

SALUTE TO WESTAVIAT

HOW I JOINED WESTAVIAT GOLF CLUB

By Life Member Ken Rivett

Back in 1978, a couple of Balga Apex members were doing a door knock to try and attract new members. Theo Happe was one of those members and I ended up joining the Balga Apex Club. Theo and I became good friends and I really enjoyed my time in Apex, doing a stint as Treasurer and President.

Theo and I started playing golf at different public courses and towards the end of my time at Apex, in 1982, Theo told me there was a club we could join at the Airport. (He had worked for a time for the Civil Aviation Department). At first I thought the course must be near the runways, not being aware of the extent of the grounds. I am referring to the first golf course on the way to the Domestic Terminal.

In those days it wasn't easy to join, but Theo pulled a few strings and we were in! In the next year, the club was looking for a Treasurer and my name was put forward. So began my fourteen years in that role.

After two more years, the club was informed it had to move. However there was land that could be used for a possible course along Kalamunda Road. Thus began the hard work of constructing a new course. A hard core of approximately twenty men worked every Saturday and Public Holidays for five years to get the course to reasonable playing condition. I have vivid memories of digging the trenches, but as we didn't have the reticulation pipes available, the following Saturday, we found that the wind had filled in the trenches and we had to shovel the sand out. This process went on for a month, until the pipes were ready. Despite this hard work, the camaraderie of the workers kept all in good spirits. Sadly, some of these men have passed on in recent years.

A lot of work by a small band of members benefited the general membership over the life of the club. So, it was heart breaking to hear the news that we were losing the course. But I suppose we were lucky to benefit from being able to play golf at a country style club in a metropolitan area at a budget price.

I am now living in a lifestyle village in Shepparton, Victoria, but I still miss the Westaviat Golf Club and its members. I have many happy memories of the good times we had and I always regard it a privilege to have been a member of that club.