

CHAPTER XII

Sport and Recreation

Archers Club

Aubrey Brigg

The Taroom Archers Club was formed in 1974 after successful negotiations with the then Taroom State High School principal, Mr C. Barnfield, to use the area on the northern side of the rivulet which runs through the school grounds. On the retirement of Mr Barnfield the new and present Principal, Mr G. Clements, agreed to the club using the grounds and a cordial relationship with the school has continued to the present time.

The club has always had a greater junior membership than any other club in the state and from time to time has been the state's biggest club. The location of the grounds that enables shooting in the correct direction of North to South and the tremendous advantage of wind protection has assisted club members at practice, enabling them to excel at tournaments. The Taroom Archers have been progressive in their contribution to the sport of Archery in general. They developed the Annual Archery Golf match against golfers, which attracts more archers than any other state tournament. Another outstanding contribution has been the organisation of the National Indoor Portal championships for the Archery Association of Australia. The club's founder, Mr Aubrey Brigg, is presently president of the Archery Society of Tasmania and has also been president of the club since its inception.

Practice starts at 1.15 p.m. every Saturday and continues through till dusk. If further facilities become available the club may extend to regular Sunday shootings as well. During the coldest months the club shoots indoors at the Mount Nelson campus sports hall on Saturday afternoons.

An early member of the club was the late Major John Hayter, formerly of Illawong Crescent. The Major, as he was known, was once selected to instruct King George VI in archery and represented England at an international championship in Sweden. John took a great interest in the club and regularly shot with a 50 pound draw weight yew bow,

even though he was in his eighties. He founded the Long Bow Society in England where he belonged to the 300 year old club, the Woodmen of Arden. John always had a few jesting, uncomplimentary words to say about our modern bows. It was only at his recent passing away at the age of 94 that we learned he had received the Military Medal in France in 1917.

The club was unique for a few years in the seventies, boasting two Master mariners, Captains Les Scott and Richard Turner. We have been particularly fortunate to attract a friendly company of people with a great variety of interests and dedication.

Four junior boys, who are now outstanding senior members, are M. Woodmansee, E. Mee, A. Jurasovic and A. Batchelor. Michael Woodmansee, of West Hobart, joined in 1975 and shoots occasionally because he is a geologist on an oil rig in Bass Strait. Emerson Mee of Moonah joined in 1980. Anton Jurasovic and Alan Batchelor both joined in 1980 and have excelled in Archery Golf where they have beaten all the men in the state from time to time. Two members have gained the best places in the Australian Championships. Ray Blacher, a senior master at Dominic College, won ninth place in the Compound Bow Target division. Aubrey Brigg, a draughtsman with the Hydro-Electric Commission, won fourth place in the Recurve Bow division for the Clout event.

With the re-emergence of Archery as an Olympic sport the use of grants to assist the state team travel and to bring Australia's top coaches to Tasmania has developed the sport of Archery out of isolation into the main stream of sport, and will continue to encourage club members in the greater participation in all aspects of the sport.

Members who have obtained an International standard award or grading are listed below:

Recurve Bow	Fita Star Award
Aubrey Brigg	1000 197 and 1100 197
Compound Bow	Southern Star Award
Alan Batchelor	1000

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V.V. Thomas	1000
Aubrey Brigg	1100

Executive Record

Founding President:	
Aubrey Brigg	1974-86
Vice President: Viv Thomas	1978-86
Secretary-Treasurers:	
David Harris	1974
Capt. Richard Turner	1975
Mrs Di. Turner	1976-77
Michael Woodmansee	1978
Graham Jeffrey	1979-82
Martin Bullen	1982-84
Aubrey Brigg	1985-86
First Recorder:	
Kelley Sayer	1978
Emerson Mee	1982-86



The Bowls Club

Reg Gee

From a notice which appeared in the *Colonial Times* on the 24th December 1830 (see article on the "Retreat") it appears that the game of lawn bowls was played at Taroona in the 1830s and this is probably the earliest record of the game in the Australian Colonies. The "Retreat" was located on the present site of the Taroona State High School.

The present day Bowls Club has a more recent origin. The following history of the Club was compiled by Mr Arch Blackwood, with information supplied by Mr Jim Willey, both past-presidents of the Club. The first stirrings of public interest in the formation of a bowls club at Taroona commenced as far back as 1952 and, resulting from meetings held, approaches were made to Kingborough Council for the allocation of a suitable area of land in Taroona Park.

A letter circulated to residents at the time drew a poor response. However, in 1956 Bill McIndoe convened a public meeting with Cec Coates as minute secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to examine the viability of forming a limited company with a loan or debentures, and to assess likely membership. A sub-committee was formed to wait on the Recreation and Reserves Committee.

