



# AUSTRALIAN GOLFING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS Inc.

PATRONS: Sir Clem Renouf, R.I. President, 1978-79. Royce Abbey, R.I. President, 1988-89.

## NEWSLETTER

December 2012

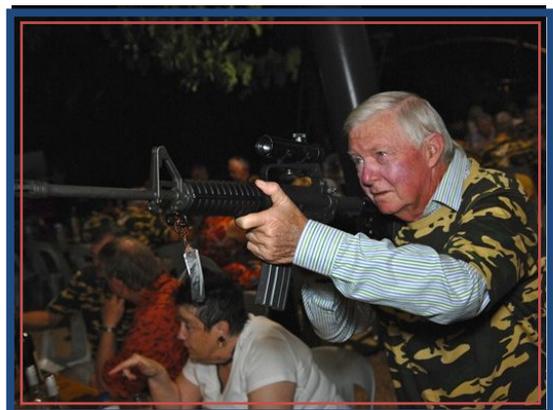
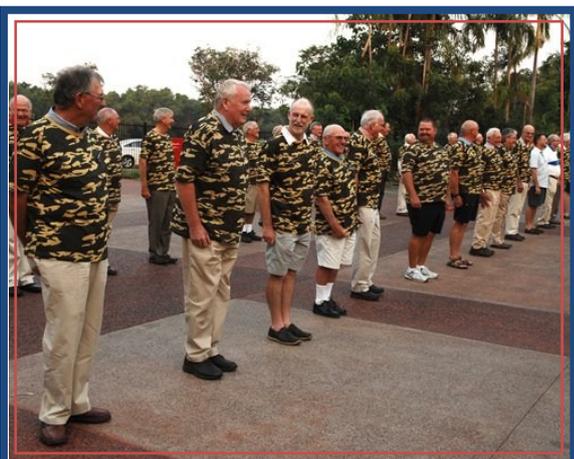
### DARWIN REVISITED

It is now getting close to the end of another year and I thought it was time I put pen to paper and get out a newsletter reporting the goings on in our Fellowship in the past year and what we have ahead.

Those of us who attended our Tournament in Darwin in May this year will know that it was again a raging success. Who will ever forget the mock air raid and our 'fellowship military parade' on our visit to the Defence of Darwin Experience at the Darwin Military Museum, and our visit to the Northern Territory Government House as the guests of Her Honor the Administrator, Sally Thomas. We cannot thank enough the organizing team in Darwin, led by Martin Jolly, for an excellent week in which the Darwin Rotary Club raised \$65k for a fibroscan device for the Darwin Hospital, as a direct result of their sponsors of our event in Darwin. Well done.

Another highlight for me in Darwin was the awarding of Life Membership to two of our AGFR founding members, Kevin Beaumont and Bob Louis. Both Kevin and Bob were on the inaugural Committee to form the AGFR in 1976, and Kevin was the first Secretary/Treasurer to the then President, John Hood. Bob Louis was the first President from NSW in 1984-1987 and Kevin was President in 1990-1994. Although Bob was not with us in Darwin I have since spoken to him and he was, as was Kevin, most humbled by the Award.

Our week in Darwin ended with our presentation dinner under the stars on the Darwin Golf Course – what a fantastic night and the successful winners of trophies for the week were as follows:-



**Rotarians Tournament**

**Clem Renouf Trophy – Grenville Courtland & John Lette**  
(Best Total Team Score)

**Royce Abbey Trophy – Jeff Stephenson**  
(Highest Individual Aggregate Score with Handicap)

**The South Australian Trophy – Tim Landsberg**  
(Division 1 Player with the Highest Individual Aggregate Score)

**The Northern Territory Trophy – Barry Stokes**  
(Division 3 Player with the Highest Individual Aggregate Score)

**Glen Kinross Trophy – Alistair Ward**  
(Player 65 years or over with the Highest Individual Aggregate Score)

**The New South Wales Trophy – John Lette**  
(Division 2 Player with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Individual Aggregate Score)

