to provide the answer.

On 28 February 1985 the system was switched on in front of a large crowd of admiring Thursday twilight golfers. The arc of water cascaded gracefully over the 18th green which was fetchingly illuminated for the occasion. This pleasing picture was completed by a large kangaroo which hopped unconcernedly across the fairway and disappeared into the darkness.

As was indicated earlier, in the last decade golf clubs everywhere have been criticised for their negative impact on the environment. In South Australia the new environment act was to come into force on 1 June 1996. Committee member Mike Fanning, a soils engineer, was consulted about the likely impact of the new act on the course. An environmental audit in the late 1990s found that the greenkeepers shed adjacent to the 4th hole was a source of concern because of the poor state of repair of the underground fuel tanks, fuel refilling facilities above ground on a flat concrete slab, the cracked and leaking oil pit, chemical filling and wash down on bare earth, and poor storage of chemicals and fertilisers. In addition there was limited storage space for the increasing amount of plant.



New greenkeepers shed - outside and in



The initial quote of almost \$500,000 for a new facility seemed out of reach. However investigations of a state government sport and recreation grant revealed that the club could be eligible for a subsidy of 50 cents in each dollar up to \$150,000. With assistance from retired architect and club member David Risby, a new plan was developed, resulting in a large shed extended onto the existing shed so that the entire storage area was completely open under one roof. The structure consisted of a standard shed which could be purchased through any industrial shed outlet. The fuel tank was moved above ground which had the added bonus of allowing for more precise recording of fuel usage which dropped 10 per cent. Other features were a stormwater system with independent filtration system for run-off; a chemical bay for the safe loading of chemicals into course machinery; and a shed for safe storage of chemicals.

The brief was to ensure that the shed looked good from the 4th hole. This was achieved with small undulating mounds which were created on the right hand side of the 4th and planted with small native grasses and bushes to screen the entire complex.

With the opening in February 2004 of the upgraded Green Shed, the greens staff had a facility which matched the Blackwood Hilton Pro Shop.

*We have in the process of construction of the new green sheds addressed all the environmental issues which were of concern, and in addition, will provide modern storage facilities for our course machinery and equipment (Newsletter July/August 2002).*

Since the creation of the new holes in the early 1990s no major changes have been made to the course layout which is 6073 metres for the men and 5461 metres for the women. Changes to the front of the 12th fairway were foreshadowed in 1998 and golf course architect Neil Crafter was commissioned to restructure the right hand side with sloping mounds to prevent balls running off the fairway. A welcome improvement was the levelling in 2001-2 of the steepest section of the 13th fairway which 'had been a contentious talking point since the hole was introduced'

(Newsletter January/February 2001). The new Blackwood Park estate provided more than 32,000 tonnes of earth for the project. There was much rejoicing when the new path was opened in March 2002.

A course master plan for the next 20 years to meet the needs of all players is now under consideration. Well-known professional golfer and now golf architect Mike Clayton, whose team has worked on master plans for a number of courses designed by Vern Morcom, was invited in 2004 to contribute to the plan which aims

- *To ensure the future strength of the Golf Club through prudent financial planning and control*
- *To [ensure that Blackwood is] seen as a leader by other golf clubs in the offering of products and services attained only by innovation and foresight*
- *To maintain all assets of the Club in the best possible condition* (Newsletter January-March 2005).

Without pre-empting in any way decisions relating to Clayton's recommendations, many of his observations about the course bring joy to the heart of proud Blackwood members.

*The major changes recommended concern the amazing land around the lake in the middle of the course.*

*The best area of vegetation on the course is in the valley between the 15th and 16th holes and this is by far the most interesting part of the property. The eucalypts and dwarf natives scattered through the rocky ground are a wonderful reminder of the way the land felt before the course was created. Species such as Silky and Prickly Tea-tree, Egg and bacon plant and even the rare Chocolate Lily are prevalent through this gully.*

*There is a magnificent example of indigenous bushland down the right side of the [5th] and it highlights the great beauty of the natural land and vegetation.*

*At this point in the round [15th tee] the golfer confronts the two holes played around one of the most astounding natural features in Australian golf.*

*The artificial lake is extraordinarily beautiful as are the surrounding views, the rugged undulating ground around the water and the incredible indigenous trees and heathland plants complete a magnificent feature that reinforce the importance of encouraging natural, local vegetation.*



In 1930, Dr Alistair MacKenzie, whose designs include Royal Melbourne and Royal Adelaide golf clubs, asked

*How often have we known committees, presumably consisting of men of intelligence, receiving the statement that golf is played for fun, with eyes and mouths wide open in astonishment? It is always difficult to persuade them that the chief consideration that should influence us in making any alterations to a golf course is to give the greatest pleasure to the greatest number. Any change to a course that does not do this is manifestly a failure (Newsletter January-March 2005).*

In a little over 40 years the wisdom of Blackwood's voluntary office bearers and greens staff has gone a very long way towards

making the course a living testament to this fundamental principle of golf course design.



The 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> holes.

Above – from near the 13<sup>th</sup> tee.

Right – from top of hill on 12<sup>th</sup> towards the 12<sup>th</sup> green.



## ENJOYING THE SURROUNDINGS

*A story from the annals of club folk lore claims that a prominent left handed golfer apparently had regular trouble with a large stringybark growing on the right hand side of the 4th fairway and wanted it removed. The committee said, 'No!' Lo and behold! One day shortly after the committee's veto, the whole tree disappeared. 'Tis strongly rumoured that he took the matter into his own hands and removed the offending tree himself, virtually overnight (Slice of history).*

The first task of the volunteers and staff at Cherry Gardens was to clear the land in such a way as to make it suitable for playing golf. As the photographs in the club archives show, during the 1970s and 1980s the course was much more open than it is now. With the safety of players in mind, trees were planted such as Tasmanian blue gums which grew quickly, deterring anyone tempted to take a short cut across doglegs. The principle adhered to in the early days was

*Plant many trees close together and thin out later (Slice of history).*

However people became more and more reluctant to 'thin out later'. As early as 1990, the committee recognised that some pines, wattles and cypresses needed to be removed. For this reason and a number of other reasons, a different strategy for the management of the trees and other plants is proposed for the future development of the course.

