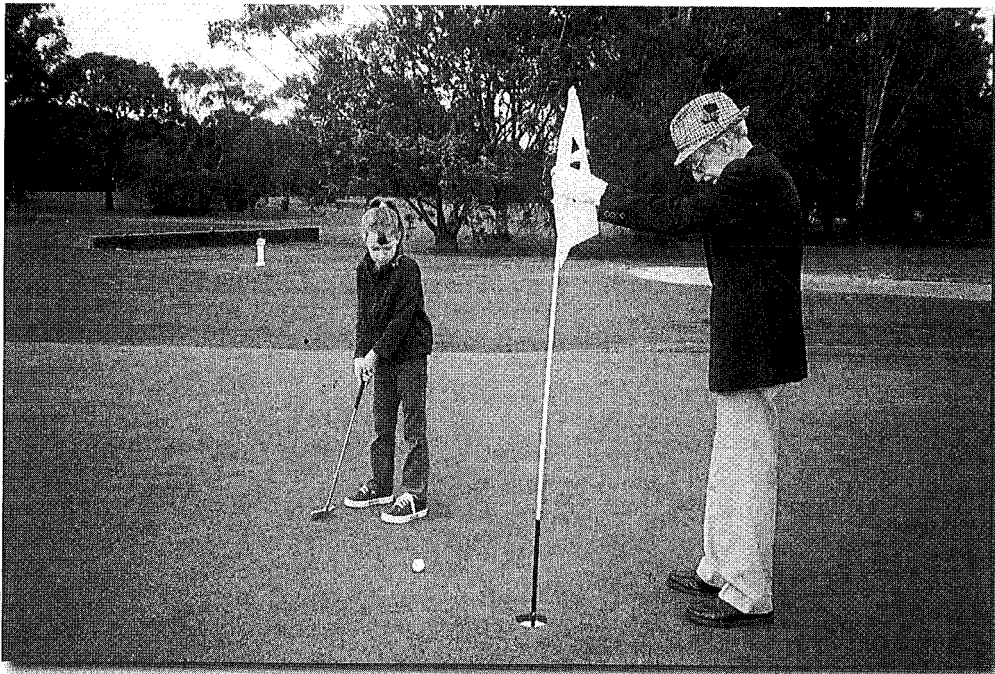


OUT OF THE ROUGH

Maffra Golf Club 1950-2001



Gavan Hackwill

OUT OF THE ROUGH

Maffra Golf Club 1950-2001



Gavan Hackwill

JJB
Publishing

©

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the publisher.

ISBN 0-9577500 - 2 - 1

Prepared for publication
for the Maffra Golf Club
by JJB Publishing
Lower Newry Road
Newry Vic 3859

Printed by
Custom Printing
142 Raymond Street
Sale 3850

October 2001

Illustrations

Cover: Life Member Athol Relph with junior clinic golfer Laura Freeman 2001

Title page: Peter Thompson getting out of the rough at Maffra 1956

CONTENTS

The beginnings	4
The new club	5
The course and its custodians	8
The fifties	11
The sixties	16
The seventies	19
The eighties	23
The nineties	26
Life Members	29
Pennants	31
Acknowledgments	32

THE BEGINNINGS

Golf was first played in Maffra almost 100 years ago on the "Hillside" course. The Golf Club was formed in 1904 with Mr W.J. McLean as president and O.F. Vaughan as secretary. Five players completed rounds on the first day of competition.

In 1905 there were forty members and Maffra competed in the North Gippsland Golf championships with players from Bairnsdale, Sale and Traralgon clubs.

On 10th July 1909 the Club officially moved to the Powerscourt Links on a course laid out by a visiting Scottish professional, Mr David Dakers. This course was planned to have eighteen holes but the second nine were never completed and the Club went into recess for the World War.

In 1919 it was decided to re-form the Club and to create a new links at "Mewburn Park" where Mr R. Gilder Snr placed land at the Club's disposal. The first opening day was held on 20th April 1920 and the course had nine holes with sand greens. The Annual Tournament was played again and became a feature of golf in Maffra over the following eighty years.

By 1928 the course was extended to eighteen holes and the membership was forty-five men and forty-six women. It was decided to construct a clubhouse at a cost of £50 after being treated to the hospitality of the Gilder family for ten years.

In 1930 the Club began to convert the sand scrapes to grass greens and by 1931 ten of these were in use and a mower was required. Mr R. Gilder, Jnr provided a gardener to maintain the greens over the summer months. Remember that golf was considered to be a winter sport and in 1934 the Gippsland Championships had to be postponed because of extremely dry conditions in the early part of the year. In 1935 the clubhouse was extended to cope with the numbers at the Tournament and the Gippsland and East Gippsland championships.

The Tournament grew to five days in 1939 and the winners include names famous in Victorian golf including that of Ivo Whitton on two occasions. Players came from Melbourne clubs such as Commonwealth, Royal Melbourne and Victoria to play in the Maffra Tournament and to enjoy country hospitality.

Mr A.W. Jackson, a former Victorian Amateur Golf Champion, reported in the newspaper in 1929 that Maffra was one of the more progressive clubs in Gippsland because it did not allow a free drop from a hoof-print. However, he did find the wire-netting bunkers a little unfair and unsightly.

The Club went into recess in 1941 and was re-formed in 1950.