Excavation and filling to form the top green followed and in 1960 further action was taken by the Council to complete the work, with successful seeding for grass taking place in August.

The first Committee of the club was Bill McIndoe, President, Dulce Castley, Cec and Mary Coates, Les and Stella Barker, Ossie and Bess Thorpe, Brian Wilson and Jim Willey.

At the time ladies were admitted as full members.

Subsequently Cec and Brian Coates arranged with the Bank of New South Wales for a loan of £4,500, and a contract was let to the building firm of Semple and Coombe for the erection of the clubhouse at a cost of £3,840.

Land Leased

Deputations to the Council resulted in the construction of an access road. A lease of the land occupied by the club was given by the Council at £26 per annum for 26 years, with

an option of a further 20 years.

A licence to sell liquor was obtained by adding the names of the members of the adjoining Tennis Club to bring the number up to the required 100.

The green was opened on the 12th December 1960. The first competition played was won by Brian Wilson and Dulce Castley who defeated Les Barker and Jim Willey. Afternoon tea was served from a card table on the green, thus establishing the club. Other players present that day included Bill McIndoe, Bob Bester, Cec Coates, Brian Wilson, "Chick" Dawson, Phil Camm and Harold Acton.

Before the commencement of the 1962-63 season the completed clubhouse was officially

opened by the then premier, Eric Reece, whose car had to be extricated by club members after it became bogged in mud caused by heavy rain which fell at the time.

During that season the number of members increased and, with some help from other clubs, a team was able to compete in the S.T.B.A. pennant competitions.

Fire Disaster

1974-75 seemed set to be another successful year for the club. It had attained division 1 status, with a membership of 60 and 56 associate members. In addition, extensions had been completed to the clubhouse and a new bar installed.

Disaster struck on the night of the 29th



The first clubhouse shortly after completion, c1964.

PHOTO BOB BESTER.



The present clubhouse taken in 1986.

PHOTO ANDREW LORD.

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August 1974 when the clubhouse was totally destroyed by fire, including all furniture, club equipment and records. With the opening of the season only two weeks away the club was in dire straits and president at the time, Arch Blackwood, recalls that a Hydro-Electric Commission hut was offered to serve as temporary clubrooms. However, the committee agreed to tackle the problem as soon as the site could be cleared.

The 1974-75 season was officially opened as usual just 13 days after the fire with tents being used for catering arrangements. The new section of the future clubhouse, to serve as a catering room with a temporary kitchen, was completed in time for the club to accommodate visiting pennant sides by the commencement of that season.

Reconstruction

Ken Brodribb was appointed chairman of the building committee and was responsible for the drawing up of the plans for the new clubhouse. Ken entered a building agreement on a minimal cost plus basis, and, as he was also able to act as building inspector, this meant considerable saving to the club in the total cost of the structure.

After some delay a Government loan was obtained, with the Kingborough Council acting as guarantors for \$30,000, on condition that the loan would not exceed 50 per cent of the total cost of the building.

The club appreciated the generosity shown by southern Tasmanian bowls clubs who sent donations or organised fund raising to assist in the refurnishing project. Club members and associates also responded by raising \$7,000, by way of debentures and interest free loans.

All discomforts and inconveniences of the preceding 14 months were forgotten when Don Cornish, President of the TBA officially opened the new club rooms on the 16th November 1975.

Second Green

At the time of the fire, plans had been prepared and equipment was ready for a contractor to level the steeply bushed terrain selected for a second green. It was necessary for a quick decision to be made. With the

knowledge that the club was facing a costly rebuilding program, it became obvious that the future economics of the club would be centred around a second green.

For the club to be viable it needed increased membership, with consequent increases in pennant sides, entries for tournaments, and additional social activities which would result in increased revenue from trading, thus enabling the club to meet its financial requirements.

Except where contract work was involved, such as excavating, carting of metal and soil filling, the whole of the construction of the second green was carried out by club members under the direction of a committee consisting of Ken Brodribb, Frank Walker, Col Dear and the late Len Woodward. Sam Hodgson assisted as engineer.

A major problem occurred with ground subsidence which caused the ditch, plinth and walls of the southern section to break up or become distorted. This meant that much concrete work was wasted.

With financial help from the Kingborough Council concrete piers were put down at three metre intervals over the southern boundary and partly up the eastern and western boundaries to solid bottom, which, in most cases, was up to a depth of four to five metres.

Beams were erected along the piers and the plinth and walls were constructed on the beams, the top of which formed the bottom of the ditch. This work, although difficult, meant that the ditches of the new green would not have the same subsidence problems that have plagued the original top green since its establishment.

