



# United States Seniors' Golf Association



## Australia Tour February 25 - March 25, 2023



# Prologue

Sam Carroll

An unexpected idea was conceived on July 6, 2015. That was the day I hosted two members of the Senior Golfers' Society of Australia (SGSA), Peter Vrachas and Richard Schoeffer, for breakfast, golf and lunch at Hudson National Golf Club in Croton-On-Hudson, NY. How I came to host Peter and Richard is another story, but what I learned from them was that it is common practice for the SGSA and the British, South African and Canadian Seniors to engage in quadrennial multi-week home and home tours for their members and their members' spouses. It immediately dawned on me that the USSGA was missing out on a unique opportunity to participate in international golf tours where we would play and socialize with Seniors and their spouses from other countries – and in turn host newly made international friends in the United States.

Fast forward to February 25, 2023, when eleven USSGA couples arrived at Tullamarine, Melbourne, Victoria's International Airport (A twelfth couple arrived the next day) and began what many described afterwards as "the trip of a lifetime". The "Team", as the twelve couples came to be known, visited three mainland cities, Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney, over three weeks' time before concluding the tour with four days in Tasmania.

On this Inaugural Australian Tour, the USSGA played twelve of the finest courses on the country's mainland (Barwon Heads, Peninsula Kingswood North, Kingston Heath, Royal Melbourne West, Indooroopilly, Brookwater, Brisbane, Royal Queensland, Elanora, The Australian, New South Wales and Royal Sydney) and, just as importantly, experienced the great international tradition of Seniors' hospitality. At each course, the Team played matches against SGSA members and their spouses. In each city, the Team participated in dining and touring activities arranged by the SGSA. The SGSA made the Team's domestic flight and hotel reservations. SGSA leaders not only came to the Brisbane and Sydney airports to welcome us, but also accompanied us on local transfers for golf, touring and dining activities. In other words, the Inaugural Australian Tour was like a USSGA Invitational Tournament – to the 10th power. Said another way, courtesy of Jon Verity's one-time description of our Invitational Tournaments, "All we had to do was sign up and show up."

At the conclusion of the mainland tour, the adventurous part of the Team's trip Down Under began – Tasmania. After 90 minutes of anxious waiting for our pilots to sort out baggage volume and weight issues on two planes, Bass Strait Golf flew the Team from Sydney to Tasmania. Landing at Barnbougles dirt airstrip, we transferred to Barnbougles Dunes for an afternoon round, followed by eighteen at Barnbougles Lost Farm the next day. Then, on to King Island the following day to play our penultimate round at Cape Wickham. Bass Strait Golf flew the Team to Melbourne after our final round at Ocean Dunes. A month to the day after arrival, March 25, the Team said our goodbyes and departed for home.

The Team's month together in Australia generated shared experiences like none other I have ever encountered. There was: humor, particularly on the bus rides and not understanding the various formats of play; competition, USSGA vs SGSA; identity, representing the United States and the USSGA in a foreign country; socializing, the welcoming cocktail parties at The Australian Club, Mike and Joy Hume's home and Royal Sydney Golf Club, the dinners at Royal Melbourne, Queensland Club, Elanora, The Australian, New South Wales and the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron; celebration, Stan and Cindy Freimuth's 53rd anniversary; Chip and Bonnie Lutz's 44th anniversary, Lach and Vicki Hough's 40th anniversary, Dave Bullock's 500th different golf course played at Royal Melbourne West and Kathy Bullock breaking 100 for the first time (Barnbougles Dunes); fashion, team shirts; participation, guided tours in Melbourne and Sydney; nature, the Australian Zoo, Sydney Harbor cruise and Blue Mountain tour; stress, a banking crisis in the US; performance, Rhapsody in Blue at the Sydney Opera House; misery, several Team illnesses and injuries; dining, so many excellent meals together on our own; culture, from Aboriginal to modern times; epic meaning, the trip of a lifetime; rite of passage, separation from the familiar, transition to the Australian way and return to home.

In the end, one word resonates with me: hope. Hope that the SGSA's visit to the United States last September and the USSGA's just completed visit to Australia will prove to be the foundation for a decades-long series of home and home tours between their Society and our Association.

What follows is a day-by-day accounting of the Team's tour. I would like to acknowledge the contribution each team member made to the contents of this record and thank them for joining Judi and me on the USSGA's Inaugural Australia Tour.