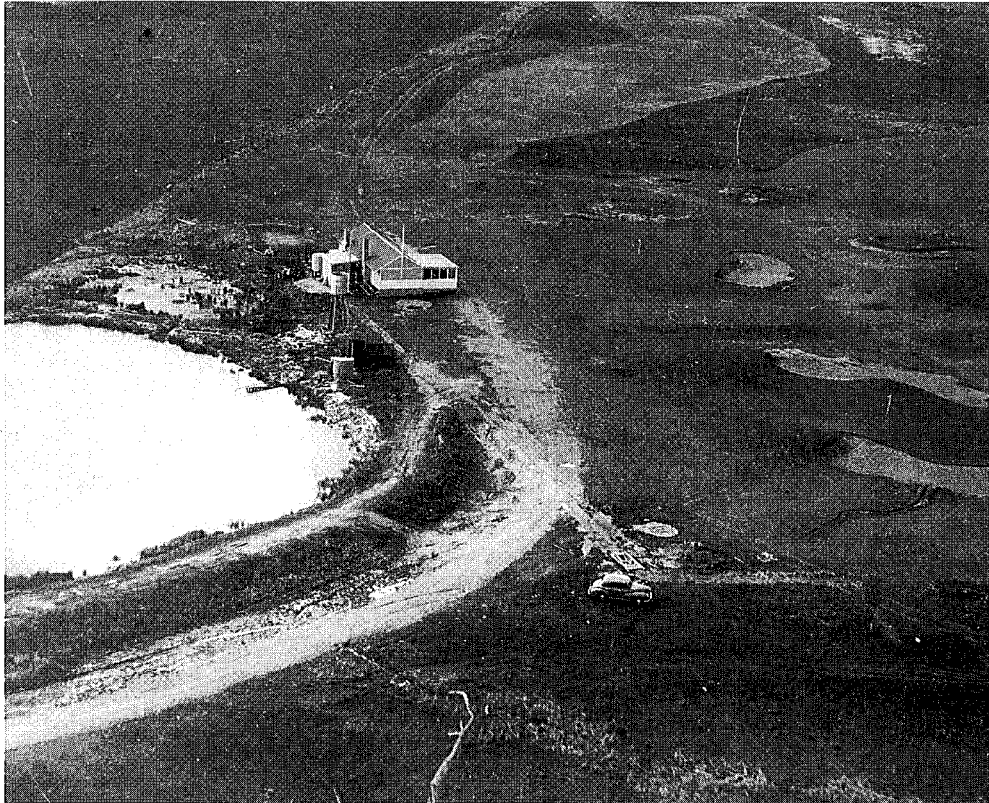
THE NEW CLUB

After the end of World War II it took some years for the district to settle down. Some golf enthusiasts played at Newry but there was a strong desire to re-establish the Maffra Golf Club. A meeting was called on 17th November 1950 in the Maffra Mechanics Hall by the trustees of the golf club, Mr C.P. Semmens and Mr A.O. Foster.

Dr M. Salvaris was appointed to chair the meeting. He was joined by the two trustees and Mr Allan McLean (a former vice-president); Mr Athol Relph was elected as secretary.

The chairman informed the meeting that the Club would have to purchase land so that Maffra could have its own club and join the major towns in Victoria in doing so. He thanked the Gilder family for their generosity in allowing golf to be played for many years on their land and announced that land suitable for a golf course would become available in the near future. The land had been inspected by an expert golf architect, Mr Berryman, who stated that it could be ready for play in a very short time. Mr Deake, of the Department of Agriculture, claimed it was suitable land for a

Clubhouse and ground works c1953



golf course and Mr Dethridge, of the Water Commission, said that it could be watered from the nearby irrigation channel.

An estimation of the cost of purchasing and preparing the land for use as a golf course was made of between £7,000 and £8,000 with the land estimated at £25 an acre. Originally there had been 157 acres in the property but some had been taken over by the Railways Department. The area of land actually purchased was 132 acres.

On a motion moved by Mr A. McLean and seconded by Mr Fred Gilder, the Maffra Golf Club was formed.

84 Warrigal Rd.
Gallerside
31/3/51

Mr. Athol Kelso.
Acting Sec.
Maffra Golf Club.

Dear Mr. Kelso.

In answer to yours of the 28th my fees for laying out an eighteen hole course would be 200 gns. I would probably have to make about 6 trips to Maffra. The first two trips would be for expenses, one would be for the weekend, to peg out the course, the remaining 4 would be for expenses for petrol only. The usual plan is that of the fee paid, when plans are completed, and the balance when course is constructed. For this fee, I would supply a plan of the whole of the course, and a plan of each separate green on a scale of 10 yds. to the inch, showing all details of bunkers, mounds, levels and shapes, also supervision until the course is completed. If your Committee agrees to my fees, I could make a trip to Maffra on Sat, April 14th. Would you advise how to contact them

Yours faithfully
H. Devine

It was decided that the Club be financed by the issue of debentures of £5 each and that each member must take at least one debenture. Mr Fred Gilder promised £500 in these terms and Mr Dick Pollard another £100. Applications were then called for the debentures and the response was more than satisfactory. It was decided to

purchase the land where the golf course is today and the trustees (Dr Salvaris, Messrs J. Scoones, J.D. Gilder, C. Barrett, K. Davies, L. Scharp and C.P. Semmens) were empowered to purchase the land.

At the meeting held in the supper room of the Mechanics Hall in April 1951 and attended by seventy to eighty people, the Maffra Golf Club was re-formed. Dr M. Salvaris was elected President, Vice-presidents were Messrs Fred Gilder and J. Scoones, Secretary was Mr Athol Relph, Captain was Mr R. Thewlis and Vice-captain was Mr John Gilder, Treasurer was Mr C. Gordon. Trustees were Dr Salvaris and Messrs J. Gilder and J. Scoones. Committee members were: Messrs R.F. Kelly, L. Scharp, C. Barrett, A.M. Rice, J. Wilton, R. Gilder, Dick Pollard, A. Hardie, R. Seymour, J. Burgess, F. Drury and J. Harrod. Mrs. Gilder was to call a meeting of the associates on April 23rd.

The land had been purchased for £28/10/- per acre and the plan was in the hands of Mr Berryman. Mr Fred Witt was ready to accept the position of green keeper for £9 per week. He had held this position at "Mewburn Park". The old clubhouse at "Mewburn Park" was made available to the Club through the generosity of the family of the late Mr Bob Gilder.

Dec: 2nd 1951. 29, Henry St.
Maffra.

Dear Sir,

Having been offered the use of my brother-in-law's house - at Brighton - for a period of two weeks at Xmas, I would like to take my holidays at that time.

I believe I have eight or nine days due to me - at the rate of a day a month since April last.

I would take this opportunity to visit one or two of Melbourne's golf courses.

Yours respectfully,

F. G. Witt.
(Greenkeeper)

THE COURSE AND ITS CUSTODIANS

The land purchased for the course in 1950 was declared suitable for a golf course but obviously a lot of work has been done by many people to change farm land to the rolling fairways that we see today.

There were working bees called in the early months and by 1952 the entry road off Morison Street had been gravelled. The land was poorly grassed and was dotted with innumerable dead gum trees and covered in bracken fern. It was also heavily infested with rabbits.

The course was formed by working bees organised by Dr Salvaris and Fred Witt. On one day there were twenty-eight tractors and fifty workers present and stumps were grubbed out and burnt. This may still be seen in places along the eighteenth fairway. Fulton Road was then part of railway property. Also there had been fifteen grass greens established, the property had been fenced and £1,000 worth of plant and equipment had been purchased. There had been four buildings constructed. The annual meeting was told of a need for a further £2,000-£3,000 to cover the costs of the last three greens, the dam construction and other equipment.

The first curator was Mr Fred Witt, who filled the position for about nine years and was followed by Eric Whelan, Robert Thompson, Alan Norden and Phil Tatterson for short periods of time. In 1970 Colin Gieschen was employed and has continued to be a mainstay of the ground staff. A function to mark his thirty years' work on the course was held in the clubhouse in 2000. Reg McConnell joined Colin in 1976 and in 1982 John Scott was employed as an apprentice. John completed his apprenticeship and was appointed curator as a qualified greens keeper. Reg moved into the clubhouse as manager in 1986 and remained in that position until his retirement in 1989.

During the 1980s and early 1990s the Club employed two apprentices: Robert Eustace, who later went to England to work on golf courses there and is currently in Queensland, and Darryn Browne. Unfortunately, club finances did not permit these men to be retained. In 1996 the Club was fortunate to obtain the services of John Waddell.

The three ground staff currently employed are John Scott, Colin Gieschen and John Waddell and their reputation for maintaining a high standard of course is acknowledged throughout Gippsland.

Some of the changes that Col remembers are that it used to take six hours to cut the greens with a Supercut walk behind mower in the 1970s the purchase of a Jacobson ride-on mower in 1977 cut this time to two and a half hours. It took five to six hours to rake the bunkers until a Jacobson Trap King cut this time to one and a half hours.

