



# THE HISTORY

# OFFICE HOLDERS OVER THE YEARS

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## PRESIDENT

Garry Johnston 2009-2010

Stan King 2010-2011

Les Knox 2011->

## SECRETARY/TREASURER

Stuart Rooke 2009-2010

Chris Evans 2010-2019

Judy Jordan 2019->

## VICE PRESIDENT

Noel Byles 2009 ->

Les Knox 2010-2011

Stan King 2009- 2010

William Jamieson 2009 - 2011

Keith Wakefield 2011-2014

Terry Sharpe 2011 - 2013

John Lovatt 2013->

Kim Stockbridge 2014->

Noel Rowsell Publicity Officer 2019->

# FOUNDATION MEMBERS

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## FOUNDATION OFFICE HOLDERS

Garry Johnston, Windsor G.C.

Stuart Rooke, Windsor G.C.

William Jamieson, Wallacia G.C.

Noel Byles, Richmond G.C.

Stan King, Richmond G.C.

Ron Ellis played an important role in the establishment of the WSRVGA (Western Sydney Region Veteran Golfers Association) and did not hold an official position but attended all meetings pertaining to the formation of the Association as the Ashlar Golf Club representative.

## IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTORS

Les Knox, Leonay G. C.

Chris Evans, Richmond G.C.

Craig Scott, CEO, Ashlar G.C. (now Stonecutters Ridge)

Garry Considine, Ex. CEO, Springwood G.C.

John Lovatt, Glenmore Heritage Valley G.C.

Richard Tarrant, Secretary and then President NSWVGA (retired)

Kim Stockbridge, Stonecutters Ridge G.C.

Mick Toohey, Auditor and Wallacia G.C. Delegate

Kimberley Talbot, CEO, Richmond Club

## MAJOR SPONSORS OVER THE YEARS

Richmond Club (on going)

Winford Motors

Fraser Property

Jayco

Guardian Funerals

## MINOR SPONSORS OVER THE YEARS

Dunn and Farrugia

One Point Health

# Forward

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Following the amalgamation in 2013 of the Richmond Club (remembering X Servicemen's Club) with the Richmond Golf Club, I was made aware of the need for increased assistance for a social group that support and make aware the Veteran Golfers that currently played at R.G.C but also had social meetings, lunches and hopefully would grow into regular events. The Richmond Golf Club had several golfers who were members of the recently formed Western Sydney Region of the NSW Veteran Golf Association (WSRVGA). This target group was about something I was passionate about and that was creating groups to help with social inclusion and loneliness.

Supporting this group could help bridge that gap, and I knew at the time Noel Byles and the people working with him, could make it happen with support from a larger body such as Richmond Club.

After discussions with Noel, it was clear that if this group was given seed funding by the Club it could grow and really target a social group to not only play golf but give both men and women a reason to get out of the house and meet up with other like-minded people, especially after retirement.

I was invited to attend a meeting of that Association with the delegates of the eight golf clubs involved. At that meeting, I learned of the vast number of veteran golfers who visited country towns throughout NSW playing in tournaments nearly every week, bringing economic benefit to these areas. More important were the benefits gained by these visitors through exercise and social interaction which has proved to be a great platform for improved mental and physical health.

The Richmond Club Board supports and fully understands the importance of this, operating a Nursing Home and at the time social housing for the Aged within our Group. As CEO of the Richmond Club Group, I am proud to directly support Richmond Veteran Golfers, having witnessed the positive impact they have had in their involvement within our community.

I personally encourage the participation, especially after retirement, of support groups such as the Veterans golf Group, it's extremely impressive to see how a little help from us has assisted them to be the strong group they are today.

Kimberley Talbot Group CEO





# THE GARRY JOHNSTON STORY

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Windsor Golf Club Vets President, Rod Hartas approached me to seek out Henry Fawkes, the organiser of the Nepean Veterans Golf Group, to ascertain the future of the Nepean Vets. A meeting with Henry at his home revealed the following:

- a) The Nepean Vets were in serious financial difficulty.
- b) Henry stated that there was no such thing as the Nepean Association with the clubs and members of Nepean vets being individuals drawn from golf clubs within the area (*This is contradicted by the NSWVGA*). He also stated he was paying affiliation fees out of his own pocket and could not afford to pay it any longer.
- c) Henry decided it was time for him to step aside and let someone else take control as his wife was not well and his own health wasn't good.
- d) Although this meeting was inconclusive, we agreed to meet again and include the two remaining members of the "executive group" of the Nepean Vets sometime in the future.

Following this first meeting with Henry, I met with him on four or five other occasions and as a result, discussed them with Rod Hartas and decided to contact the NSWVGA. Dick Farrant, Secretary and later President of the NSWVGA, invited me to attend a meeting and urged me to seek clubs which may be interested in joining a new Association.

It was at that meeting that I was advised that Noel Byles, the President of Richmond Golf Club Veterans Group, had made enquiries to the NSWVGA regarding the future of his members, who belonged to the Nepean Vets. It was suggested that I contact him and other golf clubs in the area. I was also advised by the NSWVGA that Richard Doyle had been appointed to investigate the problems with the Nepean Vets, although I did not meet Richard until years after I ceased being president of the WSRVGA.

*Garry Johnston*

# THE JOSEPH HENRY FAWKES STORY

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The research into the history of the Western Sydney Region of the NSW Veterans Association (NSWVGA) uncovered many interesting facts, none more so than the story of Joseph Henry Fawkes, who organised the Nepean Veterans Golf Association, the forerunner to the WSRVGA. Joseph, AKA Henry, gave good advice to Garry Johnston in his quest to initiate the new vets group. Initially it was not intended to write much about Mr Fawkes, but his story is so unique it deserves to be told.

The following story comes from the Sydney Daily Telegraph and was re-printed in the Penrith Press on the 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2016 on the occasion of Henry's passing.

Joseph Henry Fawkes spent his war behind enemy lines, under fire, under pressure and under orders to keep deeds of his crack commando team secret. Corporal Fawkes was a courageous hero and the last surviving member of "Z" Unit, Australia's most feared and respected commando team who raided, ambushed, and wrought havoc behind enemy lines in the Pacific during WW2.