Richard, Sam and Peter reunited at Mr. Wong, Sydney

# Tour Coordinator's Report

Sam Carroll

May 20, 2018. That was the date the SGSA's former Honorary Secretary John Marcard officially extended an invitation to Jeb Stuart, former Special Events Committee Chairman of the USSGA, for a three-week tour of Australia during March-April 2021. The USSGA officially accepted the SGSA's invitation on June 4, 2021 at the Annual Board of Governors Meeting. Thus began the tour planning process.

My initial contact with John was on June 12, 2018. John and I subsequently agreed on an itinerary that included visits to Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney during the period the SGSA originally proposed. In May 2019, Gary Lee succeeded John as Honorary Secretary of the SGSA, leading me to contact Gary for the first time on May 25, 2019. Thus began a relationship that evolved into an endearing friendship, for I have had the privilege of working with Gary on two tours – the SGSA's visit to the U.S. in September 2022 and the USSGA's delayed visit to Australia in February-March 2023.

One of the advantages of working with Gary was his intimate knowledge of SGSA inbound and outbound tours. While the USSGA has had limited experience participating in regular home and home tours with international Seniors' associations/societies, the SGSA has been engaged in this form of connecting for decades, primarily, but not limited to other Commonwealth countries. So Gary brought a wealth of experience to the table, and I learned a great deal from him.

While I did a fair amount of work to organize the Team for the tour, Gary and the presidents of the Senior Golfers' Societies of Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales did all the planning and organizing for our time in those respective states. They were David Field, Victoria, Don Fraser, Queensland and John Barbour, New South Wales. Not only did that triumvirate, along with other Seniors from their respective states, put together a sensational itinerary for the Team, they were on the scene to personally welcome us upon our arrival in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney. I should also acknowledge the just-mentioned Seniors who played a key role in each state. They were Victoria: Peter Clark, Captain and Gary Lee, Secretary; Queensland: Dr. Les Nathanson AM (see below), Captain; Rob Thatcher, Tour Coordinator and Peter Nimmo, Secretary and New South Wales: Clark Gibbons, Captain and Rod Davies. It was not lost on the Team that Rob Thatcher and Rod Davies accompanied us to all

planned activities during our stay in Brisbane and Sydney. What an impressive personal touch. I will acknowledge the important roles played by several other Aussie Seniors later in this book.

Back to Gary to conclude this report. Although the two of us worked together diligently to assure the success of the SGSA's Inaugural United States Tour and the USSGA's Inaugural Australia Tour, the unspoken goal was to establish a relationship between our Association and their Society. Gary really extended himself working on both tours, and I shall always be grateful for the effort he put forth. Coincidentally, I just finished reading James Kerr's "Legacy", What The All Blacks Can Teach Us About The Business Of Life. In the final chapter, Kerr admonishes the reader to "Write Your Own Legacy". With approval and encouragement from our respective governing bodies, Gary and I "wrote" the first chapter of the legacy between the USSGA and the SGSA. The rest of the pages are blank and are waiting to be filled by our successors who will leave their imprint in the decades to come.

AM stands for Member of the Order. The Council for the Order of Australia defines this honor for service in a particular area, field or to a particular group. Recognizing achievement in a particular area, the AM is awarded to 605 people each year. Les received the AM award for significant service to medicine as a gastrointestinal and laparoscopic surgeon.



