

DRUMMOND GOLF CLUB INC: 1975 - 2010

Golf on the Drummond course continues today, though many changes have taken place. Extra tees put in, now making 18 tees for both the men and the women; this has added a different angle of play on each hole. The Dip paddock was incorporated into the course, with a new green constructed at No 8 hole, and a raised green at No 7 hole. Many players were pleased to see that fence at the dip paddock taken down, as out of bounds there wrecked many a good card.

More trees have been planted, with gardens around the Clubhouse and at the back of some greens. The Club house in 1992 was extended to cope with the large numbers at our tournaments and greensomes. The course continues to be a challenge to all who play it. Also provides a very pleasant entrance to the village from the south, with its park like setting.

The Club has celebrated both its 25th & 50th years' Jubilee's each with an evening banquet, golf and the planting of a tree on each occasion. At the 25th the foundation members present, were Mrs Bob Jackman and Mr Hartley Jackman and Mr Ron Hallum. At the 50th Mr & Mrs T.A. McLean our oldest members, assisted by Grant Kennedy a Junior member.

A Jug was presented in 1977 in recognition of the 25th Jubilee to be played for by Club members only in a Greensome format. It has been keenly sort after, and many memorable days enjoyed.

The Club has functioned as two separate clubs since our formation i.e.: Mens and Ladies, working well together on many projects. In 1975 a significance change took place, when two representatives of the ladies committee were allowed to attend the men's meetings.

However the greatest change took place in 2007 when following the amalgamation of the two National Body's i.e. Women's Golf N.Z. and New Zealand Golf Assn became one i.e.; The New Zealand Golf Assn, then Women Golf Southland and Southland Golf Assn did likewise, so all clubs were then encouraged to follow suit.

There have been some very good committee members both male and female in the Drummond Club who have given so freely of their time. Some have held positions for a number of years both in the administration of the committee and the grounds maintenance. The current Treasurer Mr John Lindsay has held that position for 26 years at time of writing, Mr C. R. (Ross) Mc Kenzie the current Ground Convenor has held this position for 14 years.

Interclub matches have been a part of the Clubs calendar each year, the Ladies have Green Acres CC, Riverton and Winton all keenly contested and great social occasions. The men have Winton and Riverton, and combined men and women with Bluff, Dipton and Matura.

Playing numbers have declined in recent years, but the Club is in good heart. Twilight golf has been popular. The Nine Hole Golf has been a great boost to the women as we have a strong number attending our Tuesday competitions finishing at the same time as the 18 hole players.

We have been successful in the Western District team's competitions. In the Mixed Stableford competition winning it on several occasions. The Men have had success too in the Mens Stableford winning it on several times.

In 1991 the Southland Golf Assn Handicaps Pennants were won by the Mens' team; it was P.J. Wilson, L. Dudfield, W. South, A.W. Andrews, J.R. Lindsay, C.R. McKenzie.

In the Southland Ladies Golf Association Pennants the women were 3rd in 2008 the team was B. Lindsay, F. Catto, S. Racz, B. Kincaid and Second in 2009 the team was B. Lindsay, S. Racz, B. Kincaid, F. Dudfield.

Playing for the Laing Shield Drummond have won it twice in 1995 the team was T. Cook, G. Dykes, W. Lindsay, J. Shaw, W. Jackman, C.R. Mc Kenzie and in 1999 the team was G. Catto, L. Dudfield, C. Johnstone, G. Horner, L. Boyle, N. Fraser.

Our Championships are the highlight of the years' golf, and we now play all the finals on the 1st Sunday in August each year. They are keenly contested even though the numbers qualifying have dropped in later years. Having the women joining with the men on this special day in the Club's calendar, makes a most enjoyable day, watching all the grades.

The Ladies ran very successful Christmas Foursomes which was highly sought after, when turkeys were the top prizes. In the 1970-80 we had large fields playing as our numbers were at a peak, the ladies had 87 members. Ladies on Tuesday would have 20 – 30 out most days, and the men like wise. But sadly with the change in farming practise to dairying those moving were never replaced.

Patrons of the Drummond Golf Club have been Mrs H. Jackman who was the 1st Patron of the Ladies Club in 1971, and Mr Watt Brown who was made the 1st Mens Patron in 1981. Mr Ralph Patterson followed him. They have all been worthy of this award and have given the club wonderful service. Mrs Nauva Woods is the current Ladies Patron, and Mr John Catto the current Mens' Patron.

We have always been served by good greenkeepers who have presented the course in great order for us all to enjoy playing. Many players from outside our area have passed complimentary remarks on its condition. The many volunteers who gave time and the use of their machinery have been greatly appreciated, as it is very costly to maintain a course to a high standard.

There have been representative players from the Club, Grant Catto, Tony Cook and Ben Munro were selected to play in the Southland 8 man team. Flora Catto and Linda Cook played for the Southland Women's 8 man Salisbury Cup team, as well as Southland Country Beth Lindsay and Shelley Mollison also represented this team.

For the size of the Club we have provided administrators both provincially, and nationally. Mrs Bob Jackman was a delegate to the Southland District Ladies Golf Assn for many years and became a Vice President of the Association. Stewart Mc Crostie was our delegate to Southland Golf Assn, he became the President and a selector. He was elected a Vice President of the New Zealand Golf Assn. Flora Catto a delegate to the SDLGA and became President. She became National Councillor, rising to Chairman of New Zealand Ladies Golf Union. She led the organization in the change of name to Women's Golf New Zealand.

Flora was awarded Life Membership of Women's Golf NZ. , also awarded Life Membership of Women's Golf Southland. Mrs Joy Mc Kenzie too was a delegate to Women's Golf Southland and became President and a selector, also president of the Southland Referees Assn.

There have been several people awarded Life Membership of the Club since 1974. Mr Jim McConnell 1977, Mrs G.D. (Norma) Cowan 1987. Mrs C.C. (Tennes) Mc Lean 1987, Mr G.M. (Murray) Lindsay 1983, Mr S.W. McCrostie 1987, Mr H.S. (Bert) Booth 1992, Mr J.L. Catto 1995, Mrs J.L. (Flora) Catto 1998, Mr S.M.(Stewart) Booth 2001.

Compiled/ Written by John & Flora Catto for the updating of the HISTORY OF THE DRUMMOND & GLADFIELD DISTRICTS. 2010.