



## *"The Preferred Lie!"*

The Newsletter of the North Stradbroke Island Golf Club.  
January/February, 2026



**Members and friends** of the Straddie Golf Club, welcome to the January/February edition of *The Preferred Lie*. I don't need to tell you that we're now well into a-happenin' New Year.

### *From the President's Desk*

Time marches on. Easter is just around the corner. The growing success of the Club means that we have a space and construction problem. This means that increasing demands for the use of the course and its facilities are out-stripping what we can physically provide, construct, or afford to buy. This is not necessarily a bad problem to have. Growth is accompanied by opportunity. However, as the number of tourists visiting the Island continues to increase and shows no sign of stopping, the Club's ability to respond is under pressure. I have been advocating for years for public transport to service Alfred Martin Way. The Golf Club, Brown Lake, Blue Lake, the Key Holes and the Beach are all destinations found from this road. That said, I'm not sure any of the above attractions would survive a 100% increase in numbers if that transport service were to be provided. Take care when using Alfred Martin way. We the locals, know it's a narrow two-way road without a centre line marking after Illawong Crescent. The visitors who use the road are not so enlightened. I have had many close calls around Brown Lake.

The Club's Lease application has been submitted and is being assessed by the State. When we get further information including the conditions placed on the lease, we will provide an update.

Lastly, there has been plenty of great work going on down on the greens in the last couple of weeks. The series of pictures below show the extent. Our thanks go out to Jason and Dave and to a willing group of volunteers who have helped with the hard yakka. Thanks everyone. I know that your efforts are greatly appreciated.

The following sequence of pictures shows the major stages in the renovation of all of the greens on the course. The process starts with a close cut of the surface using the greens mower, followed by two runs across the

surface with the scarifying machine. The grassy residue is picked up by ordinary mowers before the coring machine makes its pass to extract 10cm plugs. The plugs are then raked and removed from the surface ready for the sanding machine to spread the sand necessary to fill the holes and top dress the green. All this takes about 4 hours for each green with five or six people working hard.



**Jason driving the coring machine with Dave in tow**



**A lineup of plugs pulled out by the coring machine**



**Raking away the plugs before fertilizing**



**Dave using the sand spreader 'in ever decreasing circles' on No. 7**

Thanks again to everyone involved in this really important work.

That's it from me. See you about the course.

*Peter Turner*



**Jason spreading sand with Dave following up on Green No. 8**

### ***Vale Joe Lake***

Honorary Life Member - Joe Lake, 1925 - 2025.

Joe had a life-long love of golf which began when he was a caddy in the 1930s to earn pocket money after school at the local golf course near his home at Acocks Green, Birmingham, UK.

Joe served underage as a British Army infantryman in WW2 from the ages of 14 to 19, and saw action in the D Day Invasion from June 1944 in Europe to the end of the war in 1945. He was awarded the French Legion of Honour for his service in France.

He emigrated to Australia several years later and first arrived on North Stradbroke Island in 1949 where he met his wife, Bunty. Joe went on to have a career as an Engineering Surveyor and conducted the survey from the mainland to the sub-station at Blue Lake for mainland power to the Island in the early 1960s.

Joe and Bunty were members of the Oxley Golf Club throughout the 1960s, 70s and 80s before retiring to Straddie.

Joe was an avid golfer, and played regularly on the Straddie course with his brother John, his daughter, Trish and with his son John. He also did important survey work on the Golf Course and his survey drawings for expanding the course are still referenced.

"He was highly competitive at golf, and particularly competitive with his late older brother John, " his

daughter club member, Trish Lake, remembers. "So much so that when one of them got a hole in one on the 6th, back in the early 2000s, looking back, no one in the family can remember which of the brothers actually got it. I can't remember, and I was playing with them at the time! "They were very good at sledging each other but very close too".

Joe died peacefully on December 31st, 2025, at his home at Point Lookout, only a few weeks after he reached his 100th birthday. He was still playing golf regularly until his late 90s.

A memorial celebration of Joe's life will be held at the Point Lookout Bowls Club on Saturday afternoon, March 21st.



**Joe Lake on the course with his daughter Trish Lake in mid-2024**

## *From the Club Captain*

The Minjerribah Moorgumpin Elders In Council holiday golf program involved 10 aspiring young golfers on the 22nd and 23rd of January. Resident coach, Steve Boswell, on day one, gave the kids a lot of work on swing and putting, followed by a second day of games and prizes.