The Spartan Trail gang mower was finally replaced by hydraulic gang mowers towed by a tractor thereby allowing the height of the cut to be altered. In 1996 the Club purchased, for \$56,000, the John Deere gang-mower which has enabled the

fairways to be cut at a better height and maintained at a high standard. The old tractor-pulled gangs are used for the contours, which became a feature of the course in the mid 1990s.

In 1998 Mr Bob Miller was appointed Secretary/Manager and has introduced many changes to the facilities in the clubhouse.

The rough, which was difficult to control in the early 1980s, is now kept in control by a Toro front deck rough cutter and by a policy of burning the dead branches under the pines around the course. The boundary fences have been replaced in recent years and in 1999 the Club purchased land adjacent to the dam and clubhouse. The dam was also cleaned out and extended in 1999 and a beautification process has been combined with additional parking.

In early years the greens were watered through a one-inch galvanised pipe system. This was changed to a four-inch ring system in 1972. The location of these pipes was rediscovered in 1999 when a ripper was used to cut the roots of trees beside the fairways. After they were repaired the location of these pipes was marked by posts.

In 1974-75 a planting of trees was organised by John Downey, who was with the Forestry Department and was known as "Gumtips". He managed to secrete stores of liquid refreshment around the course. The majority of the trees were planted by working bees, with the final positions decided by the staff. We are indebted to John Downey for the fact that there are different trees in flower for much of the year and for the variation in foliage and colour on the course. During the 1970s the seventh



and fourteenth greens were reconstructed. The previous location of the greens was in front of the present greens and can still be seen. At this time the notorious bunkers around the seventh hole were made and were cursed by several generations of golfers.

At about this time there were several very wet years and it was at times impossible to get equipment on the course to cut the fairways. Phil Tatterson and Bob Harding became so irate about this situation that they took the gang-mower out to cut the fairways and bogged it so deeply that it had to be dismantled before it could be removed.

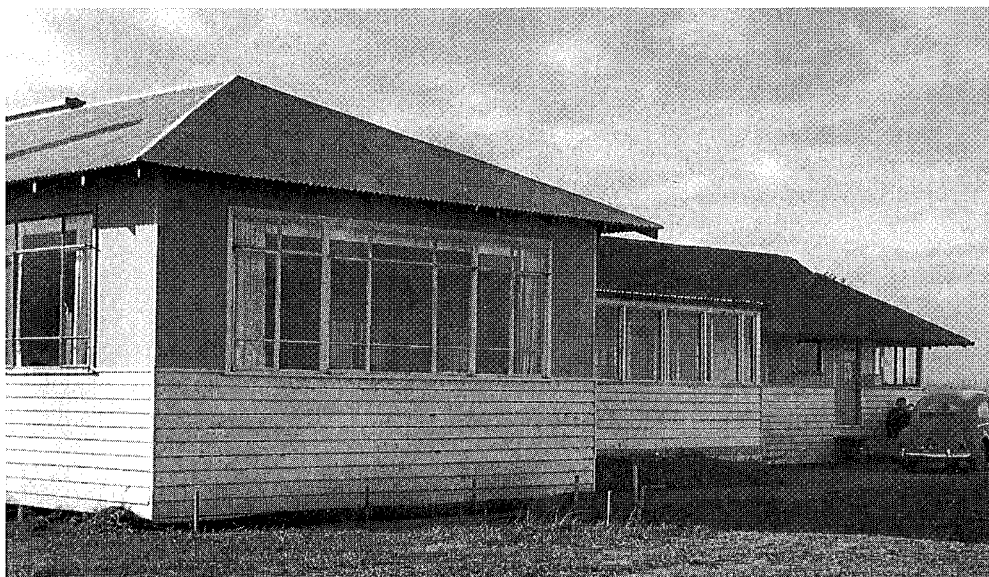
During the late 1980s much work was done to improve the drainage of the course. For this work we must thank especially Robert Larsen and Ivan Cartledge. The system must work very well, as we have not been bothered by wet fairways in recent years. It may also be partly attributable to the fact that the past ten years have been dry.

Originally the tees were fairly small. To get an idea of their size have a look at the Ladies' fourth tee. Over the past fifteen years many of the greens have been extended and widened. Wayne Marsden and his trusty assistant Arthur Watts did a fine job on the brick surrounds of the first, tenth and eighth tees. Most of the rest have been improved by working bees and a policy of re-surfacing the tees from a nursery of couch on the practice fairway and from the surface of the Heyfield Bowling green. Ron Warry deserves our thanks for his attention to the Santa Anna nursery and the development of the tees.

In 1985 the watering system was connected to the channel by pipe and the Club acquired a water right, which enables the course to be watered throughout. The recent extension of this system to the fifth fairway is appreciated by all who remember the reflected heat from it in summer.

At various times there have been attempts to get rid of the Kikuyu grass on the course. Michael Lee once poisoned half of the eighteenth fairway. Luckily the weather was kind that year and the grass grew again.

On another occasion a forage harvester was used to remove this grass, but this was not a successful long-term venture.



THE FIFTIES

The early fifties saw the establishment of the Maffra course. The people involved were a good cross-section of the population of the town, with farmers, factory managers and workers all involved in the development of facilities and in events conducted by the Club. One of the strengths of the Maffra Club has been the friendly atmosphere in the clubhouse and the co-operation of members with club officials and staff, and this feature was established in the early years.

The first president was Dr M. Salvaris, who was replaced in 1953 by Mr A. McLean, who held the position until 1962. Athol Relph was secretary for the first seven years and was followed by Warren Sim, who was in the office at the factory. Warren was secretary for two years and still visits Maffra from Warragul with Norm Pattinson, to play golf and renew acquaintances with older members.

Captains of the Club for the first two years were R. Thewlis and John Gilder. Then came A.M. Rice and J.K. Semmens, each for four years. Ken Semmens believed that the fairways should be given a light harrowing each year. This was good for the grass but made for poor lies. Ken took part in a 3-club event on one occasion. He arrived with a full bag of clubs and when told that he could only use three, he replied that if he had to carry a full bag he would use them all.

Wally Wilson was also about at that time. On a visit to Heyfield he put his drive into the trees. There was a right to a preferred lie on the fairways at that time. Wally removed his ball from the trees to the fairway because, as he told his playing partners, he preferred it on the fairway.

The lady members, known as "associates" in the early days, were led by Mrs R. Gilder, Miss M. Goodman, Mrs A. Hardie, Mrs L. Jackson, Mrs T. Coridas, Miss C.P. Semmens, Mrs M. Stobie and Mrs K. Semmens.



Mrs Hardie arrived one day by car and managed to overturn it coming up the track. When the ladies ran to her assistance, they saw her covered in what they thought was blood. It was actually red jelly, which she was bringing to provide lunch for golfers. Thankfully she was not seriously hurt.

The scorecard had a list of etiquette rules. One of these was that ladies must wear low heel shoes. Not stated on the card, but known by most golfers, was the fact that lady golfers wore skirts and "suitable" clothing. A new arrival from England was seen on the course in slacks on one occasion, before it was forcefully brought home to her that she was unsuitably dressed.

