

THE FIRST DECADE OF THE NEW CENTURY 2000 to 2010

The AGM on March 16, 2000, for the year ending December 31, 1999, again listed Eric Simons in the chair, Peter Lundie as vice chair, Glen Henry as treasurer, Michael Kelly as golf rep, Jean Sorsby as bowls rep, and directors: Tony Skelton, Colin McMenamin, Denise Devir, Brian Allan and Ray Bartlett.

Membership reached 1999 (including juniors and cadets). Sam Ridgewell was replaced as secretary manager by Tod Martin.

The Annual report for the year ending June 30, 2000 listed peter Lundie as chairman, Ray Bartlett as vice chairman, M. Watson as Treasurer, Mike Kelly as golf rep, Bob Edwards as bowls rep, and directors: Jean Sorsby, Colin McMenamin, Denise Devir, Brian Allan, and Lyn McGowran.

Membership had fallen to 1696. The board announced that it had begun compiling a 10-year proposed works program. Finances were under pressure from the introduction of the GST (adding to the cost of golf and bowls); changes in the trading year; and resignation of the treasurer and a key office staff member.

A computerised booking system was introduced for golf (Golf Link) which was said to embrace "a few teething problems."

During the year 2000, Pat Boone paid his first visit to Ocean Shores since the initial development of the estate. His visit was recorded in the local newspaper, as per the clipping that follows.

Ocean Shores a dream fulfilled

THE NORTHERN STAR, SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2000.

Pat Boone visits his development

By HANNAH ROSS

TANNED and debonair in his golfing outfit Pat Boone still looks like he just stepped out of the pages of his 1970 promotional brochure for the new housing development of Ocean Shores.

The legendary crooner returned to Ocean Shores for the first time in 30 years yesterday to discover his dream for the area had come true.

"I really was a rooter for Ocean Shores, Australia. I was one of the original dreamers who dreamed of this place and was committed to it," Mr Boone said yesterday during an Ocean Shores Urban Association function in his honour.

"It gives me goose bumps to see how this dream has materialised."

Contrary to popular misconception, Mr Boone was not just brought in to promote the Ocean Shores development, he was actually a partner in the American real estate development company Wendell West.

The company offered him a partnership after the success of two other Ocean Shores developments, one in Oregon and another in Washington State, USA.

Mr Boone said Wendell West had planned to attract celebrities to Ocean Shores, Australia, on an annual basis to play golf, giving him the opportunity to visit once a year.

But recession forced the company into organisational bankruptcy and that was the last Mr Boone saw of his dream — until this week.

Although his dream of an 18-hole golf course and country club came to fruition, a beach club, marina and Aboriginal art gallery planned for the resort community did not eventuate.



■ LOVE LETTERS IN THE SAND: Singer Pat Boone had nothing but praise for Ocean Shores during his visit this week to the 'planned resort community' he had a hand in founding. Picture: WARREN CROSBY

The photo below taken during his visit, shows Pat Boone (centre) with local historian Frank Mills (left) and Club stalwart, Kevin Kirkland, after whom the top bowling green is named.



The AGM on September 23, 2001 for the year ending June 30, 2001 listed Peter Lundie as chairman, Ray Bartlett as vice chair, Ranald Macdonald as treasurer, Mike Kelly as golf rep, Bob Edwards as bowls rep, and directors: Denise Devir, Lyn McGowran, John Best, Judy Mitchell Eric Simons, Jean Sorsby and Colin McMenamin. Membership totalled 1686.

On June 14, 2002, Jean Sorsby again presented some notes on the early history of Women's Bowls. A facsimile of her original notes (including handwritten corrections) are reprinted below.

A LITTLE EARLY HISTORY.

THE CLUB'S AFFILIATION TO NSWBA, NORTHERN RIVERS AND AWBC BEGAN JUNE, 1977. THE CLUB HAD THEN 28 MEMBERS AND THE FIRST PRESIDENT WAS RUBY LEVY WHO WAS AN EXPERIENCED BOWLER. UNFORTUNATELY RUBY CANNOT BE WITH US TO-DAY, I HAVE A LETTER FROM HER WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO READ TO YOU.