In 1943, when Mr Fawkes was 21 years of age, he volunteered for the "Z" Special Unit comprising between 8 and 16 soldiers. The recruiting major had only one thing to promise, a wooden cross, undeterred, Henry, who joined the army at 18 signed up, and soon found himself enroute to enemy controlled Indonesia on his first mission.

Operation "Magpie". His task was to retrieve a doctor from a small island between Celebes (now Sulawesi) and Morotai Island. The enemy spotted Fawkes and his mates and a fierce "fire fight" ensued before escaping to their PT boat. He was back in Indonesia in 1945 on a mission when ambushed by the enemy while waiting for a seaplane to fly them to safety. The lieutenant was shot and Henry raced out of his cover to pull him in, but died in his arms.

These exploits have been the subject of a television series and a feature movie. Henry Fawkes should have received many medals for valour during his service, but every member of the special "Z" Force had to sign a non-disclosure security document which prevented the release any news of that unit at the time.

*Noel Byles*

# CLUB HONOUR ROLL

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## WSRVGA Champion Club of the Year

Played for each year with the best four scores from each club (Male or Female) being aggregated to determine the winning club on the day, with each player receiving a prize. All club scores are then recorded to determine the winning club after all events are completed for that year.

2009	Richmond
2010	Richmond
2011	Richmond
2012	Glenmore
2013	Glenmore
2014	Leonay
2015	Richmond
2016	Dunheved
2017	Dunheved
2018	Richmond
2019	Penrith



# MEN'S HONOUR ROLL

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## PLAYER OF YEAR WINNERS

2009 Not played

2010 - Jeff Davidson (Richmond)

2011 - Jeff Davidson (Richmond) & Fred Warnike  
(Ashlar) equal winners

2012 - Greg Slone (Ashlar)

2013 - Stuart Rooke (Windsor)

2014 - Jim Lyons (Richmond)

2015 - Joe Sainsbury (Dunheved)

2016 - Peter Green (Dunheved)

2017 - Joe Sainsbury (Dunheved)

2018 - Jim Lyons (Richmond)

2019 - Russel Cruickshank (Penrith)

After each Inter Club Event the scores of all competitors are recorded for players and aggregated to determine the yearly winner, a player on his home course does not have his/her score recorded for that day and their best three results are counted to achieve winners in both Men and Ladies divisions.

# LADIES HONOUR ROLL

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## PLAYER OF YEAR WINNERS

2009 Not Played

2010 - Gwen Sills (Richmond)

2011 - Kristine Douglas (Richmond)

2012 - Jo- Ellen Thorpe (Wallacia)

2013 - Elaine Lovatt (Glenmore)

2014 - Betty Hudson (Richmond)

2015 - Kim Gersbach (Richmond)

2016 - Judy Benson (Richmond)

2017 - Elaine Williams (Dunheved)

2018 - Dianne Bowen (Dunheved)

2019 - Judy Loader (Stonecutters)

After each Inter Club Event the scores of all competitors are recorded for players and aggregated to determine the yearly winner, a player on his home course does not have his/her score recorded for that day and their best three results are counted to achieve winners in both Men and Ladies divisions.

# ASHLAR GOLF CLUB/STONECUTTERS RIDGE GOLF CLUB

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When Parramatta Golf Club closed in 1927, two new courses were formed, St. Andrews in Blacktown and Ryde-Parramatta in Ermington.

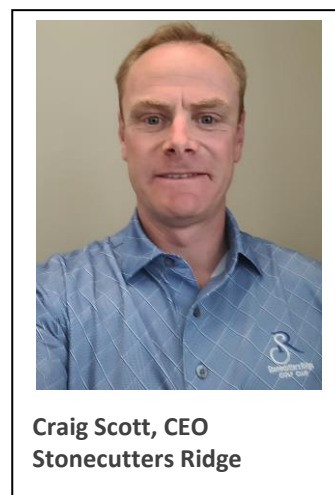
The St. Andrews course was owned by Mr R. Park and in 1927 work commenced and Mr Park supervised the course construction. After starting as a public course, it became the headquarters of the Parramatta Club and was officially opened in March 1929.

In early 1930 the club transferred to Ermington and the Ryde-Parramatta Golf Club came into being. St. Andrews reverted to a public Course until it was taken over by the RAAF during World War 2.

In 1947 the course was purchased for about \$22,000.00 by a group of Freemasons\* and Ashlar Golf Club Limited was born with play commencing on 9 holes that were resurrected after the Air Force occupancy. The club house was originally situated on Richmond Road Blacktown, although it was an old building it did an admiral job until another building was erected on the then present site near the Richmond Railway line in 1958. Work continued on the course until the official opening of the 18 holes on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1948.

2009 saw the emergence of the Western Sydney Region Veterans Golfers Association with the Ashlar Club playing an important part in the development of this new enterprise. Ashlar had had a seniors group playing a nine hole competition for some years. Organised by Ron Ellis, who when approached by the instigator of the proposed Association Garry Johnston, Ron agreed to support him in the project and supplied valuable input into the formation and was the Ashlar delegate to the new body for some years. Ashlar C.E.O. Craig Scott saw the financial benefit to Ashlar and added his support and experience to the fledgling concept.

In August 2012 Ashlar Golf Club closed and re-located to the new Greg Norman designed course further along Richmond Road at Colbee and became known as Stonecutters Ridge Golf Club. It wasn't long before Stonecutters Ridge was named in the top 100 golf courses in Australia and hosted the prestigious PGA NSW championship in 2014/2015 and 2016.



After being elected Vice President of the WSRVGA, Stonecutter member Kim Stockbridge provided a tremendous asset to the Association when he designed a computer program to record and accelerate the results of the NSWVGA State Strokeplay Championship. The event was held over three days on three different courses and previously results were done manually.



*\*ASHLAR is the name of a large square shaped stone used in fine masonry, hence the name of the golf course after being purchased by the Freemasons.*



# DUNHEVED GOLF CLUB

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## *(Researched as meaning Fort on the Hill)*

Of all the clubs in the Association, Dunheved has an interesting history which has been so well documented by Mr Ken Cross, one of the six foundation members, formed in 1947 by visionaries who were playing golf at the Glenmore course.

