



Grass Greens at Red Cliffs.



The following article appeared in the Sunraysia Daily on Thursday 12th February 1976.

“Red Cliffs Golf Club had neared final completion of preparation for planting its new greens yesterday. The results of a feasibility study by the Turf Research Institute were submitted to the club’s committee and brought unanimous approval, so much so that preliminary work has already been completed.

Three members of the club, Messrs Jack Robertson, Dick Johnstone, and Bob Briggs, visited all clubs in the district seeking information about the project before it went ahead.

Only four greens will be established and if everything goes well the remainder will be incorporated as soon as possible. Approximate cost of each green has been set at \$1000.00. Anticipated sowing time should be early next month and, allowing for a 10 to 12 week stabilization period, the greens should be in use in June. The four greens under construction have been the 7th, 8th, 9th and 18th; all reasonably adjacent to the clubhouse.

The sand ‘greens’, which were in use before the grass greens began preparation, will remain where they are, with the exception of the 18th, which will be resited in front of the existing one, with the new grass green occupying the present sand area.

The 7th green is situated near where the present 8th tee is, with the 8th hole being completely new. The 8th green will be in the vicinity of the ‘rubbish tip’ on the club’s eastern boundary. The new 9th green will be formed towards the little dam adjacent to the present area. Water will be pumped from the dam for the initial project. Little difficulty has been posed with placing of the greens due to the close proximity to the clubhouse. A new dam would have to be built to accommodate the extra water needs if 18 greens are envisaged in the near future.

The Red Cliffs Golf Club has gone ahead ‘bit by bit’ in recent years with the costly renovations to the clubhouse, which Club Captain, Dick Johnstone says is quite comfortable. The renovations cost the club about \$7,500.00. Added to that figure the installation of a reticulated flood irrigation system brought the total cost nearer to \$20,000.00. Mr. Johnstone said all fairways were under pipeline irrigation.

This year the club is in its 51st year and with the addition of grass greens and a hopeful increase in membership, it looks like becoming a good year for the club. Intensive recruiting drives have paid dividends with quite a few group enquiries regarding membership from the Mildura area. There have been slight increases to membership fees for the coming season. Men will pay \$35.00, Associates will pay \$25.00 and juniors \$5.00. There is no joining fee and new members pay only half the subscription for the first year.

Mr. Johnstone said with extra labour and maintenance involved in establishing the grass greens, the club is hopeful that members would continue to support working bees whenever necessary.”