THE WOMEN'S CLUB HAD A BANK BALANCE OF \$54.80 AT THE END OF JULY, 1977 AND WITH THE EFFORTS OF A WEEKLY BRING AND BUY TABLE, ALL RAFFLES DONATED SUCH AS FRUITS AND FLOWERS FROM MEMBERS GARDENS, SOMETIMES A CASK OF WINE AND FROM GENEROUS PERSONS A \$50.00 DOLLAR NOTE TO RAFFLE (THE LADIES HAD NO FUNDS FROM THEN THE OCEAN SHORES GOLF CLUB THE MAIN BODY). AT THE FIRST AGM THE TREASURER ANNOUNCED WITH PRIDE THAT WE HAD A BANK BALANCE OF \$1053. 06. THAT WAS A WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT FROM SO FEW MEMBERS.

THE OFFICAL OPENING OF OCEAN SHORES GOLF CLUB WOMEN'S BOWLING CLUB WAS ON 31ST MARCH, 1978 BY THEN THE STATE PRESIDENT MRS DOROTHY ATKINSON, OTHER DIGNITARIES ON THE DAY WERE MR. AND MRS. JACK BOYD MLA, SHIRE PRESIDENT CHARLES MULES, PRESIDENT OF THE GOLF CLUB BRUCE PADMAN(WHO IS A LIFE MEMBER OF THIS COUNTRY CLUB) , THE LADIES GOLF PRESIDENT JOAN MILLS (WHO IS HER TO-DAY) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE (NOT THE PRESENT CENTRE, THE THEN CENTRE IS THE MOTEL SITE) PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF NORTHERN RIVERS BOWLING ASSOCIATION.

THE MEN'S CLUB WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED ON 18TH JUNE, 1977 AND WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR MILESTRONE ON 24TH JUNE, 2002.

IN THE YEAR 1987 EIGHT (8) MEN'S CLUB OCEANSHORES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, BYRON BAY MULLULBIMBY, BANGALOW, POTTSVIVLE, CONDGON AND CUGDEAN LEAGUES BROKE AWAY FROM NORTHERN RIVERS AND FORMED TWEED BYRON DISTRICT AND THE LADIES OF THOSE CLUBS JOINED THE NEW DISTRICT IN JUNE, 1988 AND I WAS ELECTED THE FIRST DISTRICT PRESIDENT.

HERE TO-DAY ARE ⁸ PAST PRESIDENT'S MOLLY PEAKE, GLADYS TODD, ~~BETTY~~ SAYERS, MAVIS CUPITT, MARG OLIVER, CYNTHIA FINDLATER, NOLA GARTNER, ~~PAM~~ REILLY, TONI GODFREY AND MYSELF. ALSO ⁴ (FIVE) SISTERS, BETTY HUGHES, HEATHER CARRALL, BILLIE STAPLETON, ~~MERLE~~ COCHRANE AND JOYCE RADLEY, THEIR SISTER - -LAW NANCY SMALL WHO NOW LIVES IN CESSNOCK WERE ALL MEMBERS AT THE ONE TIME. *MERLE COCHRANE - FAMILY PROMOTION*

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE PAST AND PRESENT WHO HAS MADE THIS CLUB WHAT IT IS TO-DAY.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TO THIS GREAT DAY.

THERE ARE PHOTOGRPAH ALBUMS ON DISPLAY AND ALSO A FEW PHOTOGRAPHS FOR ANYONE.

J.S. 14TH JUNE, 2002.

The AGM on September 29, 2002 for the year ending June 30, 2002 saw Peter Lundie continue in the chair, John Best take over as vice chair, treasurer Ranald Macdonald, golf rep Mike Kelly, bowls rep Kevin Kirkland, and directors: Denise Devir, Jack and Lyn McGowran, John l'Anson, Colin McMenamin, and Eric Simons.

The annual report made the first mention of members approving honorariums for the Board of Management: Chairman \$1000 and Directors \$600.

The AGM on September 21, 2003 for the year ending June 30, 2003 saw Peter Lundie continue in the chair, and John Best continue as vice chair, with John Dawson taking over as treasurer, and Mike Kelly remaining the golf rep and Kevin the bowls rep, Directors were: Denise Devir, Jack McGowran, John I'Anson, Col McMenemy, Bill Priest, Eric Simons and Randal Macdonald.

The first half of the year was plagued by drought and water restrictions and the second half by wet weather (60 inches in six months), hence course closure and "carts on paths" became the norm, and repairs and maintenance costs soared. A large safety screen was constructed adjacent to the fourth tee at a cost of \$10,000 (initially without a DA!) at the insistence of adjacent property owners tired and fearful of balls penetrating their private property. Club membership reached 1792.

