

## The April Seminar

Terry Smith is a very welcome guest speaker at our April seminar. Recognised for his prodigious research and an acknowledged devotee of the Mitchell and State Libraries, Terry has four significant golf books to his credit:

-  *Australian Golf - The First 100 years,*
-  *The Complete Book of Australian Golf,*
-  *Aussie Golf Trivia;* and
-  *The (Australian Open) Champions and the courses they played.*

Also welcome is Jim Webster, sports journalist extraordinaire and writer of *The PGA in Australia – the first 100 years.*

## The Golf Club Invitation booklet

All 400 affiliated golf clubs received an Invitation booklet last month, with the three-way suggestion to club boards: to create a golf history group, join AGHS and complete a history survey form that can help update David Innes's 1987 book *The Story of Golf in New South Wales*. Oatlands was first to respond and a number of other clubs are known to be taking action.

The invitation recognises that golf's history is a specialised field and considers a dedicated Society is needed to give this field appropriate attention. In this way, the Society is an extension of the golfing bodies, funded and equipped to service golf clubs.

The Invitation includes the Charter for a GCH group, a guide on researching and archiving activities, the AGHS membership benefits policy and the Innes update survey form. If you would like a soft copy of the Invitation, please contact the AGHS Historians Group.

## Updating *The Story of Golf in New South Wales*

Some time through 2007-8, NSWGA decided to update *The Story of Golf in New South Wales* and accepted Erwin Huber's suggestion to circulate a comprehensive survey. This survey is part of the three-way invitation to NSW golf clubs to set up a History Group, join AGHS and complete the survey. The survey has two purposes – to update the Innes book but also to inform the club of its history as the basis for writing its own history book.

The principal area of the book needing update relates to the history and current status of golf clubs. However, the book itself can be reconsidered for the story it tells and how it is told. This is an opportunity to update the book overall, not just add the last twenty years to the story.

One option for the book is to have a solid description of the story of golf in New South Wales in say 200 pages followed by a directory of golf clubs – one page per club – in the remainder of the book. The directory would be of a standard format, would have an historic perspective and include a Statistics box. The aim would be to include all 400 affiliated clubs, with perhaps half-page entries for the smaller clubs. The clubs entries could be indexed by formation date, location, course type and length, green type, degree of difficulty, etc.

## AGHS Website

Michael Sheret, AGHS Captain and Editor of *The Brassie* has developed with technical assistance from Tom Winter of Winter Graphics, the AGHS website at [www.australiangolfheritage.org.au](http://www.australiangolfheritage.org.au). The content is still at the formative stage, but check it out and pass your comments to Michael <[SheretMA@bigpond.com](mailto:SheretMA@bigpond.com)>. We expect to have free downloads of the *Writing and Publishing* booklets, the Invitation to Golf Clubs and the Innes Update Survey form available there soon.

Management of the website has been handed over to Women's Golf NSW, a sponsor of AGHS and whose CEO, Frances Crampton OAM, AM is on the AGHS Management Committee.

## The GCH Software Toolkit

When a golf history group gets established one of the first decisions is about how the collection of objects, documents and images will be recorded. One option is for a database and Mosaics is preferred for objects whereas the Archive Manager is preferred for documents. Both these systems, developed by the same person, are complex for most computer users and simpler and less expensive options like 'Image Master' for photographs have emerged.

As well, the question of how to index and access the wealth of information in documents is a primary question. The archive database is one solution, but scanning the documents with a product like Finereader OCR 9.0 Professional Edition to create .pdf files and then using the Adobe search facility is potentially a much simpler, quicker and less expensive option.

With the AGHS Historians group's encouragement, one of the well established golf club history groups is working with a software specialist to see if a GCH software toolkit can be developed, with supporting IT services as needed. For example, it might be possible to create a document version of 'Image Master' to provide a product almost any computer user will find easy.

## Golf Reference Library

The Library, as an adjunct to the Museum at Granville is slowly being catalogued to be ready for use by Golf Historians. We are 'not there yet' but if you have a specific research interest then contact the Historians group to see if the Library can help you. Recently the Library's collection of club histories was expanded with the purchase of about thirty hard-to-get volumes, giving us a total of almost 100 club histories.

