NEW GOLF CLUBHOUSE

Over 200 golf enthusiasts and well-wishers attended the official opening of the McLeod Country Golf Club's new $200,000 clubhouse on 26th July at Mt. Ommaney — a tremendous achievement for a club founded just seven years ago.

The McLeod Country Golf Club is the only golf club in the southern hemisphere managed exclusively by women, and now boasts a membership of over 700 with country members as far afield as Canberra, Melbourne and Cairns.

The new clubhouse — designed by Colin Trapp & Associates and built by Noma Constructions — was officially opened by the Club’s Patron, Lady Hannah, wife of His Excellency, the Governor of Queensland, and the proceedings comprised by A.B.C. personality, Gary Ord. Also present was Mrs. H. A. Anderson, President of the Australian Ladies Golf Union. A former President of this Union was Miss Gertrude McLeod, in whose honour the Club was named, Miss McLeod devoted a lifetime to promoting women’s golf in Queensland and interstate, and was the Queensland Ladies Golf Union President for a record thirty years; her unfailing faith inspired the founders of the Club to carry on in the face of almost overwhelming difficulties.

In 1968 the deeds of the 123 acres of land comprising the 18-hole course were handed over to the first President, Missis K. Atherton, by Mr. W. V. Lightfoot, General Manager of Hooker Centenary, for the nominal sum of one dollar; the note was returned, framed, and now hangs in the new clubhouse.

The new clubhouse is two-storied, the upper floor a huge open area including foyer, dining area, kitchen, lounge and a long bar featuring the yellow and black McLeod Tartan. Two walls are floor-to-ceiling glass with sliding doors to an open verandah which commands a superb view of the entire course.Secretary’s office lead to the lower level comprising the Pro Shop, buggy room and workshop, and toilet facilities.

A weekend of celebrations began the evening before the official opening with a Gala Dinner Dance thrice enjoyed by the 280 guests, and a Charity Day organised by the Heart Foundation.

Although McLeod is now entirely managed by women and women are the members, the club has become increasingly popular with men, who are called fellow-members, a term preferred over ‘associates’ used in golf clubs where the situation is reversed. The fellow-members have their own committee, are affiliated with B.D.G.A., and arrange their own competitions, with playing times shared equally among them.

One of the most popular features of the club is the supervised children’s play area, enabling mothers to enjoy a game of golf during the week; on Sundays both parents are able to play while the children are cared for. This has made McLeod a real family club, and the friendly atmosphere is apparent to the most casual visitor.

HOMENURSING

Centenary residents interested in nursing may wish to attend the Home Nursing Course commencing early this month at the Oxley Ambulance Depot.

The Chairman of the City Ambulance Benevolence Committee, Hon. John Herbert, M.L.A., said that the course, which would teach people how to care for or extend the existing bus routes, so that many more can be operated, will be held on the seventh week. Those who successfully complete the examination will be awarded the St. John’s Ambulance and Q.A.T.B. Certificate.

Lectures will be given by fully qualified lecturers and the all-inclusive cost of $20 covers books, bandages and registration fees. Further details can be obtained from the Oxley Ambulance Depot.

ON THE BUSES

The new ‘fast-transit’ bus-line to service run by the Centenary Bus Service which commenced on August 11th got off to a very good start in spite of some unavoidable drawbacks, the main one being lack of bus parking space at both Oxley and Darras Railway Stations due to other bus services utilizing the available space.

The Centenary bus meeting trains at Darras will stop opposite the Oxley Heights side of the line — not the Inala side as given in the timetable. At Oxley the bus meeting trains have even more difficulties, and waits at the bus stop in Station Road until the train pulls in.

Mr. Geoff Philip, Manager of Centenary Bus Service (Tel: 70-2389) is very pleased with the initial response to the new service, and would like to hear from Centenary residents should they have suggestions on improvements. At present, at least eight residents, present not within easy distance of a bus stop, can make use of this new service.

JAYCEES SURVEY

The Centenary Jaycees, headed by Community Development Chairman Mr. W. Whibley, recently conducted a survey on the Community Police Scheme at present on trial in the Centenary suburbs, the results of which were presented to the Police Minister and the Police Commissioner.

It was apparent from the survey that the majority of the people interviewed at the three Centenary shopping centres were in favour not only of the scheme, but also of it being adopted in other areas. The survey showed that 98% of the residents were aware that a Community Police Scheme was on trial in the area, 92% were in favour of the scheme, 3% being against and 5% undecided.

86% of the residents interviewed were in favour of expansion of the scheme; 67% expressed the opinion that police representation was not adequate for so large an area, preferring to see a community policeman in each of our suburbs as the present area was too large for one policeman to cover.

Residents were also asked if they would prefer police stations in place of this scheme, of which 27% were in favour, saying they would prefer a police station to attend to other police matters such as renewing licences; the 64% against were of the opinion that the personal contact of the Community Policeman, Const. Bob Campbell, was far more beneficial than an impersonal Police Public Call Box.

The results of the survey certainly indicated that a very high majority of the Centenary residents were in favour of the scheme.

The Centenary Jaycees recommended to the Minister and Police Commissioner that the scheme not only be retained but expanded in our suburbs, and that it be adopted in other areas.

The survey prompted T.V. Channel 9 to include a report on the scheme in their Close-Up programme on August 13th.

Ald. Thomson Promoted

The local Alderman for the Corinda Ward which includes the Centenary Suburbs, Ald. Gordon Thomson, has been appointed as Chairman of the Brisbane City Council's Transport and Electricity Committee.

Alderman Thomson has represented the Corinda Ward on the Council since 1961, and is expected in his new capacity to press the State Government for additional funds for the city's bus fleet in an endeavour to improve the transport system in Brisbane.

Golfers enjoying a game on the green in front of the new $200,000 clubhouse at the McLeod Country Golf Club Photograph by Greg Minns & Assoc.