



1970 to 1984

'Grass Greens & Irrigated Fairways'



During 1971 it was proposed to increase the length of the course to 6594 yards [approx 6030 mts] and a scheme to pipeline the front nine was put forward at an estimated cost of \$15,000.00. The President's report of 1971 showed great promise for the future with the club in a good financial position and out of debt. This meant that the club could borrow the money for the pipeline project to go ahead.

Another milestone year for the club was 1973 when it was agreed that a feasibility study, to be carried out by the Victorian Turf Research Institute, be undertaken into the establishment of grass greens on the course. It was also agreed that a full-time man be employed and as a result Mr. Collins was appointed in May 1974.

The club was saddened by the loss of Life Member Mr. F. Weatherburn who had made a tremendous contribution to the club over many years. Annual subscriptions had risen to \$35.00 for men and \$25.00 for the ladies. At a special general meeting in 1976 Mr. J. Robertson reported that the estimated cost of grassing the 7th, 8th, 9th & 18th greens was \$3113.00 and after much discussion it was decided to approach the CBA for a loan to allow the project to go ahead. This was a major move by the club and was an indication of the forward thinking people in control of the club at the time. From the day of planting the seed it was 15 weeks and 6 days until the club was playing on them. Later in the same year it was decided to borrow a further \$25,000.00 and grass the remaining 14 greens.

In his 1977 President's report Mr. R. Bridley mentioned that our course was used for the first time as part of Mildura Golf Week and that it had proven to be very successful. He passed on his thanks to the associates led by their President Mrs. Betty Gathercole. Sales of the 'Golden Jubilee' recipe book had now been finalised and it had proven to be popular as well as financially successful. In 1978 a professional golfer, Mr. Bruce Milgate moved to Mildura and many members took the opportunity to have some lessons, which proved to be very popular. In 1980 - 1981 Mr Ross Berry finished a 5 year term as Treasurer and the Hotham Permanent Building Society sponsored an 'Eagle's Nest'. This was also the year that we employed our first apprentice on the course. The 1981 year also saw the Associates Open Tournament played in September after having been washed out earlier in the year.

In 1982 our course was in top condition and on June 20th we hosted the first day of a district Pro-Am event, which was won by Len Korn. The event attracted players of the calibre of Guy Wolstenholme, Ian Stanley, Michael Clayton, Bill Brittain as well as many other well-known golfers. A bitter wind

blew for most of the day, which unfortunately kept many onlookers away. It is with a touch of sadness that many members will recall the passing of our member, Mr. Neil Skinner, who died of a heart attack while competing in this event. A Social Committee had been introduced and 1981, 82 & 83 saw many functions held. These events helped to bind the club together whilst providing enjoyment to all those who attended.

Editors Comment:

It could be argued that the development of grass greens on the course was one of the most important things to have occurred at the club. In recognition of the significance of this aspect of the club's development readers of this section are urged to go to the 'Milestones' page on this website where a full account of the process can be found.