These men (Charles Gordon Faine, Adolf Andrew Anderson, James Eckford, Douglas Johnson, Len Howlett and Ken Cross) decided to build their own golf course. Mr E Yapp was using the land for cattle grazing and the intrepid six earmarked it as a potential site for their golf dream and the land was coming up for lease. The property has a history dating back to between 1804 and 1806 and was originally occupied by the 3rd Governor of Australia, Gidley Phillip King, who was granted land along South Creek totalling some 3000 acres and was called DUNHEVED after Dunheved Castle which was near Gov. King's home in Cornwell, England. The famous botanist Charles Darwin resided at Dunheved House overnight on his journey to the Blue Mountains. Governor Macquarie was a frequent visitor to the residence which was demolished in 1946.

In 1947 Dunheved's first president Mr Charles Gordon Faine obtained a 10 year lease on this property and the hard work of volunteers began. For 5 years they worked with picks and shovels from 7.30 am until 5 pm every Saturday and Sunday enduring the hardships of a flooding South Creek or alternately droughts.

Initially fairways were created by burning the grass to form a passage from tees to greens or "browns" as they were called. In 1952 a tractor and fairway mower were purchased, and a temporary club house was a tent, and the beer was kept cold by inserting the bottles in a hessian bag and putting the bag into South Creek. Also, in July 1952 the club issued 10 year 5 Pound debentures to raise 5000 pounds and to the knowledge of Ken Cross all members gifted these debentures to the club on maturity in 1962.

Further progress from increased membership and efforts from an energetic Associates group, the club purchased the land in 1965 for six thousand pounds.

Mick Griffiths was one of the clubs first members and played a major role in the formation of the popular and well patronised local veterans, which has continued to flourish from 1987 due to the president William Hawkins and his committee ably assisted by Barry Fenton. Frequent visitors to the Wednesday Veterans competition were four members of the Richmond Golf Club who modelled the formation of the Richmond Vets on the Dunheved success.



**Greg Burke, Dunheved  
delegate to WSRVGA**

# GLEMORE HERITAGE VALLEY GOLF CLUB

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In 1824 Mr Henry Cox built an “L” shaped building on his property which he named Glenmore, after his wife's birthplace in Scotland. Her maiden name was Francis MacKenzie. Glenmore was a great and busy centre for many years with its grape vines, wheat, corn, alfalfa and all kinds of horse and cattle feed. Sheep flourished and roamed all around the homestead as the vineyards and orchards had low stone fences as they had in Scotland.

There were always plenty of visitors to the property and it is said that Florence Nightingale visited some of Cox's homes in Mulgoa.

Mr Thomas Sutcliffe Mort purchased Glenmore around 1850. He was famous for his sheep and the great wool broking enterprise he created, later becoming more famous for his experiments in refrigerating meat for export.

Accessibility to Sydney was a problem for Mr Mort and in 1854 sold Glenmore to Mr John James Riley. Glenmore was compared favourably with any property in NSW and a period of good crops and harvests gave Mr Riley the opportunity to add a south wing to Glenmore and his family crest is still to be seen in the coping in front of the house.

A great public figure. Mr Riley was the means of creating a shire Council and became the first Mayor of Penrith. In May 1927 Glenmore began operating as a golf course and Country Club. The history surrounding Glenmore Heritage Valley is invaluable as the building is nearly 200 years old and is still serving the community today as a golf course.

In December 2010 Mr Richard Doyle made a request that Glenmore apply for membership of the WSRVGA. Mr Doyle made the request to the president of the golf club Mr Stephen Russell.

Apart from being a Glenmore member, Mr Doyle was president of the Sydney Vets, a councillor of the NSWVGA, and a member of the Australian Heritage Golf Society. After a memo sent by club captain Andrew Robb, 27 members indicated their interest in forming a veteran's group and an interim committee was appointed with Mr John Lovatt to be the co-ordinator.

The first veteran's event was played on the 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2011. Following the establishment of Glenmore Veterans, overtures were made to the secretary of the WSRVGA Mr Chris Evans for membership.

Association President Mr Les Knox visited the club to review the facilities and explain the obligations to the Association. Les then sent a letter to all delegates of the WSRVGA recommending that Glenmore Heritage Valley Golf Club be admitted as a member of the association. This was formally passed unanimously at a council meeting by delegates on the 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2011.



# LEONAY GOLF CLUB

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In 1914 Martha Marchant sold 376 acres of land to Herman Paul Leopold Buring and by 1937 Leo and Ida had built their home at Emu Plains which they named “Leonay” combining Leo and Nay which was Ida's nickname.

In 1923 Leo's first wine was produced from grapes grown on the property and was cultivating other crops including asparagus, becoming one of Edgell's largest suppliers.

In 1937 Leo came up with the idea of building a golf course in order to attract Japanese tourists (how ironic) and constructed an 18 hole course designed by Bill Corey and Sam Richardson and in 1939 issued a notice that Leonay Golf Course, a picturesque public course for discerning people, would be opened to the public on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1939.

The club continued operating under the ownership of Leo Buring, but shortly after the advent of World War II in 1939, the course closed and became a small army base.

In 1946, a number of Penrith businessmen negotiated with Mr Buring and were successful in obtaining a lease of the old course previously started by Mr Buring and re-opened it with 9 holes and sand greens. Over the following 3 years an additional 9 holes were added and by 1949 all the greens were grass. Leo Buring died at his Leonay home on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1961 at the age of 85 years.

Roughly in about 1962 a consortium consisting of businessmen together with the Total Oil Company purchased Leonay from the Buring estate and at a general meeting decided to change the name from Leonay Country Club to Penrith Golf and Recreation Club. It was also decided to purchase another property and build a new championship golf course on Northern Road where the current Penrith Golf course is located. The move to that location did not occur until 1964, with Penrith Golf Club being officially opened on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1964.

Leonay operated as a social golf club after the move to Penrith and members conducted unofficial competitions among themselves.

Emu Plains Sporting and Recreation Club amalgamated with Leonay in 1968 to form the club as we know it today. In 1968 a bush fire burnt out most of the Leonay course, but the club house was saved. A liquor licence application for Leonay was opposed by Penrith Golf Club and the Nepean Hotel but was overruled and Leonay was granted a liquor licence on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1969.