The kids expressed their gratitude openly with happy smiles and hearty handshakes on their departure, clearly demonstrating that the program achieved all its objectives - playing our great game in a fun oriented setting.

The holiday program followed on from Steve's earlier good work introducing golf to a group of island women, a number of whom are now regular players.



**Steve Boswell working hard with a group of newbies**

The new "20+ players competing in two divisions" for the Saturday competition is working well. The only stipulation is that both divisions must have at least six players. The Golf Australia handicap division line of 25 has proven to be a fair way of breaking the playing field into the two groups.

A good example of how well the change works was the Australia Day Nineteenth trophy day result. Over 20 players registered, hence two divisions were rewarded with winners' prizes.

Congratulations go to Peter Turner and Jason Davies who played to their handicaps, both with 36 Stableford points. They were joint winners in Division 1. Teresa Walsh was the winner in Division 2 with 46 Stableford points. They will no doubt enjoy a tasty meal generously sponsored by Joan and James.

Opening Day on February 14 gives members the first chance to qualify for the Medal of Medals final in late October. Remember you only have to qualify once to be in the final.

*Kevin Zielke*

## **Recognition for Someone Special**

The Redlands 2026 Australia Day Awards Event was held on the 21st of January. It was a gala event worthy of a major Queensland City with 170,000 residents.

Our Club Captain, Kevin Zeilke accompanied by Margaret attended the night as a nominee for the Redlands Australian of the Year Sports

Award. This Australian of the Year category seeks to honour a resident who had made an outstanding contribution to grass roots sports in the Redlands.

In the Redlands there are well over 200 sporting Clubs, many of which can boast hundreds of members some of which can put on weekend events attracting thousands of participants to the Redlands. None of these Clubs made the short list but our Kevin, representing the Straddie Golf Club, did.

Kevin was shortlisted because of his contribution to the Redlands and Stradbroke sports communities. He was selected as a finalist on the basis of his knowledge of golf and his ability to coopt other Island personalities to support community participation. There is no doubt that Kevin, ably supported by Margaret, uses his skills to obtain better outcomes which make winners of us all.



### **Captain Kev and Margaret at the Awards**

So next time you spot Kevin at the Club, please congratulate him on a job well done. He has been an outstanding leader within the Club and a well-recognised contributor to Stradbroke long before he became Club Captain in 2012.

## *From our Contractors – Joan and James Nokokau*

We have had the chance to sneak away to Nelson, NZ, for a much-needed holiday, and it was full of sunshine, action and even a little sunburn. We packed in plenty of fun with go-karting, flying fox adventures, and lots of family time. It was a perfect reset before jumping back into another busy stretch.

Back at the club, February has run really well, especially for what's usually considered a quieter month. The restaurant is continuing to pick up nicely, and it's been great to see some beautiful plates coming out of the kitchen.



### **Ariana with two 'beautiful plates' from the Nineteenth**

We also welcomed a few new members throughout February. It's great to have you on board.

Now we're gearing up for the two-ball Ambrose on the 28th, and we're very excited.

That's a wrap for February, thank you, everyone.

*Joan and James*

*From the Editor*

## **Golfing Rules Trivia**

- 1. What is the first of the three standards for player conduct listed in RULE 1.2?**
- 2. In every game of competition golf, who applies the penalty when a rule is breached? (Rule 1.3)**
- 3. There is free relief from objects or conditions which may interfere with play. Name one (Rule 2.3)**
- 4. What is your net score?**
- 5. In match play, who wins the hole? (Rule 3.2a)**
- 6. If a match is tied at the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, how is a winner determined? (Rule 3.2a)**
- 7. What happens if you inadvertently leave out the score on one hole in a round in the card submitted? (Rule 3.3)**
- 8. Can you replace a damaged ball during a competition round? (Rule 4.2)**
- 9. If you start a competition round with fewer than 14 clubs, can you add clubs during the round? (Rule 4.1b)**
- 10. In a competition round, what is the penalty for arriving at your tee time 5 minutes late but ready to play? (Rule 5.3)**

For those who haven't got a Rule Book, I'll give you all of the answers in the next issue of the 'Lie'.

That's it from me. Keep chipping away!

*Neil Dempster*