

Dream to Reality

WRITTEN AND COMPILED

BY

ETHEL GEE

FORWARD

This book is dedicated to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the McLeod Country Golf Club.

Its purpose is to record for all time the dedication of the first committees, and the wonderful club spirit they inspired, which prompted so many people to give so generously of their time and labour.

Although many names are mentioned in relating specific incidents, it would be impossible in a book of this size to name everyone who helped.

No records were kept of working bees, and I am sure there are many more stories which faulty memories have failed to recall.

It is my sincere hope that nobody will feel that their contribution has been overlooked.

Ethel Gee

MISS GERTRUDE McLEOD

Miss Gertrude McLeod was the first Patron of the McLeod Country Gold Club.

She was delighted to have her name associated with the only women's Golf Club in Australia.

Miss McLeod was President of the Queensland ladies Gold Union for 30 years, President of the Australian Golf Union for 2 years, and Vice-President of the ladies Gold Union in England.

Although she was not an outstanding golfer herself, her handicap did not go below 16, she never stopped working for the cause of women's golf, and was responsible for bringing many famous women golfers to Queensland.

She was also an active charity worker in the two world wars, and received the highest award from the Australian Red Cross, Hon. Life Membership in 1962

There were times when they had to withstand considerable pressure from the Fellow members who were eager to work on improving the course, but as most of these projects required money, they had to wait until it was available after more pressing items had been attended to.

The Fellow members committee have always cooperated with the Members committee, and each year there are joint meeting when problems are discussed and solutions usually found. In passing, one must congratulate Tony Rudder, who was appointed Fellow members secretary in 1969, and is still serving in that capacity.

The Members committee have never been content just to hold meetings, and pay the bills, they have always kept hand on the reins, and you will always find at least one of them on duty in the clubhouse on playing days.

Serving on the committee of McLeod has always involved a lot of hard work, but I am sure that everyone who has served, no matter for how short a period, will agree that it is very rewarding when you look back and see what has been accomplished.

The degree of dedication and single mindedness of purpose displayed by the first committee elected in 1968, has set a fine example for others to follow in the years to come.

It is 15 years since a group of business girls met for a pre Xmas drink in the Red Lounge of the Grand Central Hotel, and resolved to make every effort to establish a Women's Golf Club. Their dream has indeed become a reality.

Ethel Gee
October 1980..

She even brought a motor cycle, just to be used on course, so that she could quickly reach the ground staff wherever they were working. However after a few spills, the motor cycle was used mainly by the groundstaff.

These were difficult years for a Greens Director, money was in short supply and ground staff had to be kept to a minimum, but our course steadily improved under Kathleen's direction until 1979 when she handed over to Claire Taylor.

At this time we were concentrating on improving the course, and one of the first things Claire instigated was an Arbor Day, which was included in the clubs calendar for 1980 and marked in the Fixture Book. Members were asked to donate trees or give donations to buy trees, and Arbor Day on 31st August was a great success.

Preparations had been going on for several weeks. Fellow member Peter Bird had arranged for us to have the use of a Back hoe for one month, and 500 holes were dug in readiness for the planting. Perhaps 500 trees sounds very ambitious, but most of the planting were to mark the fairway boundaries on the back nine holes. Also, now that building blocks are for sale around the perimeter of the course, a screen of trees marking our boundaries is very desirable.

It is some time we have seen such a large working bee busy on the course, but about 20 people toiled all day to plant 300 trees. Most of these were donated and others were bought with \$200 which had been collected.

The important thing after the planting, was to keep the trees watered during this very dry Winter period. Not many of them could be reached with our watering system, so a group of members who live near the course, undertook to water the trees. They divided into five groups and each looked after one fairway, and thanks to their devotion the trees are making good progress.

It is reminiscent of the early days when committee members each adopted a green to look after. It is nice to see that the same club spirit prevails today.

In the last couple of years we have been able to invest in some very modern mowing equipment, and our biggest purchase this year was a hydraulic gang mower, which cost \$11,500. This machine can reach into the small indentations of the fairways, and we should no longer have those annoying holes where the grass is not cut, and into which balls like to disappear.

In 1981 we intend to concentrate on upgrading the course and placing of Bunkers in strategic positions will be one of the first steps to undertaken.

During the year officials of the Standard Scratch Subcommittee of the Q.L.G.U were visiting the club, along with some of the States leading women golfers.

As they had just played the course, our Greens director had a discussion with them about the placing of bunkers and ways and means of tightening up the nine holes.

The suggestions they made were very helpful and Claire bore them in mind when she had discussions with our Professional, Robert Taylor, and greens keeper George Riib, to produce the final plan of where the bunkers were to be placed.

Also in the programme for 1981, is the construction of the practice fairway, something we have sadly lacked until this time.

A tee will be constructed adjacent to the pump shed, and the fairways will be to the right of the dam, up to the area below and to the left of the 9th Green.

When all this work has been completed, we will be looking at ways and means of extending the course to make it a Championship course for men as well as women.

The keynote to success of McLeod has been good management. The committee have always had their priorities right, never attempting too much at any one time.

MISS HILDA REID

Hilda Reid is one of the two people who must be regarded as the founders of the McLeod Country Gold Club. Her business ability and single-mindedness of purpose contributed largely to the success of the venture.

At the time the club was formed, Hilda was private secretary to the Chairman of the Southern Electric Authority of Queensland.

She was the only woman to be appointed to an executive position in the Electricity industry in Australia.

Hilda was President of the S.E.A.Q. Speakers Club, and in 1974 won Warana Public Speaking Contest, which was quite an achievement in an area mainly dominated by men.

Hilda is now enjoying her retirement after a long and distinguished career in which she served continuously for the 30 years as private secretary to 4 chief executives of South East Queensland Major power Authority.

In 1977 when the Electricity industry reorganised, Hilda became Chief Administration Officer with the Generating Board.

She still maintains a vital interest in the McLeod Country Gold Club, which she worked so hard to establish.

At the end of 1978, ill health compelled President Margery Rudder to retire after serving only two years of her term, and in recognition of her dedication to the club, she was made an Hon. Life Member. It was a great loss to the club when she passed away on 16th June 1979. Marge was elected Captain at the inaugural meeting and served on the committee right to the end.

She spent a lot of time at the club, and together with Ursula Koroloff, worked very hard to create the gardens at the entrance to the clubhouse. On most playing days you would find them both working in the garden in preference to playing golf, and their handiwork provided a very nice setting for the club entrance.

In December 1978, Mrs Rae Livingston was elected the fifth President of McLeod. Rae joined the planning committee as secretary in 1966, and except for a short break due to ill health, has served in the capacity up until this time, so we knew the club was in good hands for the next three years.

Also at this time, Mrs Irene Coombes took over as treasurer. As a business girl Irene had felt she could not devote the time to serving on the committee, but for several years she organised a very active Social committee. When she retired we welcomed her offer to look after our finances.

In 1979 we were very proud of our Weekend Pennant team for winning the Pennant for McLeod, quite an achievement for such a young club.

The weekend Pennant Competition had been resumed in 1974 after a lapse of almost ten years.

At the Annual General meeting 1979, Margaret Walker, another long serving member retired from the committee. Margaret was a very active member of the first Social committee, and joined the Management committee in 1970.

Like Margaret, I also left the Social Committee to join the management committee in 1970, and we both found it rather sad to leave the Social committee, for in spite of all the hard work, we had a lot of fun planning the various events, and our meetings held in Gwen Johnson's flat were really enjoyable social occasions.

In April 1980 there was another splendid production of the 'Minstrel Show'. This time a stage was hired, the tables were moved to the back of the clubhouse, and chairs hired to seat over 300 people. Fellow members arranged professional lighting, and the Whannell family were in charge of the music and sound equipment.

Once again the show was produced by Dolour Arthur and Stella Hanley, and the gay costumes were made by Ivy Wallace.

The show ran for two nights to packed houses, and after expenses made a profit of over \$1300. In addition we had almost record bar trading for two nights.

Throughout 1980 our course has been kept in immaculate condition, and the ground staff has been increased to four, including Head Greenkeeper George Riib, who had just been elected President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association for another year.

As we are the only club with women Greens Director, she has always been the 'odd man out' so to speak at Association meetings, but she has never failed to attend any meetings, lecturers or field days where she could add to her knowledge.

When family commitments compelled our first Greens Director, Lyn Thiele, to retire, this job was taken

MISS KATHLEEN ATHERTON

B.A.M.A. (qual)

At the time the McLeod Country Golf Club was formed Kathleen Atherton was Senior Mistress at The Gap High School.

Kathleen served in the W.A.A.A.F during the war, first as a Cypher Officer and later as a Meteorological Officer.

She still maintains an active interest in the Ex. W.A.A.A.F Association.

Kathleen must also be regarded as a founder of the McLeod Country Golf Club. She joined the Planning committee in 1967 and after the clubs inauguration, became the first President.

For several years she was Greens Director, an area in which she was particularly interested.

Kathleen has served continuously on the Committee and now that she is retired she spends a lot of time at the club, of which she is still a very vital part.

Perhaps her greatest attribute was her dogged determination to overcome all obstacles and although she and Hilda operated in widely different spheres in the business world, they had a common goal— to establish a Women's Golf Club, and to this end they were dedicated.

Undaunted, Dolour and Stella pursued their idea, and after three months of planning and rehearsals, produced an excellent show. It was so good that they were invited to give a performance at other clubs, but they declined. They did however, give a repeat performance to a very appreciative audience at the nearby Sinnamon Retirement Village.

The show contributed over \$700 to club funds, and both Dolour and Stella hoped that another show could be put on in the future. They felt that with a stage, more chairs in the clubhouse, and two performances, they would be able to make over \$1000, which would be more rewarding for the months of work spent in preparation.

As we celebrated our Tenth Birthday, we looked back with pride on a decade of achievement. Not even in their wildest dreams did anyone imagine so much would be accomplished in such a short span of time. We have a fine course, 5721 metres long, Par 74 for members, 71 for Fellow members, and it is kept in splendid conditions by the groundstaff under head Greenkeeper George Riib.

McLeod is a long and challenging course, not an easy one for women. The result of this is that our Members always do well in competitions played on other courses. Hardly a year has gone by, when we have not had a major Q.L.G.U. Trophy on display in the clubhouse, and the 'C' Grade Pennant team were the winners in their Grade in 1975 and 1977.

We are very indebted to Hooker Centenary for the assistance they have given during the development of the club. An extract from a company report re: 'The McLeod Country Golf Club' reads as follows:

'Due to the skilled performance of the Ladies Committee and the enhancement which their development works assuredly had, particularly on the immediate surrounding area, Hooker Centenary has without obligation carried out restoration works within the course area proper at its own expense and as a goodwill gesture. The approximate cost of these works is \$11,380'

In addition to the dam mentioned previously, for water storage, these works included dry flow pipes across fairways from Westlake Drive \$3430, filling gullies adjacent to Westlake Drive \$950, spreading topsoil on the course \$3100 and several smaller jobs.

In addition various parcels of land have been added to the surrounds of the course for the benefit of the club, on a no cost basis. These add up to over 3 Acres.

In the original transfer, the company reserved the right to cross the course with sewer and water mains as necessary, and they have always endeavored to do this work at times of least inconvenience to the club.

All these facts should be borne in mind when we are inclined to complain when these very necessary works interfere with our game temporarily.

Words cannot express the debt of gratitude this club owes to Mr.W.V. (Peter) Lightfoot, the general Manager of Centenary Estates, which is now Hooker Centenary.

From his first meeting with Hilda and Kathleen in 1966, he has always had our interests at heart. He eased the way around many obstacles in the early years, and even in the naming of Gertrude McLeod Crescent, when the City Council disapproved, considering the name too long, he went to see them and persuaded them to change their mind.