# The Mainland Journey

25 Days

1 Township - 3 Cities - 1 Clubhouse - 1 City Club - 2 Hotels - 12 Games



PK



THE ROYAL MELBOURNE GOLF CLUB



NEW SOUTH WALES GOLF CLUB



THE AUSTRALIAN GOLF CLUB



ELANORA COUNTRY CLUB



INDOOROOPILLY GOLF CLUB



BROOKWATER



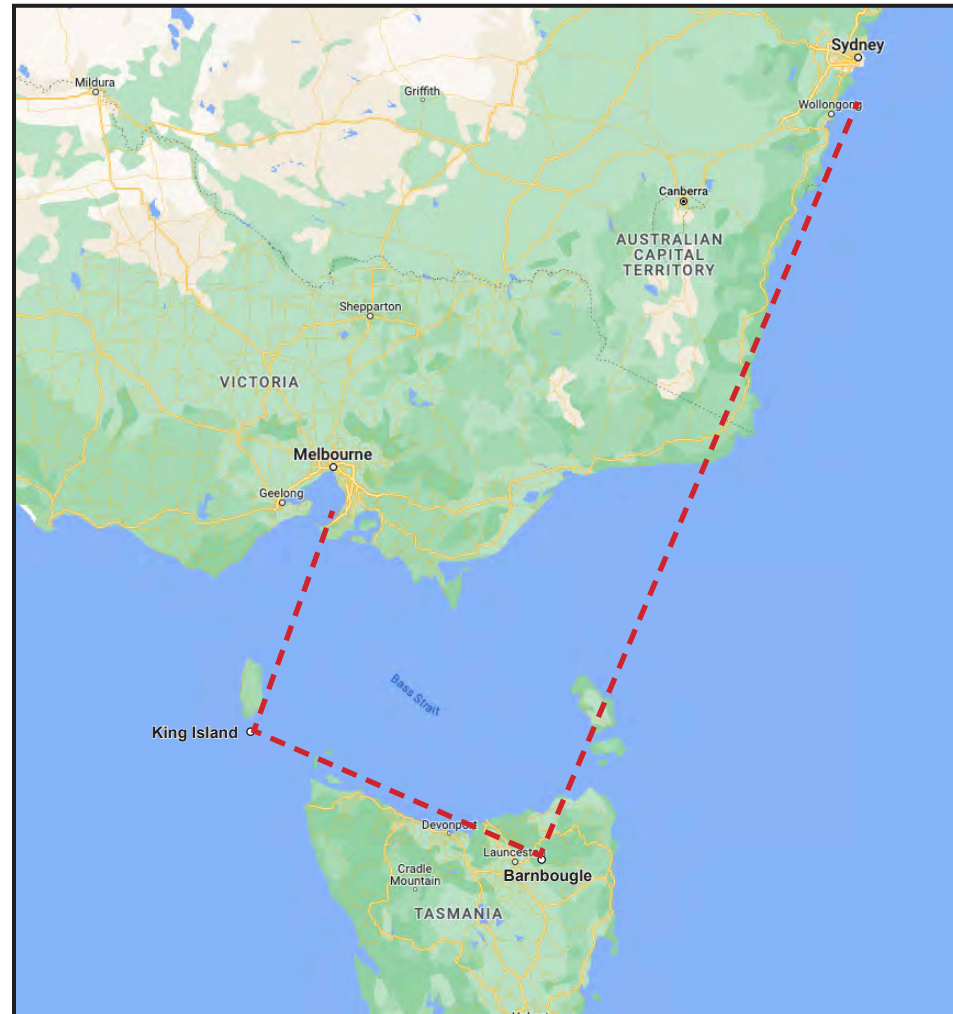
1896



# Tasmania Extension

4 Days

2 Islands - 2 Lodges - 4 Games



# The United States Team



**Dave & Kathy Bullock**  
Greenwood Village, CO  
Cherry Hills Country Club



**Gordon & Frannie Burns**  
Greenwich, CT  
Round Hill Club



**Sam & Judi Carroll**  
Vero Beach, FL  
John's Island Club



**Stan & Cindy Freimuth**  
Bellevue, WA  
Seattle Golf Club



**Per & Astrid Heidenreich**  
Hobe Sound, FL  
Greenwich Country Club



**Lach & Vicki Hough**  
Carpinteria, CA  
Valley Club of Montecito



**Chip & Bonnie Lutz**  
Jupiter, FL  
Turtle Creek Club



**Barclay & Jane Perry  
McFadden**  
Charleston, SC  
Yeamans Hall Club



**Bill & Fayre Mynatt**  
Lake Forest, IL  
Shoreacres



**Frank & Kerry Rutan**  
Charleston, SC  
Yeamans Hall Club



**Todd & Carrie Stucky**  
Portland, OR  
Waverly Country Club



**Doug Waston & Susie Hunter**  
Vero Beach, FL  
Riomar Country Club

# United States Team Biographies

## Dave Bullock

Retired from a career in the financial industry serving as CEO of two mutual fund companies and on three public Boards. Has been a member of Cherry Hills since 1985 and was a founding partner and the first Chairman of Colorado Golf Club. Has played over 490 golf courses worldwide and will top 500 on the Australia trip. Currently an elected official in Greenwood Village, Colorado. Interests include golf, boating, traveling, fitness and landscape design. Married to Kathy for 43 years.

## Kathy Bullock

Grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah, but has lived in the Denver, Colorado, area since marrying Dave in 1979. Happily spent most of her time raising their five children and now enjoys being with their seventeen grandchildren. A published author focusing on genealogy and family history. Involved in some local charities. Loves the outdoors and spending time in the mountains. Other interests include golf, horses, writing, fitness and gardening.