The strategy is informed by several principles:

The course must continue to provide challenging, interesting and enjoyable playing conditions for all club members

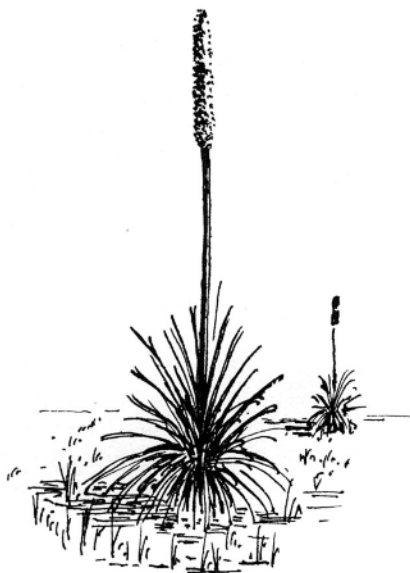
For economic reasons, this must be achieved with the minimum level of maintenance and expenditure on water, including the gradual replacement of many non indigenous and exotic trees and shrubs by indigenous plants



In a number of places trees need to be removed since they encroach so far onto the fairways as to make the tee shot for the average golfer very daunting.

Many of the older pines, wattles and melaleucas now significantly impact on the light and turf quality of the adjacent golfing areas, making playing conditions less than perfect. Some trees have borers. Replacements include casuarinas, ironbarks and calistemons resulting in increased sunlight and airflow which is assisting the return of the tussocks and yaccas.

Bush For Life members who regularly inspect the course to assess the state of the indigenous plants and trees, provided the following list which is to be updated in 2005.





## Native Species at Blackwood Golf Club

January 2003

<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i> var. <i>myrtifolia</i>	Myrtle Wattle
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle
<i>Acrotriche fasciculiflora</i>	Mount Lofty Ground-berry
<i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	Cushion Ground-berry
<i>Allocasuarina striata</i>	Stalked Oak-bush
<i>Amphipogon strictus</i> var. <i>setifer</i>	Spreading Grey-beard Grass
<i>Arthropodium fimbriatum</i>	Nodding Vanilla-lily
<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>	Common Vanilla-lily
<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	Cranberry Heath
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria
<i>Cassytha glabella</i> forma <i>dispar</i>	Slender Dodder-laurel
<i>Cassytha pubescens</i>	Downy Dodder-laurel
<i>Danthonia</i> sp.	Wallaby-grass
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i> ssp. <i>incarnata</i>	Gorse Bitter-pea
<i>Deyeuxia</i> sp.	Bent-grass
<i>Dianella revoluta</i> var. <i>revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney Weed
<i>Dillwynia hispidula</i>	Red Parrot-pea
<i>Drosera auriculata</i>	Tall Sundew
<i>Eucalyptus cosmophylla</i>	Cup Gum
<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Messmate Stringybark
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	Native Cherry
<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	Small-leaf Raspwort
<i>Goodenia blackiana</i>	Native Primrose
<i>Grevillea lavandulacea</i>	Spider-flower
<i>Hakea carinata</i>	Erect Hakea
<i>Hakea rostrata</i>	Beaked Hakea
<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	Button Everlasting
<i>Hibbertia sericea</i> var. <i>sericea</i>	Silky Guinea-flower
<i>Isopogon ceratophyllus</i>	Horny Cone-bush
<i>Ixodia achillaeoides</i> ssp. <i>alata</i>	Hills Daisy
<i>Juncus pallidus</i>	Pale Rush

<i>Lepidosperma carphoides</i>	Black Rapier-sedge
<i>Lepidosperma semiteres</i>	Wire Rapier-sedge
<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree
<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Heath Tea-tree
<i>Lobelia gibbosa</i>	Tall Lobelia
<i>Lomandra fibrata</i>	Mount Lofty Mat-rush
<i>Lomandra micrantha</i>	Small-flower Mat-rush
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var. <i>stipoides</i>	Weeping Rice-grass
<i>Olearia ramulosa</i>	Twiggy Daisy-bush
<i>Persoonia juniperina</i>	Prickly Geebung
<i>Pimelea</i> sp.	Riceflower
<i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i>	Holly Flat-pea
<i>Platysace heterophylla</i> var. <i>heterophylla</i>	Slender Platysace
<i>Poa labillardieri</i> var. <i>labillardieri</i>	Common Tussock-grass
<i>Pultenaea daphnoides</i>	Large-leaf Bush Pea
<i>Pultenaea involucrata</i>	Mount Lofty Bush-pea
<i>Scaevola albida</i>	Pale Fanflower
<i>Schoenus apogon</i>	Common Bog-rush
<i>Stackhousia aspericocca</i>	Bushy Candles
<i>Stipa</i> sp.	Spear-grass
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	Grass Trigger-plant
<i>Thelymitra</i> sp.	Sun-orchid
<i>Thysanotus patersonii</i>	Twining Fringe-lily
<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	Yellow Rush-lily
<i>Xanthorrhoea semiplana</i>	Yacca
<i>Xanthosia pusilla</i>	Hairy Xanthosia

Total number of species: 60

Good stewardship is the term now used internationally to describe the desired relationship between golf clubs and the land which they occupy. An example of this is Blackwood's role in a long term plan to develop a corridor of appropriate trees across the Mount Lofty Ranges, providing a path for migratory birds. Similarly, run-off from the dams goes into Sturt Creek, where it is monitored regularly at the bottom of Ackland Hill Road to ensure that no pollutants from the course enter the water.



Bird boxes and logs have been placed around the course—collect a sheet from the notice board in the club house and check them out, 60 all told—to encourage the bird life to stay and increase. Rosella Parrots and Rainbow Lorikeets have taken up the bird box offer, and Ringtail Possums have taken a liking to them too. A few Starlings tried to take over several bird boxes, unfortunately. Action was taken.

Small flocks of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos are regularly seen and are a great sight, as are Corellas and the much more raucous Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. The number of kookaburras has been maintained if not increased. Many Magpies are still around and going well with help from handouts from members, and are breeding successfully. There are a good number of Magpie-Larks (Murray Magpie, Peewee) with nests above the back of the 10th green and in other places. Eye-catching grey and pink Galahs are present in good numbers and still crazy.