In appreciation of all he had done for the club he was made an Hon. Life Fellow member in 1974 and wears his badge very proudly. Peter is now enjoying his retirement but still maintains his very keen interest in the club.

When the day came, they made a colourful sight in their Highland dress, and the Red lion of Scotland flew proudly from the flagstaff alongside the McLeod flag. Recordings of rousing Scottish tunes were played throughout the day, and posters and other reminders of Scotland decorated the walls to give the right atmosphere. They had acquired a supply of samples of whisky, and intended that every player should receive one, however by the time the field came in, the stock was sadly depleted, and our genial hosts had an extra sparkle in their eye.... After all it is their national beverage.

The number of trophies arrayed on the table was incredible, and you did not have to be a good player to win one. The Scotsmen's did the presentation in great style, and every lady who received a trophy had to pass down the line and give them all a kiss. As a finishing touch to a great day, they entertained us in the evening singing Scottish ballads.

It was such an enjoyable night, that it is now an annual event, and the number of Scotsmen's taking part has almost doubled. The committee have a holiday on this day now, for the Scotsmen's take over completely, taking fees, seeing off the field, marking the cards and putting up the scores.

Each year we now have 'The Haggis' piped in, in traditional style, and everyone is invited to taste this delicacy about which there has always been an air of mystery. The evening entertainment has got bigger and better, with the Piper and highland dancers and there is no doubt that Scotsmen's Day is the most popular event of the year, and the time sheet for the competition is filled almost as soon as it is put up.

In 1978, the Social committee, at one of its meetings, were trying to think up some new ideas for entertainment, and a chance remark by Stella Hanley that she had most of the songs featured by the 'Black and White minstrels', prompted Dolour Arthur to suggest they put on a Minstrel Show.

It was thought that this was a bit ambitious, for although we had some very talented members in the club, some committee members doubted if we had enough to provide an evening entertainment, for which people would be expected to pay admission.

The idea of a Women's Golf Club had long been the dream of every business woman who could play golf at the weekend. The post war years saw a tremendous upsurge of interest in golf, and club membership swelled to the extent that in general, the men did not want women on the fairways at the weekend. It was a bitter blow when Women's Weekend Pennants had to be canceled because not enough courses were available.

As early as 1963, Kathleen Atherton stood up at Q.L.G.U. meeting and asked why a Women's Golf Club could not be created, but in general opinion was that a gold club for women only would not be a viable proposition. That of course was not what Kathleen had in mind, but a mixed club controlled by women, so that they could be sure of having a fair share of the course. It did however remain a topic for discussion whenever business girls met, and when a group of them from Ashgrove and Keperra gold clubs met in the Red Lounge of the Grand Central Hotel for a pre-Xmas drink in 1965, inevitably the subject of a women's gold club came up. They decided then to do something positive about it, and Hilda Reid and Kathleen Atherton then offered to look around for any suitable land. They looked at the land in Salisbury, which is now a big industrial estate, but realised they would never be able to raise the money required. They went further afield to Samford, hoping to find a cheap parcel of land, but the price was \$1,000 per acre.

The break they had been hoping for came in November 1966 when Hilda and Kathleen were sitting in what had been the Associates annexe at the Ashgrove Golf Club. At this time, Associates were not allowed in the clubhouse on Saturday, and this small room, which could be entered from the verandah and had a service hatch to the bar, had for many years been regarded as the Associates room. Here they could get a drink, and several older Associates came out regularly for a game of cards. Imagine their dismay when a billiard table was installed in the room and was in constant use by the members. Hilda and Kathleen were complaining bitterly about this treatment of Associates and wishing they could make progress with their idea of a gold club for women, when Jim Newborough, a former President of Ashgrove, told them that Centenary Estates were offering a parcel of land for development of a golf course.

Hilda promptly phoned the company, to make an appointment to see the General Manager, and she and Kathleen went along to meet Mr. W.V. Lightfoot for the first time. He explained that under an agreement with the Brisbane City Council, an area of land, approximately 125 acres, had been set aside for the development of an 18 hole golf course. It was freehold and available at no cost to any group who would undertake to develop a golf course within three years, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the Company. Mr Lightfoot introduced them to Mr. Bruce MacKensy who drove them out to see the land. It is impossible today to imagine the journey they had as they bumped along through the virgin bushland on the old Mt Ommoney Road which connected Jindalee to Loffs Road, then along Loffs Road to the furthest extent of the property, belong what is now the twelfth tee. Then drove across to the tower where the old farmhouse had stood, and as they looked around this undulating farmland, they could visualize their dream coming true. There would be very little clearing to be done apart from pulling down the fences, but they realised they would need the advice of experts to decide if it was really suitable for a golf course.

They returned to the office for a further talk with Mr. Lightfoot, who told them that the company had written to every Metropolitan Gold Club, offering them the land, but only two clubs, Brisbane and Oxley had shown interest, and after inspecting the land, did not proceed further. The president of the Queensland Golf Union, Mr. G.H. Mocatta, accompanied by Mr. Norman Von Nida had inspected the site and thought it was very suitable for a gold course, but possibly found it too isolated for their plans, for they did not pursue the idea. Mr. Lightfoot listened attentively as Hilda explained their proposal for a Women's Golf Club, and if he was shocked by this revolutionary idea, he did not show it. He must have been impressed by their business-like approach for he gave them every encouragement, suggesting they call a meeting to ascertain how much support they could muster, and so give him more detailed proposition to present to his board of directors.

A public meeting was arranged and widely advertised, to be held at the Ashgrove Gold Club on January 16th and in the mean time expert advice was sought on the suitability of the land for a gold course. Profes-

The first Art show was held in the old clubhouse on 4th June 1971. One of our fellow members, David Fowler, was a very well known water colour artist and teacher. It was his suggestion that we hold an art show, displaying some of his paintings and those of his very talented pupils, which would include many scenes around McLeod.

Sadly, just two weeks before the Show, David suffered a heart attack while playing on the course, and although he appeared to recover, he had another attack later that night which proved fatal. He was only 46 years of age. Mrs Fowler insisted that the Exhibition still be held. As she felt this would have been David's wish.

We arranged a wine and Cheese Evening for the opening night, and invited the Hon. John Herbert MLA minister for transport and industry, to perform the opening ceremony. The exhibition was so well attended that the club house was literally overflowing and the opening ceremony had to be performed in the Breezeway.

This highly successful evening could only be regarded as a tribute to a very talented artist.

In 1976, Kathleen organised the first Art Show in the new clubhouse, and with the help of three very well known artists, Myrna Pringle, Billie Skinner, and Denise Green, she spent weeks preparing for it. With so much space available it was a very ambitious show, displaying a variety of art forms. The response from the exhibitors was so great, that the exhibitors overflowed into the Members lounge. We invited Dame Annabelle Rankin, who had just completed a term as high Commissioner for New Zealand, to open the show, and we were delighted when she accepted, for she had not had the opportunity to visit the club since the opening in 1969.

The Show was to be open for the whole weekend, and a Wine and Cheese party arranged for the opening night was very well attended. After the opening ceremony leading artists showed their skills at painting in oils with brush or palette knife, and there were demonstrations of Cooper Enameling.

During the following two days there was a steady stream of visitors to the Show, and sales were very good. Two oil paintings were donated by Billie Skinner and Myrna Pringle, and raffle tickets for these were sold throughout the weekend, with the draw taking place on Sunday evening.

The Art Show was a great financial success, showing a profit of \$1400, which was very good, considering the amount of equipment which had to be hired. Since then the Art Show has been held every year on the first weekend in June and has become quite a well known event. Kathleen still does all the organising with whatever help she can muster. She spends weeks sending out entry forms, and contacting people who might be interested. She feels well rewarded as the profits increase each year, making a valuable contribution to the clubs prosperity.

It is not surprising that we have a number of Scotsmen in the club, and like Scotsmen everywhere they tend to be clannish. No matter where they sit when they come in from golf, sooner or later they will all gravitate to one spot.

For several years, Duncan Russell-Hall had given a Scotsman's Trophy on a designated day, for a mixed event, it was usually a bottle of whisky and a Plaid travelling rug.

When the building of the new clubhouse was started, Duncan got together with John Livingston to discuss the idea of having a Scotsmen's day, a mixed club event, with all Scotsmen contributing to provide all the trophies. They put their ideas to the committee for approval, which was readily given, and the first Scotsmen's Day, in the new format was arranged for Saturday 13th September 1975.

They were only a small group that first year, Duncan, John, David McCulloch, Bill Wallace and Jim Hindle, and every week they contributed to a fund, so that on the day, they would be able to buy lots of good trophies.

The centre is available only to the children of the club members, and the charges which have varied over the years, have always been very reasonable, but have never covered the cost of the baby sitters. Therefore the child minding committee work very hard arranging fund-raising functions, the biggest of which is the Melbourne Cup party.

Although there was a large, fenced, open play area, there were times when the weather was too bad for the children to play outside, and on these occasions the centre became overcrowded. As a result of this, numbers had to be limited, and for a short time there was a waiting list of new members wanting to avail themselves of these facilities. However when the new clubhouse was built, the center was able to expand by taking over the area previously occupied by the Pro-shop.

As the area around us had been developed, and many young families have moved in, we have the happy situation where Mum's can play golf on Wednesday, dads can play on Saturdays, and they can both play on Sunday, so there is no excuse for any one to complain about being a 'golf widow'.

With the building programme completed, membership increased steadily, and our financial position became quite stable. The committee now concentrated their efforts on improving the course, and the introduction of fairway watering discussed at great length.

When the sewerage plant at Loffs Road was completed, the waste was piped across the course to empty in Mt Ommaney Creek, and hooker Centenary constructed at their own expense, a dam for water storage for irrigation. The cost of this work was \$3200 and has been of great benefit to the club.

The sewerage plant was originally planned to be situated at the mouth of Mt Ommaney creek at Westlake, but Peter Lightfoot was instrumental in having the company re-locate it to the present site in Loffs Road. This removed it from a very valuable residential area, but peter also had to mind the tremendous benefit to the gold club of a virtually unlimited water supply for irrigation.

There are many people who are appalled at the idea of using this effluent for watering, and they predict dire consequences. It must be realised that the water from a modern treatment plants has very few impurities, also the Health Department and the irrigation and Water Supply Commission, carry out many stringent tests before permission is given to use the water. There is of course the occasional breakdown when things may be unpleasant for a day, but this soon clears, and the overall benefit oh having this water supply was enormous.

We are fortunate to have as a fellow member, Marshall Cooper, who, in his position with S.E.A.Q. was concerned with the supply of irrigation machinery. His expert advice was very valuable, and he spent a lot of time explaining to the committee the merits and costs of various systems. On his recommendation we installed the system now operating, and the work was completed in 1977.

We have automatic pop-up sprinklers on the greens and the fairways are watered by two Southern Cross irrigators. These are larger than those normally used on a golf course, and are capable of dispersing the equivalent 3/4 of rain. The system has proved satisfactory in every way, and the improvement to the course is truly amazing.

We applied for and were granted a Government subsidy for this work, and we were lucky to do so, as around this time the Government discontinued allocating funds for this kind of work.

It is a great credit to the management of the club, that we were able to meet the cost of this installation without resorting to further loans.

Although the club was now firmly established, and membership fees had been increased over the years, bringing them in line with other Metropolitan clubs, it was still necessary to supplement our income with extra fund raising.