Emu Plains Sporting and Recreation Club purchased the golf course in 1970 for \$95000, plus debts, which was a considerable sum. Despite bush fires, where many trees were lost, the course gradually came to be what we see today, with fairway watering installed in two stages, the front nine in the early 80's and the back nine in the mid 80's and the entire system updated in 2018.

Before becoming president of the WSRVGA, Les Knox was the force behind Leonay joining the Association and his energy and golf knowledge has played a major role in the success of the WSRVGA. Les has been recognised for his efforts by receiving the Ray Dukes award and the 2014/2015 Penrith Valley Administrative Award and elected Vice President of the NSWVGA.



Les Knox



# PENRITH GOLF CLUB

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The first record of the Penrith Golf Club was in 1885 at a course in Hornseywood Estate, not far from Jamieson Park. A nomadic existence followed for this club when they moved to Glebe Place, a property owned by The Church of England.

About 1933 another club was formed in the area at Thornton Hall. The formation of this club saw the beginning of the end for the Penrith Club, which resulted with members of both clubs meeting to discuss the prospect of purchasing Jamison Park for four hundred pounds, but as a lot of members and associates lived at Lemongrove, it was considered too far to walk, and the scheme fell through. Thornton Hall though prospered until taken over by the army during World War two.

In 1945 a number of Penrith businessmen were successful in a difficult negotiation with Leo Buring (see Leonay history) to lease the nine hole course which Mr Buring had previously constructed and was now being used as grazing land since the war. In 1946 these businessmen opened a nine hole course on the Leonay property and about 1962 changed the name to the Penrith Golf and Recreation Club. That same year saw the purchase of land in south Penrith with plans to establish an 18 hole championship course which opened in 1964.

Penrith golfers at Penrith joined the WSRVGA when the president of the association Les Knox received an inquiry from Penrith's David Parr, via the president of the NSWVGA, who stated he had been approached by Jim Forrester on the prospect of their admittance to the local association. Les Knox stated he had spoken to Jonathon Green, the pro at Penrith, and advised him of the required conditions, as the Penrith match committee were considering an application to join the Western Sydney Veterans Association.

A special general meeting, held on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2012, was attended by their representative John Watkins and Penrith Golf Club were admitted as members of the WSRVGA.

Henry Fawkes, who managed Nepean Veterans Association, the forerunner to WSRVGA, was a member of Penrith Golf Club and his story appears elsewhere in this history.



# RICHMOND GOLF CLUB

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Believed to be the oldest course in Australia still on its original site. The first game was played in October 1897 on a nine hole course on Hawkesbury Agricultural Paddocks and the Richmond Common. The golf club was officially formed on the 15th March, 1899 with 17 gentlemen and 10 ladies. Decisions made at that inaugural meeting included subscriptions for gentlemen be five shillings and two shillings and sixpence for ladies, payable in advance.

Part of the course was known as the Police Paddock, where mounted troopers kept their horses and divots left by golfers were dangerous to the mounts. In 1916 the club went into recess because of WW1 and was dormant for 12 years before being re-started by the Mayor C.C. Icely and Mr Phillip Charley. After WW1 membership declined before a campaign to promote the game in the 1930's was successful. Because of WW2 the club again went into partial recess and cattle were left to wander and graze on the land.

The 1st June 1940 saw the opening of the new course and fences that had been erected to protect the greens from the cattle were dismantled. In 1946 the local council took over the course and in the 1950's. Continual flooding resulted in the course being closed again, but by 1956 it flourished and bought its first poker machine. In 1959 with the help from enthusiastic volunteers an 18 hole course was opened. Year by year the club progressed before suffering financial losses which saw the amalgamation with the Richmond Club, formerly the Returned Serviceman's Club.

What would eventually become Richmond Veterans Golf began on the 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 when four Richmond Golf Club members disenchanted with Nepean District Veteran Golf Association still wanted that extra game of golf each week and decided it would be better to play a social round at their home club rather than paying to play at another club in an event organised by an ailing Nepean Association. Those four members (Noel Byles, Keith Hudson, Graham Sprouster and Greg Muscat) one Monday teed off, each contributing a golf ball to be collected by the winner.

Each week more players joined these four, many of whom were also members of the NSW Veterans Association and played in Country events controlled by that Head Office. These members were concerned that their accreditation for country tournaments may be jeopardised with the collapse of the Nepean Association. To clarify their predicament, the Head Office of the NSWVGA was contacted and was informed that Garry Johnston from the Windsor Golf Club was trying to establish a new Veterans Association.

Mr Johnston met with Noel Byles who stated that the Richmond Vets would support such a move and co-operated with Garry through all stages of the formation of the WSRVGA.

Some of the Directors of Richmond Golf Club. were hostile at the growing numbers of members joining the Vets Group and Noel Byles was cited to appear before the Board of Directors on numerous occasions. The Directors claimed that the vets were taking players from the Sunday Competition and stopping social visitors from playing on a Monday and

some doubted that any benefit would ensue. However, at another meeting with the Board where written statements were produced showing that new members had transferred from Kurrajong Golf Club specifically to play in the Vets competition and in turn had urged more to make the switch. In addition to this, the financial gain achieved by the club since the vets began was tabled along with the future benefits that could be achieved. The Monday Vets competition was granted permission to continue. Noel approached Judy Benson, President of the Richmond Associates Club, to seek a meeting with the Associates Board where their support was sought.

Dianne Markow became the first of many lady members to join the vets, and Dianne became the Vets Treasurer in 2010. A trophy called 'The Beauties versus The Beasts' is now played for annually between the lady members and the vets. The group in its infancy played a major role in the formation of the Western Sydney Region Veterans Association (WSRVGA).

Richmond vets now have over 150 members who contribute to and organise many charitable events held at the course and supply the majority of volunteers for the Australian Seniors Championship as well as spending many hours on the course garden beds.

The amalgamation with the Richmond Club ensured the continued success of the Richmond Vets as Kimberley Talbot the C.E.O. of the Richmond Club gave enthusiastic support to Noel Byles and subsequently provided, through her Board of Directors, financial sponsorship of the WSRVGA which was important in the Association's formative years.



**Chris Evans, Secretary/Treasurer  
WSRVGA**



**Stan King**



**Noel Byles V.P. WSRVGA**



# SPRINGWOOD GOLF CLUB

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On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1905 a group of golf enthusiasts met at the Oriental Hotel Springwood for the purpose of forming a golf club. It is recorded in the Nepean Times on the 16<sup>th</sup> September that it was to become Springwood Country Club which began officially on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1905, although golf may have been played in the area since at least 1903.