Here is an example of the field and scores in the early days:

STROKE	May 3 rd 1952	Entry fee 2/-	
NAME	SCORE	H'CAP	NET SCORE
Sutton	117	24	93
Cooper	111	24	90
McKecknie	96	19	77
Borstel	109	24	85
C. Fletcher	89	11	78
C. Ball	96	24	72
D. Owen	111	24	87
M. Pitt	91	24	67
G. Webster	115	24	91
K. Semmens	109	24	85
Dethridge	142	24	118
M. Stobie	81	16	65
M. Wilton	92	21	71
J. Hall	98	24	74
C. Cameron		24	
G.L Telfer		24	
G. Standish	85	14	71
G. Davis	108	24	84
C. Barrett	113	24	89
H. Gilham	98	24	74
J. Harrod	88	24	64
R. Anketell	117	24	93
R.S. Kelly	91	20	71
J. Gilder	84	13	71
F. Gilder		11	
D. Coloe	105	-	-


The following week a 4-Ball Best Ball Par event was contested by nine pairs.

A well-known member of this period was Jim Scoones, who was known as a very good member who could not hold office because his business (bookmaking) kept him away from the course on Saturdays.

The annual tournament was a major part of the calendar. It was usually held in September and attracted entries from all parts of Gippsland and Melbourne. Many members arranged for visitors to come and stay for the week-end and the parties lasted well into the night. The tournament was described as lots of golf and lots of drinks. For a few years there was a ball held in the Hall on Friday nights in association with the tournament and the question of drinking and driving did not arise.

The names of the winners of the tournament reflects the wide drawing power of the Maffra Tournament.

1951: F. Gilder (Maffra)	Mrs J.J. Dwyer (Bairnsdale)
1952: J. McLachlin (Royal Melbourne)	Mrs J.J. Dwyer (Bairnsdale)
1953: A.B. Lyon (Sale)	Mrs A. Relph (Maffra)
1954: E.A. Horne (Sale)	Mrs A. Relph (Maffra)
1955: W. Kellow (Traralgon)	Mrs J.J. Dwyer (Bairnsdale)
1956: W. Kellow (Traralgon)	Mrs E. Hebb (Yallourn)
1957: W. Kellow (Traralgon)	Mrs J.J. Dwyer (Bairnsdale)
1958: F. Morecroft (Bairnsdale)	Mrs J.J. Dwyer (Bairnsdale)
1959: W. Kellow (Traralgon)	Mrs S. Fryatt

FJ 2173-FJ 2174 FJ 6587-FJ 1249	Evans Evans PTY. LTD.	PELHAM STREET CARLTON-FJ 1249
"TENTMAKER" MELBOURNE	MERCHANTS EAE/MRW	IMPORTERS 634 BOURKE ST. MELBOURNE
REGISTERED OFFICE 680-2 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne C.1		
17th September, 1951.		
Mr. A. L. Relph, W. D. Leslie Pty. Ltd., MAFFRA, Vic.		
Dear Sir,		
Your transport called to-day for the Marquees ordered by you for the Maffra Golf Club. He called a day earlier than what you informed us, and as a result of this we never had the exact Marquees that we booked for you available, therefore we gave him:		
2 - 18' x 18' 1 - 15' x 15' 1 - 18' x 24'		
The other 18' x 18' that you should have got will not be returned until lunchtime to-day, and the 24' x 24' was being repaired and would not be finished until this afternoon. Therefore we substituted as best we could. The price of course will be less as the 18' x 24' and the 15' x 15' will cost less to hire than the original sizes booked by you.		
Yours faithfully,		
EVAN EVANS PTY. LTD.		
		
Director.		
1.10 p/m. P.S. Just received your telegram informing us that the carrier will call for the Marquees to-morrow. As we have already explained above, they were picked up about 9 o'clock this morning.		

Club champions in the 1950s reflect the evenness of the men's competition and also that of the associates until in 1959 came the first win for a lady who was to dominate the honour board for many years. June Harrod won her first title in 1959 and as June Harrod and June Pasmucans went on to win many more.

	MEN	LADIES
1952	F. Gilder	Mrs J.D. Webster
1953	F. Gilder	Mrs A. Relph
1954	J.D. Gilder	Mrs A. Relph
1955	F. Gilder	Miss M. Goodman
1956	A. Fitzclarence	Mrs A.G. McKinnon
1957	M.M. Stobie	Miss E. Long
1958	F. Gilder	Miss S. Gilder
1959	A. Fitzclarence	Miss J. Harrod

It is fitting at this point to thank the Gilder family for their long and valued service to golf in the Maffra area. Apart from making the Mewburn course available before World War II, members of the family were involved in establishing this course, donated the building from "Mewburn Park" as the first clubhouse, and were involved in the committee – Mrs R. Gilder was the first Lady President; J.D. Gilder was Captain in 1952, President in 1967–69, and Club Champion 1954; Fred Gilder was Champion in 1952, 1953, 1955 and 1958; and Miss S. Gilder Ladies Champion in 1958. John Gilder also acted as Treasurer and tournament secretary on several occasions.



In 1958 the Club obtained a liquor licence – Allan McLean, Wally Wilson and Mac Rice had to appear before the Licensing Court to obtain the licence and had to prove they were of good character. The licence was a full licence, not a bottle licence as applied in some clubs, meaning that alcohol could be sold at all times. This was a boon before 1966 when hotels had to close at 6.00pm. The bar was staffed by volunteers and was usually open on Wednesday evening, Thursday afternoon, Friday evening, Saturday afternoon, Sunday and for social events.

We should record our thanks to Trevor Coridas who, at no cost to the Club, brought truckloads of soil down from the diversion dam at the factory to form tees and greens. Mac and Bill Barr also gave free use of their graders and earthmoving machinery for this purpose and Keith Ward, an engineer at the factory, facilitated the acquisition of equipment by the Golf Club.

Maffra Golf Associates 1955

back l to r: L. Scoones, T. Digby-Smith, A. Gilham, M. Morris, E. McKay, O. King, N. Johnson, M. Shaw, E. Lanigan, M. Withell

front l to r: M. Lyon, Z. Semmens, L. Jackson, M. Jeffries, D. Drury, G. Appleby



THE SIXTIES

The sixties were a time of consolidating the Club and its facilities. Allan McLean continued as President until 1962. He was succeeded by Mr M.B. (Jack) Blake till 1966 and then by John Gilder till 1969. Athol Relph was Captain from 1961 to 1967, when Michael Lee took over till 1972. E.W. Budge was Secretary in 1960/61 and was replaced by Cam Shaw, who held the position from 1962 till 1971. The ladies were represented by Mrs L. Donohoe, Mrs H. Riggall, Miss Ella Long, Mrs J.T. Kelly and Mrs C.A. Stagg, each for a two-year period with the support of Mrs C.C. Harvey, Mrs A. Pusmucans and Mrs Mamie Barr and Beth Jessep.