One of the most profitable events held in recent years had been the Art show organised by kathleen Atherton, which has become an annual event.

sionals Errol Hartvigsen, of Ashgrove, Paul King of Wynnum, and Charlie Earp of R.Q., inspected the site, and in their opinion there was no better land suitable for a gold course anywhere in Brisbane. The meeting was attended by some 60 Associates representing many Metropolitan clubs, and messages of good wishes were received from many interested people who lived too far afield to attend. A telegram was received from Mt Isa from Rae McKenzie (now Mrs John Livington) offering to be their first Hon. Secretary, as she was soon to take up residence in Brisbane. Also present were, Mr.W.V.(Peter) Lightfoot representing Centenary Estates, Mr. Errol Hartvigsen, Professional of Ashgrove gold club, Mr .B.Gill, Solicitor, Mr.D.Herd, financial advisor, Mrs Nell Hatton, President of the Q.L.G.U., and Miss Gertrude McLeod.

Chairman for the evening was Mrs Grace (Jeff) Connors, a past President of Ashgrove Associates, well known for her work with the Red Cross and the C.W.A. Hilda Reid addressed the meeting, telling of their investigation of the land at Jindalee, and their plans to establish a Women's Golf Club. Errol Hartvigsen gave a detailed report endorsing the suitability of the land for a golf course, and Mr. Lightfoot explained how the land became available, and pointed out the conditions on which had to be met.

The discussion which followed was a very lively one, with opinions divided on the proposition. Many felt that a golf club for women was not practical, and that after the initial outlay, would not attract enough members for continuing maintenance. Kathleen Atherton pointed out that although the club would be administered by women, it would be open to men, but the opinion was expressed that men would not want to belong to a club as Associates. There was a strong feeling that the only feasible way of starting the project, was on a 50/50 basis, with men and women having equal rights. Hilda quickly pointed out that the situation could arise when there would be more men than women members, who could vote to alter the constitution and the club would revert to the men. Looking back over the years, this was indeed a very prophetic statement. Hilda outlined her ideas for financing the project, proposing to contract the Associates of every gold club in Queensland, seeking their support, Debentures could be issued, and Life memberships sold.

A motion was put and carried, that an organisation committee be formed to pursue the idea of the first Women's Golf Club in Australia. The elected committee comprised Hilda Reid, Convenor: Kathleen Atherton, Gwen Osterlund, Marge Irvine, Muriel Pottage, and Pat Herd. Mr D Herd and Mr B Gill offered their help as advisors and Mr Gill, through his firm, Kinsey, Bennett and Gill, became the clubs legal advisor throughout the early years, when his assistance was invaluable.

In the following months, Hilda and Kathleen established their leadership and emerged as the true founders of McLeod, with their dogged determination to overcome every obstacle. Perhaps the hardest thing they had to contend with was the derision on many sides. Opinions were expressed, and not very quietly, that the scheme would never get off the ground, and if it did, it would eventually fail, and the men would take over. Undaunted, and with the aid of their very enthusiastic committee, they continued to work towards their goal.

A letter was sent to the Associates of all Queensland golf clubs, a total of 134 in all, setting out the aims of the new club, its advantages of foundation membership in this unique club. They were asked if they would give some support, through membership, or by taking out Debentures, or by a fund-raising effort. Replies were received from many clubs and were most encouraging, with promises of donations and Memberships.

On behalf of the organising committee, Hilda wrote a very important letter to the Premier, Mr. Frank Nicklin, outlining their plans, pointing out that this was a 'First' for Australia, and an undoubted asset if the Government would consider ways and means of giving assistance. Mr Nicklin replied, commending the ladies on their initiative and assuring them of his warm personal support. He asked them to send details of the particular fields in which government help could be utilized if provided, and he would arrange for it to be given full and careful consideration.

The rapport establishment by this correspondence proved invaluable, and Mr.Nicklin used his influence

to help the organisers in various ways, and eventually it was through him that a loan was negotiated with the S.G.I.O., but that was many months ahead.

In February 1967 a formal application was made to Centenary Estates requesting that the board give favorable consideration to making the land at Jindalee available for the formation of a Women's Golf Club. The Board of Directors were not in favor of making the land available for a Women's Golf Club, and were disturbed at the amount of publicity which followed the Public Meeting at Ashgrove, which stated that a Women's Golf Club would be established on the land at Jindalee. The Board deferred a decision until their next meeting, and asked to be supplied with more details.

This was a very anxious time for the organising committee, as all their plans depended on getting a favorable reply from the Board. At the next Board meeting Peter Lightfoot was able to convince his directors that it would eventually prove to be to the Company's advantage to have this unique club established on their land. The Board indicated they were willing to negotiate the terms of an option, provided that the word 'Women' was not used in the title of the club, and that it be run as a family club. The committee then went to work on all the details which would be required before an option could be taken up.

It was originally intended that the club be known as The Mt. Ommaney Women's Golf Club, but as this was not acceptable to Centenary Estates, a new name had to be thought about.

Miss Gertrude McLeod was approached with the request that her name be used for the new club. She was delighted, for from the beginning she had to be given her whole hearted support to the project. She had spent a lifetime working for the cause of women's golf in Queensland, having for 30 years been President of the Q.L.G.U, seeing it grow from a very small body, to one of over 100 affiliated clubs. She also served a term as President of the A.L.G.U, and was Vice-President of the English Ladies Golf Union. It was then proposed that the First Women's Golf Club in Australia be named The McLeod Country Golf Club, as a tribute to Queensland "First lady of Golf".

It was also proposed that men joining the club would be known as Fellow Members, a much more acceptable title than Associates. A table of fees was worked out, to form a basis of estimated income. Briefly these were: Nomination \$10.00; Annual subscriptions: Members \$30.00; Fellow-members \$25.00; Life Membership \$500.00; and there would be other categories such as Country, Five-day, and Social.

It was intended to develop 9 holes initially, with a small clubhouse which could be extended at a later date. In this way the club could soon be in operation and producing revenue. A budget was prepared showing anticipated income and estimated expenditure, and all this information was presented to Centenary Estates with an application for a six month option on the land. This was granted in July 1967 and would expire 31st 1968.

By this time, Mrs Rae McKenzie had joined the committee and taken over the duties of Hon. Secretary. Also this time, Miss Patricia McCullough (now Mrs Ron Miscamble), an accountant, joined the committee, and it was Patricia who worked out the detailed budget showing the club to be a viable proposition and a safe loan risk, which was the deciding factor in obtaining loan from the S.G.I.O. The next step was to assess the amount of capital required for the first stage of the development before any approach could be made for finance. A friend from Ashgrove Golf Club, Architect Mr. Colin Trapp, produced a preliminary sketch and estimated cost of the club house, and Mr. T.A.Kelly, General Manager of the Queensland Brewery, gave an estimate for setting up the bar.

Kathleen had a meeting with Mr. Jim McGinn, Head Greenkeeper of Ashgrove Golf Club, who was also secretary of the Greenkeeper Association, to discuss the cost of laying greens and tees, of maintenance

However all this was not accomplished without problems, mainly financial. Hilda Reid had a very clear idea of how to convert the kitchen etc. into Members toilet facilities, and she and Claire Taylor had many discussions with Col. Trapp before final plans were approved, and the cost estimated. It was realised that after finishing the new clubhouse, the club's financial position would not allow the work to proceed for some time, and the Members were content to wait. As time went by, increasing pressure was brought to bear by the Fellow members, who thought the old clubhouse should be used as a games room. They pointed out that Billiard tables would bring in much needed revenue for an area not being used.

The committee felt that once Billiard tables were installed, it would cause a lot of controversy to have them removed when they had the finance to proceed with version of the Members room would have to be financed by donations, and a special fund would be opened for this purpose. Hilda Reid took charge of this fund, and an appeal went out to every Member for a donation. The response was very good, and a very substantial donation was made by Fay Naylor and Elwyn Holohan, who spent most of the golfing season away from the club, looking after their business, The Opal Cave at Coober Pedy. They also donated several pieces of valuable Opal jewellery for money, and two of the most successful of these were an Opal party held by Hilda, and a Barbecue at the home of Frank and Betty Cresswell.

Working bees were organised to wash and paint the walls and ceilings of the clubroom, and as money became available carpet was laid, and curtains hung. The framework for a vanity fixture to act as a room divider, was constructed by Fellow member Frank Brown and the girls papered and tiled this to make the attractive fixture we have today.

The work on the showers and toilets took much longer to complete, as much of the labour was donated, and had to be fitted in with other jobs. We are very indebted to Fellow members Ken Hanley, John Sayer, John Haywood and Tom Wolzak, who saved us hundreds of dollars in this area.

Members did all the painting and papering, and spent seemingly endless hours on working bees, until the room was completed. Our beautiful Members room will always remain a tribute to everyone who helped in any way.

A contributing factor to success of McLeod has undoubtedly been the children's play area. The idea for this was first put forward by Pat Herd at that first meeting held to discuss the formation of the club, back in 1967. As Centenary Estates had indicated they wanted the new club to be a family club, the child-care area was included in our planning from the beginning, and is situated in the block which contained the Pro-shop and the caretakers flat.

The centre has always been self supporting, with its own sub committee convened by a member of the management committee, and was equipped and furnished entirely by donations. Miss McLeod and her sister Mrs Stitt were very interested in this area, and their many generous donations paid for the most of the early furnishings. An appeal for cots, bedding, toys and books; met with a good response, and as time went by, if some piece of equipment was needed, be it a refrigerator or a TV set, an appeal in the Newsletter was all that was required for that need to be met.

In the early days the centre was open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Mothers were rostered to look after the children on Wednesdays, and a baby sitter was engaged at the weekend. Inevitably problems arose, mostly when parents had not collected their children when it was time for the baby sitter to leave, or when children were collected early and allowed to run wild around the clubhouse.

Complaints came from members about the number of children in the clubhouse and the management committee had several open meetings with parents to discuss these problems. Eventually the format which we have today emerged, and baby sitters are employed on Wednesdays and Sundays, and no children are allowed in the clubhouse on Saturdays, except on special days when child minding is provided.

The clubhouse was officially opened by our Patron, Lady Hannah, wife of the governor of Queensland, and the many speakers included Mr. Peter Lightfoot and a very proud Hilda Reid. The compere for the opening ceremony was Gary Ord of the A.B.C. who was so well known throughout Australia for his radio programme "the hospital half Hour".

It was a lucky co-incidence that the Australian Women's Championships were being played at Indooroopilly at that time, which meant that several members of the A.L.G.U. Council were able to attend. It was so nice to be able to entertain them and show them around this club, about which they had heard so much. From its inception they had given their whole-hearted support, and their encouragement was really appreciated by the organising committee in those early days.

with

The old clubhouse has been converted into a delightfully spacious Members lounge, and the area which was the kitchen and Fellow members facilities, has been remodeled into a roomy changing room, showers and toilets. We are justifiably proud of our members room, for we feel it must rate among the best in Queensland or even Australia, which is benefiting the First Women's Golf Club. It most certainly is the only one where the ladies have their own private bar, although this is only a façade. The bar was so well constructed, it was found impractical to move it, also it is quite attractive and gives character to the room. Above the bar is our first Honour Board, which is a memorial to the late May Freemantle, a very dedicated member of the first committee, and we felt it would be nice to leave this intact. A small refrigerator behind the bar is kept stocked with cans, so that thirsty members can have a drink in comfort.

the fertilizers and fungicides etc. the cost of hiring machinery, and the minimum equipment required in the initial stages. Rae accompanied Jim, and Jack Surman, Head Greenkeeper of Indooroopilly G.C to look over the land, and although there was no course design at this time, they were able to give a rough estimate of the cost of laying nine greens and tees. Jim assured the committee, that when construction started, his association would be available with any help and information required.

Jim McGinn has maintained a great interest in the club throughout the years, and his help and advice, especially in the planning stages, was of tremendous value to the club.

With all these estimates in hand, it appeared that the initial outlay would be about \$50,000.