Other regularly sighted birds are Rosellas, mainly White Cheeked Easterns, Adelaide and the occasional Crimson, which can be seen all over the course. As was noted in A slice of history, the ubiquitous Willy-wagtail is common, and two of his close relatives also frequent the course. The Grey Fantail is smaller, generally grey with white markings, and performs incredible aerial gyrations as he pursues insects. The Restless Flycatcher, sometimes called 'scissors grinder', is often mistaken for Willy himself. It is of similar size but more slender, the white of its underparts extends right to the throat, and it lacks Willy's white eyebrows. The Flycatcher is often seen hovering almost motionless a few feet from the ground while uttering a curious sound like an emery wheel grinding metal.

Yellow-rumped Thornbills which show their colours in flight can be seen along the edge of the 16th fairway and other open grassy areas. Just as small but difficult to see, are Pardalotes which feed mainly in the high eucalyptus canopy. The left hand side of 14th green and left hand side of the 17th are two spots to look and listen. The New Holland Honeyeater is prevalent with its black, yellow, grey and white colouring. Two others are the Singing (not too many) and the White-plumed. The small Silvereye is often visible darting around the trees.

The Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, a 32cm slate-grey bird with black head and throat has a shrill purring call and a distinctive undulating flight. The Pallid Cuckoo, with its incessant and infuriating call running up the scale in semi-tones and the Bronze



New Holland honeyeater  
*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

Cuckoo are both seen frequently. Blackbirds, Starlings and a few Sparrows can be seen around the course. A nice sight at the club house—despite the mess—are the Welcome Swallows building their nests on the balcony.

The quiet Cherry Gardens neighbourhood makes it easy to hear the very colourful and noisy Eastern Spinebill, especially around the 5th tee area. Still noisy and present in good numbers are Wattle-birds with their red droopy ear lobes and making a noise which sounds like somebody trying to start an old motor car, and of course the Noisy Miner. The very noisy Lorikeets—particularly above the 6th tee—are in good numbers. The colourful Rainbow (Eastern form) is predominant, closely followed by the Musk and Little Lorikeet heard screeching in the tops of the eucalypts and flying in pairs or groups quickly across the skies.

Other varieties which are often heard but are hard to see include Brush Bronze-wing Pigeons which can be heard all around the course. Listen up in the trees for an ooom-oom sound. Patience is required to locate the source of the call. White-winged Choughs are audible but not seen as easily as other varieties. Singing Honeyeaters can be heard, although spotting them is difficult, around the 4th and 6th greens and 5th tee area. An ear-catching call is made by the Grey Shrike-Thrush, easy to hear but difficult to see sitting motionless and blending in nicely with the brown and grey bark of the trees.

Apart from the birds which make Blackwood their home, there



are a number of less frequent visitors. An Owl has been sighted around the course and the occasional Ringneck (Port Lincoln) Rosella with its distinctive yellow ring around the neck and dark head, pays a visit. The occasional Crescent Honeyeater can be seen and heard, with a louder call than the New Holland. Sometimes a Wedge-tailed Eagle is seen soaring over the course, but not as frequently as in earlier

days.

The dams make nice spots to see some more feathered friends such as the diminutive diving duck, the Little Grebe, Chestnut Teal, Australian Grey Teal, Pacific Black, and Hybrid Mallard. Also around the water catchments are Cormorants (Shags), White-faced Herons (Blue Cranes), waterfowl such as Coots (black with white beak and frontal shield) and the occasional Eastern Swamphens (red bill and frontal shield), and Black-tailed Native-hens. Beside the dams, we are all aware of the prolific Wood (Maned) Duck on the greens and fairways. Hardheads have also been sighted but not in large numbers. Nankeen

(Rufous) Night-Herons are casual visitors. The Plovers, (Masked Lapwing) are still in residence around the 14th green, 11th tee area and usually raise a family each year, letting golfers who come too close know they are breeding.

The Geese on the course are of the domestic variety. A few Swans would be nice but we need to eradicate the foxes first.

Some of the birds which were present in larger numbers earlier in the club's history are no longer as prevalent. The Crested Pigeon has become more difficult to see now and only a few pairs remain. Two birds that have not been seen for a while, regrettably, are the Golden Whistler and Red-capped and Scarlet Robins. Mistletoe-birds, with their brilliant red breasts and iridescent dark blue upper parts can be seen but are becoming harder to spot. Ravens (not Crows) are around but numbers are declining. They will still raid a player's sandwich if left unguarded, and will take the bread provided by members if left behind by the ducks and geese.

Changes to vegetation, such as removing low bushes, shrubs and trees, have had an impact on the bird life. Superb Blue Wrens are difficult to spot now, but when seen are very eye catching. Clearing of undergrowth and low ground hugging shrubs and bushes have caused them to move on, unfortunately. Look around the ladies 16th tee area. Red-browed Finches are becoming more difficult to spot because of changes to the types of grasses being introduced and the seed grasses (poa) being reduced. The very pretty Red-rumped (Grass) Parrot is harder to see now because of the change to the grasses, but is still sighted from time to time.

Koalas can still be seen quite frequently around the course, having a nice snooze in the fork of a eucalypt.

In 1990 Don Watson, who had been advising the club for some time expressed interest in tree planting for the new holes. His involvement with this aspect of the development of the course was supported by the formation of what was at first called Dad's Army, and later became known as the course beautification group. The plains courses, surrounded by houses and busy roads, cannot

match Blackwood's natural beauty with its views across the hills and into the distance. In recent years this natural beauty has been enhanced through the addition of the gardens around the tees and greens which are the work of the tireless band of Monday morning workers. Two areas which continue to give players much pleasure are the fern garden adjacent to the 8th tee and Robin's Nest, the work of Christabel and Robin Hayes on the right hand side of the 4th fairway near the green and on the adjacent 5th tee.

Under the initial leadership of Geoff Hewitt and later Steve Potiuch, the results of the work of the beautification group provide a spectacular addition to the overall appearance of the course.

One of the great pleasures of playing at Blackwood is that, even when the golf is frustrating, the surroundings always offer a wide variety of pleasing experiences for the senses. Astute and visionary planning will ensure that the next 25 years at Cherry Gardens will provide as much pleasure as the last 25 years.



The famous celery tree.