The Open Scratch at the Maffra Tournament reflected the popularity of the event for men and signalled the rise of a young woman from the Maffra Club. June Harrod, later Mrs A. Pusmucans, dominated ladies' golf at Maffra for many years to come.

	MEN	LADIES
1960	W. Kellow (Traralgon)	Miss J. Harrod
1961	W. Kellow (Traralgon)	Mrs J.J. Dwyer (Bairnsdale)
1962	L. Moore	Mrs S. Fryatt
1963	R. Stanes (Warragul)	Mrs J.J. Dwyer (Bairnsdale)
1964	L. Moore	Mrs A. Pusmucans
1965	R. Clover (Sale)	Miss K. Foley (Maffra)
1966	W. Kellow (Maffra)	Mrs J.J. Dwyer (Bairnsdale)
1967	A. Graham (Traralgon)	Mrs A. Pusmucans
1968	A. Graham (Traralgon)	Mrs A. Pusmucans
1969	W. Kellow (Sale)	Mrs J.J. Dwyer (Bairnsdale)



The Club Championships reflected the dominance of June Harrod/Pusmucans, who was successful in eight of the ten years. Her reign was interrupted in 1965 by Miss K. Foley and in 1969 by Mrs Deirdre Relph. In the men's event the Fitzclarences brothers, Arthur and Ernie, won three titles each with Mort Stobie and Bill Kellow taking two each.

Michael Lee took advantage of playing at home to win the Gippsland Championship in 1967 off a handicap of six, after surviving a play-off. This is a very meritorious win as he is the only Maffra male golfer to have achieved this honour. June Pusmucans has done so on ten occasions, beginning in 1967. Vern Noble won the East Gippsland Foursomes with G. Mitchell in 1968, emulating the success of Mort Stobie and Arthur Fitzclarence in 1957.

June Pasmucans won the first of her two Victorian Country Championships in 1967, the other being in 1971, and the Maffra Ladies won six "B" and "C" grade pennants in the 1960s.

It was during this time that a member of the Club used to bring back pieces of Kikuyu and plant them on the course. The results of his efforts are very apparent today. The original bunkers established on the ninth and eighteenth greens were converted to grass bunkers – partly because the sand kept blowing out of them and partly because Jim Scoones hated playing out of sand. Jim was a keen golfer who played an active part in the social life of the Club and was actively engaged in raising money for the Maffra Golf Club and the Royal Children's Hospital.

It is interesting to look through the official programmes of the Open Meetings, now known as Annual Tournaments, held during the 1960s. Men's day was held on Friday and a motion was put by Gordon Keith and Ron Bates at an annual meeting to have it moved to Saturday or Sunday.

There is a list of committee members as follows for the 1963 meeting:

Messrs. R.M. Barr, A.C. Brown, T.C. Coridas, J.O. Harrod, R.F. Kelly, F.W. Lestrangle, R. McLure, A.C. Jenkins, A. McLean, I.W. Norman, J.W. Scoones

Secretary:	Mr C.H. Shaw
Treasurer:	Mr W. Wilson
Captain:	Mr A.L. Relph
Vice-Captain:	Mr A.C. Smith

Associates:

President:	Mrs H. Riggall
Vice-Presidents:	Mrs R.M. Barr, Miss E. Long
Captain:	Mrs C.C. Harvey
Vice-Captain:	Mrs A.G. McKinnon
Secretary:	Mrs C.A. Stagg
Treasurer:	Mrs I. Norman
Committee:	Mesdames T.C. Coridas, F. McHenry, A. McLean, J.R. Seymour, A.L. Jeffrey, A.C. Jenkins, M. O'Dwyer, J. Coloe

The fields were large for every day of the event and some of the names of the players are familiar. Some of these players and their handicaps are shown below:

W.W. Wilson (16)	B.F. Egan (14)	R.A. Warry (15)
R.J. Harris (16)	W.J. Love (24)	Mrs A. Pasmucans (9)
Mrs H. Digby-Smith (22)	Miss B. Archer (23)	Mrs J. Cromb (24)
Mrs J.E. Howson (24)	Mrs J.R. Ashton (30)	Mrs C.P. Woodhouse (31)
E. Fitzclarence (3)	A. Fitzclarence (5)	A. Relph (8)
A. Lestrangle (10)	K.J. Gannon (21)	

On the 7th of July 1964 a young golfer named F.W. (Bully) Lestrangle scored a hole-in-one on the sixteenth hole (at that time the seventh hole, as the nines were reversed). No-one was able to duplicate this achievement until the 8th September 1993, when Phil Larsen struck a mighty blow to copy Bully's shot. Since that time there have been 4 holes-in-one at this hole, one of them by Lyn Higgins, who played the two par threes on the back nine in a total of 3 shots during a tournament in 1997.

During this period Bob Harding and others were able to stand on the third tee and drive to the third green. The trees on the corner of the channel were not big enough to cause any trouble to their shots.

A'Beckett Cup, 1966

l to r: Rene Harrod, June Pustumucans, Laura Ross, Ella Long, June Harvey, Mamie Barr (Captain)



THE SEVENTIES

The 1970s saw a change from the old guard to the new in the management of the Club. Dick Kelly was President from 1970 till 1972 and was the last of the original members to hold this position, though he was still a member until his death in the late 1980s, and a regular member of a group at the bar on Friday and Saturday evenings. He was succeeded by Ron Warry during the wet years of 1973 and 1974; Michael Lee in 1976/76 and Alan Reynolds from 1977 till 1979.

Michael Lee continued as Captain until 1972, when he was followed by J.E. (Casey) McMahon for two years, then by R.W. Lockwood for two and Brian Egan for 3 years, 1977 till 1979.

Cam Shaw left the Club in 1971 and Peter G. Anderson took over as Secretary until 1975 to be followed by Robert Appleby and Richard McDowell.

In 1970 the Club had 111 members, 85 associates, 5 social, 5 junior and 4 country members and subscriptions for the year totalled \$4668.

During the Club Championships at this time two men waiting to hit off on the first tee had this conversation recorded:

Fred Drury: What grade are we in?
Graham Dethridge: I think we are in D Grade.
Fred: Why are we in D Grade?
Graham: I think they made a special grade for us because our names start with "D"

The Associates had a number of changes in the President and Captain positions:

Presidents were:	Mrs M. Kelly	1970-71
	Mrs D. Dempster	1972-73
	Mrs A. Stephenson	1974-75
	Mrs S.A. McLeod	1976-77
	Mrs A. Pasmucans	1978-79
Captains were:	Mrs E.W. Jessep	1969-70
	Mrs C.A. Stagg	1971
	Mrs J.R.S. Ashton	1972-73
	Mrs M.J. Howson	1974-77
	Mrs J.M. Boyd	1978
	Mrs C. McDonald	1979-80

Major achievements of the committee during the period were the installation of a four inch main, extensions to the clubhouse and the construction of the seventh and fourteenth greens to conform with the original plan of the course.

