

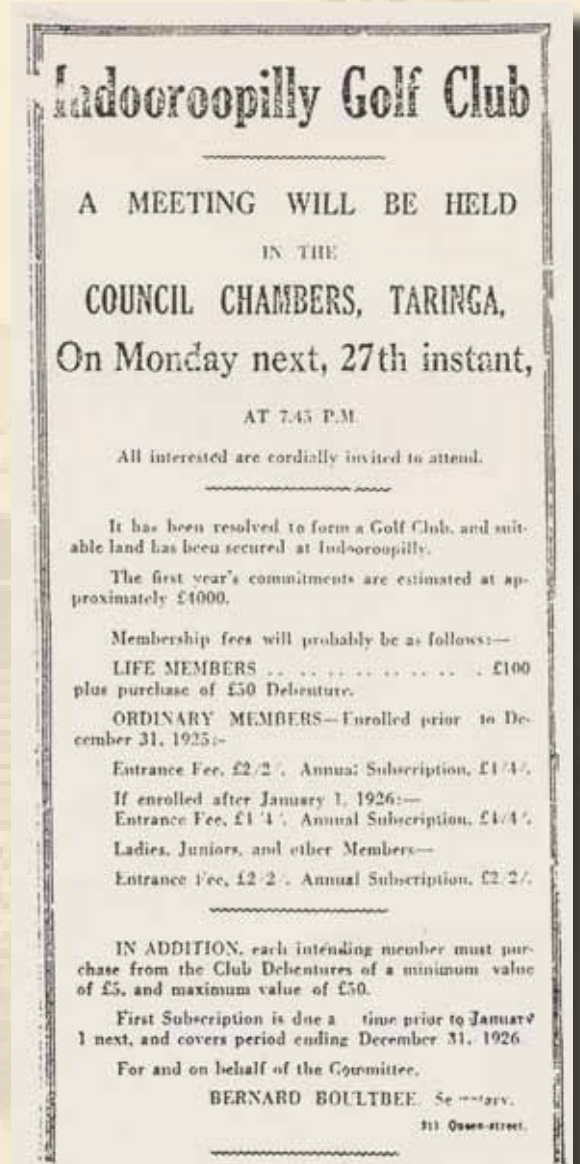
Indooroopilly Heritage

St Lucia - the beginning

BERNARD BOULTBEE is regarded as the founder of Indooroopilly Golf Club. As a young and enthusiastic accountant and Taringa Shire councillor he instigated the first meeting, on 1 July 1925, which resulted in the formation of a committee of which he became Honorary Secretary. This committee resolved to form a club to be known as the Indooroopilly Golf Club. Bernard Boulbee subsequently became the club's patron.



Bernard Boulbee



One hundred and twenty four acres of freehold land at St Lucia were purchased from thirteen different owners for \$17,000. The land included a homestead, part of which was retained to become the first clubhouse.

Scottish born professional golfer and course designer, Dan Soutar, was engaged to lay out the course at a cost of seventy-five guineas plus hotel and travel expenses.

Members' working bees swarmed over the course at week-ends with the associates providing lunch and afternoon teas. One of the original land owners, Mr David Carr, retained grazing rights for his cows from dusk to dawn and tees and greens were protected by fencing.



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On Saturday 3 July 1926 the first nine holes were opened by the Premier of Queensland, the Hon. W. McCormick. Celebrations continued well into the night, with members bringing their own gas lamps to light up the clubhouse after dark. It would be almost three years before electricity was installed.



David Carr
one of the original land owners.

A cutting from early newspaper announcing the opening of the Indooroopilly Golf Links.



The first clubhouse and car park



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Henry Morrow was elected inaugural Club President. He served from 1926-32 and succeeding generations of his family have left an indelible mark. His son, Alan Morrow, was Club Champion in 1935 and 1947, Alan's wife Kath (née Dixon) was Associates Champion seven times, grandson Henry was a single figure player and won the B Grade Championship in 1959 and great grandson Andrew Morrow was Club Champion in 1984.



The founding fathers in front of old Morrow home.



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At the end of 1926 the second nine was in play and the club had engaged the services of celebrated Scottish architect, Dr Alistair Mackenzie, to recommend improvements to the layout. Dr Mackenzie had just completed a major re-design of Royal Melbourne's west course and later went on to design Augusta and Cypress Point in the USA.

An interesting aside is the fact that at the end of the first year the 319 members comprised 175 women and 146 men.



A club working bee in their Sunday best (circa 1926).

