

## OPENING VINCENTIA GOLF COURSE

### Mr. Warren Halloran's speech:

This golf course which is to be opened here today by our Shire President is the latest development in an estate which has a long history. A history going back to the year 1841, when a township was established in the vicinity of the mouth of the creek at the foot of the depression on which we now stand. This township progressed and flourished for about three years, during this period prominent coastal traders of the time made regular scheduled stops at Jervis Bay and tied up at the jetty which once stood at the mouth of this same creek to discharge and load goods and passengers.

In April of 1844 these regular visits appear to have abruptly ceased probably through lack of sufficient business and the township appears then to have rapidly fallen into ruin. There are very few signs now visible to tell of its existence.

The estate lay practically dormant for over 100 years until in 1952 the present period of development commenced.

In 1952 there were only three cottages on the estate; Rayner's, Pepper's and Barnett's, with Mr. Greenfield's cottage just over the southern boundary.

The oldest of these four cottages was erected at the end of Plantation Point in 1924 by the late Mr. Harry Barnett. His brother Jess still resides there.

These four cottages are still with us, however they are now in the company of 200 others built since 1952 and we were happy to be able to issue invitations to 70 permanent resident households to attend on this occasion to represent all the land holders at Vincentia.

We trust no one was overlooked and to those who could attend we extend a warm welcome and I trust that you will join with me in welcoming our visitors.

First I would extend a welcome to our young and vigorous recently elected Shire President, Mr. John Hatton, who with his wife have honoured us by their presence here this afternoon. Mr. Hatton, if not the youngest, is certainly one of the youngest Shire Presidents in the State; he has a reputation as a straight shooter and I think we can look forward to interesting and rapid progress during his term as president of the Council of this great Shire of Shoalhaven.

I would also like to extend a welcome to the Shire Clerk, Mr. Knowles and to members of Council's Engineering, Electrical and Health departments, who with their wives could be here with us today.

To members of the executive committees of the Nowra and Naval College Golf Clubs and to all others who could attend

- welcome and thank you for your interest.

Golf was first introduced to the Shoalhaven area in 1904 when it was reported in the Nowra press that "a new element in sport has manifested itself in this district in the form of golf". Those words now have their application over 60 years later to the Huskisson/Vincentia area with the establishment of this course.

It takes interest and enthusiasm to build a golf course and before handing back to Mr. Brian Nelson I would like to say that he is the person in our organisation who possessing this interest and enthusiasm has handled this project since the beginning; he is responsible for this golf course being where it is and what it is and I congratulate him for the job he has done. Ladies and Gentlemen - Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Brian Nelson's speech:

Mr. Hatton, Mr. Halloran, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to also thank everyone for attending and for showing interest in this Golf Course.

The course has nine holes, however, land is available for further extension when necessary and the yardage at present is 3174 making a total of 6,348 yards for the eighteen holes for a par of 72.

Today I am very pleased, although tinged with some disappointment. The pleasure is in seeing this course being opened, ready for play after considerable difficulties have been overcome. The land, as a number here present may recall, was primarily swamp and heavy timber. What you see here today was accomplished in little over a year and the disappointment I feel was occasioned by the weather conditions which were the worst in living memory for the lack of rain and the excessive amount of wind. These conditions retarded the grass growth on the fairways and, in fact, the fairways were given a light discing in March and, from that day, no rain fell and the wind blew and a large part of the fairways were lost. However, these weather conditions influenced the decision to provide a complete watering system which means the course is not dependent on the weather and, I believe, that this is now the only course on the South Coast which has fairways watering and, with this very definite advantage, we can promise first class fairways within a very short period and they will be always kept that way. The greens are in excellent condition and are some of the largest on the South Coast and, for all those who understand and appreciate golf, this course can only improve and will provide a pleasurable and challenging game at all times.

The next item that is required is a club house, but before a club house can be built, a club has to be formed with members.

We need a set number of members and an information sheet and application form for Membership has been prepared and are now available. They will also be available in the future from the Sales Office at Elizabeth Drive or by writing to the Company's Head Office.

I would like to express publically my and the company's thanks to the persons concerned in the design and construction of this course. Firstly, Al Howard. Al is the leading Golf Course Architect in N.S.W., if not in Australia, and Al was able to see the future in this difficult piece of land, as it then was, and he designed this course and I know, that once you have played on the course, you will understand the thought and effort which went into the design to provide pleasure and at the same time a challenge to all players. Secondly, Gary Sullivan. Gary is the Greenkeeper at Nowra Golf Club and his reputation is well known amongst greenkeepers as being first class. The greens were seeded at the worst possible time as regards to weather conditions and, as you can all see, what a wonderful job he has done. These greens will be known as the best on the South Coast. Thirdly - our staff who have worked wonderfully well and hard and in particular, Alan Butcher, our foreman. Alan has worried more about this course than any other person and has put his heart and soul into it. If a job needed doing at 5 a.m. in the morning or 8 O'clock at night Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday - Alan was here to do it and do it well - Thank you.

I would like to conclude by wishing all future players an enjoyable and successful game of golf and I now hand over to Mr. Warren Halloran to proceed with the opening.

#### OPENING VINCENTIA GOLF COURSE

Press Report - Nowra News - 22.1.1969

About 200 people attended the official opening of the new Vincentia Golf Course last Saturday. The ceremony was performed by the Shire President, Clr. J.E. Hatton. Among those present were the managing director of Realty Realizations Pty. Ltd., Mr. Warren Halloran and Mr. Brian Nelson, also of Realty Realizations. The course which has been developed on the company's estate, is the only one in the district with a complete fairway watering system. Following the opening, three professional golfers Richard Proctor, (Nowra), Paul Connell (Kiama) and Robert McKay (Wollongong) gave an exhibition match. The course was designed by Al Howard and the construction of the greens was undertaken by Gary Sullivan, greenkeeper at the Nowra Golf Club. The accompanying picture shows Clr. Hatton hitting off to officially open the new course. Results of Charity Golf Day at the first tournament held at the Vincentia Golf Course. 18 Hole Open: Ron Smith (Marrickville Golf Club) 86:19-67 nett. Trophy presented by Mr. Warren Halloran.

Press Report - Nowra News - 22.1.1969(Cont'd)

Best 1st Nine: H.Smith/Best 2nd Nine: D.Diamond.  
Ladies, Best 18: E.McCarroll; 2nd, M.Procter.  
Closest to Pin: F.McCarroll.  
Long Drive - Men: E.Hansen; Ladies: E.McCarroll.  
Unaffiliated Golfers: 1st, A.McKenzie; 2nd, J. Avery.

Press Report - Nowra Leader - 20.1.1969

Saturday afternoon marked another step forward for people in the Shoalhaven Shire, with the opening of a new nine hole golf course at Vincentia. In the picture above Mr. Brian Nelson (left), of Realty Realizations, looks on while Shire President Mr. Hatton congratulates the Managing Director of Realty Realizations, Mr. Warren Halloran on the new course. Realty Realizations has built the course on their estate at Vincentia for the people of the area, and popularity of the new course was shown in more than 200 people being present for the opening. The course can be assured of always looking at its best because it is the only course in the Shire with a built in Fairway watering system, and future demand has been catered for with provisions for another nine holes to be added at another day. President Hatton officially opened the course driving the first ball off tee one. It was a beautiful drive which after almost scalping a few spectators landed on the ninth fairway. In all fairness to the President he did mention that he had never hit a golf ball before in his life. Following this three professionals, Dick Procter (Nowra), Paul Connell (Kiama) and Robert McKay (Wollongong) covered the nine holes in a demonstration for the spectators.