Dr Clive Boyce O.B.E of Gailes Golf Club, an amateur golf course architect of some renown, having designed courses both in Australia and overseas, was approached with regard to designing the course both in Australia and overseas, was approached with regard to designing the course for the new club. He was very interested, and visited the site with Kathleen, taking measurements and looking for very obscure boundary markers. This was easy enough in the area for the first nine holes, but the rest of the land was very overgrown, with grass five feet high in some places, and it did not make the task any easier when Dr.Boyce reminded Kathleen of the danger of snakes. One would have to see the numerous sketches of layouts he produced, to realize how much was involved before the course we have today was decided upon. Dr.Boyce gave freely on his time and expertise, at no cost to the club, and the upon. Dr.Boyce gave freely of his time and expertise, at no cost to the club, and the fine course we have today will always remain a tribute to him.

In appreciation he was made the first Hon. Life Fellow-member of McLeod.

Dr.Boyce suggested the committee get expert advice on the best way to utilize the creeks on the property, and the best position to build a dam. As Mr.Nicklin had intimated in earlier correspondence that he be informed of any way the Government might provide assistance, the organising committee felt that this was an area where a Government could help. As Hilda had initiated the correspondence with the Premier, she approached him once more, giving a full report of all they had done to date, and requesting advice about irrigation, at the same time pointing out, that as the club had not yet been formed, they had no funds.

Mr.Nicklin referred the matter to the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, and officers came to inspect the site, later submitting plans for the dam and the diversion channel to feed it, assuring the committee they would, in normal conditions have an ample water supply for their needs.

In her letter, Hilda also asked Mr.Nicklin if he would arrange for them to have an interview with the Investment Manager of the S.G.I.O to discuss a loan. This request was referred to the treasurer, who arranged for the organizers to meet Mr.Parker of the S.G.I.O.

At this first meeting they did not meet with any success. The land was regarded as insufficient collateral, as a large portion of it was deemed to be below flood level, and this was proved correct in the flood of 1974. It was made clear that it was considered that the new club had very little chance of succeeding, and a loan could not be considered at this stage.

During the following weeks, Rae McKenzie and Margery Rudder approached almost every bank and financial house in Brisbane, but always got the same reaction, the land was not acceptable as collateral. The City Council would have considered financing the project, but only if the course was made a public one.

By this time, the proposition of a Women's Golf Club had received tremendous publicity throughout Australia, and the committee were very gratified to receive many inquires about country Membership.

We have never been known to miss an opportunity to make money, so it was no surprise when President Claire Taylor had the bright idea of running a raffle for the privilege of turning the first sod for the new building. We all entered into the spirit of the idea, and the lucky winners were, Pat Heenan and Barry Johnson. Claire produced two garden spades tied with pink and blue ribbon respectively and the clubhouse emptied to watch this historic deed performed.

The clubhouse was to be storied thus allowing for vastly improved facilities larger Pro-shop, a workshop, and a spacious buggy room.

The very large area upstairs allowed room for a dining area, and a really roomy bar which included a 'half way house' service, where players could get a drink without having to remove their spikes.

Although obtaining finance had been comparatively easy, we never lost sight of the fact that it all had to be paid back with interest, and our spending in every other area was kept to a minimum. The Social committee kept up their strenuous efforts and arranged many functions.

In addition many private functions were held, one of which was a progressive dinner. The number was limited to 60, as the travelling was done by bus, which left the Gee's place at Indooroopilly, bound for the home of Les and Sheila Doyle at Chapel Hill, where there were drinks and savories. They then proceeded to the home of Brian and Jan Hallam at Kenmore for the main course, then the bus brought a very merry band of revellers back to Indooroopilly for sweets, cheese etc. and coffee. Here also most enjoyable night, and very rewarding financially. Many people who missed out on this one due to the restricted numbers insisted we hold another one the following year, which we did with equal success. The only difference being the venue for the main course, which was at the home of Jeff and Raylene Johnson.

Another memorable private function was the Barbeque held at the home of Rex and Jenny potter. Rex was the master of the Barbecue, and I can see him now, dashing beer over those steaks with wild abandon, but when they were done, those steaks were really something. Maybe Rex missed his vocation. This function also raised a considerable amount of money, and was repeated at a later date by popular demand.

Our financial position was helped at this time, when several Members and Fellow members bought Life Membership. When the club was formed, paying out 500 for Life membership was a very definite risk, but Hilda Reid, Kathleen Atherton, Grace Connors, and Rae McKenzie bought Life membership immediately, and this select band was joined two years later by Margery Rudder.

The number of life members remained at five until January 1974, when the first Fellow-member to take out Life membership were Derek Gee and Anthony Rudder, and later that year four Members names were added to the list, Gail Austen, Ethel gee, Betty Russell-Hall and Gene Mogg.

However when the new clubhouse was started, quite a few Members and Fellow members decided to take out Life memberships, and by the end of 1975 the numbers had grown to 32 Life Members and 14 Life Fellow members.

At the A.G.M. following the opening of the new clubhouse, the fee for Life memberships was increased to \$1,000, which considering the inflation which had occurred between 1968 and 1975, was quite reasonable for such a progressive club.

The work on the new building progressed well, closely supervised by Claire Taylor and Hilda Reid in liaison with Architect Col. Trapp. The builders completed their contract on time, and we were able to open our new 200,000 clubhouse on Saturday 26 July 1975.

The night before the opening we held a Gala Dinner Dance and their families. It was a full house and this first function in our spacious new clubhouse was indeed 'A night to remember'

Committee members, assisted by some very willing volunteers, spent several weekends delivering a circular to the residents of Jindalee, Kenmore, and adjacent suburbs. These circulars giving details of the proposed club, while not asking for any commitment, requested interested people to sign the form on the reverse side, to give the committee some idea of the extent of local interest. There was a very good response, with many indicating their readiness to join, and giving the names of friends who could also be interested. The response to their efforts overall, indicated that about 200 playing members and some 50 Social members were ready to enroll, and four Life-memberships had been promised.

By October it was possible to compile a comprehensive report to present to Mr. Nicklin in the hope that he could use his influence to help the club obtain fiancé. This report included a survey of the land, the completed design of the course, plans for the clubhouse, and the estimated capital expenditure involved in the first stage of the development. Patricia McCullough drafted a financial statement for one year, showing anticipated income from Fees, Debentures, Bar trade and social functions, also the estimated expenditure for that period.

This report was so well prepared and presented, it really impressed Mr. Nicklin who wrote to the committee congratulating them on their thoroughness. He passed the report to the treasurer with his approval, and through him to the investment manager of the S.G.I.O

Finally after many meeting and much correspondence, a loan was approved on 23rd January 1968, just one week before the option on the land was due to expire. The preceding weeks has been particularly harrowing, as Centenary Estates had indicated that another group was ready to proceed with development if McLeod failed to take up their option.

The loan was for \$40,000 and the club was required to raise and spend \$8,000 from its own funds before drawing the loan. Also Life Assurance policies, totaling the amount of the loan, were to be taken out on five committee members. The committee were confident they could meet these requirements, and with this final obstacle overcome, were able to conclude an agreement with Centenary Estates to take possession of the land.

It should be recorded that the club raised and spent \$16,000 from its own funds before drawing on the loan.

There were many legal details to be studied, and a constitution had to be drafted. The committee looked at the constitution of the Sunningdale ladies Gold Club in England, which is not to be confused with the nearby championships course of the same name. It was vital that the constitution of McLeod be so worded, that the controlling interest of the Members was protected for all time. This was done in Articles 3 and 4a which read:

Article 3.	At no time shall the number of Fellow members in any category exceed 45% of the total
Article 4a.	Life members, Hon. Life members, and ordinary Members shall alone be able to vote, hold office, or otherwise take part in the management of the club.

A public meeting had to be arranged to form the club, and seeking a venue for this Kathleen recalled a meeting she had with the Lady Mayoorees, Mrs Clem Jones, who had showb great interest in the club,

Influence to provide a venue in the City Hall for this most important meeting, and in reply came almost immediately advising that the Lord Mayor was pleased to offer his Reception Room, at no cost except for the attendant on duty.

The meeting was arranged for Wednesday 28th February 1968, and was widely advertised in all sections of the media. The big night arrived at last, and as one approached the entrance to the Lord Mayors Reception Room, there was an almost tangible air of excitement, as willing helpers made sure everyone signed the attendance book, and picked up a nomination form.

In her capacity of temporary Chairman, Kathleen Atherton opened the meeting by introducing Mrs Audrey O'Dwyer committee had invited to chair the meeting. For many years. Audrey O'Dwyer had been active in the field of women's sport, and was a very popular public speaker. Her husband Leo O'Dwyer, as sporting Editor of the 'Telegraph' had been responsible for much of the publicity the club had enjoyed since the beginning.

After formally opening the meeting, and to put everyone in the picture as to the amount of ground work that had been done, the Chairman read a very comprehensive report on the clubs aspirations and activities so far

It was then moved and carried unanimously, that the McLeod Country Golf Club be formed.

The Chairman then read the draft of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and it was moved and carried that these be adopted.

The election of Office bearers was the next item on the agenda, and this resulted in Kathleen Atherton becoming the first President of the McLeod Country Golf Club. Other appointments were: Senior Vice-President Mrs Grace Connors; Junior Vice-president Miss Hilda Reid; Secretary Mrs Rae McKenzie; Treasurer Miss Patricia McCullough; Captain Mrs Margery Rudder; Committee Members Mrs Muriel Lynem, Miss Margery Irvine and Mrs Waveney Kelly. This left two vacancies on the committee, but it was felt that these would easily be filled in the following weeks.

At the invitation of the Chairman, president Kathleen formally asked Miss Gertrude McLeod to be the Patron of the new club, and in doing spoke of the splendid service Miss McLeod had given to golf in Queensland, especially Women's Golf.

In her reply, Miss McLeod said that instead of the club being honored by her patronage, she felt very honorable to have the club named for her, and to be asked to become Patron. She praised the work done so far, and felt that the committee deserved all the help they could get, and she would always do everything she could to help the club in any way.

The Chairman then introduced Hilda Reid, telling the meeting of the tremendous amount of work that she in particular had done to bring the project to its then sound position.

Hilda expressed her appreciation of the support and assistance of so many people, and spoke of the many donations which had helped the planning committee to pay all their expenses to date. She omitted to mention that the committee had dipped deep into their own pockets from time to time, to bring about this very satisfactory situation. She felt that now the club was formed, the work which had been done by a small committee working as a team, would now be shared by all members of the club, and hoped the same team spirit would prevail. She pointed out that an intense fund-raising drive would be needed to bridge the gap between the loan allocation, and the actual amount of cash required. She suggested that members hold private fund-raising functions, also donations of unused furniture, furnishings and kitchen equipment, would be very welcome. Hilda also told the meeting that it was proposed to hold a general meeting in the near future, on the site at Jindalee, so that all who were interested could see the area, and perhaps put forward some ideas.

The Fellow members of the club, right from the beginning have been magnificent. There has not been anything they would not turn their hand to, and their voluntary labour has saved the club thousands of dollars. They put in long and tiring days, working to improve the course, and as most of the work could only be done at the end of the playing season, they were usually working in the heat of summer.

Cleaning up after the flood was surely their finest hour, for it must've looked a hopeless task, to remove the silt from the greens and clear the debris the water had left behind on the fairways. It was mainly due to their efforts that we held our opening day on the date planned.

Some names have been mentioned in regard to specific incidents, but it would be impossible to name all who have given so freely of their time over the years. Many are no longer members of the club, having moved away from the area, but they have left their mark.

The Fellow members have certainly proved wrong, the statement made at the first meeting: 'men would never want to belong to a club managed by women.'

The time had come for us to consider extending the clubhouse, for it had been obvious for some time, that the facilities we had provided for the Fellow members were woefully inadequate. We had never expected that so many men would be interested in becoming Fellow members of this club administered by women. Also the clubhouse was becoming so overcrowded at weekends, it was sometimes very difficult to find a seat.