Another 1920s working bee - members building rustic bridge over the creek on the 8th hole.



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During the 1930s the club endured floods and the Great Depression. A bridge across the creek on the third fairway became a matter of urgency. Associates held a series of “bridge” evenings to raise money for its construction.

There were 40-50 caddies who mostly tramped the course bare-foot and only wore shoes on “special days” and during bindi-eye season. Unemployment was high and often the caddies’ earnings went straight into the family funds to buy food.

New balls were in short supply and expensive. The pro shop had a steel stamp which imprinted members’ names on their ball. A “find” by a caddie was worth three pence from the pro who then reconditioned the ball and the owner could buy it back for sixpence.

A formidable gathering of members at an early AGM – as viewed from the committee table.



The St Lucia clubhouse and pro shop as it was in the 1930s.



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Ninety-eight members and associates saw service during World War II with fourteen paying the supreme sacrifice. A memorial terrace to honour these people was dedicated at a moving service in December 1947.



A new bridge over the third was constructed in the post war period.

Early 1950s photograph - Paul Hoge (former Club President) on the left and Reg Perkins (Club President) on the right.



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Photograph of meeting on the terrace after QLGU tournament at St Lucia in 1947. Phyl Dixon (Associates Captain) is pictured front centre and Audrey Holt (Associates Vice-Captain) eighth from left. The lady on the far right is Gertrude McLeod's sister.



Another meeting of players and delegates at the same tournament.



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By 1956 membership had more than doubled since the war to 898, forcing the club to put a ceiling on future applications. With a fifteen year waiting list for membership and demand still increasing, the club purchased 140 riverside acres at Moggill to build an 18 hole championship course.



*1950s photograph
of associates at
St Lucia*

*L-R Mary Beale,
Flora Johnson,
Ted Earnshaw,
Mary Menzies,
Marjorie Godbold.*



*After golf at
St Lucia in the
1950s - Marjorie
Godbold is shown
second from left.*



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St Lucia - the beginning



1957 photograph - drinks in the Members Bar to celebrate Reg Perkins' hole in one.
L-R Budge Gill, John "Blue" Irwin, Bob Tait, Reg Perkins, VO Walker, Jack Pyle and Jim Bellett.
Just visible in the left background are long term staff member Harry the barman and Secretary-Manager Alby Willett.



1960s photograph of the St Lucia clubhouse taken from the 10th tee.



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St Lucia - the beginning

Plans for Moggill were shelved in 1962 when the Brisbane City Council called tenders for the lease of an area of Sir John Chandler Park at Long Pocket – only three quarters of a mile from the St Lucia clubhouse – to be developed as a sporting and recreation area. Because of its proximity the club submitted a tender and obtained a twenty-one year lease of about 180 acres.

The new 18 hole Long Pocket course opened in 1964.



*1970s photograph of members about to tee off at St Lucia
L-R Leo Thomsen, Jock Mackay, Budge Gill and Alex Saunders.*



The St Lucia clubhouse and pro shop as it appeared in the 1970s.



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St Lucia - the beginning

Fears that the Council was planning to resume part of the St Lucia course for road development led to members agreeing in 1973 to exchange that course and clubhouse for 200 acres of freehold land adjoining the existing Long Pocket layout. St Lucia was to become a public course under Council control and the club would build another 18 holes at Long Pocket with a new clubhouse. It would be twelve years before the transition was made (Refer *Long Pocket - the Move* section).

Plans to sell Moggill to fund the new clubhouse were thwarted by the land being inundated by the 1974 Brisbane floods and it was not until 1985 that a contract on the land was secured. The 1974 floodwaters had also devastated both courses and it was two months before they were playable.

The club decided to subdivide some of the Long Pocket freehold land into a 60 block housing estate as an alternative funding method to build the new clubhouse. The application was rejected by the Brisbane City Council Planning Committee but the club won its appeal in the Local Government Court in 1982. The first blocks were sold in March 1984 which enabled the club to arrange bridging finance and accept a tender price for the building of \$3,044,000.

At the end of 1985 club members and associates said goodbye to the "Grand Old Lady". The excitement of the move to the new complex with its longer and more challenging courses and palatial clubhouse was tinged with sadness in leaving a venue steeped in tradition and happy memories.



*Half-way house at St Lucia –
a welcome stop for refreshments.*

NOTE: The basis of the information provided has been extracted from the booklet *A Half Century of Golf 1926-1976 at Indooroopilly Golf Club* by Jack Lunn and the later update by Ian Arnold (unpublished manuscript).