**Guests Competition**

**Team with Highest Stableford Score - Maxine Richards & Gayle Searle**

**Highest Individual Stableford Score— Maxine Richards**

**Victoria Trophy – Bert Ainge & Cliff Searle**  
(Team with 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Score)

**The Western Australian Trophy – John Heathcote**  
(Highest Individual Aggregate Score without Handicap)

**The Tasmanian Trophy – Les Woodland**  
(Division 2 Player with the Highest Individual Aggregate Score)

**The Queensland Trophy – Steven Robinson**  
(Division 1 Player with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Individual Aggregate Score)

**The Australian Capital Territory Trophy – Tim Anderson**  
(Division 3 Player with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Individual Aggregate Score)



**Team with Second Highest Stableford Score -**

**Jill Courtland & Marie Reynolds**

**Second Highest Individual score—**

**Gayle Searle**

Congratulations to all the trophy winners and all those who participated in a great event.



## AGFR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As usual the Annual General Meeting of the Fellowship was held during the Tournament and the following were elected to the various committees:-

### Executive Committee

President - Greg Armstrong

Vice President - Wayne Nicholls

Secretary - Peter Corke

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer - Barry Watson

### Nominating Committee

President - Greg Armstrong

Immediate Past President - Robert Motteran

Another Past President - Peter Partridge

5 year Participating President - Alastair Ward

### Delegates Committee

2 year Term & 1 year Term

NSW - Bill Pitt & Ernie Dunstan

NT - Jim McNally & Martin Jolly

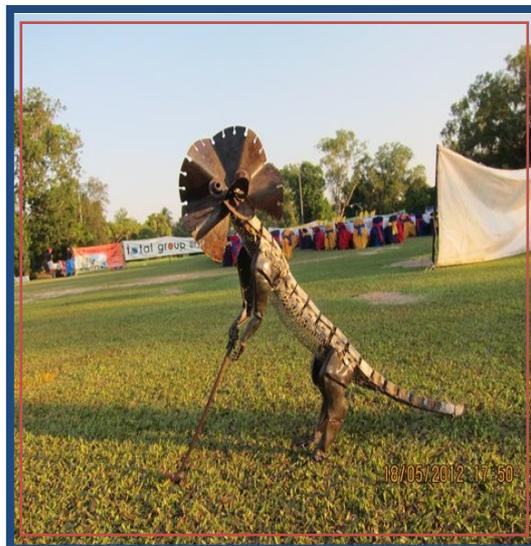
QLD - Vern Gilbert & Lloyd Fleming

SA - David Motteram & Brian Esselbach

TAS - Paul Grubb & Leigh Iles

VIC - Alan Newstead & Ian Doak

WA— Aiden Wood & Grenville Courtland



## AGFR RULES

At our Delegates meeting in Darwin, Alastair Ward was asked if he would conduct a review of our Rules and By-Laws, which in typical Alastair fashion has accepted and has done a comprehensive review . We hope to present these recommendations to change some of our Rules at our next Annual Meeting in Cairns next year.



## AGFR WEBSITE—MEMBERS FACILITY

Members will be aware that over the past few years we have been endeavoring to make our AGFR Webpage ([www.agfr.org](http://www.agfr.org)) more user friendly, and incorporating more information regarding the history, etc. of the AGFR. As part of this process we now have a secure members login page, whereby members can keep their own personal details up to date, for example email addresses, home address, golflink numbers etc., etc. Members will also be able to download certain restricted information regarding other members contact details, if for example you wanted to arrange a game of golf.

Our webmaster, Alice Both, has done a wonderful job in providing our fellowship with this new facility.

All usernames are set with the first letter of their first name, then their last name (all in lower case). Passwords are set as the members golflink number. For example my username and password is as follows:-

Username: garmstrong

Password: my 10digit golflink number

I encourage all members to use this new facility—so why not login now to review your details and if necessary update them to the correct details.

Unfortunately when the usernames and passwords were set we did not have every members correct golflink number on our database, so if you have any difficulty logging in, you can use the “lost Password” feature, which will email you your username and allow you to reset your password to your correct 10 digit golflink number. If you encounter any problems with the new facility or you have any comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The whole aim of this new facility is to provide a mechanism whereby all members can better maintain their personal details in order that we may ensure good communications to our members of the fellowship.