## Gordon Burns

I have worked in finance for 45 years, initially in investment banking and subsequently in private investing. As soon as I can scare up some buyers for my remaining investments, I will be fully retired. We live in Greenwich Connecticut and have a winter home in Boca Grande Florida. Our son lives nearby. Our daughter lives in Switzerland. Between them we have four grandchildren. We are members of Round Hill, Blind Brook, Gasparilla, Coral Creek and Shooting Star golf clubs. I have been a USSGA member since 2010. As a four-week trip was apparently barely sufficient, we have scheduled an extra five days in New Zealand on the way to Australia to play Tara Iti and Te Arai. I am hoping all my body parts make it through this extraordinary adventure!

## Frannie Burns

I grew up in Rye, New York. I consider myself very lucky that my father, a former Senior, introduced me to golf at 8. The game has taken me to some of the most beautiful places in the world. I'm thrilled to be making my first trip to Australia with a stopover in New Zealand. Gordon and I live in Greenwich, Connecticut and have two married children and four delightful grandchildren. During the winter we enjoy gathering with family at our home in Boca Grande, Florida. Being a nurse, I have been involved for years with health care related volunteer work. Besides golf, I enjoy skiing, XC skiing, hiking, gardening, bridge and kayaking.

## Sam Carroll

Retired in 2013 after a 41-year career in Private Wealth Management. USSGA member since 2004. Former President and current BOG member. Married to Judi for 50 years. Three children and three grandchildren. Live in Indian River Shores, Florida, from October through May and Rye, New York, from June through September. Elected official in Indian River Shores. Primary club in Florida is John's Island and in New York Apawamis. Love golf, setting up golf trips, traveling and physical fitness training.

## Judi Carroll

Sam reported on our family, so I'll say my golf began as a senior in high school at a tiny club in Brandon, Mississippi. Since my hometown was very small, with few girls my age, many of my friends were boys. I started without golf shoes, lessons or knowledge of forward tees on a nine-hole tract barely more than a rocky pasture. Over the past 50 plus years, I've learned that longevity does not equate quality in this sport, AND can lead to temporary insanity. However, it has offered us reasons (excuses) for a lot of nice travel, and the courses we play now are much better than that first one!



# United States Team Biographies

## Stan Freimuth

Grew up in Washington state and attended University of Washington, graduating in Economics and marrying college sweetheart, Cindy, 52 years ago. Worked as a storeroom clerk during college in asset management firm, retiring as CEO and wealth manager at local firm in 2006. Avid golfer with seasonal homes and club memberships in Seattle, Washington, Scottsdale, Arizona, and Kona, Hawaii.

## Cindy Freimuth

I grew up near Seattle, Washington, and graduated from the University of Washington in Sociology and Business a long time ago! We have two daughters and three grandchildren. I especially enjoy travel that includes golf. My other interests are pickleball, tennis, hiking, bridge and keeping fit. Looking forward to our Australian adventure.

## Per Heidenreich

Born in Oslo, Norway. Moved to U.S. in 1970, lived in Japan 1973-1975. I spent over 50 years in the international oil & chemical transportation industry. Started my own company in 1984 and sold it in 2006. I have played golf since I was 5 years old. Belong to Oslo Golf Club, Valderrama, McArthur, Loblolly, Blind Brook and Greenwich Country Club. We split our time between Connecticut, Florida, and Norway. I have been married to Astrid for 55 years. We have a son and a daughter, both living in Connecticut. We have five grandsons. USSGA member since 2006.

## Astrid Heidenreich

Born in Oslo, Norway. Moved to U.S. with Per in 1970. I played competitive tennis until I met Per and that is when I took up golf. We enjoy playing golf and traveling. We like being in Florida in the winter and Norway in the summer. Our family foundation focuses on education for the undeserved in both Connecticut and Florida.

## Lach Hough

I'm a retired banker having spent 20+ years of my career in Asia (Tokyo, Hong Kong and Singapore). Currently involved in a private equity business investing in Asia. I also sit on the Board of a local bank in Santa Barbara, California. Member of USSGA since 2011. I enjoy my golf at the Valley Club of Montecito and the R&A. Married to Vicki for 40 years. We have four children and two granddaughters. Looking forward to visiting Australia again after seven years.

## Vicki Hough

Former speech and language pathologist in California schools. Married to Lach in 1983. Mother of three girls and one boy. Raised them all while living in Asia, a wonderful experience. Currently living in Santa Barbara, California. Active in the Garden Club. Also, thoroughly enjoy bridge, mahjong, golf and pickle ball. I look forward to meeting everyone and being back in Australia.

# United States Team Biographies

## Chip Lutz

Golf has always been a big part of my life from the time I was very young, and it took me to the University of Florida and armed me with a business degree to pursue Insurance, Real Estate and Law. After some 25 years in the title insurance business, I retired to Florida to continue playing golf and traveling. I have competed in many Local, State, National and International events with some success and look forward to some lower stress and fun events going forward. Member of LedgeRock Golf Club and Pine Valley in the Northeast and Turtle Creek in Tequesta, Florida, in addition to the R&A.

