

The Centenary Sub-Committee is planning a program of Events, Programs and Re-unions to celebrate Northern's Centenary in 2012.

Northern Golf Club History

Northern's history began at Essendon in 1895 at the time of a golfing boom which began in England a few years earlier. Royal Melbourne and Geelong were the first clubs formed in Victoria but it wasn't long after that a club was formed in Essendon. The Club's early years were spent on rented paddocks at first on the Aberfeldie Estate with a clubroom at Lowther Hall and then later on the nearby Buckley Park Estate with clubrooms in Forrester Street.

By 1912 the members had had enough of rented fields and led by State Treasurer and Club President, William Alexander Watt, formed a company to buy their own land. The Northern Golf Land Company purchased the current site of 141 acres in April 1912 and set about laying out a golf course. In September of that year the Northern Golf Club was inaugurated and the early management was placed in the hands of the Land Company.

Sampson Bennetts, the Essendon Professional, who had learnt course design at Royal North Devon in England was appointed to design and prepare the golf course for its members. By December 1912 nine holes had been completed and the first game of golf was played on the first Saturday in December. The members were extremely pleased with the new layout and looked forward to the next golf season.

In April 1913 the Essendon members played a Farewell Event on their old course, held a meeting at St Johns Church Hall in Essendon to elect their first committee and held their Opening Day at Northern on April 26th 1913. The Club opened with a membership of 99 men and 31 ladies which included a number of members from Moreland and Royal Park.

The Club has earlier provided a history of the first 75 Years at Northern but it is considered appropriate that we also recognise the significant milestone of 100 Years at Northern. Our history writing project has commenced.

A considerable amount of research has been carried out but there is still much to be found and documented and recorded in our new book. Some particular treasures have already been uncovered: a full set of clubs made by our first pro, old movies now on DVD of golf at Northern in 1941, Alan Smith's scrapbook kept from 1927 to 1940 and others. We're sure that there is much more out there yet to be found.

Call for Contributions

To fully document Northern's great story we are keen to include as many contributions as possible from individuals and organisations that have been part of Northern's history. Already we have received contributions from a number of members and we have thanked them for their interest in our Centenary.

We are asking Members to share:

- their personal stories and anecdotes about Northern
- photos from tournaments, events and activities
- newspaper clippings, club newsletters and golf magazines
- memorabilia such as trophies or anything else of special interest.

We look forward to your contributions.