The land for the original 9 holes was donated by Mr JT Ellison, from his property, which was used as a fruit orchard. At that time the golf course section extended from the bottom of the hill of today's 10<sup>th</sup> hole across to the back of the present 7<sup>th</sup> tee and then down to the cemetery along the edge of the 7<sup>th</sup> fairway.

When the Ellison family left the district, the land was purchased by Mr JT Wall and the Wall's family home "Novar" became the club house. The top section of the land was sold to Mr David Stewart who owned a magnificent home called "Bon Accord" which stood opposite to the entrance of the present course, and after Mr Dawson's death, "Bon Accord" was leased as a boarding house.

Following a dispute with Mr Wall, the lessee constructed another 9 hole course on the top section of the property for the use by the boarding house guests, thus creating 2 separate 9 hole courses, which were both gazetted as golf links in 1939. During the war the old bottom course was restored with new tees and greens and a Trust formed to manage the links. This new bottom course was opened on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1941. After the war the Trust was dissolved, and Springwood Golf Club was formed to carry on its responsibilities, and a separate club was established to organise the competition section.

The Blue Mountains City Council then purchased the land from the Dawson estate which included the Dawson home "Novar", so that the two 9 hole links could be joined together to establish an 18 hole golf course. In 1956 a new company called Springwood Country Club Limited was created and in 1957 the club moved to its present site and was officially opened by Alderman AFC Murphy in March, 1958.

In 1976 a young golfer, Greg Norman\*, known to mates as "bomber", played in the Springwood Pro-Am with so little money, he boarded with one of the local members.

2010 saw Springwood become one of the first clubs to support the fledging WSRVGA, and tremendous advice was given to the Association by Springwood club manager Gary Considine, who attended Association meetings as Springwood Representative. Alan Stanton, the first organiser of the Springwood Veterans team was succeeded by John Baker.

*\* Greg Norman, apart from his later success, also designed Stonecutters Ridge, another member course of the WSRVGA.*



**John Baker (dec.), Delegate to  
WSRVGA**

# WALLACIA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

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Golf was first played at Wallacia on a private property on six sand greens in 1928.

Records show that the history of the Wallacia Golf and Country Club dates back to 1932 when local men built a tin shed, open on two sides, furnished with a table and bench made from bush timber.

The first constitution of the club was adopted on the 11th November, 1932 and the official club opening was on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 1933. The first championship was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, 1933.

Around that time, Wallacia joined the Nepean District Golf Association. The affiliation fee was two pounds two shillings (two guineas) (\$4.20), with the fee for each member being sixpence.

Also in 1933, ladies from the district formed the Wallacia Associates and at that time women could not be full members of golf clubs. When the ladies purchased their own club house in 1934, a tremendous amount of debate and controversy followed. A ruling was sought from the governing body of golf at St Andrews in Scotland, which eventually let these pioneering ladies keep the clubhouse that they had bought in 1934, but stated that this ruling was not to be taken as a precedent.

During the second World war the course was taken over by the army for use as a training camp. The Fowler family restored the course after the war.

The Nepean Times reported the official opening of the club's 18 hole layout as 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1948.

On 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1962, the Wallacia members purchased the course from Keith Fowler and Cecil Montefiore for \$60,000.00, with most of the money raised through debentures.

In May 2002, Wallacia Golf Club was taken over by Penrith Panthers to become Panthers Wallacia Golf and Country Club. Club members supported the takeover when Panthers proposed to build a Championship 18 hole course and build a new club house. This did not eventuate, and on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2014 the Course was sold to a developer, and while the course is still operating, the future is undecided.

Following the demise of the Nepean Veteran Golfers Association, Garry Johnston convened a meeting of clubs with members who had played in Nepean Vets Tournaments. Ed Albee, a regular player in these events, was asked to attend the meeting as Wallacia's representative. At the last-minute Ed was unable to attend and asked Bill Jamieson to take his place. After that meeting Ed Albee was more than happy for Bill to continue being Wallacia's delegate.

Prior to the formation of the WSRVGA, they did not have a veteran's group. By personal contact and by means of telephone, with numbers obtained from the Wallacia Club Handbook and the telephone directory, Bill Jamieson invited a number of members to play in the inaugural tournament at Wallacia on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2009. There was a very good response, and members who played, invited their friends to join. The Veterans Group was formed and became well established with a membership of over 80 men and lady players. Two more events were held that year under the guidance of the WSRVGA and the Wallacia vets soon became a close-knit group always giving full support.

Present convenor Mick Toohey, an enthusiastic councillor of the association, also fills the important role of auditor of the WSRVGA.



**Bill Jamieson, Early contributor to the success of the WSRVGA**



**Mick Toohey, Delegate and auditor of WSRVGA**



# WINDSOR GOLF CLUB

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Windsor Golf Club was created in the minds of a small group of golfers who played on a social basis at Braeside Golf Course at Rouse Hill. That small group evolved to about 40 players and were known as the “Sunday Golf Club”

In 1961 some from this group suggested they construct their own golf course while having a beer on the veranda of the Castle Hill Golf Club and a two man committee was formed to investigate two sites. One was a 150 acre parcel of land at Ebenezer, which was available for sale, the second site was a 130 acre dairy property at Windsor, known as Fairfield, owned by Mrs Kath Cambridge and share farmed by Barry Martin but not for sale.

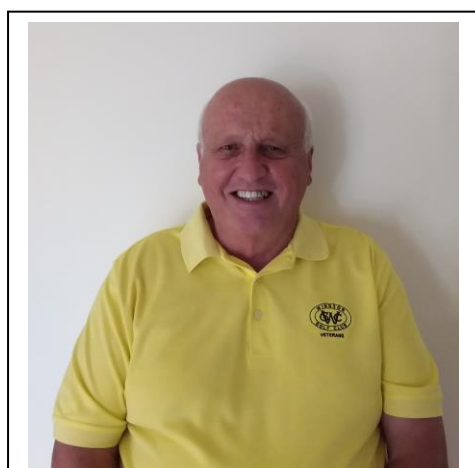
The Ebenezer Property was rejected as a possible site because of its geographical location, however, in November 1961 the Fairfield property was severely damaged by flood and recovery problems were considerable. Mrs Cambridge then agreed to lease the property for 10 years with an option to buy after that period for a price of 40,000 pounds.