## Bonnie Lutz

After raising two children, and now having four grandchildren, I managed real estate and was an elected School Board member. We traveled and while being supportive of my husband's amateur golf, then decided to pursue my love of art. I created many projects through mosaics with glass, stone and mixed media. It has kept me busy. My golf isn't as good as Chip's, but I've played a lot of great places, and I am looking forward to playing more

## Barclay McFadden

I grew up in Memphis, Tennessee. We live at Yeamans Hall Club in Charleston, South Carolina, and spend our summers at Prouts Neck, Maine. My career has been a combination of entrepreneurial investments and private equity. Attended the University of Virginia BA '72, MBA '76, Echols Scholar. Golf, hunting, fishing and sailing are my favorite pastimes. Three boys 45, 42 & 39, seven grandchildren.

## Jane Perry McFadden

I grew up in Columbia, South Columbia. I attended Sweet Briar College '73 in Lynchburg, Virginia. Barclay and I were married in 1974. I am involved with several garden clubs as well as a member of the Garden Conservancy. My garden at Yeamans has over 250 camelias and numerous azaleas. I also oversee the Borom's Garden at Yeamans which has 700 plus camelias. I co-founded and was Joint Master of the Guilford Hounds in Vermont. I'm an enthusiastic golfer and sailor, and even better, grandmother of five girls and two boys.

## Bill Mynatt

Active CEO/Owner of leading residential mortgage subservicing company in the United States. USSGA member since 2013. Former USSGA Midwest Tournament Chairman. Married to Fayre for 40 years. Three adult sons, and one grandchild. Live in Jupiter Island, Florida, from December through May, and Lake Forest, Illinois, from June through November. Primary club in Florida is Jupiter Island Club. Also a member of MacArthur. In Illinois, a member of Onwentsia, Shoreacres, and Old Elm. Very much enjoy golf, traveling, and salmon fishing.

## Fayre Mynatt

Worked in investment management in New York City before retiring and raising three sons in the Chicago area. Live in Lake Forest, Illinois and Hobe Sound, Florida. Have one grandchild in the San Francisco area. Enjoy many sports including golf and fishing

# United States Team Biographies

## Frank Rutan

Spent my career in wealth management with regional and national trust companies in Philadelphia. Retired in 2019 and moved to Charleston, SC. We have two children and one grandchild in Philadelphia. I spent several years involved with amateur golf administration, serving as President of both the Pennsylvania Golf Association and the Golf Association of Philadelphia. I currently serve as the Chairman of the USSGA Yeamans Hall Invitational Tournament. When I'm not on the golf course I can be found trying (mostly unsuccessfully) to catch redfish in the rivers around Charleston.

## Kerry Rutan

I lived most of my life in suburban Philadelphia, but now I am a Yankee living in Charleston, SC. I was introduced to golf at a young age by my father and have played in many events around the country. I worked for IBM for 15 years before retiring to help raise our son and daughter. We are members of Yeamans Hall and the Daniel Island Club. In addition to golf, I love to travel, cook, walk, and play with my first grandchild Olivia, who is 11 months old!

## Todd Stucky

Married to Carrie. Adult children Lauren in Los Angeles, California, Kyle with wife Chelsi in Portland, Oregon and Eric in New York City. Retired in 2021 after 43 years as a corporate insurance broker and consultant. We play at Waverley Country Club in Portland, Oregon, and The Valley Club of Montecito in California. We cherish being part of the USSGA family and greatly look forward to joining everyone in Australia.

## Carrie Stucky

I grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and went to college in Portland, Oregon, where soon after graduating I met and married my husband of 38 years Todd. Worked as a bookkeeper while raising 3 children, one who is now married. Played tennis, ice hockey and soccer in high school and college. Took up golf about ten years ago. Member of Oregon Senior Women's Golf Association. Avid walker and swimmer.

## Doug Watson

Practiced law in Keene, New Hampshire, for 35 years, retiring in 2008, but still recovering. Joined the USSGA in 2012, and with my wife Susie, chaired the Ekwanok Country Club US Senior's Invitational Tournament from 2018 - 2021. Married Susie Hunter in 2007 and between us have four children and six grandchildren, who live variously in Rochester, New York, Princeton, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., and Vashon Island, Washington. Susie and I split our time between Indian River Shores, Florida and Manchester, Vermont. I'm a member of John's Island, RedStick, Riomar, and Ekwanok golf clubs. Hobbies include golf, skiing, and reading.