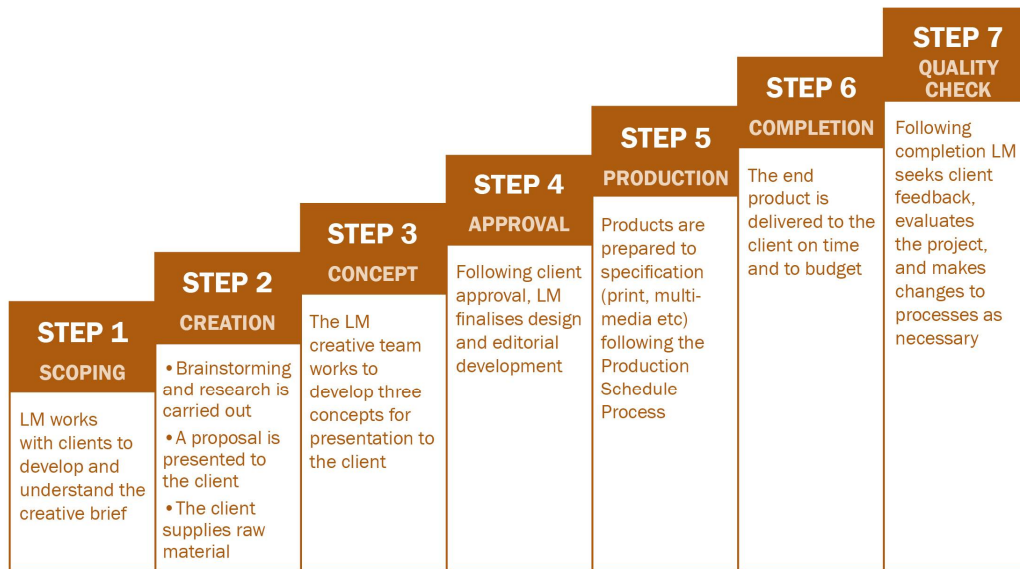
With a focus on history and being reference library, modern instruction books, unless published in Australia, have been determined as not having a place in the collection. The surplus books will be donated to the PGA at Sandhurst.

The potential vision for the Golf Reference Library is to combine it with the archives of NSWGA, WGNSW and the PGA to create a rich reservoir of research materials for golf historians. For example, the potential to scan the magazines *Golf in Australia* and *Australian Golf News* (1925-1981) held by NSWGA and have the contents accessible for scanning on any search key is an exciting prospect.

*Publishing a Golf Club History*

As a companion to the booklet *Writing a Golf Club History*, jointly produced by AGHS and the British Golf Collectors Society, we have coopted Longueville Media to produce a similar booklet on *Publishing a Golf Club History*. Now in the final draft stage, the *Publishing* booklet will be available as a free download. Most golf clubs find their own way through the publishing maze and our aim is to provide a competent source of advice and services. Two AGHS members have used Longueville Media in their own, non-golf writing and publishing projects.

Longueville’s production management is based around a proven 7-step publishing process where they work with the authors and clients to develop the editorial, design and then manage the printing process. An outline of this process is provided below:



Resources for Golf Historians

The focus of the Historians group is to provide resources for GCHs and create the collaborative network of that makes the research, archiving and writing activities productive and enjoyable. This doesn’t happen without the resources of a few people to make it happen for the remainder. Right now, those resources need the support of a few more and if you can help ‘make it happen’ don’t delay; contact the Historians group.

## AGHS's Historians seminar "Terry Smith on writing about golf"

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009

## ATTENDING

(The purpose of providing this list is to facilitate contact and collaboration between golf historians)

Name	Club	Phone	No.
Trevor Bartley	Windsor	02 9239 6659	1.
Peter Bleeck	Beverly Park	02 9546 1459	2.
Tom Breaden	Concord	02 9743 4230	3.
John Campbell	NSW	02 9546 2577	4.
Owen Denmeade	Golf Collector	02 9337 2583	5.
Richard Doyle	Glenmore Heritage Valley	02 4721 5693	6.
Don Dunne	Australian	02 9358 5748	7.
Laraine Gray	Killara	02 9498 3173	8.
Jim Harkin	The Lakes	02 9520 7268	9.
Ron Harper	Pennant Hills	02 9484 4651	10.
Julia Hoffman	Royal Canberra	02 6260 3728	11.
Al Howard PGA	Golf Architect	02 9981 3765	12.
Peter Larkin	Royal Sydney, Australian	02 9326 1052	13.
Barry Leithhead	Windsor	02 9652 1430	14.
Bob Letters	Beverly Park	02 9529 5997	15.
Bruce Nairn	Bexley; AGHS Chairman	02 9150 6586	16.
Malcolm McIntosh	Muirfield	02 9638 7992	17.
Neil Maddock	Incheck Systems	0417 257 243	18.
Anne Palmer	Avondale	02 9489 6796	19.
Bruno Pase	Rosnay	0418 250 775	20.
Norm Richardson	Golf Collector	02 9316 8315	21.
Bob Ross	Pymble	02 9144 6316	22.
Brad Ryder	Moore Park	02 9664 5901	23.
Geoff Schaeffer	Australian	02 9969 8221	24.
Michael Sheret	The Lakes	02 9569 6861	25.
Terry Smith	Golf Writer	02 9452 3760	26.
John Spruce	Woollahra	02 9571 9174	27.
Bev Stanton	Avondale	02 9331 1004	28.
Jim Webster	Sports Journalist		29.
Roger Weik	Wakehurst	02 4951 5592	30.