## THE HEART OF THE CLUB

*Being an architect for your own club is a very daunting task. Worse than doing one's own house, with the risk of not having any friends, or playing partners left. (Andrew Ford)*

Even before the grass had grown on the new holes, talk again began of extending the clubhouse which had been opened in 1970 and extended in 1977. The beginning of the 1990s was a boom period for Blackwood with all membership categories full and a waiting list of more than 150 reported in November 1990. Most members were playing often and making frequent use of the clubhouse and facilities which were at times taxed beyond capacity.

Unlike some sporting clubs, the bar and dining room at Blackwood are in the same space which began to prove a problem as non smokers objected to sharing the air with smokers. The first suggestion that trouble was brewing was a note in the minutes in 1988 that airconditioning with smoke extractors should be installed in the clubhouse. In 1989 the committee received a request for part of the lounge to be smoke free or for extractor fans to be installed. By 1990 the secretary-manager was asked to contact the South Australian Health Commission to discuss the issue. A motion put to the 1990 AGM to ban smoking in the clubhouse was defeated but in 1991, following advice from the Commission, it was decided that the best area to be smoke free was between the brick pillars from the front of the bar to the windows.

With extensions to the clubhouse now on the agenda, a more radical solution to the smoking problem was then proposed: a balcony should be erected before any major extension program began. Concern about the effects of passive smoking on the staff gave added urgency to the implementation of the proposal. In July 1993 the slab was poured and the balcony was completed in October. The non smokers were satisfied and the smokers had gained access to one of the most pleasant areas of the clubhouse,



with a view encompassing the first tee, the 18th green, the 9th green and the 15th fairway.

The saga of the clubhouse extensions had begun in earnest in 1989 when Andrew Ford, the original architect, and David Booth were invited to look at a diagram prepared by the committee. This master plan for the site developed in the late 1980s had foreshadowed changes to the course, which would release land for extending the clubhouse and providing more car parking.

By 1992 plans had firmed as to what was required and it was decided to invite Andrew to the next finance meeting. The requirements were: extensions to both the men's and women's locker rooms with more showers in each; a new pro shop; a new functions room; a new sprig bar with poker machines; and a larger car park. Plans were submitted to the committee in December 1992, but in July 1993 the minutes reported that the extensions were to be put on hold until the new holes were in play.

Early in 1994 estimates were being received and members were informed that the plans were available for viewing in the office. By the middle of the year the serious matter of how to finance the extensions was exercising the minds of the committee, and of the members. At that time the committee decided that the minimum extensions would be to the ground floor only and include the pro shop, offices and locker rooms. Nonetheless two options were explored and costed. Option 1 would see a two storey extension at a cost of \$1.3 million financed by a call on members of \$100 each year for 20 years. Option 2 was for a ground floor extension only at a cost of \$766,000, later rising to \$780,000, financed by a call of \$50 each year for ten years.

To oversee the project an extensions committee was formed under the leadership of Nick Kyriazopoulos.

Once again the Blackwood Memorial Hall was the venue for a meeting on 19 May 1995 at which the committee provided information about the proposals to 179 members, with a lower case 'm'. A special general meeting was held at the clubhouse a



Bruce Milgate's  
'Blackwood Hilton'

The Balcony



Blackwood Golf Club February 2000



Club entrance

week later, attended by 143 Members (with a capital M) who voted for Option 2. The evening's discussion was lively with a focus on the need for the extensions to be financed by future members as well as by current members.

Woods Bagot, represented by Andrew Ford, were again the architects and Warburton were the builders. During the final planning stage, problems were identified with the electrical circuitry and the septic tank. The first sod was turned in November. Alas, it was for the new septic system, a topic dear to the heart of many hills dwellers, rather than for the clubhouse extensions.

To celebrate the opening of the new pro shop, aka the Blackwood Hilton, the club's professional Bruce Milgate sponsored an open night on 4 April 1996 which included a sausage sizzle and tour of the new facilities. From that date the club gradually took over the new sections of the building—the office, locker rooms, and the club bar to be known as McTaggart's Sprig Bar as a reminder of Blackwood's beginnings in 1930. Fortunately, the proposal to include poker machines was lost along the way, in part at least because of strong anti-gambling lobbying by women members.

At the official opening in March 1997, architect Andrew Ford explained the philosophy behind the design of the extensions. The roof of the 'single pavilion' structure made any further expansion of the existing building difficult and expensive. The best alternative was simply to build another pavilion alongside. One of the biggest challenges came in designing a transition space between the pavilions which would be successful for both a one and two storey option. In the end, the atrium proved to be the best solution.

Due largely to the voluntary efforts of 'Bill and Ben the flowerpot men', the areas adjacent to the main doors and in front of the pro shop were landscaped making a very attractive and welcoming entrance to the atrium.

Nick Kyriazopoulos and the extensions committee could look with pride at what they, and their predecessors, had achieved.

Later the wall at the eastern end of the upper storey was replaced with glass, providing members with a view of the stile from the McTaggart's course, the practice putting green and the first tee. Competition for the tables in this section of the clubhouse immediately became fierce among Sunday evening diners.

A second objective in the master plan was to provide more car parking within the property, rather than around the periphery of the course. Although the relationship between the club and the nearby neighbours has generally been cordial, the amount of extra traffic generated by 1,400 members coming and going at all hours in what is a quiet semi-rural area has sometimes been a cause for complaint. Thus the opportunity afforded by the relocation of the 10th fairway of providing more parking spaces was welcomed. When completed in December 1996, there was space for about 190 cars.

The 1990s had seen great changes at Blackwood—a complete revamp of the back nine including three new holes, major extensions to the clubhouse and increased provision for parking. No longer did people talk about the new Blackwood golf course, as contrasted with the old course at McTaggart's. For many members the course at Cherry Gardens was the only Blackwood course they had known. While still the most prominent building in the locality, the clubhouse no longer dominated the landscape, as the red bricks gradually mellowed and the surrounding bushes and trees assisted the blending.

A clubhouse is, of course, much more than a mere building. It is at the heart of the social life and management of the club. Blackwood's strong tradition of friendship and camaraderie ensures that the clubhouse and course are used to their full capacity.

Making sure that using the facilities of the club is a pleasant and rewarding experience for members and their visitors is the responsibility of the managers and leaders, as is seen below.