## Susie Hunter

I grew up in Williamstown, Massachusetts, (and interestingly all three of my daughters ended up going to Williams College, located there) attended both a boarding school for girls and Smith College. Hence, attending Dartmouth College during my junior year was quite an education as there were 70 women and 3300 men! Although I have my master's in social work, it turned out education was my passion, and I have spent a combined total of over 40 years on Boards of Trustees of institutions ranging from pre-kindergarten through college. I am currently on the Board of Trustees of my boarding school, Emma Willard, being the past Chair, and The Learning Alliance, a public-private literacy initiative in Indian River County, Florida. Other than being a professional volunteer, like Doug, I am a skier, golfer, reader and traveler; there was an obvious reason our mutual friends introduced us. But here's my claim to fame: I played charades on multiple occasions while at Dartmouth with Meryl Streep!

# Saturday, February 25

## Barwon Heads Golf Club

### Welcome Dinner

#### Captain's Report: Sam Carroll



Eleven of the twelve couples from the Team arrived at Melbourne's Tullamarine Airport on February 25, a Saturday, having departed the U.S. at various times on February 23, a Thursday. February 24, a Friday, was lost forever. Unfortunately, Barclay and Jane Perry's originating flight from Charleston, SC, was cancelled, so the McFadden's were delayed a day in arriving.

But there was one more leg to our journey, a 90-minute drive from Tullamarine to Barwon Heads, a coastal township on the Bellarine Peninsula southeast of Melbourne. It is situated on the west bank of the mouth of the Barwon River below Lake Connewarre, while it is bounded to the west by farmland, golf courses and the saline ephemeral wetland of Murtnaghurt Lagoon. One of those golf courses is Barwon Heads Golf Club, our first stop on the tour and our home for two nights.

Our host Gary Lee led a group of local SGSV/BHGC members who greeted us and made certain we were promptly checked in to the 19 guest room clubhouse. As reported on the club's website, "For almost a century the clubhouse has greeted visitors to the course and formed a backdrop for the finishing hole, so close it seems to be in play. It embodies the characteristics of the quintessential clubhouse, appearing stately in its setting, affording exceptional views of the course, and warmly housing the camaraderie of members and guests." Steve Beach, a writer for Australian Golf Digest, said it is "Hands down the best clubhouse in Australia." Who were we to argue the point?



After settling in and suppressing our jet lag by roaming the property and exploring the nearby beaches, it was time for the Team to ready ourselves for a Meet and Greet in the Members' Lounge. There we got our first taste of warm good-natured Aussie hospitality, which would prove prophetic for the balance of our time Down Under as we were joined by several local Seniors and their spouses. One notable guest was Chris Whitford, the SGSA president, who made the eight-hour journey to Barwon Heads from his home in Glenelg, a beachside suburb of the South Australia capital of Adelaide. But that's not the whole story. The rest of the story is that Chris could not secure a hotel room close to Barwon Heads, so he pulled his travel trailer for 737 km and spent two nights in it at one of the local caravan parks.

On to a festive Welcome Dinner in the Club's Formal Dining Room where two long tables were beautifully set.

# Saturday, February 25



# Sunday, February 26

## Barwon Heads Golf Club

### First Match

#### Captain's Report: Sam Carroll



The Team begin drifting into the Members Lounge for breakfast at 7:30, happy to have spent the night in a real bed rather than a B/E Diamond Collins Aerospace seat aboard a 787 Dreamliner. The mood was upbeat as we retold stories from the prior evening's festivities and spoke expectantly about the first round of matches against the Aussies. There was genuine concern about Barclay and Jane Perry who were delayed a day due to aircraft maintenance issues at Charleston, SC, their departure city.

With the first tee time set for 10:07, we began calculating the timing of our warmup schedules, consulting with our partners and thinking about the challenges that lay ahead on a course bordered by the notorious Bass Strait and sand dunes, one that would prove to be reminiscent of famed Scottish links many of us had previously played. By studying the scorecard we knew the course was not especially long. However, as with any links course we also knew that we would encounter an undulating terrain, cleverly positioned hazards, subtle slopes on fairways and greens, along with challenging pin positions, not to mention an invariably challenging wind.



And just like that, 10:07 arrived and the first group was off, but not before exchanging mementos with our opponents. Clouds prevailed most of the day, assuring a comfortable fall-like temperature, a la early September in New York. We did encounter some rain, but the showers only lasted for 20 minutes.