With the facilities so greatly improved the club, with its winter indoor bowls competitions, showed an increase in revenue of over 300 per cent, compared with income generated by activities in the old club which, more or less, closed down in the winter. The growth rate has been maintained and in the last two years has shown a further increase to a position where the club, besides having greatly improved facilities, is now in a sound financial position.

There are now teams in four divisions of the S.T.B.A. competitions, with the associates also providing teams to compete in four divisions of the their pennant series. Although it has not maintained Division I status, the club has

membership which ranks it as ninth in the S.T.B.A., with 85 full members and 71 associates.

In its scenic setting overlooking the River Derwent and surrounded by parkland, the Taroona Bowls Club compares favorably with other clubs in Southern Tasmania and has drawn the praise of bowlers visiting from interstate and overseas.

Office Bearers

Life Members:

A.W. Munro,	J.W. Willey,
A.C. Blackwood,	F.R. Moore,
B.A. Wilson,	R.P. Taylor.

Presidents:

W.E. McIndoe,	1961-63,
G.R. Bester,	1964-65,
C.R. Coates,	1965-67,
L.J. Barker,	1968-69,
B.A. Wilson,	1970-71,
J.W. Willey,	1972-73,
A.C. Blackwood,	1974-75,
R.M. Viney,	1976-77,
A.P. Dillon,	1978,
W.F. Walker,	1979,
T. Rudling,	1980-81
J.I. Murtagh,	1982-83,

R.S. Gee,	1984-85,
J.L. Ribbon.	1986-

Secretaries:

C.R. Coates,	1961-62,
A.E. Craven,	1963-65,
A.W. Munro,	1966-69,
A.C. Blackwood,	1970-71,
R.M. Viney,	1972-73,
FW. Heron,	1974,
F.A. Noar,	1975-76,
T.A. Rudling,	1978,
R.W. O'Toole,	1979,
S. Hodgson,	1980,
S.A. Edwards,	1981-83,
C.J.D. Manson.	1983

Treasurers:

G.R. Bester,	1961-62,
J.W. Willey,	1963-67,
K. McDonald,	1968,
G. Burley,	1969,
R.P. Taylor,	1970-76,
FW. Heron,	1977-83,
R.M. Viney.	1983-

Acknowledgements

Mr Arch Blackwood and Mr Jim Willey.



Committee at 25th Anniversary 30th November 1986.

*Back Row, L to R: P. Fountain, R. Gee, F. Allsop, F. Spencer, V. O'Reilly, R. Pharoah, T. Rudling, A. McKenzie, F. Kuipers.
Front Row, L to R: A. Wallace, C. Manson (Secretary), J. Ribbon (President), M. Viney (Treasurer), V. Perry.*

REG GEE

Diving and Fishing

Eric Canning

In the period between the two world wars the water off Tarooma was regarded as a good recreational fishing area.

In the years immediately following 1945 skin diving increased in popularity due to the wartime invention of the self contained underwater breathing apparatus and its essential aids: the face mask, snorkel and flippers. When the speargun was added to these, man became an underwater predator.

This equipment opened up a new world of visual exploration of shallow water and by 1951, when I first moved to Tarooma, spearfishermen were of sufficient rarity as to command spectator interest.

One of the first local exponents of the sport was Col. Mather, a stirring, bearded individualist who lived in a modest dwelling in an open paddock which is now the Illawong subdivision. Col. set an example to Peter Brothers, John Doughty, Derek Ireland and myself.

Favoured areas were the reef between Tarooma Beach and Hinsby Beach and that

below the Quarantine Station, now the Fisheries Research Laboratory.

The most common fish to fall to the speargun were trumpeter, but the ability to see one's target occasionally yielded a magpie perch and borefish, fish more of solitary habit and seldom taken by other means.

Each summer schools of squeaker perch materialised, but seldom reached takeable size before they disappeared, creating the impression that the area may well have been a breeding ground.

Although the reef below the Quarantine Station held a population of crayfish, none of us took them. Firstly, they were mainly undersized and as the facemask magnified things underwater, it was difficult to assess their size under dark rock crevices. Secondly, once impaled on a spear there was no possibility of liberating them.

In those days abalone fishing had not commenced, and all local reefs contained a population of them. Their numbers increased as esturine fresh water content diminished. However, they were never regarded as other than a novelty dietary item.

As time progressed the area became less productive and we sought further fields.



*Crayfish caught off Crayfish Point, 1939.
L to R: George Green, Norman Lucas and Jim Gregory.*

DULCIE LUCAS.