Our financial position was carefully assessed, for that year we had to start paying off the principle of the loan from the S.G.I.O., having had to pay only the interest for the first five years. We now had considerable collateral, and were in a much stronger position to seek finance for any extension.

After much discussion, it was decided to build a completely new clubhouse adjoining the first one, and our Architect Mr Col Trapp drew up the plans. We were able to negotiate a bank loan without too much difficulty, although it was with some trepidation that Claire Taylor and Hilda Reid went for an interview with the General Manager of the bank, and it was only later that they had the suspicion that this was one more instance, where Peter Lightfoot had smoothed the way for them.

Tenders were called for the constructions of the clubhouse, and the contract was let to Nema Constructions, in October 1974.

As greens director she felt this would enable her to get around the course more easily, and on this day she put it to good use, checking on any hold-ups, and making sure that Marshals and Forecaddies were doing their job.

Our Captain at this time was Gaie Short, who had been an enthusiastic worker for the club from the beginning, being a member of the original Social committee. She made good use of the Electric buggy we had hired, to keep the L.P.G.A. officials informed of progress from every corner of the course.

There was some good golf played during the three days of the Tournament, and on the first day Jan Thomas went into the lead with 75, setting a record for the Par 74 course. As play ended on the second day, Marilyn Smith had a one stroke lead over Jan, and was three strokes ahead of Penny Pulz, her partner for the final round. It proved to be very exciting round, for Penny in a valiant attempt to overtake the leader, shot a brilliant 74, setting a new course record. After nine holes she had reduced Marilyn's lead to one, but dropped a shot when she three putted the 11th. An eagle on the 17th left Marilyn with a very tricky putt to sink to maintain her lead, which she did, and sank another long putt on the 18th to become the winner by two strokes. Her score for the 54 holes was 229, second was Penny Pulz 231, and Jan Thomas had 240. We had a big celebration in the club house on Sunday night when all the prizes for the whole Tournament were awarded, and the Pro-ettes promised to come back to play another Tournament at McLeod.

There being no town water in the area, the club had to rely on three large rain water tanks, and with many prolonged dry spells, and ever increasing membership, these were proving very inadequate, so it was often necessary to buy water. The City Council had informed us that a water connection would be possible in the immediate future, and when we did get it, the entry would be adjacent to the 12th tee. When the sewerage treatment plant at the corner of Loffs Road was completed in 1973, Fellow member Derek Gee suggested that the committee ask the City Council water line under Loffs Road, and along the boundary of the 9th fairway, to the clubhouse. The Council agreed and in January 1974, a group of Fellow members undertook to lay this pipeline, under the guidance of Derek and a friend of his, a registered plumber, whom he had persuaded to spend his weekend supervising the work, and making the final connections. They hired a trench digger, and by Sunday night the job was almost complete, but they were short one fitting to complete the connection to the clubhouse.

Unluckily, the following day the rain started which heralded the flood on 1974, and before they could complete the work, the whole area was inundated. Had the pipe been connected and full of water, it probably would have stayed buried. It was therefore an astonishing sight, on visiting club after the water had receded, to find this long black polythene pipe, draped along the fence, almost it was hung out to dry. However when everything had settled down again, the pipe was laid once more and connected to the clubhouse, and is still in service today.

The flood of 1974 is now history, and although we suffered some loss, there were many clubs so much worse off, that by comparison we were lucky. The clubhouse and the machinery she remained high and dry, but only four greens were above water. The rest of the clubhouse was a huge lake, and it was distressing to see larrikins in a speed boat, shooting at the water fowl which abound in the area.

When the water receded, it left a deposit of silt which must have benefited the fairways in the long run, but made it very heavy going for quite some time. It took a lot of work by the groundstaff, assisted by Fellow-members, to coax the greens back to their former immaculate condition. We are fortunate, in that our course is very well drained, and we were able to open our golf season on schedule.

We extended an invitation to the members of our neighbors Jindalee Club, which had been completely inundated, to play as honorary members of McLeod, until their course was playable again.

McLeod Country Golf Club was established, it would go on from success to success. She concluded the meeting with these words: 'it is up to us, and the majority of us are women, although I know that the men are interested too, if only to get us off their courses. The McLeod Country Golf Club is now launched and is 'Outward Bound'.

The publicity given to the inaugural meeting proved of great value to the club and aroused interest throughout Australia, having been reported in the press of the southern capitals.

The committee wasted no time in organising a Picnic Day to be held on the site of the golf course, on Saturday 6th April 1968. It was very well attended, and Beach umbrellas, garden chairs and tables helped to create a gay scene. President Kathleen welcomed everyone, saying how pleased she was that so many had taken the opportunity to come and see the site. The position of the clubhouse, and the layout of the first nine holes was pointed out, and it made everyone realize how much work lay ahead. Kathleen said she hoped she would be able to count on their support when working bees were organised. Miss Gwen Johnson, who had been asked to convene a social committee, addressed the meeting and asked anyone interested in serving on that committee to contact her. From this meeting a very enthusiastic Social committee was formed, and in the first twelve months they easily surpassed the target of \$3,000 set for the them by the treasurer.

A very entertaining interlude was provided by three special visitors, Joan Fletcher, Roberta Simpson, and Netta McCullough, who had been invited to come and give a demonstration to christen the course – so to speak, Joan and Roberta were well known to everyone present, but Netta McCullough was introduced as a newcomer to Queensland, and had the reputation of hitting a very long ball. It was not very easy on the rough and rocky terrain several spots, but Netta became convulsed with laughter when, after the build-up she had received about her exceptionally long drives, her first two balls traveled no more than a few yards. However she did finally find a good spot and hit a really long ball. I am sure that everyone present thought it was a wonderful display of good sportsmanship that she did not become embarrassed and lose her cool.

It was a very happy day, and I think everyone went away feeling that they really belonged to this embryo club, and had resolved to help in any way they could.

In the following months, members and friends lost no time in organising fundraising functions. These entailed a lot of hard work, transporting tables, chairs, glasses, drinks, etc. and preparing food. The girls were never lacking in male support on these occasions, especially from a very energetic group from Ashgrove Golf Club helping out their friends. They would cook at Barbecues, man the bars, and were always on hand the next morning for the cleaning up operation. Many of them became Fellow members of the club.

In the early days the club had great support from the Associates of Keperra Golf Club, and Mrs Nell Harvey, a former President, teamed up with Mrs Vi. Purnell to organise a pool party at Mrs Purnell's home. It was a really enjoyable and profitable night, for they were able to present the club with a cheque for \$415. Mrs Harvey later held a luncheon which made \$85, and June Ambrose held a Beer and Sausage party at her home which raised over \$100. These were just a few of the private functions held in those first months, and many others were held throughout the year. Redcliffe Golf Club also helped by holding an Open day to benefit McLeod which resulted in a donation of \$50.

The Social committee held their first function, a 'Wine and Cheese' evening in the Holy Trinity Church hall, at Woolloongabba. It was an assured success due to the generosity of so many people. The hall was made available free of charge, the wine was donated, through the influence of Grace Harding whose brother arranged for a gift of 40 lbs of Cheerios, and the cheese was also donated. The hall was packed and everyone enjoyed the entertainment provided by Nola Pye, a very talented performer and one of our

It was a wonderful night, and made \$500, which the Social committee felt was very rewarding for all their hard work.

At this time Walk-a-Thons were very popular, and one was organized by the Social committee, to walk from Arnotts Biscuit factory on North Quay, to the club grounds at Jindalee, a distance of 11 miles. There were check points along the way, where some of the not so energetic helpers made sure there was no cheating. It was rather a hot day, but we had a great turnout, and one of the most enthusiastic walkers was Audrey O'Dwyer, with a large 'L' on her back, as used by learner drivers in those days. A good pace was set by the younger group, led by Tony Rudder and sister Jean and a lot of people were looking very wilted towards the end. I know that I was pleased when a car came along with a spare pair of shoes, and I could have a retread for the last two miles. Needless to say we all enjoyed our picnic lunch, and were delighted to learn later, that our efforts had raised \$500.

A Ranch night and Barbecue was held at the home of Mr & Mrs Matthews at Boondal, who were not members, but were friends of Judy Anderson. It was another resounding success, even though it was a bitterly cold night. Early in the evening, Grace Harding and Gwen Johnson had occasion to go to the local hotel, and while they were there took tickets in the 'Chooks' raffle. Imagine their delight when they won, and arrived triumphantly back to the Barbecue with their spoils, which were promptly raffled again. The result of this happy evening was \$150 to add to the club funds, and everyone enjoyed themselves so much, that another night was organised at a later date.

The 'Happy Wanderers' concert party offered their services, and a concert held in the R.S.L. hall at Kedron made \$62, Gwen Johnston held a dinner party at her home which made \$68, and friends of Gwen, Mr & Mrs Barry Freeborn made their home available for a 'German Beer Garden' function which made a profit of \$300. Two very successful parties were held at the home of Mr. Ray and the late Mrs Hazel Teske at Cooparoo, and they were able to make a very considerable donation to the club.

The foregoing will give some idea of the intensity of the fund-raising drive that first year, and the determination to bridge the gap between the loan and the amount required for the first stage of the development. There was one other occasion which benefited the club, which must be told. At this time, Channel 9 ran a programme called 'Play your Hunch', and the station contacted the club to see if they would like to send a team to compete. The idea was that the team supplied a story about one of them, which had to be true, and that team members had to tell the truth in answer to questions from the panel, while the other two could lie their heads off.

The three intrepid members of the team were Hilda Reid, Rae McKenzie, and Stella McMinn, and the story related to Rae, who among other things had been crocodile shooting in the Northern Territory. They were all extremely nervous, but managed to answer all the questions without giving much away, with their result that the panel failed to guess correctly, and the team won \$40 and were each presented with a fine china tea set. These tea sets have been used on many special occasions, but sadly over the years have become rather depleted.

The management committee was very well organised, and held weekly meetings so the decisions could be made with a minimum of delay. They had permission from Centenary Estates to work on the land while the draft agreement was going through legal channels. The course design was finalized, and the position of the greens and tees pegged. Most of the committee were business girls, and hardly a week-end went by without them having to meet someone on the site to discuss problems, and when the appointment occurred during the week, Margery Rudder was the one who was always available.

The first major work undertaken was the construction of the dam and water channels. The plans and specifications for this were completed by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, tenders were called, and the

The worst of these was the dump, which was in what is now a nicely grassed hollow on the 15th fairway. The dump was created by the farmers who had previously owned the property, and I am afraid we added to it when we were clearing the land. In time it became very overgrown with weeds, and if your ball landed anywhere near it, it would roll in and in most cases disappear for ever.

The next problem was the cattle dip, also a relic of the farm, which was situated behind the fence at the rear of the 16th green. This was quite deep and full of poisonous liquid, and if you were unlucky enough to overshoot the green, that would be the last you saw of your ball. We asked the Primary Industries Dept. for advice on how to treat the water to render it harmless, and we followed their instructions carefully. They tested it for us at a later date and advertised that it would be safe to drain the water away. The tank was then covered with concrete slabs and turfed over, and today nobody would know it was there. The other hazard was perhaps only a nuisance to beginners. It was a large concrete water tank, below and to the left on the 17th tee, and if your drive was low and veered just a little, it would hit the concrete and ricochet in any direction. The Fellow-members made a short work with some explosives, and the hardest part of the job was clearing away the rubble.

In June 1973 we staged our most ambitious event to date. A Pro-Am-Associate tournament. This was the first time Associates had been invited to play in a tournament of this kind, so it was appropriate that it should take place at McLeod.

Many of Brisbane's top women golfers took part, including Joan Fletcher, Joan Irving, Gail Corrie and Ann Alletson, and low handicap Members and Fellow members of McLeod were invited to make up the field of 165.