The main was laid in four stages. The first stage was to run the main to the sixteenth green. The organiser arranged a working bee and had a Ditch-Witch booked for 6.00am. He arrived a bit early, but was getting very worried when no-one else was there three hours later. He then realised he had moved his clock the wrong way at the end of daylight saving. The workers arrived at 8.00am, but he had been

there since 4.00am. The pipes laid at this time were the ones which were torn up last year when a ripper was used to break the roots of trees along the fairways. Their position is now marked by green posts.

The new greens on the seventh and fourteenth replaced the temporary greens on these holes which were located in front of their present sites. This helps to explain the dead ground in front of the fourteenth, which makes the distance difficult to judge. The old seventh green was on a fierce slope. The bunkers around the seventh green made for a very difficult hole and have brought some promising rounds to a sudden stop. A low handicap golfer was once observed scoring an easy eleven on the green after hitting off on level par. Work done on this green and the third a few years ago have improved the bunkers and surrounds of the two greens. Keith Ward, Keith White and Dave Owen, along with Ron Warry, deserve credit for these improvements to the course.



At this time it was possible to stand on the fourth tee and see who was coming into the course through the gate in Morison Street.

The annual meeting in 1973 was informed of the cost (about \$7,000) of extensions to the clubhouse. This extension is the part of the building near the honour boards and provided a wooden floor suitable for dances. It was just as well that this was completed because for three months the course was so wet that golf was impossible. No equipment could be put on the fairways, so the grass grew thick and rank. Attempts were made to mow the fairways with Victa mowers, but these had to be pulled, not pushed. Three members – Bob Harding, Aloys Pasmucans and Graham Bounds – set to mow the course with their mowers by trying to cover forty metres per evening and they did manage to mow almost the whole course.

The few who did try to play golf did so under extreme circumstances and fields rarely exceeded ten players. The Associates were taught to play solo on golf days and quite a few social nights were organised. A Silver Circle draw was arranged to coincide with the social and groups of seventy people or more enjoyed the dancing and social festivity with Fullerton's band, and the stories told by Ron Warry and others. Special thanks were given to the work of Bob Harding and Pat Powell and his house committee. Apparently Alan Lestrangle and Jean enjoyed the music so much they found it hard to leave the premises while "Tie a Yellow Ribbon" was being played.

In addition to these regular social nights there were games nights and indoor bowls in attempts to keep the Golf Club financial. In spite of all these efforts there was a huge drop in revenue, from \$33,515 in 1973 to \$26,362 in 1974, with bar receipts down \$5,026. It was necessary to impose a \$5 levy on all members and associates.

The golfing season of 1974 “must surely go down in history as one of the wettest and most frustrating ever for our Club, as we have been deprived of at least half of our golfing season, disrupting championships and all honour board events.”



Maffra A Grade Pennant Team, 1975

l to r: Doreen Fraser, Rene Stephenson, Gloria McMahon, June Pasmusans, Hazel Boyd

In spite of this a lot of work was done. A tree-planting programme was begun, sand bunkers were installed on the twelfth hole and a burglar alarm was installed.

The bar was staffed by a group of volunteers – usually committee members. Some of these were Dick Kelly, George Hoffmann, Jack Webb, Peter Elliot, John Gilder, Phil Tatterson, Cam Shaw, Pat Powell and Dick Lockwood.

The pool table was very popular, although one excited member put his shoe through the ceiling near the table.

There were many trips to other clubs for pennant matches and plates. Many of these trips had their entertaining moments. Dave Owen became tired of waiting for Wally Wilson to finish his socializing at Yallourn one night and went to sleep in the car. He woke up next morning to find out that Wally had gone home with someone else.

Peter Anderson was a very keen golfer and used to take his son, Michael, to golf with him. Michael was upset one day on the third tee so Peter gave him a rusk. When he began to cry they had a quick look for the rusk, then went on. Peter found the rusk some weeks later when he could not pull his 3-wood from the bag.

Balls were occasionally hit into the clubhouse. Stella Lee had one land in her cup of tea one day and Fred Munro put a ball through the clubhouse door off the tenth tee, but apparently Jack Davis put a ball through the kitchen wall from what is now the car park.

The car park used to be on the other side of the dam and it was at times a difficult task to find the cars in the dark without the light. Bully and Ron celebrated late one night after winning the 4-Ball Knockout. Bully ended up falling under his golf buggy and had to be rescued before setting out to drive home.

On trade days a caravan used to be parked near the sixth tee, until a ball was hit into it. This may also help to account for the fence alongside this tee.

A main was put in through Gieschens' to bring water to the dam. The work was done by Reg McConnell and Michael Lee. The main is at a constant depth so they had to put plugs in it on the rises to get rid of air pockets and allow the water to flow.

Club champions in the 1970s were as to be expected for the women. June Pasmus won every one except for 1976 when Mrs J. Boyd was successful. Vern Noble won his only title in 1970. The big-hitting Doug Taylor won in 1971, 1972 and 1974. Howard Bowman took the trophy in 1973 and Peter Anderson did so in 1975. Ernie Fitzclarence made a return to the winning list in 1976 and the young Rick Dare won in 1977, 1978 and 1979.

The Men's Foursomes Championship was won by Peter Anderson and Rick Dare on three occasions, by Ernie Fitzclarence and Geoff Shingles three times, by Michael Lee and Doug Taylor twice and once by Bob Harding and Brian Egan and once by L. McInnis and Jim Flint.

June Pasmus was Gippsland Champion six times in the seventies and East Gippsland Champion four times. Doug Taylor was East Gippsland Champion twice. He was also the winner of the East Gippsland Foursomes, with Michael Lee in 1972.

June paired with Mrs K. Russell in 1971, Mrs McMahon in 1973 and Mrs Deirdre Relph in 1979 to win the East Gippsland Foursomes.

J.R. Flint and Mrs J. Durrant won the East Gippsland Mixed Foursomes in 1977 and H.J. Bowman and Mrs A. Pasmus won in 1978. June Pasmus was Victorian Country Champion for the second time in 1971.

The 1970s was a wonderful time when many improvements were made to the course and the clubhouse, when it became possible to water the fairways and there was a lot of inter-club success. It was also a time remembered by many for the happy atmosphere and successful social events.

THE EIGHTIES

Where else but in Maffra in the eighties could a golfer be presented with a Clayton's Hole-in-One trophy? You know, the hole-in-one you have when you don't have a hole-in-one. Kevin Morgan achieved this feat when his tee-shot on the sixteenth ended up in the hole on the fifth green.

Where else would the Club Captain swing from the rafters? Wayne Marsden did when Essendon won the premiership.

Where else would a golfer throw his wireless into the dam? Ask Peter Ryrie why he did this.

Where else would a golfer with a handicap of twenty-six be entered in the Tambo Valley Tournament as having a handicap of six? John Gleeson was asked to play to this handicap after a long and thirsty trip to Swift's Creek.

Where else would a Club Captain relate a series of risqué jokes not knowing that the outside speakers were relaying his tales to a group of women in the car park?

Where else could you hear the shout in the clubhouse when David Mulcahy holed out on the seventh?

They were exhilarating days. The Club conducted a successful can-can night and debutante ball. Who were the stars of these presentations?