## JOHN HOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

A highlight for those members who attended our Darwin Tournament, I think was the opportunity to meet with and listen to Mike O’Keefe. Mike was our guest in Darwin from the Ohio State University in the USA. Mike coordinates all of our John Hood Memorial Scholarship Awardees in the States and makes sure they are placed at top golf courses in America to continue their studies and careers in turf management.

All members are aware that apart from our Fellowship enjoying each others company and playing golf, another huge part of our Fellowship is our support of the John Hood Memorial Scholarship. Having Mike in Darwin, I am sure widened our appreciation of that involvement in the Turf Management education process and its part of continuing our love of golf.



## JOHN HOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP cont.

Over the past 12 months the Fellowship, and in particular Alan Newstead, our JHMS Coordinator, has been working extremely hard in seeking out suitable Awardees for our Scholarship and I am pleased to report that in the past 12 months we have been successful in sending out 3 Awardees to America and in this Newsletter I want to provide all members with a reasonably detailed report on what Alan has achieved and feedback from our Awardees.

### Where Are They Now and What Are They Doing

2012 has been fairly active with four Ohio State University students coming and going. Below is a brief summary of the movements and current activities.

#### **Jack Sims**

Jack, who had spent the best part of the last twelve months at The Breakers, Palm Beach, unfortunately had to return home shortly after this email; following advice his father was extremely ill.

*3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2012  
Alan,*

*It's hard to believe my time here is coming to its end; the internship has flown by ridiculously fast.*

*Sounds like you have been pretty busy yourself over the last few months! It was great to see the President's Cup from over here, my good friend Dan Oswin was employed at Royal a few months prior and says working on the course preparation was unbelievable. Dan has landed the position of the next intern at The Breakers and is due here in 1 month; luckily I'll be able to work with him for about 2 weeks before I'm on my journey home. (Note: Dan Oswin is the recipient of a Toro Scholarship)*

*Some highlights so far would have to be participating in the ADT Skills Challenge at the Breakers Ocean Course, this was a 2 day event with the first day filmed by NBC and was aired around Christmas. I had a big part in the advertisement setup and general preparation. Golfers present included Nick Price, Mark O'Meara, Nick Faldo, Rocco Mediate and Zach Johnson. Got my face on the big screen several times!*

*I will also be working at PGA National champ course for the Honda Classic coming up in late Feb., I'm hoping to see Tiger there if he plays. Mark Reid really has put together a great, well rounded program here at The Breakers and being a part of these pro golfing events really puts the cherry on top.*

*I'm looking forward to coming up to Melbourne to thank you and the rotary group for my sponsorship once more; it has gone a long way and definitely helped me during my stay.*

Regrettably Jack had to leave just prior to the Honda Classic having to return home.

#### **Alistaire Marsh**

Alistaire returned to Perth in August this year after an eventful stay at the Los Angeles Country Club where, from all reports, he equipped himself very well. Thanks to Grenville and the guys in Perth for finding Alistaire.

E-mail below dated 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
*G'day Alan,*

*How are you and everyone else going?*

*I am working extremely hard we have just had a big tournament for the past few days so long hour such as working 7 days a week working 4:30am to 9pm.*

*As far as new technology goes or things that I have not see in Australia, include an electric cup cutter, and some new renovation machinery.*

*I would love to help out more with some photos but as of right now I don't have them on me but I shall send them to you tomorrow.*

*Cannot wait to get home and to see you all and give a presentation for you all!*

## CALLED TO HIGHER SERVICE

We have been advised of the passing of Rotarian and past AGFR Member, Keith Jones. Keith was a member of the Adamstown-New Lambton Rotary Club and participated in many AGFR Tournaments over the years. We have passed on our condolences to his wife Phyl on behalf of the Fellowship.

## 35TH AGFR AUSTRALIAN TOURNAMENT

Our next Tournament is being hosted by the Rotary Club of Cairns Earville at Paradise Palms Resort and Country Club and Cairns Golf Club. Everyone I have spoken to is really looking forward to our first tournament in the tropics of Cairns. Our Tournament organizer, Corry Cats has advised me that the registrations are filling nicely, so if you are yet to register I would suggest you attend to it shortly if you don't want to be disappointed. As you can appreciate accommodation fills quickly in June because of the influx of "Mexicans" at that time of the year from the southern states.

