



RCGC RECOLLECTIONS



PROVIDED BY:

Bobbie Ramsay – Life Member.

Hello!

My name is Bobbie Ramsay and I joined the Red Cliffs Golf Club in 1964 so that I could join in mixed competitions with friends. Here I am some 46 years later a Life Member of a golf club that has given me a lot of joy and pleasure over those years.

When I first joined the club I wasn't really interested in golf as I was still playing hockey, which was what I really enjoyed doing. I was training for hockey two nights a week and playing on Saturday and with a house, a fruit block and four kids there wasn't much time for anything else. Wednesday was 'Associates' [that's what lady members were called then] day so golf was played once a week. How things have changed over the years!

When I first joined the ladies were not regarded as full members of the club, but were referred to as 'associates'. We relied on the good will of the 'members' – the men for most things. The ladies ran their own committee, which mainly looked after women's golf and the organization of any catering services that were required. We raised funds for our golf trophies and for improvements to the clubhouse. If the bank balance was good at the end of the year we made a donation to the men to be used mainly on the course. Elsewhere in the club's history you will read about the tremendous work done by the ladies over the years and I think that it's now recognised that without the ladies involvement the club wouldn't be where it is today.

In my early days at the club there were a lot of things different from the situation today. The ladies used their husband's initial, in my case Mrs. L. not Mrs. B. Ramsay and the younger players, of which I was one, did not refer to the older ladies by their Christian name, it was always Mrs.... Another example of the 'style' of the club at the time was the dress rules that applied for the lady players. Women players were required to wear a skirt on the course and slacks were banned. Eventually the ladies received permission from the committee to wear slacks whilst playing, a decision which is actually recorded in the club's minutes. Thankfully things have changed and it's a much more casual atmosphere at the club today compared to what it was like some years ago.

In 1956 the Sunraysia district was hit with a massive flood that caused quite a lot of problems. The Riverside golf course was unplayable due to the flood, so the Red Cliffs ladies invited the Riverside ladies to play at our course. To

show their appreciation the Riverside ladies presented us with a little brass gong, which is still used to this day to call everyone to attention at meetings and trophy presentations.

In October 1978 Margaret Groves, Betty Gathercole, Judy Dean and I went as a team of four to Horsham to play in the 'Nell Smithett Memorial Trophy', which is contested by teams from all over Victoria. A Red Cliffs team has been attending this prestigious event every year since and over the last ten years we have been able to send two teams. I have only missed being part of this event twice since 1978, due to other commitments. Finally, in 2008 our team of Fay Ross, Di Metcalfe, ally Jones [my daughter] and I managed to win and bring home the beautiful silver tray. In February 2009 the disastrous bush fires went through the Horsham golf course taking the clubhouse and its contents with it. In October 2009 we were able to take the tray back, the club's only surviving piece of silverware. I hope that the club continues to send a team in the years to come and we can win this prestigious event again.

During my time I am proud to say that I have made a contribution to the club in a number of ways. I was elected Lady's Captain in 1983/84 and again in 2001/02. For several years I served as the Red Cliffs Lady's delegate on the Mildura Golf Week Committee before handing over the role to Shirley Case. I was also active in moves to get the kitchen in the clubhouse upgraded and after many years of 'nagging' the men finally agreed, which has made catering duties for the ladies much easier. I was also mainly responsible for the hole on the practice fairway that is still there today. After quite a few years of hammering away about the need for a practice bunker, the hole was finally dug, but nothing else has been done to it since. Perhaps I better start 'nagging' again!

Probably the thing I'm most remembered for is 'Bobbie's Bistro'. This initiative kicked off in 1994 and went for 14 years and raised \$29,150.00 for the club and it's something that I'm very proud of. It started one Friday night when I happened to be at the golf club and some young fellows came out to put their footy tips in and have a drink. I thought that this was great until I realised that they then went on to the Red Cliffs Club for a meal, so I suggested that we should put on a meal at the golf club. I decided to do a pasta meal and others could do something else if they wished. In the early days it was sometimes difficult to get others to do something, so we ate quite a lot of pasta. I'll never forget Col McDonald's comment and I'm sure he won't mind me repeating it - "I don't like pasta, only spaghetti" he said! As time went by others got involved and Shirley Case did great curried sausages and Marg Rogers specialty was Chow Mein. Hilary Johns sweets were 'to die for' and a great way to finish off a meal with good friends. At times we even went for take-away when nobody offered to do a meal and the Irymple gang would pick up fish and chips on the way out. The numbers at 'Bobbie's Bistro' over the years varied and there were times when up to 25 people came out

for a Friday night meal at the club. Eventually numbers began to drop off as people with family commitments found that Friday night wasn't so good for them, so I decided that 'Bobbie's Bistro' had run its race and it was time to move on to something else.

Fund raising for the club is something that I've been involved in over a long period of time. I started selling asparagus to the members and raised about \$1000.00 a year over a number of years. It started when a friend of one of my daughters involved in horse riding, Sue Kircher at Mt. Stewart Asparagus, thought that the club might like to use the seconds from the asparagus packing shed to raise money for the club. Over a ten year period it was pick up the asparagus on a Friday, bunch it and take it out to the club's cool room for sale on the weekend. There were times when this process was repeated on a Tuesday for Wednesday sales. Unfortunately times have changed and second's asparagus sales at the packing shed are now very popular, which means that it is now only occasionally available for us to sell.

The club's major raffle was another job that seemed to fall into my lap. It was a great way to get to know the members, even if some of them did try to hide when they saw me coming. Over the time that I did this job I found that most members were happy to take the tickets to sell, but the hardest job was getting them to bring them back. In recent years the club has started a stall at the monthly Red Cliffs market selling plants and produce. Michael Hogan thought that it would be a good idea, so Lorraine Nancarrow, Rita Chase and myself look after the stall at every market. My 'green fingers' have come into their own as I can't throw any prunings away, so I now have a nursery full of plants in pots that won't seem to grow fast enough.

I hope that I have many more years of enjoyable times at the best golf club in Sunraysia - Red Cliffs. I would urge all current and future members [who may read this in the future] to get involved in the club in whatever way they can. If you do this then I'm sure that you will get as much enjoyment out of the Red Cliffs Golf Club that I have. I wonder what the next project will be!

Cheers to you all and good golfing.
Bobbie Ramsay.