Windsor Golf Club was officially formed on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1962 and the first sod was turned approximately 12 months after the original conception. Many local contractors worked on the course exchanging debentures for pay.

The first Annual meeting was conducted in the Catholic Hall in Tebbutt Street, on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1963 and had a membership at that time of 234 members At the next AGM in February, 1964, membership had risen to over 500.

1972 saw the end of the lease of the property with Mrs Cambridge and the club exercised its option to purchase the property. The seventies were marred by several severe floods and in 1976 four new greens were constructed above flood level to ensure play during rain periods. In 1980 the course became the Windsor Country Club.

The Windsor Vets were established in 2002 following a conversation between Rod Hartas and Des Ogden who played regularly with the Nepean Vets Association and recognition was quickly established with the NSWVGA and affiliated with Group 20.



**Stuart Rooke, Important contributor to the founding of the WSRVGA**

In 2007/8, clubs in the district were approached by Dick Farrant from NSWVGA to consider the formation of a Metropolitan West Group to supplant the declining Nepean Association. In response to this Garry Johnston was appointed to pursue the idea which he did with great passion and zeal. In canvassing clubs in the area he found it was evident that there was considerable support from the clubs and the WSRVGA was formed with Gary Johnston as the first president. Garry was joined by Stuart Rooke who was prepared to serve as Secretary/Treasurer



until a replacement could be found. He also prepared a draft constitution based on a format agreed to by the committee.

As the number of clubs joining the association increased, fields of 144 players necessitated a shotgun start and as nearly 85-90% of their members could not get a start on their own course, when Windsor hosted a WSRVGA event. Unable to reach a suitable compromise with the committee of the WSRVGA Windsor, resigned from that Association in 2014.



# HISTORY OF THE WSRVGA

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*The information contained in this history has been obtained from various written and oral reports and has duplications and differing versions of events, all have been included for the reader to consider.*

While there are many conflicting stories on who started what and when, there is no doubt that Garry Johnston was the person who ran with the idea and must be given the credit for the inception of the WSRVGA (Western Sydney Region Veteran Golfers Association). The NSWVGA (New South Wales Veteran Golfers Association) were concerned that the Nepean Veterans Golf Association was on the verge of collapse and appointed Richard Doyle a councillor with the NSWVGA to investigate the situation and on the 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2008, he submitted the following report.

## Report to NSW VGA on the future of Nepean Veteran Golfers Association

*Following recent telephone calls with the President of the Nepean VGA (Noel McClaren) and the Secretary (Henry Fawkes), I was invited to attend a meeting of their executive on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2008 at 11.00am in the Penrith RSL Club.*

*It was clear from the outset of the meeting that Nepean VGA is in serious danger of collapsing due to falling numbers in attendance at games and a diminishing financial situation. The Executive cited the following difficulties impinging on the future of the Association.*

- *The growth of the MacArthur VGA has drawn members from Nepean, principally from the Antill Park, Camden and Campbelltown clubs.*
- *While the Association claims upward of 100 members, many are using their membership only to play away at the Country Weeks of Golf. The majority however, have retreated to their own clubs, where they have set up Club Veteran Groups (e.g. Dunheved, Wallacia, Windsor etc.) and are able to play more cheaply at around \$6.00/round for trophies and no green fees.*
- *Scheduled games are attracting as few as a dozen players. Resulting in the Association having to subsidise trophies. In fact, no one turned up at all for the scheduled game at the Kingswood ADF Course on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July and, at an earlier game, only 4 attended.*
- *The President is understood to be 84 and the Secretary 87. There are no younger members offering to serve as Office Holder in the Association.*

*I informed the meeting that it well may be the time to consider other options, such as creating a wider base of membership to offer a variety of courses and range of competitions. Another option would be to consider joining Sydney VGA, but that seemed not to have appeal because of the distances involved. (Note: over 70% of SVGA annual games are played to the east of Parramatta, largely because 80% of the 1000 strong membership reside in those locations).*

*Richard G. Doyle, Councillor.*

***(This is an exact duplication of the original report, errors included. Bill Jamison noted that Wallacia did not have a vet's group but played for a prize in Wallacia's mid-week open competitions.)***

Following the Doyle report, golf clubs in the district were contacted by NSWVGA to consider the establishment of a new Association to service the needs to veteran golfers of Western Sydney, many of whom were members of the tottering Nepean VGA and were fearful that lack of affiliation with NSWVGA would prevent those members from playing in the weeks of golf held throughout the state Windsor Golf Club already had an established group (see separate chapter) and responded to the approach from NSWVGA and a meeting to discuss the matter decided to support the establishment of a new Metropolitan West Association and appointed Garry Johnston as Windsor Golf Clubs representative. Garry was passionate in his belief that a new Association could succeed and arranged to meet with the Nepean Association.

Nepean Veterans were being organised (or controlled depending on differing thoughts) by Henry Fawkes who was a most interesting man who polarised many in the golfing fraternity. To some he was most unfriendly and domineering character who ruled in a dictatorial manner, however a closer inspection of Henry's previous life makes you wonder how you would react to the horrors and trauma of a period of his life when a member of the Australian Defence Force during WW2 in The Special Z Force Unit, one of only 16 operating behind enemy lines. The stress of this experience could have been a contributing factor in the demeanour of his later life.

Garry Johnstone and Henry Fawkes met several times prior to discuss the potential of forming a new golfing group. Henry was of the view that his existing set up was not workable and must be changed. In true military fashion, his proposal was that there should be a command centre (i.e.: Garry) with all of the operational field units reporting to Head Quarters, and that is exactly how the WSRVGA operates to this day.