The Tournament is to be held from 23rd to 28th June 2013 and you can download your Registration Form from our website at [www.agfr.org](http://www.agfr.org)

**In closing may I take this opportunity to wish all Rotarian golfers and partners and families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you all in Cairns next year.**

**Greg Armstrong**

## CONTACTS

**Greg Armstrong - PO Box 68, Laurieton NSW 2443 Ph 65599006**

**Email - [greg.judi@bigpond.com](mailto:greg.judi@bigpond.com)**

**Barry Watson - 14 Spinnaker Ridge Way, Belmont NSW 2280 Ph 49459763**

**Email - [bazdor@exemail.com.au](mailto:bazdor@exemail.com.au)**

## **Simon Rees**

Simon spent his first six months at The Congressional in Washington, but as the northern winter closed in and the courses closed down it was time to move.

Mike O'Keeffe, who organises relocations to southern courses for all interns, sent Simon way down to TPC Scottsdale, Arizona to join the team.

Below is Simon's recent email, full of excitement

21<sup>st</sup> October 2012

*Hey Alan,*

*Sorry it's been so long since I've updated you, we've had a busy few months.*

*I'm now living down in Scottsdale, Arizona where I'm spending the next 6 months at TPC Scottsdale.*

*It was a 4 day drive to get down here, crossing through Virginia, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and then a few hours through northern Arizona. We made pretty good time knocking off around 800-900 miles a day.*

*We had to set up our apartment etc and have only now just gotten the internet! Definitely feeling disconnected from everyone back home but everything back on track now.*

*I started work a couple of weeks ago and have already started putting in some long hours, we are currently in the middle of over seeding our second course and just growing in and putting first mows onto our tournament course (it's starting to look amazing!).*

*The contrast out here is sensational in 35degree weather every day we have desert everywhere and lush green grass on the playing surface, it's a great place to be surround by.*

*I've got some photos for you of the place in the current state which I've attached but I'll be sure to get a lot more, especially during tournament prep.*

*We have the waste management phoenix open in Jan/Feb. which last year was attended by over 500,000 people; it's going to be madness here. (Prize Money US\$ 9.5 Million, ed.)*

*Cheers, Simon*

## **Ben Balderson**

Ben, from Toowoomba, Qld., is our most recent recipient of a scholarship. Thanks to all the help from Vern Gilbert getting him on board.

Ben flew off to Ohio on 1<sup>st</sup> October, where following induction he followed Simon's footsteps down south to Georgia where he is working at Davis Love's Sea Island course. Big first up task was preparing for the McGladrey Classic two weeks after he arrived.

Ben is still sorting himself out so I have included an e-mail from Mike O'Keeffe;

*Alan,*

*I hope your keeping well. We had a fantastic finish to the McGladrey Classic down on Sea Island over the weekend. Tommy Gainey came from seven shots back to beat out Jim Furyk and Davis Love, just missing out on shooting 59 to win with a score of 60 on Sunday.*

*I had eight of my interns down there helping out to prepare for the tourney, all week. It was a great show of force from Ohio State clear down in Georgia. The boys got to work one – on – one with the PGA tour agronomist checking greens and making sure proper moisture and stimp reading were done.*

*I'm done now with tournaments and am heading to Europe recruiting and onto Dubai for the fall series. Ben really enjoyed the fact that all the boys came in to help from courses as far away as Naples Florida, and the boys were a diverse group from South Africa, Cyprus, Scotland, Australia, and England. A great networking chance for all.*

*Hope your well, I'm really pleased with my game, finally got down to an 80 at the end of the season. Now my game is going to go to hell in the off season what with travelling and such.*

*Thanks for supporting Ben to come up here, on The John Hood Memorial Scholarship. Every member of the Australian Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians would be pleased and jealous of the opportunity that Ben is getting. I know he appreciates the support and he will continue to be a great ambassador for all of you.*

*Regards,*

**Michael O'Keeffe, Program Manager**