Presidents were:	J.D. Mulcahy	1980-81
	J.K. Barker	1982,1983,1984
	M.W. Lee	1985,86
	I. Cartledge	1987-88
	I. Soderlund	1989-90
Captains were:	P.G. Anderson	1980-81
	W.P. Marsden	1982,1983,1986,1987
	G.W. Reynolds	1984-85
	P.A. Ryrie	1988-89



Maffra B-grade Pennant winners
1983
l to r: Leo Dignan, Graeme Reynolds,
Wayne Marsden, David Mulcahy,
Peter Anderson (Captain)

During these years Richard McDowell, A.R. Bassett, Errol Garner, Chris Osler, John Hall and Doug Trenham filled the position of Secretary.

Work continued on the course and the clubhouse. David Mulcahy was responsible for the new toilets for members and associates. The work was done by Ross and Peter Gordon, Wayne Marsden and Peter Ryrie and was a great improvement on previous facilities.

the way home. Ron Warry took his 3-iron from his bag to practise near the first tee and put it back in someone else's bag. It did not turn up again. Peter Ryrie, on a handicap of thirty-one, pestered the handicapper for an extra shot and came in with a net score of fifty-eight.

During this time members were involved in Club visits to several other clubs. We had visits to Foster, because President Ian's brother was President there. Members also had challenge meetings with Sale, Heyfield, Yallourn and Bairnsdale with an average of thirty-seven taking part.

The Associates became members but maintained their own committee and conducted their own events. Deirdre Relph was Ladies' President in 1980/81 and again in 1988/89. In between her terms the position was held by Mrs S.A. McLeod, Mrs M. Johnson and Mrs N.G. Baxter for two years each.

Captains were Jennifer McDonald, Gloria McMahan, Jan Baxter, Marj Menner, Eileen Fixter and Margaret Whelan. Before this time Sunday golf was in abeyance. There were very few people using the course. Through the efforts of several married couples and Jim Hill the numbers playing golf on Sunday grew until there are presently about fifty players – men, women and juniors – playing organised golf. Social events such as a barbecue tea are often held in conjunction with Sunday golf and a Mixed Knock-out Fourball is also held. Our thanks are due to the Whelans, Moultons, Bourbauds, Bartletts, Hays, Bennetts and others for their support of these events.

Ross Gordon emerged as the leading golfer of the 1980s, winning the Championship in 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985, and was followed by Bert Adams in 1986 and Gerald Adams in 1987, 1988 and 1989.

June Pusmucans dominated the Ladies' Championships, winning in each year except 1982 and 1984, when Deirdre Relph and Margaret McIntosh were successful. The four-ball events showed a greater variety of winners with names such as Flint, Vapp, Anderson, Dare, Wehner, Marsden and Cartledge appearing. June Pusmucans teamed with Deirdre Relph, Gloria McMahan and Ross Gordon for wins at Gippsland and East Gippsland level and won the Victorian Country Foursomes Championship with Miss C. Darby. All in all the eighties was a very successful period for the Maffra Golf Club.

Club Champions 1989
l to r: A-grade and Club,
Gerald Adams;
B-grade,
Lindsay Millar;
C-grade,
Steve Magnuson;
D-grade,
Alois Pusmucans



THE NINETIES

This decade has seen the further development of the course with new equipment making possible the contouring of fairways and the general tidiness of the rough areas under pine trees and the edges of fairways being much improved. Attention has been paid to tees, which have been progressively extended in length and width, levelled and grassed with couch grass from the nursery and the Heyfield Bowling Club. The dam was cleaned out and extended in 1999, with the added benefit of more parking. Practice nets were finally installed, through the efforts of volunteers such as Arthur Watts and are used by many members.

The clubhouse was given a new roof and generally extended early in the decade and a new ceiling, bar area and storerooms were put in place later in the period. The old coolroom, which dominated the building, was replaced and a spike bar was added. The old starting box was altered and improved and extensions were made to the kitchen storage areas. In spite of complaints about the kitchen the ladies have been able to cope with fields of 190 plus in Veterans' events.

Equipment in the building has been progressively improved, by additions such as the boiling water urn. Noticeboards have been moved and new boards built and installed as the old ones have been filled. One of the features has been the need for three new boards to record Holes-in-One. We should record our thanks to those who have done carpentry work in the buildings over the years. Rick Dare has been responsible for some of this work, as have Neil Bourbaud, Don Hay, Darryl McLachlan, Col Lestrangle and others, who have provided skill and manpower to keep costs down and improve the physical surrounds of the building. The covered area near the Starters' Box is a most valuable area for golfers at the beginning and end of their rounds.

A major change occurred in 1999 when Reg McConnell retired after many years of running the bar and the clubhouse and pouring one of the most consistently good

East Gippsland Country Week team
Michael Lee (Manager)



glasses of beer provided in a licensed establishment. It was a pity that Richmond could not win a premiership for him in this period of time. He was a gentleman and a confidant of many members. On one occasion Jack Cromb called in for a pie half-way through his round. When he was asked how things were going he replied: "It's terrible. I'm playing with Max Wehner, Ron Bates and Phil Woodhouse and we can't talk, we

The Club was forced to use treated sewerage effluent water on the greens and a fungus developed in some of the greens.

David Mulcahy was also responsible for the Pro-Ams that were held in the early eighties in conjunction with Sale and Bairnsdale. These events aroused a great deal of interest in golf and were well patronised. However, it was difficult to raise the money that was needed to sponsor these events, as well as obtain the sponsorship traditionally associated with the annual and Easter Tournaments and they lapsed in the mid-eighties. They did attract some well-known professionals, including Ian Stanley, who achieved some local fame by gaining relief from a rabbit scrape.

The first Pro-Am in 1982 ended in a tie between Ian Stanley and Phillip Wright, with 71 each. In 1983 Maffra hosted two days of the Pro-Am, which was won by Ian Stanley with 71-69-140. In 1984 the event reverted to one day and was won by Mark Millbank.



The course under a mantle of hail, 28th August 1988

Approximately fifty professionals competed in the Pro-Ams and the number of amateurs was in excess of seventy each year.

At the 1982 annual meeting in December, President John was warning of the dry conditions threatening the district. This situation worsened during the summer months and drought conditions prevailed in early 1983. The Club was very fortunate

not to lose its greens but the ground staff and greens committee worked hard to save them. Then came the rain and a very wet winter forced the closure of the course at times. Balls were known to disappear in the middle of fairways, especially the fifth and thirteenth. Reg McConnell became barman and continued to hold this position until his retirement in 1999.

John Barker was a popular President for three years and a valued committee and club member for a long period.

Social evenings were conducted at the Club with the International night and Hawaiian nights being memorable occasions. Pennant dinners were also conducted for those who represented the Club.

Michael Lee, as President again, took an active interest in the course and its management. We were also very fortunate to have men of the calibre of Leo Dignan, David Mulcahy and Ivan Cartledge on the Greens Committee.

Graeme Reynolds as Captain pushed Maffra into the East Gippsland Veterans' Association, as it was the only Club without a Veterans commitment at that time.