Previous sections described the development of the course and the clubhouse, each of which brought its own set of problems, challenges and rewards. Equally significant for those leading and managing the club during the period 1980-2005 were a number of economic, environmental, legal and social factors which could not have been as easily foreseen by the wise men and women of the 1970s.



South Australia's parlous financial situation in the 1990s contributed to Blackwood membership declining from a high of 1,450, with lengthy waiting lists in most categories, to a low of 1,265 in November 2001. A clever and sustained marketing campaign initiated by the General Committee saw the

decline arrested in 2001 with even a modest resurgence in 2004. Nonetheless it was realised that reliance on membership fees only to fund all aspects of the club's activities was a high risk strategy. Sponsorship and promotion of use of the facilities by outside groups were seen as essential to provide regular, additional income.

Social and economic developments in the 1980s and 90s resulted in changing work patterns, with many more women in full and part time employment, young people extending their time both at school and in higher education, and many people retiring earlier and living longer. All of these changes affected usage of the course and facilities.

Greater sensitivity towards the environment brought golf clubs around the world into disrepute for their use of chemicals to control pests and weeds. At Blackwood this led to the redevelopment of storage areas for the greenkeepers' materials, specifically the sheds adjacent to the 4th hole. Some staff in clubs, hotels and bars exposed over long periods of time to cigarette smoke began to initiate legal claims against their employers for the impact it had on their health. To minimise the possibility of any such claims, the Blackwood committee enforced a non-smoking ban in the clubhouse.

Social and legal changes throughout the period similarly had a great impact on the club. In the mid 1980s, the law relating to sexual discrimination in sporting clubs changed, requiring membership in all categories to be available to both men and women. As a result, in 1986 Blackwood was the first South Australian golf club to admit a woman, in fact two women, as full members. From this first small step for womankind, in 2001 women members were permitted to play in the field on Saturday and in 2004 Sue Pearce was the first woman to be elected to general committee. There are now 11 women full members and a further 11 in categories leading to full membership.



Of equal significance were changes in legal and social attitudes towards alcohol and driving. The introduction of random breath testing and the .08 (later .05) limit saw a reduction in the amount of time club members spent in socialising at the bar after their round of golf. This in turn contributed adversely to the club's financial situation.

The chief decision-making body at Blackwood is the 12 member general committee, elected annually by the full members, ie seven

day members. General committee is chaired by the president who brings the wisdom of Solomon to all significant issues relating to the club. Responsibility for specific aspects of club life lies with a range of sub committees, including match and selection, course, social, house and finance and the ladies committee. Keenly contested annual elections and energetic questioning of the president and captain at the annual general meetings, indicate that Blackwood members continue to be eager to have a say in the management of the club.

Changes to the constitution were proposed in October 1997 and again in 2001 to allow all members to vote, stand for general committee (2001) and generally have more influence in club matters. Surprisingly, considering the other changes which occurred during the 1980s and 90s, on both occasions the proposals were rejected by the full members.

As befits the large organisation which Blackwood has become, the minutes of general committee are often couched in modern management language with business plans, the impact of the GST and Y2K, strategic directions, master plans and user satisfaction surveys all rating a mention. Keeping members informed about what is happening, and why, is a high priority. Since 1995 the newsletter has been posted to all members, while previously it was available only to those who collected it at the clubhouse. A lively website provides up to date information about past and coming events, course development and sponsorship opportunities. Email provides an immediate communication link to the club at all times.

One service which is enjoyed by many members is the organisation of reciprocal clubs which welcome Blackwood members travelling interstate and even overseas. The first reciprocal arrangements within the state were made in the early 1930s with Yankalilla, followed by Emu Creek Golf Club at Morphett Vale, and McLaren Vale. More recent connections to Millicent and Loxton continue to flourish, with the twice yearly exchange visits holding pride of place in the Blackwood social calendar. Arrangements of various kinds currently exist with 40

clubs in other Australian states, one each in England and Indonesia, and two in New Zealand.

Responsible to the president and general committee for the day to day running of the club is the manager, who currently leads a team of more than 20 staff undertaking a wide range of duties relating to the course, office and clubhouse. Since 1980 the managers have been Alan McDonough (1979-1986), Les Harris (1986-1989), Wayne Lang (1989-1991), Trevor Harrison (1991-2001), and Mark Hubbard (2001 onwards). To weekend players the greens and office staff are largely invisible, but to those who play during the week they are as well known as the bar and kitchen staff.

Dene Goldsack was the first incumbent in the re-named position of course superintendent, a role which he filled from 1969 to 1999. Following his retirement, in 2003 Dene received the Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association Distinguished Services Award which

*...aims to recognise an individual who has made such a contribution to the Australian golf turf industry as to have left a lasting impression. The award takes into consideration all aspects—the direction and inspiration handed down to generations of golf course superintendents, involvement at state and national levels, education, communication and research (Newsletter July/August 2003).*

The current course superintendent is Peter Harfield.



Blackwood's longest serving staff members – Joan Dunn (office) and now retired course superintendent Dene Goldsack.





Since moving to Cherry Gardens, Blackwood Golf Club has been the biggest employer in the district, providing work for local people in all facets of its operations. As Kevin Salt explains

*Early policy was to employ as many local people as possible, and it has proved a winner, and still is.*

Staff members who have received awards for 25 years service are Dene Goldsack (course), Joan Dunn (office), Marj Morgan, Shirley Walloscheck and Judy Slee (kitchen).

Club professionals David Ormsby (1977-1983), Murray Crafter (1983-1993), Bruce Milgate (1993-2002) and the incumbent Matthew Dent have given sterling service to the club, through their well-stocked shops, and in their help to the pennant teams and to members having problems with their swings. In 2000 Bruce Milgate was recognised by his fellow professionals as National Club Professional of the Year for initiatives put into action [such as Operation Sand Fill], shop presentation, teaching, study, repair work, and the effectiveness of his personal interaction with club members and all other people who pass through the doors of the club and pro shop.

One thread which runs through all the changes which the club has experienced in its management since 1980 has been the increasing impact of technology. Automated watering systems, electronic payment of fees, computerised handicap systems and use of the Internet for communication such as email and the website are just some of these changes. Without resorting to crystal ball gazing, it seems likely that technology will have an even greater impact on the management of the club in the next 25 years than it has had in the past 25 years.