School Sport Australia has been running Golf Championships since 1970, commencing with annual interstate competitions between NSW and Queensland schoolboy's teams. In 1977 this was expanded to a national competition.

In 2003 the twenty seventh championship School Sport Australia Golf Championships was hosted by the Northern Rivers District of NSW and held at Ocean Shores.

The Boy's Stroke Champion, a 16 year old named Jason Day (Qld) shot a 65, the lowest round of the Championships. Andrew Dodt also played in that tournament. Sarah Oh (NSW) won the Girls Individual Stroke event. Day's score is equal to the lowest round ever played in competition at Ocean Shores, recorded by professional golfer Wayne Riley in the early 1970s. Professional Vaughn Somers had previously recorded 69 in a Pro-Am.

Since his win at Ocean Shores, Jason Day has taken international golf by the throat and at the end of March 2016 was ranked No. 1 in the world, winning the World Golf Championship Match Play in Texas.



Other personalities that have played at Ocean Shores over the years include: Pat Boone-Bob Hawke-Malcolm Fraser-Doug Anthony-Ronnie Corbett-Alex Jesaulenko-Alan Bond-Steve Rogers-Greg Chappell-Ian Chappell-Greg Ritchie-Matt Burke- Vaughan Somers-Bill Dunk-Peter Senior-Rodger Davis-Wayne Riley-Greg Norman-Ian Baker-Finch-Jack Rayner-Ossie Moore-Graeme McNeish-Rachel Hetherington, David Gleeson and Pat Rafter: among many.

On April 14, 2004 the Byron Echo reported that the Club was considering a proposal from the Wallis Group for a deal whereby the Group would fund a new \$12 million clubhouse and facilities, and in return the Group would build units where the existing clubhouse stands, giving the group title to the existing clubhouse, carpark and bowling greens.

The proposal was later rejected by members, with the benefits of the new facilities, and the upheaval of Club activities, exceeded by the natural conservatism of many older members, and the assumed threat of an influx and invasion of a proposed 140 residential unit owners and their families at the Club's front door, plus some apprehension about the bona fides of the Wallis Group.

The AGM on October 17, 2004 for the year ending June 30, 2004 saw Peter Lundie and Bill Priest share the chair, John Best as vice chair, John Dawson treasurer, Ian Wingad as golf rep, Peter Tornaros as bowls rep and directors: Bill Blair, Denise Devir, John I'Anson, Jack McGowran, Bill Priest, Mike Kelly, Kevin Kirkland and Col McMenamin.

Membership edged up to 1803 and Wayne Chislett replaced Tod Martin as secretary manager. Three greens were reconstructed (1-5-6) at a cost of almost \$89,000, and toilet blocks were built on the course.

The Club reported a loss of \$484,571 "easily the worst result in the Club's history" with legal expenses and fines the major contributors. These were for defending charges brought by the State Department of Gaming and Racing for a number of alleged breaches of the Liquor Act at the Club's Xmas Party (under age drinking).

Following the party, a 16 year-old kitchen hand employed by the Club died in a on-course accident. The incident ultimately led to the resignation of Tod Martin as secretary manager.

The AGM on September 9, 2005 adopted a resolution that the 64 spaces created by construction of the new buggy shed be offered to members for a rental of \$1200 for five years. *"The rental for five years allows the project to be self-funding, whilst creating an income-producing asset for the Club in the future, the only way the project could have gone ahead in the current economic climate of the Club. After the initial five-year period, all members will pay an annual rent."*

Office bearers in that year were: Chair: Bill Blair, Vice Chair, Graham Wall, Treasurer, Glen Henry, Ian Wingad, Peter Tornaros, Denise Devir, John I'Anson, Jack McGowran, William Sargent, Peta Price, Richard Hanks, John Best and John Dawson. Terry Crowe was secretary/manager and membership was 1844. The Club fine of \$200,000 in 2004 was reduced to \$75,000 in 2005.

The AGM on September 24, 2006 noted membership of 1996, with Bill Blair in the chair, Vice Chair Graham Wall, treasurer Glen Henry, and directors Denise Devir, Jack McGowran, John Thomas, Peter Tornaros, Ian Wingad, John I'Anson and Peta Price. Paul Earl commenced as bowls greenkeeper.

The AGM on September 23, 2007 saw membership reach 2151, with Barry Cox retiring as Golf Course Superintendent on August 14, 2007. Andrew Spice was appointed the new secretary/manager in May 2007.