For the Professionals this was the first leg of the P.G.A. Sunshine Circuit, and they were playing for a purse of \$2,000. This principle sponsor was Hooker Centenary and there is no doubt that Peter Lightfoot was instrumental in bringing this about. Austral Motors gave \$75 for nearest the pin, which was won by Professional Peter Barry of Ashgrove. The other trophies were donated by various business houses. The winning Professional was Graham Kelly of Victoria with a four under the card 69, and the leading amateurs were Joe Tryhorn (McLeod) 68 nett, and Mrs Jan Holmes (McLeod) 69 nett.

The response for helpers for this day was overwhelming, and they were on the job from early morning, acting right through the day as Marshals and Forecaddies. They did everything they could to make our visitors feel welcome, and ensuring that this would be an outstanding event.

The experience gained on this day was invaluable when, in September we staged an even bigger event. The final four days of the Inaugural Austral-Chrysler Professional Ladies Open Tournament Circuit were to be played at McLeod. The total prize money for the whole tournament, to be played over ten courses, was \$18,000, and for the 54 holes played at McLeod was \$5,500. In addition a Chrysler Valiant car could be won for a 'Hole in One!'

The Ladies P.G.A. had not been established for very long, but 14 Pro-ettes competed including Marilyn Smith from New Zealand. And Vivian Saunders from Great Britain. A Pro-am event on the first day gave the girls a feel of the course, and they played 18 holes on each of the other days.

They found the first nine holes very tight, and the fairways were rougher than those of other courses they had played, but the greens were perfect and some very good scores were returned.

In those early years, no matter what we undertook, we felt we had to prove ourselves, so many were ready to point a finger if we slipped up in any way. So, this Tournament was conducted with an almost military precision and was successful in every way, due to good planning, a hardworking committee, and the enthusiastic support of Members and Fellow members.

A colourful figure was Kathleen Atherton, complete with crash helmet, on the motor cycle she had recently purchased.

The bottle drive continued for several years, and Bill and Keith breathed a sigh of relief when it was taken over by the juniors to make money for their club.

A very successful Xmas Fair was held in December 1971, members having been pressured for months beforehand to make things for sale. This first Fair made \$200 although it was only organised on a small scale, and it was decided to make the Xmas Fair an annual event. It became much bigger, and continued for several years making an average profit of about \$500 each year.

The Social committee were busy arranging many enjoyable functions, mostly in the clubhouse, but occasionally we needed a larger venue.

A big Fashion Parade was held at the Crest Hotel, and the compere for the evening was Blaire Edmonds, the well known A.B.C commentator.

This was the first occasion when the Fellow members joined the Members as models, and they did a fine job. They were a bit shy and diffident at first but soon got into the swing of things, and they must have enjoyed themselves, for they were easily persuaded to take part in subsequent parades.

With all this activity, the clubs financial positions gradually stabilized, and we were able to repay the personal loans which had so generously been made available.

This might be a good place to pay tribute to Treasurer Patricia McCullough, who handled our finances so well through the difficult early years. She kept a very tight rein on our spending, and when anything was required, she insisted we make an endeavour to get it donated, or bought at cost. We were very sorry to lose her services in June 1971, when she married Fellow member Ron Miscamble, and they left Brisbane to make their home in Sydney. Miss Eileen Reaney took over as Treasurer, and continued in the same shrewd way, watching our spending very carefully.

The thing that impressed most people on their first visit to McLeod, was the friendly atmosphere. It was almost a tangible thing that could be felt as soon as one entered the clubhouse. Perhaps it was because the clubhouse was so small, nobody could feel isolated for long, but it was also due to the good public relations we practiced. The publicity the new club had attracted resulted in many visitors dropping in to look around. Committee members made a point of greeting these people and showing them around. The story of McLeod always made interesting conversation and many of these visitors went away with a nomination form in their hands.

We were not content just to have people join the club, we kept in touch with them and tried to make them feel they were belonged. This we did by means of a newsletter, which from February 1971 was issued monthly, giving details of coming events, commenting on past events, and relating interesting incidents. It was also a useful means of acknowledging donations, Trophy donors, and welcoming new members. We had it registered as a periodical to qualify for cheap postage, and were able to make sure every member received a copy.

From December 1970. This had become my responsibility, having taken over the handling of publicity from Mrs Stella McMinn, who had done a great job of covering the first three years of the clubs development. Stella was making a slow recovery from a very bad car crash, and had reluctantly resigned from the committee. The Scrapbook of News-clippings which has been kept from the start, shows clearly how hard she worked. We were delighted when, in the Australian Day Honors in 1976, she was awarded an M.O.A for her outstanding service to women's sport.

When the 1973 season opened, the course was showing great improvement, and the greens were almost perfect, also by this time, three of the hazards we had to contend with, had been removed.

Contract awarded to Wolff Bros. Of Ipswich, at a cost of \$4,000. It was completed in September 1968.

September will always be an important date in the McLeod's calendar, for it was on 20th September 1968 that the signed agreement between Canterary Estates and The McLeod Country Golf Club, was handed to President Kathleen Atherton by Mr.Peter Lightfoot, at a very impressive ceremony under the trees, to the right of what is now the ninth green.

Centenary Estates had very generously leased 450 acres of their land to the Boy Scouts Association of Australia to hold their Eighth Australian Jamboree. This had taken place to previous December, and the Chief Commissioner for Scouting in Queensland, Mr.N.G.Coar, returned the cancelled lease to Sir Arthur Fadden, Chair man of the board of directors of Centenary Estates. Following this, Peter Lightfoot handed to President Kathleen, a signs agreement giving 125 acres of land to the McLeod Country Golf Club. At the signing of this agreement, a one dollar bill changed hands to make the transaction legal. This was returned to us as a memento, has been framed and hangs proudly on the wall in the clubhouse.

Kathleen acceptance speech was a gem, and is worth repeating here in full:

' It is a great honour to be here today, and on behalf of the committee and members of the McLeod Country Golf Club, to accept this deed.

To you it is perhaps only a piece of paper, but to us it is much more than that. It is this whole piece of lovely land that stretches out before us. Look towards the slopes of Mt Ommaney. What do you see? You see first a dam, admittedly not much water in it yet; A diversion channel with scarcely any grass on it; Greens and Tees in embryo stage. But we see a vision, a dream about to be realised, and it is a truly wonderful feeling, and we owe all this to the generosity of Centenary Estates, and especially to its General Manager Mr Lightfoot. So to you Mr. Lightfoot who has eased us over so many different problems, and always been so cooperative, and to you Sir Arthur, the company's erstwhile Chairman, we give our heartfelt thanks.

It is our fitting that a young and progressive club as ours is, and we trust always will be, should be located near the young and progressive suburb of Jindalee, and near another, soon to be developed by your company, Jamboree Heights. We are confident that this alliance, this young and progressive association, will prove to be happy and lasting one.

Now I would like to stress that although this club is to be administered by women, it is not solely for their use. It is a club for all, in fact a family club. Today on this very spot, history is being made – a history began with the establishment of the first farm, a history enhanced by that wonderful event, The Eighth Australian Jamboree, held for the first time in Queensland on this site – a history that is being added to by our club, the first golf club in Australia to be administered by women.

We hope that it will not be very long before we see you all here again, either enjoying the facilities of the clubhouse, or playing along the fairways of the McLeod Country Golf Club.'

From the first meeting in 1967, the proposed club had tremendous publicity, for the value of this was not lost on the organiser, and Hilda kept the media informed of their every move. Although some of the earlier reporting had a 'tongue in cheek' flavor, it gradually changed to respect when they realised – it was actually going to happen – Australia was about to get its first women's golf club.

A lasting tribute to a very enterprising lady.

Jim Mogg, husband of Gene, joined the club in 1970, and proved from the outset to be one of our most dedicated Fellow-members. He would travel from their home at Morningside whenever there was work to be done, and if there was a tree to be felled he would turn up with his power saw, and always with a smile. As head of his own Engineering firm, the skills and facilities he had available were used to save the club a lot of expense repairs to machinery.

His most generous gesture came, when late in 1971, the ancient tractor we had struggled with from the beginning finally gave up. Our resources were strained at the time, and Jim offered the club a substantial loan to enable a much better machine to be purchased that would have been possible without his help. It is gestures like this much that must never be forgotten.

When the tractor had been acquired, we organized a big Open Day to raise money towards the cost, and the tractor was proudly displayed near the clubhouse to inspire everyone to dig deep into their pockets to support the raffles and other fund-raising gimmicks in operation.

Yvonne Wilson and Bunny Radburn, two hardworking members of the original Social committee, were in charge of the raffle, and nobody got past them without buying tickets.

The most popular attraction was the putting competition run by Rae Livingston. A strip of carpet was laid on the Patio, and bank notes of various denominations were fastened on to it at intervals, the object being to get the ball to rest on the note, which then became the prize. A series of bumps were arranged under the carpet to steer the balls away from the notes, but of course some people were lucky. However, Rae was a very shrewd operator, and when the payout became too frequent she arranged more bumps under the carpet.

The committee never relaxed their fundraising efforts and letters seeking support had been sent to the Associates of every golf club in N.S.W, and at a later date, to the clubs in Victoria. This resulted in quite a few donations and we also acquired some country Members.

The committee were also rostered to serve behind the bar at weekends and on Wednesdays, and they became expert bar-maids. It was hard work on these very long days, for with only eleven committee members it meant being on duty every second week, sometimes more often. There were many offers of help, but a very strict and wise rule had been established, that only committee members were allowed behind the bar. The work was not confined to just serving the customers, we all had to learn how to change a keg, and each week the pipes had to be cleaned and all the glasses thoroughly washed. Hilda became, taking over the cleaning of the pipes, coming out in the evening after work to do this job, and she showed us all the procedure for changing a keg.

This went on for several years, until the club was really on its feet, and the money saved must have run into many thousands of dollars.

The Fellow members organised a Bottle Drive, with \$1,000 as their target and members supported this enthusiastically, prevailing upon their neighbour's to let them have their empties. It was arranged that the bottles be left beside Bill Wallace's driveway, a few yards up from the club. Bill had built his house in peaceful bush land long before the golf club had developed across the road, and he became one of our earliest Fellow members. It was perhaps a dubious advantage living so near, because he was so available, for her certainly spent more time with the work parties than he did playing golf. Bill and Keith Wilson took on the job of crating the bottles and stacking them for the dealer, but the bottle drive up with their cars loaded with bottles, to be met with some good natured, if ribald remarks about the amount of liquor consumed at their place that week.

One of the vacancies on the committee was filled by Mrs Stella McMinn, who had been associated with the Queensland Amateur Athletic Association for 40 years, having served as president for eight years. During that time she had built up a good liason with the media, so she was an ideal person to take over responsibility for publicity. One of her first proposals was to issue a newsletter from time to time, to keep everyone informed about what was happening, and so retain their interest. It was also a good way to advertise the functions organised by the Social committee, and to get volunteers for proposed working bees.

Some of the fairways had been mown, and people started to go out to hit a few balls to get some practice. The committee thought it was time they looked around for a Professional, who might be interested in coming out to give lessons. Mr. Frank Scobie, a member of the P.G.A. arranged a clinic one Sunday afternoon, which was quite well attended, and as a result of this several lessons were booked by new players wanting to get their game established for the time when the club opened.

The first nine greens and tees had been prepared under the watchful eyes of Jim McGinn and Jack Surman, who gave freely of their time at week-ends to supervise this important work.

Dr. Boyce had indicated that he was unable to supervise the actual laying of the greens, and this was undertaken by Fellow member Joe Thiele, whose wife Lyn, had joined the committee, and became our first Greens director. Joe drew up the plans and specifications for the greens in collaboration with Jim McGinn, making Pleistocene models showing every detail. The successful tender for laying the greens and tees came from Acacia Landscapes, and they arranged to do the work during the Xmas school vacation, so that Joe and Lyn could supervise, and this is how they spent the entire vacation.