Sporting clubs depend equally for their success upon a loyal band of voluntary office bearers who spend their spare time developing a vision of how the club should function, and a group of hard-working employees who spend their working hours interpreting and implementing the volunteers' vision. The most successful organisations are those where trust and respect for each other's

roles exists between the two groups. From the beginning Blackwood has been fortunate in this regard.



Robin's Nest



Working bee

## WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

*Real golfers go to work to relax (Newsletter April 1995)*

Three times since 1980 the bell has rung in the clubhouse to celebrate Blackwood teams winning top grade pennants: the first time in 1988 when the women's A1 team defeated Kooyonga, the second time in 1993 when they again defeated Kooyonga. Marring the women's celebrations in 1988 was the death of former associate president Mick Burgess who was killed in a car accident on the way home to Victor Harbor. The third time the bell rang was in 1996, when the men's Simpson Cup team defeated Grange. On each occasion past and present players and supporters were rightly overjoyed, considering the number of years the club had competed, on several occasions reaching the finals only to fall at the last hurdle.

Far more success has been achieved by the men's second team which won the Bonnar Cup on eight occasions between 1992 and 2000. In 2005 the Bonnar Cup will be replaced by an Under 23 competition.

Unlike the football season which now stretches over most months of the year, the golf pennant seasons for both men and women are over in the blink of an eye. Under these conditions every match counts. Any teams which do not start the season well, or suffer a mid season slump, may just as well retire their club jumpers until the next year. In recent years the women's pennant matches have been played on Sundays—after a much debated change from Mondays—in early autumn, often in very warm conditions on hard, dry fairways. On the other hand, the men's pennants have been played in mid winter, with players and supporters huddled under umbrellas, sheltering from the howling winds and rain. The same courses are by then green, lush and heavy.

Perhaps it is the brevity of the seasons, or the rarity of Blackwood's successes, but many of the same players and supporters have participated in and watched every pennant match for many years. No doubt they will be out in force again in

## For Whom the Bell tolled

### Women's 1988 team

Back Row:

Judy Mills, Den Micheltmore,  
Margaret Hay (President), Jill  
Oliver, Di Cowhan

Front Row:

Yvonne Kelly, Lorry Brown,  
Yvonne Wade, Clair Hamdorf



### Women's 1993 team

Back row:

Joanne Hicks, Judy Langshaw,  
Gia Stotz, Christobel Hayes  
(President), Rosemary Martin,  
Yvonne Wade, Lorry Brown.

Front row:

Fiona Pike, Kay Chesney,  
Valerie Hicks, Helen Rice,  
Jill Leonard.

### Simpson Cup team - 1996

Back Row:

Dale Wilson (President),  
Bill Robinson, Matt Lane,  
Martin Perelman, Geoff Brennan,  
Glen McGough, Martin Ancone`  
(Captain)

Front Row:

Leigh Attenborough, Steve Reseigh,  
Nick Wake.



2005 when changes to the timing and format of the men's pennants will see the season lengthened slightly, and the matches played in the balmy days of late autumn and early winter. There will even be some overlap between the men's and women's seasons, dividing the loyalties of those who enjoy both.

An elite group of men and women has played more than 50 matches for Blackwood in top grade pennants.

#### MEN

Kari Heikkonen  
Steve Reseigh  
Colin Wade  
David Lightbody  
Glen McGough  
Leigh Attenborough  
Geoff Brennan  
Nick Wake

#### WOMEN

Joan Rugless  
Marj Jolly  
Jill Leonard (formerly Oliver)  
Yvonne Kelly  
Yvonne Wade  
Jo Buchanan (formerly Hicks)  
Lorry Brown  
Sally Graham

The 1980s and 90s saw two outstanding women golfers emerge at Blackwood: Joanne Hicks (now Buchanan) and Fiona Pike. Both Jo and Fiona began their golfing careers playing on Sunday mornings with the business women, before moving into the heady world of state golf and top level pennants.

Highlights of Jo's career have been membership of the state junior team in 1990, 91 and 92, a scholarship to the Australian Institute of Sport in 1990, club champion in 2000, then champion of champions, and winner of the state foursomes. She was a regular member of the state team from 1991 until 2000. Her albatross (in for two) on the 12th at Blackwood is a record for women.



Fiona was selected in the state team in 1990, was twice state champion, club champion, runner-up in the Australian



championship and in 1993 was awarded a Gold Laurel Wreath for a course record in Victoria. She played pennants for Blackwood from 1990-1995, winning 20 matches, losing six and squaring one. In 1995 she made the bold decision to turn professional. A week of festivities was organised by the club to farewell her before she left in early March 1995 to travel to Spain for the European Qualifying Tour School.

Since that time Blackwood members have followed the career of their touring professional and honorary member across Europe and later in the US via the golf results—in very small print—in the newspapers and very occasionally on television. Fortunately Fiona's regular trips home each summer to take part in the Australian women professionals' golf season have provided opportunities to see her at Blackwood and in the nationally televised events.

Jo and Fiona both played in England in 1999: Jo representing Australia in the British Women's Amateur at Royal Birkdale, and Fiona in the British Women's Open.

Mention must also be made of Jill Leonard (formerly Oliver) for her seven club championships between 1981 and 1988.



In 1996 the Blackwood Triad was played for the first time. In appalling Cherry Gardens winter weather 11 pairs of the state's top women golfers—14 pairs entered but three were deterred by the weather—braved the storm to play foursomes in the morning and individual stroke rounds in the afternoon.

## The Blackwood Triad

The Blackwood Triad was held on August second  
It was the coldest day ever they all reckoned.  
We had rain, sunshine and the wind really blew,  
It was a hard day for players and organisers too.

14 pairs entered—I got to the starting line,  
I'm sure all would have played had the weather been fine.  
Foursomes in the morning—singles after that  
These were the conditions of this new format.

Jill Leonard's and my 81 won the foursomes part  
A six shot lead over Rachel Fry/Hayley Hunt was a good start.  
June Riessen and Rosemary Martin won the best nett  
And the competition for the afternoon was all set.

Our new sprig bar was the site for the lunch,  
Soup and damper was the main fare on which to munch.  
Some decided not to go back into the fray  
By the warmth of the fire they did stay.