The annual report noted that a wooden deck was proposed on the eastern side of the clubhouse *"To provide panoramic views of the ocean and a platform for whale watching while enjoying breakfast or lunch."*

(After a 9-year long gestation period a superb cement and sandstone structure was eventually constructed and opened in June 2016, by life member Jim Stuart, pictured below, officially opening the deck. Club manager, Andrew Spice and Deputy chairman, Less Hoffman, are to his right. The first breakfast on the deck was held on Saturday July 9, 2016 at 8.00am--with whales off shore).



The Smoke Free Amendment Act was introduced from July 2, 2007, banning smoking in all enclosed areas of licensed premises in NSW. This committed the Club to provide "a comfortable area for smoking patrons to enjoy our facilities"

Then Treasurer, John Thomas, commented: "We do not at this stage know what impact the smoking ban will have on our bar and poker machine trade, and as these two areas account for approximately 90 percent of our revenue, any decline may have a significant impact."

Directors who held office during that year included: Chair: Peter Tornaros, vice Chair, Graham Wall, Denise Devir, Jack McGowran, John Thomas, Ian Wingad, Merv Brady, Peta Price, Garry Cullen, Les Hoffman, Bob James, Bill Blair and Glen Henry.

The AGM for 2007-08, for the year ending June 30, held on October 26, noted membership at 2318. Peter Tornaros was in the Chair, Les Hoffman vice Chair, treasurer, John Thomas, golf rep Ian Wingad, bowls rep, Bob James, and directors Merv Brady, Anne Slater, Graham Wall, Denise Devir, Jack McGowran and Garry Cullen.

The AGM on October 25, 2009, for the year ending June 30 2009, recorded membership at 2472. The annual report noted that the board had taken control of the halfway house (December 2008) which until that time had been operated by volunteers, mostly lady golfers, for the previous 25 years or so. Special Interest group trading figures were included in Country Club Limited accounts for the first time.

Chairman was Peter Tornaros, vice chair, Les Hoffman, treasurer, John Thomas, Golf rep Ian Wingad, bowls rep Bob James, and directors: Merv Brady, Anne Slater, Bob Baxter, Marie Anders, and John I'Anson.

On November 10, 2009, the Ocean Shores estate was ready to hold its 40-year anniversary, which was highlighted in the local paper, The Byron Echo, as follows. The fairways of the Country Club can be seen in the distance.

Jan Larracy, then Rowley, was the first resident of Ocean Shores. Jan and husband Robert Rowley built the first home on the Ocean Shores Estate in 1969 and she was not a happy Jan. 'When I first moved here I hated it. We had a lovely house in Kanandah Court but it was 18 months before anyone else moved to the area, but then I joined the golf club and got to know a few people and loved it from then on.'

Ocean Shores ready to turn 40



A town's founding mothers, fathers and families, from left, Matthew Denehy, Judy Anning, Charlie and Lyn Diehm, Jan and Jim Mangleson and Jan and Barry Larracy, all getting ready to celebrate the town's 40th

Judy Anning has lived in the same house since the early days. Husband Jim Anning was sales manager for developers Princess Properties and the Annings were one of the first ten residents. 'I have lived in that same house for 36 years,' says Judy.

Barry Larracy is a longtime resident of Ocean Shores and a member of the golf club. (Barry passed away in July 2016). President of the Ocean Shores Community Association (OSCA), Matthew Denehy, grew up in the area and is a second generation local.

Charlie Diehm was a construction worker at Ocean Shores. Charlie was part of the team that built the Orana Bridge over Marshalls Creek commencing in 1973. Back then the cost of the bridge was \$200,000. The excavation for the foundation pylons was done by hand. The bridge today remains an important link for all local communities.

Jim and Jan Mangleson have been locals since 1972, being residents of Mullumbimby and Ocean Shores. Their family has grown up and settled here.

These are the founding fathers and mothers of a town which is now home to the second largest population in Byron Shire and Ocean Shores is about to turn 40.

'The town of Ocean Shores and its surrounding district is an important part of the Byron Shire,' says Matthew Denehy. 'With a catchment population of about 9,000 people, together with Brunswick Heads, the Byron Coastal North contains some of the most beautiful ocean, river and rural areas in Australia.'

OSCA is having a party to celebrate the 40th birthday of Ocean Shores and all are invited. Come on Sunday November 22 at midday to the Ocean Shores Country Club and learn about the early days of Ocean Shores. . "..... Story & photo Eve Jeffery

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