Not enough can be said in praise of these two very dedicated members, for the work they did at this time, when it realised that they lived at Chermside, which would be about one hour drive from the club. They were both school-teachers, and spent most week-ends and many afternoons after school, on the job.

It was unfortunate at this time that we were experiencing a drought, and although the damn had been completed for some time, it was bone dry, and after the turf was laid on the greens, it cost hundreds of dollars to have water carried to the site, to keep the grass alive. Every committee member adopted a green to care for, to weed and mow, until such time as it was practical to employ a groundsman.

In March 1969, Norman Thomas was employed as full time groundsman, and he was able to devote his time to nurturing the newly laid greens, so affording the committee members some relief– at least in that direction.

A tractor and slasher had been purchased, and at week-ends, Fellow members, led by Dmitri Koroloff and Ron Shepherd, would man this to help keep the fairways mown, and Keith Wilson was always on hand when there was a job to be done. Although the tractor and slasher were very old and worn, they were very precious to us, and we were grateful when our good neighbor Bill Wallace, suggested we keep them in his shed for safety. Every weekend there would be some Members and Fellow members working, some with mowers tidying up, and others digging holes for trees. Many members had been nursing young trees in tins for some months, for planting along the fairway boundaries. After planting them, watering was a problem, and everyone coming out to the club, carried one or more, four gallon drums of water in the boot of their car, to water the trees. Alas for all this loving care, none of them survived, for the course was overrun with hares, and they found these saplings very succulent, and chewed them off. This is the reason there is such a shortage of trees on what is now second nine holes. Now that the area is getting built up, the hares have departed and recent plantings are meeting with some success.

to the Presidents and Associate Presidents of all the Metropolitan Golf Course, and also to the Presidents of the various organising bodies.

It was a very distinguished gathering including Mrs Ann Bongers, Vice-President of the Q.L.G.U., Mr. F. Foley, President of the Australian Golf Union, who was also President of the Queensland Golf Union, Mr. A. Harbottle, President of the B.D.G.A and Mr.Peter Lightfoot.

It was really a public relations exercise, prompted by the reluctance with which the B.D.G.A. has welcomed our Fellow Members into their fold. President Hilda Reid, always an excellent public speaker, gave an outstanding speech of welcome to the visitors. It was obvious they were very impressed and realised that the management of this Women's Golf Club was in very capable hands. In his reply, Mr. Foley congratulated the club on their progress, and left no doubt, that in his opinion McLeod would really go ahead.

Prolonged heavy rain just prior to the opening of the golf season, compelled us to defer the opening of the eighteen hole course until the 25th March.

We held an Open Day, and good publicity had attracted a large field. The first four to hit off were, Hilda Reid with Dr.Boyce and Kathleen Atherton with Joe Thiele. In contrast to when we opened the first nine holes in drought conditions, the excessive rain of the past few weeks made it very heavy going on the new work and a record number of balls were lost. In fact, for a long time afterwards whenever players spoke about playing at McLeod, they would automatically be asked how many balls they had lost. Although it was rough, it did not have the hazards we had to contend with on the first nine in the beginning.

Early in the year, one of our most energetic members, Mrs Gene Mogg, a ballet instructress, offered to conduct keepfit classes in the clubhouse one evening each week. The idea was received with enthusiasm, and a very happy group took part as nimble as Gene. After the exercises, Hilda would give a talk on rules and etiquette which proved very helpful to both new and experienced players.

The classes ran for two years, and at the end, Gene found she had collected enough from the 20 cent fee we had agreed to pay, to purchase a Trophy Cabinet for the club. The Trophy Cabinet now stands in the foyer

her third world tour, visiting members of the clan. It was a very proud Gertrude McLeod who showed her around, and Dame Flora was enchanted with all she saw. She was especially impressed by the children's play area, which had been equipped with the help of so many generous donations for those of us who sat down to afternoon tea with these two great ladies, for it was to be Miss McLeod's last visit to the club. Sadly in the following weeks, her health deteriorated very rapidly, and she passed away on the 21st May 1971, aged 80 years. She had been very frail for a number of years, but for the last three years she had enjoyed a part of this brave new club which bore her name.

Work proceeded well on the new nine holes, and by September the greens and tees were completed, and the fairway had been mown so that it could be used on Anniversary Weekend. We felt that we could fairly claim to have developed the eighteen holes within the three years stipulated in the contract. It was known only to members of the committee, that we had been able to complete the work through the generosity of Hilda Reid and Kathleen Atherton, who had made a very substantial loan available to the club. Just one more instance of them demonstrating their absolute faith in this club which they had started. It was time for celebration, and we asked Mr Peter Lightfoot to join us on Saturday 18th September, 1971, but owing to previous commitments, the only time he was available was 8 o'clock in the morning. That is why we celebrated this historic occasion by drinking Champagne on the first tee so early in the morning. Hilda asked Mr.Lightfoot if he considered we had fulfilled our contract, and he replied, indeed he did, although neither he nor his board of directors had expected they would do it within the time limit, and had been quite prepared to offer an extension of the agreement. He heartily congratulated everyone concerned for what they had achieved so far.

Mr.Lightfoot said he always regarded his involvement with McLeod as 'The Tender Trap', for from that very first visit to his office by Hilda and Kathleen which seemed so long ago, his interest had been captured. He admired their tenacity and astuteness, and was sure that under their guidance, McLeod would never fail.

He related an incident that happened in the very early days, when they had asked permission to enter and work on the land before anything was signed. A local farmer kept some cattle on the property, and paid an agistment fee to Centenary Estates. The cattle were loose, and the ladies informed him they were nervous of moving amongst them, so he arranged for the cattle to be moved. Imagine his surprise when some time later, he noticed the cattle back on the property, only this time the agistment fee was being paid to McLeod, and no doubt, that was the factor that dissipated their fear of moving amongst them. It came as no surprise to him to learn that when we held that first gathering of members and friends on the site, one enterprising member sold containers of manure for 40 cents each.

Early in February 1972, a whole weekend working bee was organised to put the finishing touches to the new nine holes in readiness for the opening day of the golf season. Everyone was asked to give at least a couple of hours on either day, and come along with their mowers and gardening tools. The response was tremendous, and the course was a veritable hive of industry the whole weekend. It was well organised with Fellow members President Ron Shepherd allocating the jobs to everyone as they arrived, making sure that no manpower was wasted. Members had the lighter tasks of fixing markers and boundary pegs, and painting them the appropriate colours. The tractors were busy on the fairways, and lawn mowers moved into the inaccessible areas to tidy up.

By Sunday night, most of the work was done, and a very tired band of workers sat in the clubhouse with their drinks, contemplating their handiwork with the satisfaction of a job well done. To celebrate the opening of the eighteen hole course, a Cocktail Party was arranged, and invitations were sent to the Presidents and Associate Presidents of all the Metropolitan Golf Course, and also to the Presi-

The first Annual General Meeting of the club was held on 26th march 1969, at the Jindalee Bowls Club, and was very well attended. President Kathleen Atherton welcomed everyone and gave an account of progress to date. Treasurer Patricia McCullough presented a well balanced report, which revealed that in the first year of operation our receipts were over \$13, 000, most of which had been spent on developing the course and the purchase of necessary machinery. The Social committee report showed they had every reason to be proud of their achievement. During the year, Miss May Freemantle had joined the committee, and proved a very dedicated worker. The management committee was elected for further term, with Mrs Gweb Kinnane being elected to fill a vacancy.

The Fellow members had their formal meeting at this time, and formed a committee to arrange and control their competitions and activities. The following were elected.

President Dmitri Koroloff; Captain Joe Thiele; secretary/Treasurer Tony Rudder; and Committee members: Keith Wilson, Ron Shepherd and Alan Hungerford.

The plans for the clubhouse were completed, and the contract let to R & J Mogg of Oxley. It was a great advantage to the club that the foreman in charge of the building was one of our first Fellow members, Derek Gee.

Through the years since then, because of his intimate knowledge of the building, he has been the first to be called on when anything went wrong, and he became McLeod's number one handyman. He was, and still is, always available and happy to save the club expense whenever he can.

The dry weather for once was an advantage, and the building progressed smoothly under the supervision of Architect Col Trapp, and there were no serious delays.

At least one committee member would be out at the site every day, and it can almost be said that we watched the clubhouse grow brick by brick. When the first tiers of bricks had been laid, members would wander about trying to work out where each room was, and in common with everyone who inspected a building at this stage, they were horrified at how small everything appeared to be. Derek would show them around, explaining the plan, and on one occasion, having pointed out the Members room, one worried committee member wanted to know where the Ladies room would be, and it took some time to make her realise that they were the Members. It just took time to get used to the idea after being Associates for so long. Several years later, one of our Pennant players had an embarrassing experience when playing at another club. She dived into the Members room, to pay a hurried call, surprising a horrified cleaner, who quickly pointed out her mistake.

It was an exciting time, but also very anxious time for the committee. Having spent \$16,000 from our own funds, the time had come to draw on the loan from the S.G.I.O. to meet the building progress payments. The committee were dismayed to find that because of some legal hold-up in registering the title, it would be some time before they could draw any money.

Peter Lightfoot accompanied Hilda to an interview with Mr. Riding, the General Manager of the S.G.I.O., to explain the gravity of the situation and to ask if he could expedite matters. They found that the real reason for the loan being held up was dedicated for use as a golf course for many years, and in the event of the club failing, it could not be sub-divided for any other purpose. He was very dubious about the value of a golf club as equity to cover the loan, but Peter Lightfoot was able to convince him that in view of all the development planned for the area, a golf club would be very valuable and easily negotiable asset. The interview concluded amicably, and the loan was made available shortly afterwards.

In the

In the meantime, bills had to be paid, and this was the first of several occasions when members demonstrated their faith in the project in a practical way. Rae McKenzie and Jeff Connors, made a very considerable sum of money available to the club to tide them over this very trying time.

As a matter of interest, the land is dedicated for use as a golf course for 'Twenty-one years after the death of the last surviving child of Queen Elizabeth II'.

When the building was about half completed, we organised our first golf competition. It was to be a real fun day, for the fairways were rough, to put it mildly, and we could not use the greens, but added two strokes in lieu of putting. It was a glorious day, and a very enthusiastic crowd turned up to play the course for the first time, but it was a blow to Member's pride, when Fellow members won both trophies.

It had been decided that Wednesday would be our mid-week playing day, and quite a few members came out regularly to play a few holes. Several of them brought young children, and Marge Rudder, Ursula Koroloff and Jeff Connors would take turns baby-sitting. Those who did not play, spent their time gathering up rubbish, with some enthusiastic help from the children. Usually there was quite a pile of rubbish to be burnt, and we would toast buns at the fire for our lunch. These are very happy times to look back upon. As the clubhouse neared completion, plans were made for a grand opening on Saturday 20th September 1969. A Gala weekend was arranged starting with a Fashion Parade at Lennons Hotel on Friday night, then the Official Opening of the clubhouse and a Spring-time Fete on Saturday, and an Open Mewdley Foursomes competition arranged for Sunday.

Shortly before opening day, "Woman's Day" sent out a reporter and photographer to do a story on the new club. The clubhouse was a hive of industry that Sunday morning. The builders were still doing odd jobs about the place, so a lot of their materials had to be cleared away before we could make the clubhouse appear as though we were open for business.

The floor was well swept, and we set up card tables, covering them with gay cloths, and garden chairs were arranged around them. The shelves behind the bar were filled with a variety of empty bottles, which created the desired effect. After we had cleaned ourselves up, Rae and Marge went behind the bar to serve drinks, and others sat around the tables with cups of tea, and it made the clubhouse look quite busy. The resulting two pages of photographs in the next issue of "Woman's day" were really very colourful and showed every aspect of the club to great advantage. They certainly gave no indication of the hassle that had gone on before they could be produced.