The singles proved to be a one-way street  
With Rachel Fry's 76 no-one could compete.  
81 by Sarah Douglass was the next best score  
Both girls broke their handicaps, who could ask for more?

Rachel Fry with steady partner Hayley Hunt won the first ever  
Triad  
A score of 249 was what they had.  
Runners-up on 259 were Lyn McGough and Julie Crafter  
A lower score I'm sure was what they were after.

Sarah Douglass and Susan Barr won the overall nett  
Jill Leonard and I were the next best set.  
All players praised the idea and the day  
Some sarcastically thought it better held in sunny May.

My thanks to Blackwood Ladies Committee for sponsoring the competition

A lot of hard work went into bringing it to fruition.

Special thanks to Crestview for their lovely wine for the prizes and tasting, we all did just fine.

And finally, thank you to the ladies of the WGA and WGSA For your support and coming out on such a terrible day.



Lorry Brown



Several golfers from the men's ranks at Blackwood attract attention for their outstanding careers in the last 25 years: Alistair Downes, Kari Heikkonen, Martin Perelman, Leigh Attenborough, Geoff Brennan and Andrew Grzybowski. Alistair was captain of the state schoolboys team in 1990; Kari won six club championships between 1979 and 1996; Leigh captained the colts state team in 1999; Geoff was a member of the state team in the same year; and Andrew captained the state colts in 2004. Martin was awarded a golf scholarship to study in the United States from 1997-2000, was a member of the state junior team in 1996, and captain of the state colts team in 2001. A double for Blackwood occurred more recently when brother and sister James and Tessa Stockings were selected as members of state teams, with James captain of the colts in 2003.



Leigh Attenborough (left) has also won four Club Championships and Kari Heikkonen (right) has won five.

Current course record holder for the men is Jordan Sherratt with 66, and for the women is Rebecca Coakley with 71.

Australian Sports medals in 2000 went to Joan Dunn, Clive Greves, Fred Brown, Dene Goldsack, Olive Shanko and Beryl Stuckey. The official description of the medal states

*...There shall be a medal established in the Australian system of honours and awards for issue during the year 2000 to commemorate Australian sporting achievement. The purpose of the medal shall be to recognise persons who have made a contribution to Australian sport as a current or former participant or through the provision of support services to sport.*

As befits a club such as Blackwood with a history going back 75 years, many of the trophies are named after men and women who have been associated with the club in some way during its history.

*Celia Halstead Memorial Trophy*

Celia Halstead won the Club Championship at the McTaggart Course eight times between 1951 and 1960.

*Claude Bennett Father and Son Trophy*

Claude Bennett was the patriarch of the Bennett clan who have been loyal members of Blackwood for many years.

*Dr A W Campbell Trophy*

Dr Campbell was present at the meeting on 12 May 1930 when the club was formed and was president at the McTaggart course from 1935-1957.

*Dr F C Archibald Trophy*

Dr Archibald was patron of the club at its Cherry Gardens location.

*Davis Cup*

W L (Bill) Davis was a member until 1967 with a particular interest in junior golf.

*Deverson Cup Olympic Trophy*

The Deverson Cup was donated by the mother of business woman, A pennant player and foundation member, Barbara Deverson.

#### *Doug Wade Trophy*

Doug Wade was the patriarch of the Wade family, now in its fourth generation of membership at Blackwood. Doug played at McTaggarts, was a foundation member at Cherry Gardens and was house manager for a short period of time.

#### *Gwenda Wade Trophy*

Gwenda, the matriarch of the family, was also a foundation member and a strong supporter of the club in the early days at Cherry Gardens.

#### *Edialta Trophy*

Edialta was the name of the property on which the club is now built. It was settled in the 19th century by the Chapman family, a descendant of whom was the former club patron, Roy Chapman who worked for many years as a greenkeeper. He sold the club the land adjacent to the 5th fairway, known as Chappie's Scrub which provides a constant reminder of what the area looked like before white settlement.

#### *GR Wood Trophy*

Gus Wood belonged to the club for many years and was a loyal supporter of the pennant teams. The fountain adjacent to the 4th tee is named in his honour.

#### *Haddrick Putter*

Eric Haddrick was a long term honorary secretary both prior to the move to Cherry Gardens and afterwards.

#### *Ivy Dennis Handicap Foursomes*

Ivy Dennis was associate president from 1969-1972.

#### *McTaggart Cup and McTaggart Perpetual Trophy*

These trophies for men (the Cup) and women (Perpetual Trophy) are named in honour of Lachlan McTaggart and Elizabeth McTaggart, on whose land the original Blackwood Golf Club was located. Mr McTaggart was club patron from 1930-1938 and Mrs McTaggart from 1938-1964.

#### *Business Women's Margaret Hollis Cup*

Margaret Hollis was associate president from 1963-1968 and a strong supporter of the business women.

#### *Michael Nemer Eclectic Trophy*

Michael Nemer has the honour of being the only trophy donor who is still playing at Blackwood.

*Puss Campbell Trophy*

Puss Campbell was a foundation member and a stalwart player for many years with the business women.

*Rod Kirkby Veterans' Cup*

Rod Kirkby was a foundation member at Cherry Gardens who served the club for many years on various committees and as vice-captain.

*Stan Clarke Trophy*

Stan Clarke was club captain from 1965-1967 when Blackwood made its first foray into Simpson Cup, ie A pennant.

*Wilf Nicolle Trophy*

Wilf Nicolle was a member at McTaggart where he won the McTaggart Cup three times, the club championship eight times over a period of more than 20 years from 1936 to 1957, and was captain for four years.

*The average golfer doesn't play golf. He attacks it (Newsletter November 1997).*

In this chapter tribute is paid to those whose attack on golf is much better than average.



Dam on 15<sup>th</sup> hole from the green

## AND IN CONCLUSION..

*When you look back, getting both Jackson's land and Roy's strip [adjacent to 5th fairway] has isolated the course for future members and will avoid future problems apparent in courses all over the world (Kevin Salt).*

Many of the predictions made in A slice of history have come to pass in the last 25 years.

Jackson's Paddock has been used to extend the course and provide a better practice fairway, although it has not been used to build accommodation to make the club residential.