Notwithstanding the fact that we were playing Barwon Heads for the first time, the Team had high expectations and was determined to get off to a good start in the first of twelve matches against the Aussies. Alas, when the final group came in and all the match scores had been posted, it would be an understatement to say that the Team underperformed. The Aussies roughed us up 9 ½ to 2 ½.

Accordingly, our thoughts immediately turned to the cocktail party scheduled to begin at 6:00. By dinner time, 6:30, the Team's spirits had been lifted, and we returned to the club's Formal Dining Room for a joyous gathering with our new friends who, hours earlier had given us a taste of the type of competition we would face over eleven succeeding matches, although we didn't realize it at the time

# Sunday, February 26



# Sunday, February 26





# Sunday, February 26



# Monday, February 27

## Travel Day

### Barwon Heads to Melbourne

### Welcome Cocktail Party, The Australian Club

### Tour Coordinator's Report: Sam Carroll



It was time to bid farewell to Barwon Heads after two wonderful days at the club and in the company of so many welcoming SGS Victoria Seniors and their wives. Even though we were guests, the Team were made to feel like members thanks to the hospitality extended by the club's staff.

Our coach departed promptly at 9:00 for the ~90-minute drive to Melbourne and our home for the next six nights, the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria Club. Upon arrival, none other than the SGS Victoria president David Field was standing curbside to greet us, a protocol, as we were to see, that would be followed upon our arrival in Brisbane and Sydney. But David did not just greet us, he handled baggage, directed us to a special desk for early check-ins and made certain the Team was taken care of. Our compliments to the RACV staff for handling the arrival of 24 guests at the same time so seamlessly.



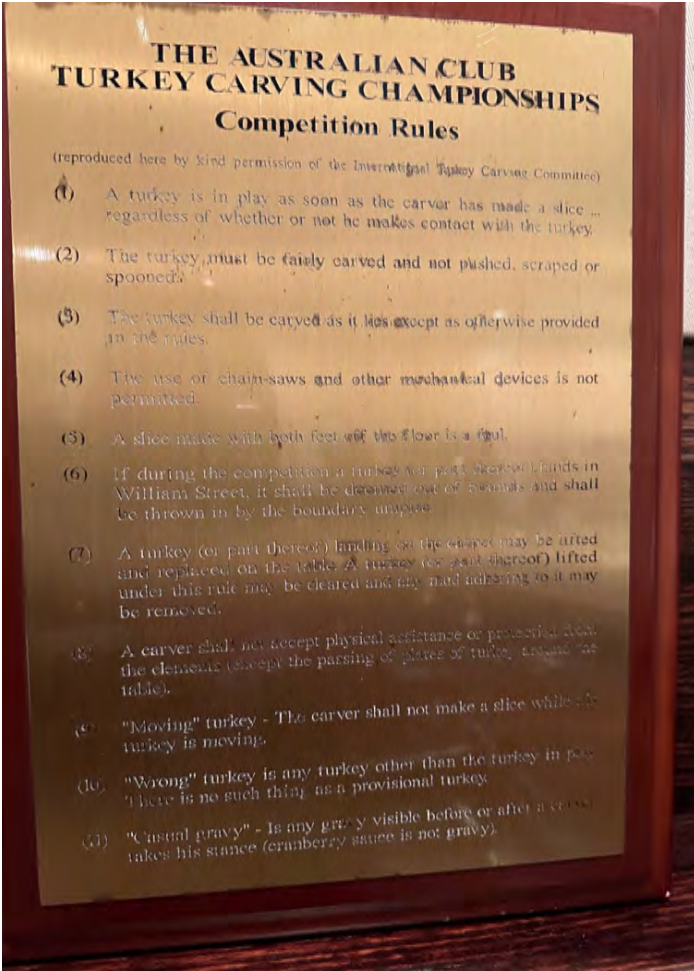
There were no organized activities for the afternoon, so we did our own thing from working out in the club's fitness center to swimming laps in the club's indoor pool to checking out self-service laundry facilities to taking self-guided tours of Melbourne's CBD to ... just taking it easy.

However, come 6:00 PM, we were back on track with SGS Victoria scheduled activities, this one being a Welcome Cocktail Party at The Australian Club, a mere five-minute walk from the RACV Club and in the heart of Melbourne's legal and financial district. Established in 1878, the Club is noted for offering superb facilities for dining, functions and corporate events. The large, unmarked and imposing structure remains the oldest, purpose-built, in-continuous club building in Australia, according to one travel columnist.