Garry reported back to Windsor Golf Club Veterans President, Rod Hartas and agreed the quest for the establishment of a new veterans golfing entity should continue and conveyed this to Dick Farrant, secretary of the NSWVGA who invited Garry to a meeting with that body, where Garry was informed that the NSWVGA would welcome and support any revitalisation of the Nepean Veterans group. At that meeting or through a phone call shortly after, Garry was advised that Noel Byles the then secretary of the newly formed Richmond Veterans playing group (see separate chapter) had contacted Dick Farrant to enquire about his members who were affiliated with the Nepean Association which he heard had collapsed. Garry met with Noel after a Richmond Vets Day where Noel agreed to become involved to investigate the possible establishment of a new Metropolitan West Association. Garry informed Noel that he had already spoken to Bill Jamieson from Wallacia Golf Club and a meeting with other Wallacia representatives Bob MacKenzie and Peter Hansen, regarding golf games on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2009, and Windsor Golf Club on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2009. Noel Byles agreed to supply players for these events and said Richmond could hold an event in August 2009.

The first formal meeting of the proposed WSRVGA was held at the Lynwood Golf Club on the 18<sup>th</sup> June attending by the following:

WINDSOR: Garry Johnston, Stuart Rooke.

RICHMOND: Noel Byles, Stan King, Ben Ball.

LYNWOOD: Alan Hill, Fred Elliott, Warren Stanton, Lawrie Williamson, Maureen O'Shea.

WALLACIA: Bill Jamieson, Peter Hansen, Bob MacKenzie.

ASHLAR: Ron Ellis, Ray Prigg, Craig Scott.

The following matters were discussed:

Who will qualify to be members?

What type and how many events next year?

Who is responsible for the organisation and conduct of the events?

What will be the relationship between WSRVGA and NSWVGA?

Who is prepared to join the formation team?

**During the month that followed that meeting, Garry Johnston worked tirelessly to get support for the new Association, visiting Clubs and their representatives, throughout the District and although interviewed in a taped conversation, stated he had no records of the tremendous time and effort exerted into the task.**

The next meeting was held at the Richmond Golf Club, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2009, which was attended by Dick Farrant and Bob Coulson from the NSWVGA.

Garry Johnston accepted the position of Chairman for the meeting and introduced the representatives from the NSWVGA.

At that meeting it was necessary to draft charter and in that discussion Alan Hill from Lynwood Golf Club stated that while Lynwood supported the concept of forming a new Association and were willing to host a WSRVGA endorsed competition and wanted its members to play in these competitions, it could not commit to becoming a member of the WSRVGA because Lynwood's constitution did not permit the recognition of any sub group within the club and as the proposed charter of the new association would be made up of approved veteran groups, approved by their respective clubs and for his club to accept membership of the NSWVGA they would have to formally recognise a veterans sub group.

As they could no longer entertain thoughts of membership of the WSRVGA, the Lynwood representatives decided to leave the meeting.

The Draft Charter was then adopted.

Subject to the receipt of a formal letter of acceptance, countersigned by their Golf affiliated club board, the following clubs accepted the offer of membership of the Association and those letters to be forwarded as soon as possible to the secretary. The letters received were dated in the following order:

Richmond G.C. 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2009.

Windsor G.C. 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2009.

Wallacia G.C. 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2009.

Springwood G.C. 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2009.

Ashlar G.C. 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2009.

Dick Farrant assumed the chair to conduct the vote for President of the WSRVGA, and Garry Johnstone was elected and resumed the chair to conduct the election for the remaining positions and those elected for the positions of Vice-Presidents were Noel Byles, Stan King, and Bill Jamieson.

Stuart Rooke declined the nomination of Secretary/Treasurer, but agreed to fill that position until the end of December, 2009.

Stan King reported that sponsorship for the Association had been obtained from Winford Motors.

It was noted that the inaugural meeting of the new executive committee would be held at the Richmond Golf Club on the 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2009. *There is no record of that meeting being held.*

In fixing a listing for events to be held in 2010, it was noted that both Lynwood and Leonay had declined membership of the Association.

Considerable lobbying was performed by Garry and on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2010, a meeting took place at Leonay Sports and Recreation Club between the newly elected executive of the WSRVGA and representatives of the Leonay Veterans Group which included Les Knox, David Hurst, Violet Rolfe, and Barry Harris. Chris Evans who had resigned from the Kurrajong Golf Club to join the Richmond Club also attended the meeting as he had consented to fill the vacant position of Secretary/Treasurer of WSRVGA. The purpose of the meeting was to consider an application from Leonay to become a member of the WSRVGA, and after Garry explained all the required conditions, Les Knox stated that Leonay were keen to join the association and were duly admitted.

The formal letter of Acceptance was dated 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.

At the Council meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2010, held at Richmond G.C. Garry Johnstone opened the meeting and welcomed among others, Dianne Markow, who had just been elected as Treasurer of the Richmond Veteran's Club, and its first lady member. Garry then stated that because of ill health he was resigning from his position as President of WSRVGA

and had previously urged Noel Byles to accept the position, but he declined due to his work in establishing the Richmond Vets and recommended Stan King be appointed Acting President to the AGM to be held in March. Stan King assumed the chair and introduced Chris Evans as the new Secretary/Treasurer replacing Stuart Rooke.

The inaugural AGM of the WSRVGA was held at the Richmond Golf Club on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010 and Chris Evans who was not in attendance submitted a written Secretary's report and a Financial Report, as did Mick Toohey in his position as honorary Auditor.

No other record can be discovered but from the minutes of the AGM held the following year 2011, they showed following were elected in 2010.

President: Stan King

Secretary/Treasurer: Chris Evans

Vice Presidents: Noel Byles, Les Knox, Bill Jamieson.

After the installation of Stan King, the coming months saw many meetings which involved entirely around a strategic plan for the Association which would prove beneficial to the WSRVGA. Around that time an informal meeting was held with Richard Doyle from the Glenmore Heritage Valley Golf Club, Stan King and Noel Byles discussed the possibility with Richard of Glenmore joining the WSRVGA.

## A STORM BREWING

An Executive meeting and combined council meeting were held on the 10th May, 2011. There are no minutes of either meeting on record, but agendas for both meetings are archived, also a council meeting scheduled for the 5th July did not take place as both Stan King and Chris Evans had resigned their respective positions.

Les Knox made enquiries as to the possibility of Stan and Chris changing their minds. Information he received was that Stan would not change his decision, but Chris may be persuaded to withdraw his resignation. Les met with Chris where they put forward their respective views on what direction the Association should take. Chris eventually withdrew his resignation and continued as Secretary/Treasurer.

