

Indooroopilly Heritage

Long Pocket - the move

Indooroopilly Golf Club opened its original 18 hole golf course at St Lucia in 1926 (see *St Lucia - the beginning* section).

In 1962 the club obtained a twenty-one year lease of about 180 acres at Long Pocket. Sydney course architect, Al Howard, designed an 18 hole course and head greenkeeper, Jack Surman, directed most of the course construction. A modest clubhouse was completed and the new complex was opened by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Alderman Clem Jones, on Sunday 8 March 1964. The club and ball used by him are displayed in the present clubhouse outside the entrance to the Poinciana Bar.



Clem Jones opens the Long Pocket course in 1964.



*At the opening of the Long Pocket clubhouse in 1964
L-R: Barbara Pyle, Sylvia Jones, Alderman Clem Jones and
Club President, Jack Pyle.*

The new course allowed a considerable number of new members from the waiting list to be absorbed and comfortably handled the Council tender provision, which provided for the public to play there eight hours a week. It also allowed a Business Girls Group to obtain a block of Saturday morning tee times.



The original Long Pocket clubhouse in the late 1960s.



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The early days at Long Pocket saw a course of wide fairways with few trees and no bunkers. It was affectionately known as “The Ponderosa” after the ranch in the popular 1960s television series “Bonanza”.

In 1973 the club agreed to exchange the St Lucia course and clubhouse for 200 acres of freehold land adjoining the existing Long Pocket layout on which to build another 18 holes with a new clubhouse. At the same time the lease of the original 18 holes at Long Pocket was extended to 2058. Council agreed to fill a 700 metre long and 8 metre deep gully on the freehold land by using it as a rubbish tip over a two year period.



*Meiers Road under construction below the dam (June 1975)
looking toward the site of the new clubhouse.*



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Architect, Bob Green, from Sydney was appointed to design the new complex in 1976. This was to include changes to the existing course with four loops of 9 holes, each returning to a central clubhouse. The project was so big that retired member, Hal Whillans, was co-opted as honorary clerk of works for three years. Architect, Ross Watson was appointed to take charge of the development in 1983.



Jack Surman (head green keeper) and Bob Green (course architect) on the New Course at Long Pocket in 1976.

The architect chosen to design the new clubhouse was club member, Patrick Moroney, and construction of the building commenced in November 1984. Club President, Trevor Davies' experience in project management proved a major benefit during the building project.



1985 view of the construction.



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The building was opened on Sunday 15 December 1985 by Queensland Governor and Club Patron, Sir Walter Campbell.

The Coat-of-Arms or Armorial Ensigns of Indooroopilly Golf Club which adorns the foyer of the new Club House was designed by club member Ian Ferrier in 1969 in response to a call by the Club Committee for a suitable identity symbol for the Club.

The Blazon which describes the design in Heraldic language is as follows:

Argent on a fess vert a bar wavy azure fimbriated of the field, in Chief a Maltese Cross of the third and for a crest on a wreath of the colours a plate winged or. Surrounding the shield a wreath of laurel proper and in saltire behind the shield two banners gules doubled or on gold flagstaves. The Blazon makes use of certain terms which may be unfamiliar to the reader. The terms and their meanings are listed below:

Colours:
 Argent: White or silver
 Vert: Green
 Azure: Blue
 Or: Gold. The word 'gold' is also used.
 Gules: Red.
 Proper: In natural colours.



The term 'of the field' means in the same colour as the field of the shield which is always the first colour mentioned: in this case Argent.

The term 'of the third' means the third colour mentioned: which in this case is azure.

Other terms are used to describe the design.

- A fess is a broad white horizontal band in the middle of the shield.
- A bar is a narrow horizontal band.
- Wavy, describes the shape of the bar.
- Fimbriated means edged with a different tincture, and is used to avoid placing one colour upon another which is an Heraldic prohibition. Colours must always be separated by a metal and vice-versa.
- A Plate is a white disc or orb.

Symbolism:

The green band represents a golf course. The fimbriated wavy bar represents a river which, when superimposed upon the green band, evokes

the concept of two golf courses on the banks of the Brisbane River. Whilst the Ensigns were designed with the Indooroopilly-Long Pocket courses in mind, they are equally appropriate to the new complex of 36 holes. The Maltese Cross, being the badge of Queensland identifies the Club with this state.

The plate represents a golf ball and the wings symbolise the aspirations of golfers to make the ball soar through the air.

The laurel leaves are traditionally symbolic of athletic prowess.

The banners represent the flags on the greens. The original design incorporated crossed golf clubs under the Maltese Cross. These were dropped as they made it difficult to display the Maltese Cross properly.

Extract from the commemorative brochure for the opening of the clubhouse, explaining the origin of the club's coat-of-arms.



President Trevor Davies (left) and Sir Walter Campbell (right) at the opening of the new clubhouse.

An economic downturn and soaring interest rates created financial pressures on the club. A levy on members towards the end of 1986 caused a great deal of member unrest. The subsequent strategy to trade the club out of debt by increasing the public's usage of the East Course and attracting commercial functions not only stabilized the budget but provided finance to fund course improvements.



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In April 1989 floodwaters again inundated the course.



The photograph below shows two features no longer visible on the landscape - the starter's box and the Tennyson power station.



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Aerial view of the clubhouse early morning December 1994.

The fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II saw the club dedicate a commemorative fountain to those members and associates who had served in war. It replaced the memorial terrace beside the old St Lucia clubhouse which had been opened in 1947.

*Opening of commemorative fountain in 1996
Ladies President, Noela Gunderson and
Club President, David Crombie.*

The original courses were known as the Old Course and New Course and these were later renamed the West Course and East Course. Composite courses were then introduced and during the late nineties the different nines came to be identified by colours.

The West Course comprised the Red and Gold nines.
The East Course comprised the Green and Blue nines.
The Presidents Course comprised the Red and Blue nines.

The Captains Course comprised the Green and Gold nines.

The Long Pocket Course comprised the Red and Green nines.

The River Course comprised the Gold and Blue nines.



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First fairway of the West Course (1 Red) during the club championships in 1999.

A proposal to sell part of the club freehold for residential development in November 2004 was passed by a majority of club members, but the rezoning application was later rejected by Council.

Equal membership was introduced in 2005 and for the first time lady members were entitled to vote and the Board had female representation.

A major renovation of the Members Bar was completed in May 2006. Two hundred and eighty members enjoyed the opening of the new Poinciana Bar on a brilliant night with a full moon and spectacular fireworks.



Sunday afternoon on the Poinciana Bar terrace, May 2006.



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In accordance with the course master plan major changes to the West Course commenced in September 2006. A major benefit of this redesign was an increase from 25 megalitres to 75 megalitres in our water storage capacity.



Aerial view of 9 Gold and 9 Red in 2009

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