It would have been comparatively easy had we had unlimited funds, to bring in contractors to do all the work, but since money was in short supply, we had to use as much of own labour as possible. The Fellow-members were magnificent, they manned the tractor, hauled felled trees, and cut them up to make bridges over the creeks and ditches. They were quite experienced at this, having constructed all the bridges on the first nine holes.

As the greens were laid, once more under the supervision of Joe Thiele, the men carted loads of sand and soil, and built up the surrounds. The contractor lent them his turf-cutter, which they put to good use, and laid turf around all the greens and on the tees. As most of this voluntary work could only be done at weekends, it took months, but there was never a shortage of helping hands.

Looking out over the rough terrain which was to be the next nine holes, it was impossible to visualize the layout and the committee were besieged with questions from interested members.

To satisfy this curiosity, a walk around the new nine holes was organised for one Sunday in December. Rain spoiled the day, but a good number of hardly souls braved the elements. There was a lot of water around, and crossing the creeks proved hazardous.

Lack of co-ordination between Tony Rudder and Tony Raeburn, resulted in Marge Rudder landing in the middle of a creek, instead of on the opposite bank. Apart from this mishap it was both interesting and enlightening to see the work that lay ahead in coming year.

In December 1970, the committee put their cares behind them, and digging into their own pockets, organized a Xmas Party for the children of club members, and about 30 children of all ages came along. Hilda and Kathleen were nominated to organise the games and entertainment, with Kath commenting that it was a far cry from teaching Ancient History to teenagers, to organising games for the very young, but ever young in heart, she and Hilda did a great job. The rest of the committee were kept busy keeping up the supply of food and drinks, which were obviously appreciated judging by the rapid way it all disappeared. A highlight of the day was the visit of the delightful clown, who joined in all the fun, although he was viewed with some suspicion by some of the very young guests. Underneath the greasepaint was no other than our hard-working and versatile Fellow-member Keith Wilson.

McLeod is a very unique club, so it is not surprising that we sometimes do unusual things, and a presentation which took place in February 1971 was indeed unusual. It came about in this way. We had invited Miss McLeod and Dr Boyce to attend our Annual General Meeting in December, so that they could be presented with their Hon.Life Membership badges. These are gold replicas of the monthly medal, which is a pennant in the McLeod tartan. Ill health kept Miss McLeod away, and a violent storm on the night, prevented Dr Boyce from attending.

Dr.Boyce was out at the club one day to discuss the new nine holes, and this opportunity was taken to present him with his badge. It was unfortunate that it was a very wet day, but huddled under umbrellas, on the first tee, President Hilda Reid made a nice little speech, and presented Dr Boyce with his badge, watched only by the band of workers who always seemed to be about the club, hail, rain or shine. Miss McLeod had received her badge, along with the Xmas gifts, when she was visited by Kathleen, Marge and Jeff.

Towards the end of March, we were delighted to have a visit from Dame Flora McLeod, Chieftain of the Clan McLeod. She had been persuaded by her kinsman Gertrude McLeod, to take time off from a very busy schedule, to visit the club which bore the clan name. Although Dame Flora had passed her 90th year, she was on

The great day arrived, not a very bright one unfortunately, there were black clouds around all day, but thankfully no rain. From early morning a host of workers were busy erecting tents and beach umbrellas for the various stalls. The whole area was cleaned up, and an instant garden was created along the front of the verandah. Hollow Bessar bricks were arranged in a line and filled with soil, then flowers were artistically arranged in them. The result was so realistic, that I am sure many people thought we had been very clever to get a garden growing so soon.

By lunchtime everything was in readiness, and members of the committee started to arrive, looking very different from working girls we had seen around the course in the last few months. There was an air of excitement everywhere, for this really was a great day. The only mishap occurred when the flag was being raised, and got stuck half way up the pole, refusing to go either up or down, but Fellow members came to the rescue and all was well.

Invited guests included a very proud Gertrude McLeod, accompanied by her sister Mrs Stitt, Dr. Olive Boyce, Audrey O'Dwyer, Joan Fletcher and Mr. & Mrs. Colin Trapp. We really regretted that the two people who had given the most encouragement and assistance to the organizers, were absent. Sir Francis Nicklin, now retired and living at Caloundra was unable to attend, and Mr. & Mrs. Peter Lightfoot were on holiday in New Guinea.

Senator the Rt.Hon.Dame Annabelle Rankin D.B.E., the county's only woman Federal Cabinet Minister, had graciously consented to be our guest of Honour and perform the opening ceremony. The compere for the day was David Hawkes the well known news reader from Channel 7.

The St. Andrews Pipe Band made a very colourful entrance to start the proceedings and after the opening speeches, Dame Annabelle declared the clubhouse open. The ceremony was completed with Joan Fletcher, one of the States leading golfers, going to the first tee and hitting the first ball. Later, in the clubhouse, Dame Annabelle unveiled a portrait of Gertrude McLeod which had been commissioned by the club. The artist was Gordon Hooper.

While the officials were entertained to afternoon tea, the considerable crowd converged on the various stalls, and the afternoon tea garden did a brisk trade. The bar in the clubhouse was manned by a happy group of members from Ashgrove Golf Club who as usual did a very efficient job.

It was time to seek affiliation with the Q.L.G.U. for Members, and the B.D.G.A for the Fellow-members. There was no problem regarding the Q.L.G.U., for although the council was a little diffident in the beginning about the success of the venture, they were kept fully informed of every stage of the project, and they gave it their full support, to the extent of taking out Debentures. The A.L.G.U. had also been kept in the picture, right from the first meeting, and they gave every encouragement and also took out Debentures.

Affiliation with the B.D.G.A. was a very different story. The first application made in October 1969 was refused on the grounds that the Fellow-members of McLeod were really only Associates, and the B.D.G.A. only admitted Members. The officials must have been horrified at the thought of a woman committee member wanting to attend their meetings. A lot of correspondence went back and forth during the following months, and finally the affiliation was accepted, with the committee of McLeod acceding to the condition which had been laid down. These were:

The men appoint their own delegate

The course be closed to Members for B.D.G.A. Open days.

The men to make the application for affiliation

The business was concluded in September 1970, eleven months after the first application.

As Xmas approached, the problem arose of finding temporary caretakers while Mr. & Mrs Thomas took their holidays, and many avenues were explored unsuccessfully. Finally two intrepid volunteers, Kathleen Atherton and Nessie Carnegie another foundation Member, took on the job, staying in the caretakers flat and generally looking after things for three weeks. I don't think they realised when they made their generous offer, just how much work was involved. They had to open the clubhouse, look after the bar, take care of the off bit of catering and cleaning, and also do the groundsman job of switching on the pump and placing three very heavy hoses where they would do the most good.

In those days the clubhouse was very isolated, and it was not until everyone departed at night, that they realised just how lonely it was. A local farmer, Mr.Fitzgerald, informed them that the lights they could see in the distance was the Wacol Prison Farm, from which there had been several escapes, so he had advised them to lock up securely and make sure their cars were locked at all times. It came as a shock to them when they got up at the crack of dawn on the first morning, to go and switch on the pump, to find that the front door had been unlocked all night.

Throwing coats over their pyjamas, and armed with a big stick to ward off any snakes they might encounter, they made their way over to the pump. Now most pumps are very amendable and start to touch, but not this one, it was very awkward. It almost needed a mechanical genius to coax it into action, but they mastered it, and it got easier as the days went by. Returning to the flat, they met the milkman and gave heir daily order, only to be informed that he only called twice each week. What he thought of being confronted by two 'not so young' ladies in their pyjamas in the early hours of the morning, has never been recorded.

Kath and Nessie managed to withstand the rigours of the three weeks, and it must have had its moments, for they volunteered to do the same job the following year.

Early in 1970, we invited members of the Q.L.G.U. Council to have morning tea with us, so that we could proudly show them all we had accomplished. It was a beautiful day, and outside everything looked green and lush, and they were very impressed by the improvement to the course in the six months since opening day. When they left, there was no doubt in their minds, that the First Women's Golf Club was going to be a great success.

The match committee arranged an interesting programme for the first playing season. The fields were disappointingly small, but it was perhaps understandable, as many of the experienced golfers who had joined the club, already belonged to an established club, and naturally preferred to play on these courses until McLeod was more fully developed. It must be admitted that the course at this stage was very rough, with many hazards, which meant far too many lost balls.

The result of this of course was, that although membership continued to increase, the revenue from competition fees and bar trade was much less than had been anticipated.

The Social committee were spurred to greater efforts, although they had by no means rested on their laurels after their terrific achievement in the first year, and two memorable events were held about this time. A Hawaiian River Cruise and a Car Rally.

The River Cruise saw a packed launch leave Hayles Wharf on Saturday night, to sail down to Bishop Island and back. We had to load everything we required, and Fellow-members were to fore again, transporting kegs o\

of beer etc., while the members prepared all the food for super. It was a great night, very profitable, and one we look back on nostalgically despite all the hard work it entailed.

The car rally, which was the brainchild of Gwen Kinnane, saw a stream of cars touring Inala, Oxley and Darra, one Saturday morning. There were usual check points, and about seven different articles had to be picked up in various localities. I remember one of them to be a bottle top from the shopping centre in Inala, but the one that stumped most people, was a piece of Prickly Pear. I am sure that only the organisers knew there was a large clump growing on the undeveloped land at McLeod, where the rally was to finish. Everyone brought a picnic lunch, and afterwards there were putting and chipping competitions, also races for the children. It was another profitable and very memorable day.

There was increased activity on the course as July approached, for this was when the first Championships would be played. The Members Championship was won by Judy Anderson, with Hilda Reid runner-up, and the Fellow Members Champion was Vic Tovey with Ron Findley runner-up. The Members Foursomes Champions were Hilda Reid and Rene Wright and Judy Anderson teamed with Bob Noud to win the Mixed Foursomes Championship.

During the season, Professional Alan Stanton had to leave us, and Tony Raeburn was appointed club Professional. Tony had been assistant to Mick Stafford at Brisbane G.C., and during Mick's long illness had managed the Pro-shop alone. We soon found that his reputation as a great teacher was well founded, and many of our players improved beyond measure under his tuition.

A Gala weekend was planned for the anniversary of the opening of the clubhouse and the format established then, had been the pattern of our celebration each year, and Anniversary Weekends had become one of the biggest events in our calendar. Saturday was Members Open Day, with the course closed to Fellow Members. Peter Lightfoot had arranged for Centenary Estates to provide a Trophy to be played for annually on this day, and it was decided to make this an Honour Board event. This competition is now known as The Hooker Centenary Open, and was won the first year by Pat Martin. On Sunday an Open Mixed 4BBB competition was played for trophies provided by Patricia McCullough, and this has also become an annual event, which since Patricia's marriage to Ron Miscamble, is now known at the Patricia Miscamble Open Mixed.

It was a very pleasant surprise when Mrs Connie Thomas presented us with a Birthday Cake, decorated in the club colours, with a small kilted figure holding a flagstick flying the McLeod tartan. We were delighted to have Miss McLeod with us on this happy occasion, to cut the cake. Mrs Thomas has continued to produce a cake each year, and it had gradually increased in size as membership grew, so that everyone could share it.

With the celebration over, it was time to consider development of the next nine holes. This was not going to be as easy as the first nine, as most of the land, not having been used for grazing, was very overgrown, and whereas on the first nine there was a shortage of trees, in this area we had too many. The committee spent hours armed with the plan of the course, and in consultation with Dr Boyce deciding which trees should remain. A Members working bee was arranged, and the trees which were to be felled, were marked with distinctive paint as a guide for the bulldozer operator.