Noel Byles also asked both men to reconsider their resignations and when Stan refused, a heated exchange ensued. This conversation was to have later consequences as both were members of Richmond Golf Club and had opposing views on the amalgamation with the Richmond Club, not to be confused with the Richmond Golf Club, which at that time, was a separate entity. When this history was being compiled, Stan was contacted regarding his reasons for resigning from the WSRVGA and stated the position was taking too much of his time.

## A NEW STABLE ERA

After the resignation dramas, a meeting was held on the 20th September and it was decided that Les Knox would become president until the next AGM. At that same meeting, Glenmore Heritage Valley Golf Club was admitted as a member of the WSRVGA and the date of their acceptance letter was 18th September, 2011. The Glenmore Representative and future Vice

President of the Association, John Lovatt, thanked those assembled for the endorsement and admission.

This new era provided the stability and consistency that any new venture requires and the partnership between Les Knox and Chris Evans has seen tremendous growth for the Association. Noel Byles, the only original remaining on the Executive, is still a Vice President with a valuable contribution made by Bill Jamieson, who resigned from the Executive. Two of the newest Vice Presidents, John Lovatt and Kim Stockbridge have been diligent and industrious members of the Executive. Kim's construction of the computer programme to enable the tournament committee to compute the results of the NSW Veteran Strokeplay has saved time delays in presentation of trophies at the end of tournaments.

During 2011 the idea was first mooted that a 2 day event be held to possibly be a forerunner to a week of golf which occurs throughout the State at various venues. The golf clubs chose to hold this event were, Richmond Golf Club, and the newly opened Greg Norman designed , Stonecutters Ridge. Stonecutters Ridge was created when WSRVGA member Ashlar Golf Club sold their land to a developer, and with the monies received, built Stonecutters Ridge. Les Knox reported that Australand, the company developing the land on the Ashlar site were interested in sponsoring the 2 day event which eventuated. 2011 saw the loss of Winford Motors as Association sponsor and the gain of financial support from Dunn and Farrugia.

The first meeting in 2012 saw the idea emerge that a website should be established for the Association, and information from the NSWVGA that the WSRVGA would be changed from Group 35, the number given in the establishment of the WSRVGA to Group 20, which was the number held by the now defunct Nepean Association.

At a historic meeting on the 12 July, 2012, Kimberley Talbot, CEO of the Richmond Club (now amalgamated with the Richmond Golf Club) expressed her desire to co-operate with the President of the Richmond Veterans, Noel Byles to promote veterans golf in the Western Sydney Region, and also stated that she could probably help in the establishment of a website for the Association. That meeting laid the foundation for sponsorship of \$3,000 per year from the Richmond Club. The meeting was also informed that Penrith Golf Club were interested in joining the WSRVGA.

The 4th Annual Meeting of the Association took place on the 20th November, 2012 and the following were elected. Les Knox, President, Chris Evans, Secretary/Treasurer with Vice Presidents, Noel Byles, Keith Wakefield (Leonay) and Terry Sharpe (Wallacia). Discussion was held on an application from Penrith Golf Club to join the WSRVGA which was duly approved.

It is noted, in the research for this history, that all Clubs in the Association have their letters of acceptance of conditions required by the association and signed by the Club Directors are on file, but not from Penrith.

Constant complaints were aired at council meetings during 2012, regarding Windsor Golf Club failing to send their allocated numbers to Inter Club Events which caused many problems for the tournament organisers of these games, as a result Windsor were becoming unpopular with other Clubs in the Association.

The first meeting in 2013 heard the report that Dick Farrant, President of the NSWVGA had advised that WSRVGA has been granted hosting rights for the 2014/2015/2016 NSW Veterans Stroke Play Championship, held over three rounds on consecutive days at different courses. The three courses chosen were Richmond, Penrith and Stonecutter's Ridge with the tournament committee as follows:

Tournament Director, Les Knox

Secretary/Treasurer, Chris Evans

Lady Representative, Nancy Cullen\*

Committee Member, Terry Sharpe

Richmond Representative, Noel Byles

Penrith Representative, John Watkins

Consultant to the Committee, Dick Farrant.

Kimberley Talbot had agreed to the Richmond Club being a sponsor for this event.

\*Nancy Cullen was appointed in the belief that the Ladies Veterans Association would hold their championship jointly with the men which was the custom in past years, but an internal dispute within the Ladies Association saw that cease to occur in 2014, and Nancy Cullen took no part in the organisation of the event.



## IN CONCLUSION

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*As an 84 year old, lack of computer skills saw the loss of material which had to be recovered with a lot of assistance, something I had not envisaged in compiling this work, but perseverance has paid off.*

*Information given to me, in some cases, was extensive and had to be edited. Other information was sparse and had to be researched. Fascinating facts were uncovered, and I was intrigued by the history of courses. The most revealing fact is that golf courses could not be built today the way many were years ago. Today's laws would prevent the use of volunteer labour (O.H.& S.) or work in return for debentures (Fringe Benefits Tax) to frustrate and hamper any attempt to complete such endeavours. Interesting also is the number of courses conceived over men having a beer at a pub or neighbouring club.*

*As a foundation executive member of the WSRVGA, Past President and Life Member of a Bowling Club and foundation board member of a soccer club, I have met many dedicated and diligent men and women none more so than Les Knox. Les deservedly gets a lot of kudos for his efforts and Chris Evans was his able assistant in his role of Secretary/Treasurer in a turbulent period of the Associations development.*

*These men along with Robert Clark (dec.) who founded the Gladesville Ravens Soccer Club, Annette Leck, life member of Richmond Golf Club and Treasurer of Richmond Vets and Judy Jordan, now Secretary/Treasurer of the WSRVGA, have my admiration for the dedication to the sports in which I have been involved.*

*My one regret is the resignation of Windsor Golf Club from the Association as Stuart Rooke played a role in the formation of the WSRVGA and hope one day the club will again become a member.*

*Thank you to all those who contributed to this work, especially my daughter Trisha Vicary, who was my constant adviser, critic, and computer tutor, also to Max Loftus, who without his skill in editing, formatting and design, these pages may still be gathering dust on my desk.*

Noel Byles

***Let those who drink the sweet water from the well of success never forget those who dug the hole.***