More houses have been built near the course, although, as Kevin Salt noted, the buffer zones adjacent to the 5th and 12th holes have proved a bonus in helping to maintain the serenity of the course.

After a number of seemingly small but very significant advances, women are playing a direct role in the leadership of the club. In 1980 six women were invited to participate in the Easter Open; after rejecting the motion at the 1980 AGM, the 1982 AGM voted that the business women be permitted to use the practice fairway and locker rooms on Saturday afternoon; 1983 saw the first combined members and associates program book; from 1984 associates were required to use their own, rather than their husband's, initials on their score card; and in 1994 Fiona Pike and Jo Hicks were given playing rights after 3pm on Saturday.



A number of local families such as the Wades, Stuarts, Kennys and Jacksons are now in their third and fourth generation of membership stretching back into the McTaggart days.

As Blackwood moves towards its centenary in 2030, it is tempting again to gaze into the crystal ball.

Advances in technology will continue to influence all aspects of the club: management of the office, communication, design and maintenance of the course and playing. We may see electronic messaging systems used to remind members that their subscriptions are overdue or that their handicap has changed; the centenary history will be produced on DVD, or more likely a technology not yet invented; mowing will be unnecessary since grass will be genetically modified to stay the same length all year round; further modifications to golf clubs and balls will have been banned, because courses were unable to cope with the extra length being achieved by even the highest handicappers.

Members in categories other than seven-day will be given voting rights on matters which affect them. (Do I hear 'over my dead body' or 'if it ain't broke don't fix it?') The American War of Independence was fought over a similar issue.

Purchase of the Jackson house may see the implementation of the 1979 prediction about making the club residential. Opportunities exist for expansion of the clubhouse using the area above the pro shop for such purposes as conferences and weddings, or a gym or swimming pool. With its relatively remote location, it is essential that the club becomes more family friendly, offering activities for all members of the family, not just the golfers. At the same time, sponsorship and full use of the facilities and course must continue if subscription levels are to remain within the reach of the average member.

Regardless of the outcome of the 2005 course master plan discussions, for economic reasons as the older trees die they will be replaced by indigenous species which are less destructive to

the playing surface and require less attention from the greenkeeping staff.

Of the 350 foundation members who joined at the public meeting in the Blackwood Memorial Hall on 17 July 1961 only 20 remain. By 2030 it is possible that there will not be any.

The final chapter of *A slice of history* was headed '1200 members can't all be wrong'. The same can be said of Blackwood by the almost 1400 members in 2005.

The next Slice of History will encompass the whole cake as the club celebrates a century of golf in three locations. As has been clearly seen in *A slice of history* and *A second slice of history*, Blackwood Golf Club has always been, and still is, a place 'Where challenge and friendship meet'.



## APPENDIX

### PATRONS

1966 -1990	Dr F Callum Archibald
1991 - 1995	Roy Chapman
1995 -	Clive Greves

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mr L K	McTaggart	Mr J E	Clarke
Mrs L	McTaggart	Mr L C	Greves
Mr R J	Beveridge	Mr B N	Johnson
Mrs R J	Beveridge	Mr K	Salt
Mr R	Harvey-George	Mr P	Wood
Dr A W	Campbell	Mr A	Brown
Mr E S	Haddrick	Mr D	Woodard

### PRESIDENTS

1980-1983	Peter Burgess
1984-1987	Arch Wilcott
1988-1993	Fred Brown
1994-1999	Dale Wilson
2000-2001	Graham Ding
2002 -	Nick Kyriazopoulos



## CAPTAINS

1979-1980	David Woodard
1981-1982	Peter Wood
1983-1985	Steve Reseigh
1986-1987	Dean Wiles
1988-1991	Jim Walsh
1992-1994	James Bennett
1995-1998	Martin Ancone`
1999-2000	Geoff Attenborough
2001	George McInnes
2002-2004	Neil Brown
2005-	Chris St. John Sweeting

## CHAMPIONS

1980	Kari Heikkonen	1993	Leigh Attenborough
1981	Kari Heikkonen	1994	Andrew Nunn
1982	Dean Wiles	1995	Steve Reseigh
1983	Colin Wade	1996	Kari Heikkonen
1984	Steve Reseigh	1997	Geoff Brennan
1985	Alan Snowden	1998	Geoff Brennan
1986	Dean Wiles	1999	Aaron Amos
1987	Kari Heikkonen	2000	Leigh Attenborough
1988	Kari Heikkonen	2001	Leigh Attenborough
1989	Dean Wiles	2002	Leigh Attenborough
1990	Alistair Downes	2003	Glen McGough
1991	David Lightbody	2004	Andrew Grzybowski
1992	Alistair Downes		

## WOMEN MEMBERS

### PRESIDENTS

1979-1980	Helen McRae	1994-1995	Jan Batchelor
1981-1984	Maxine Hammond	1996-1999	Flo Aesche
1985-1987	Mavis Arnold	2000-2001	Nancy Kamm
1988-1989	Margaret Hay	2002-2003	Beth Larkin- Brown
1990-1991	Elizabeth Johnston	2004-	Rhoda Blevin

### CAPTAINS

1980-1982	Ann O'Shaughnessy	1997-1998	Meg Hogg
1983-1985	Olive Shanko	1999-2000	Pam Demmler
1986-1988	Den Michelmores	2001-2002	Sally Graham
1989-1991	Dorothy Chilcott	2003-2004	Jenny Watson
1992-1993	Val Hicks	2005-	Sandra Probert
1994-1996	Lorry Brown		

### CHAMPIONS

1980	Sue Faehrmann	1993	Fiona Pike
1981	Jill Oliver	1994	Fiona Pike
1982	Jill Oliver	1995	Joanne Hicks
1983	Jill Oliver	1996	Lorry Brown
1984	Jill Oliver	1997	Joanne Hicks
1985	Jill Oliver	1998	Sally Graham
1986	Yvonne Wade	1999	Joanne Hicks
1987	Jill Oliver	2000	Joanne Hicks
1988	Jill Oliver	2001	Tessa Stockings
1989	Lyn McGough	2002	Tessa Stockings
1990	Fiona Pike	2003	Joanne Hicks
1991	Fiona Pike	2004	Sally Graham
1992	Fiona Pike		