Ivan once arrived home without any sticks – they had fallen from his vehicle on



Club Champions 1991
 l to r: Club Champion, Tim Messenger; B-grade, Max Bennett; Junior, Nathan King; C-grade, Mal Zenner; D-grade, Kevin Wainwright

have only got one good ear between us.” The wood heater in the clubhouse, new carpet and flooring, and the wood panelling on the walls made a big improvement in the appearance and comfort of the Club. The P.A. system was also installed by Dick Lockwood.

After Ian Soderlund completed his presidency in 1990 he was followed by Wayne Marsden, John Hall, Graeme Reynolds, Rick Dare and Fred Munro for two-year terms and the current President is Stuart Auld.

Captains were Rick Dare, Fred Engellenner, Brian Ritchie, Cyril Crealy for two-year stints, and after John Landon served for one year in 1998 he was followed by Darren Naylor in 1999 and 2000. Greg Meldrum is Captain in 2001.

Dick Lockwood was Secretary from 1990-96 and began the use of computers in the management of the Club. He was followed by Ern Stammers until 1999 when a Secretary-Manager was appointed. Bob Miller has held this position until August 2001 and has made a large number of improvements to the clubhouse. Unfortunately Bob has recently left to undergo surgery. We wish him well.

During this time the deaths of several people closely connected with the Club occurred. John Hall’s sudden death came as a shock, and we mourn the passing of Alan, Tom and Perce Lestrangle, Ern Stammers and Mal Zenner, who was closely connected to Veterans’ golf, among others who have been members of this Club.

The Men’s Championship has been a keenly fought event over the past eleven years. Tim Messenger won in 1990 and 1991, then three young golfers in Rohan

Dare (1992), Mark Wyld (1994, 1995) and Daniel Sherrin (1996) had to share the honours with older players – Gavan Wehner (1993), Don Shingles (1997 & 2000), Lou Cuppari (1998) and Gerald Adams back again in 1999.

The Women's Championship has seen the emergence of new names in Robyn Walker (1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997 and 2000); Mrs A. Renehan (1998 and 2001); and Mrs J.J. Sellen (1999) to go with that of June Pasmucans who added to her titles in 1991 and 1996.

Ladies' Presidents have been Mrs C.P. Woodhouse (1990-91), Mrs M.J. Howson (1992-93), Mrs K.L. Gallagher (1994-95), Mrs N.G. Baxter (1996), Mrs H.A. Noble (1997-98), Mrs L. Templeton (1999-2000) and Mrs F. Moulton (2001).

Captains were Mrs A. Renehan, Mrs M. Pratt, Mrs T. Johns, Mrs J. Darvell, Mrs B. Bates and currently Mrs J. Waddell.

The efforts of the ladies' executives have been rewarded in the number of ladies who play in the regular competition events and in the standard of these events.

In addition to their own events the ladies have assisted on a regular basis with the conduct of men's events in Championships and Tournaments and in catering for special days.

The Club should also record its thanks to all businesses which have contributed in any way, through sponsorship, equipment or goods to the Club.

l to r: D. Relph, J. McDonald, J. Pasmucans, M. McIntosh, A. Renehan, R. Walker



LIFE MEMBERS



Mrs R. Gilder (Muriel)

wife of Mr R. Gilder (Snr), whose family hosted the Maffra Golf Club on their property "Mewburn Park" from 1919 until World War II.

Mr A. McLean (Allan)

elected President in 1953 and remained for ten years during which time the Club was able to build the course and grow consistently in member numbers. He was also partly responsible for selection of the property for the new site.



J.W. Scoones (Jim)

was an important member in those early days of course construction and all other tasks that crop up in the formation of a new course and Club. Jim was a committee member for many years.

C.H. Shaw (Cam)

was a very active member in the early days of working bees. Cam then took on the job of Secretary for ten years from 1962.

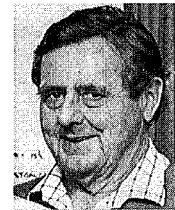


A.L. Relph (Athol)

was the first Secretary of the new Club and stayed for seven years, was Captain for seven years from 1961 and enjoyed his involvement with the formation of a new Club and course.

J.D. Gilder (John)

was very actively involved from the time the Club moved to its new site. He took part at all levels of activity and served as President for three years (1967-69)



R.F. Kelly (Dick)

was always available for the numerous working bees for course construction. Dick was a Committee member for many years and served as President (1970-72)

Miss J.R. Amey (Ruth)

a very keen, conscientious, hard working Associate who had much to do in those early formative days, and served as Handicapper for many years.



Mrs R.M. Barr (Mamie)

gave much of her time to helping at the numerous working bees of those early days. Her husband Mac was also very helpful during the course construction time.



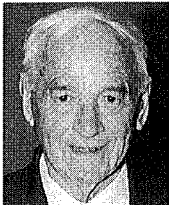
M.W. Lee (Michael)

was involved very much in the early formative days. He served as President 1968-72 and was Gippsland Champion in 1967.



W.W. Wilson (Wally)

was part of the Club since the very early days and apart from helping at working bees Wally took on the job of Treasurer, which he held for many years.



R.A. Warry (Ron)

has had a long association with the Club and had a long involvement with course construction and drainage. He served as President 1973-74.



Mrs A.G. Pasmucans (June)

a very well-known golfer who has been playing successfully for many years, won her first title in 1959 as Miss J. Harrod and since then has won numerous Club Championships as well as Gippsland Championships, East Gippsland Championships and Victorian Country Championships. She served as Ladies President 1978-79.



PENNANTS WON BY MAFFRA GOLF CLUB

MEN:

A Grade: 1976, 1980, 1987
B Grade: 1957, 1959, 1973, 1983, 1984, 1992, 1999
C Grade: 1987, 1991
Division 4: 2001

LADIES:

A Grade: 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1984, 1992, 1999
B Grade: 1962, 1963, 1964, 1967, 1970, 1971, 1980, 1990, 2001
C Grade: 1964, 1967, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1986, 2001
Division 4: 1998



B-grade 1992

rear l to r:

Phil Larsen, Robert Larsen,
David Mulcahy, Ivan Cartledge,
Graeme Reynolds

front l to r:

Stuart Larsen, Wayne Marsden,
Fred Engellenner (Captain),
Terry Green, Merv Pratt

2001

l to r: Division 2: Pam Messenger, Cynthia Ayres, Jenny O'Neil, Denise Mulcahy, Kay Gallagher
Division 3: Lyn Templeton, Louise Davis, Jill Hay, Julie Vardy, Jan Bartlett





Division 4 2001
Back l to r: Peter Standfield,
Nick Hunt, Paul Hunt, Steve
Magnuson (Team Manager)
Front l to r: Nathan Magnuson,
Josh Hocken

Acknowledgments:

Thanks to all who assisted in any way with the production of this book. In particular for their information:

Col Gieschen
Athol Relph
Ron Warry
Michael Lee
Dick Lockwood
Mary Howson
Jean Ashton
Wally Wilson
Denise Mulcahy
Reg McConnell
John Scott
Louise Davis
Peter Anderson

and for practical help in typing, Julie Vardy.

Gavan Hackwill
August 2001

OUT OF THE ROUGH

Gavan Hackwill

JJB
Publishing

ISBN 0-9577500-2-1