Club staff met the Team at the front door and ushered us up an elegant staircase to a charming room filled with ornate Victorian décor, where the omnipresent David Field, along with his wife Fiona and several SGS Victoria Seniors and their wives, welcomed us. In prepared remarks, David hailed our arrival and summarized the Team's itinerary for the week. After a most enjoyable 90 minutes of socializing, we briefly toured a few of the club's other impressive rooms before returning to the RACV Club and a group dinner.

# Monday, February 27



# Tuesday, February 28

## Yarra Valley Wine Tour

### Tour Coordinator's Report: Sam Carroll



HUBERT  
ESTATE

Tuesday dawned cool and overcast as we boarded our coach at 9:30 for a day-long tour of the Yarra Valley. The day was billed as a Yarra Valley Wine Tour, but it turned out to be much more than that. For starters, the Team found great pleasure experiencing the camaraderie typically associated with group road trips, ignited by our anointed bus captains, Todd Stucky at the front and Frank Rutan at the rear. While Todd and Frank's primary responsibility for our multiple coach rides was getting accurate headcounts, they added greatly to our enjoyment of traveling together by a never-failing succession of glib, clever quips. Mitsy, our driver, was non-plussed, however. What could be more enjoyable, we mused, than engaging with and driving 24 fun-loving Americans from Melbourne's CBD to the Yarra Valley? But Astrid forewarned us, "Don't mess with Mitsy." We had to find a way to crack Mitsy's sour attitude code and get her to like us.

As for the tour itself, it was billed as "an epicurean adventure for those with a passion for wine, food and breathtaking landscapes." We visited Hubert Estate in the charming valley of Coldstream, one of the eighty wineries that span the Yarra Valley, and sampled a Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz. In the Estate's Gallery of Art, there was a fascinating collection of indigenous artworks. Then, on to Ai Fiori Trattoria at the Soumah Winery in Gruyere for a second round of wine tasting, followed by a gourmet three-course lunch with...more wine.

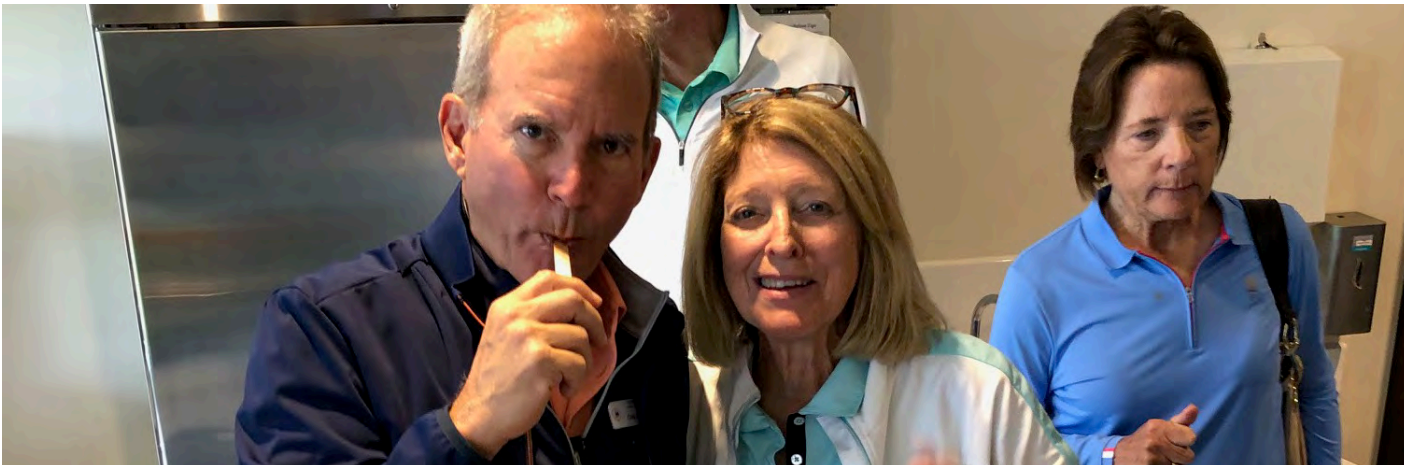
Was it the continuous flow of wine? Maybe the gourmet lunch? Or the determination she has shown countless times in championship golf matches? Whatever, the Team was greatly relieved when, after lunch, Kerry cracked the Mitsy sour attitude code by charming her with an impromptu photo shoot. Kerry won Mitsy over and as Todd later put it, "Mitsy was in a much better mood the rest of the afternoon."

What better way to cap off today's "epicurean adventure" than visiting Yarra Valley Chocolaterie & Ice Creamery, where we took our collective love of chocolate to a whole new level by engaging in a one-hour Taste & Create Session. After sampling twelve different varieties of chocolate, we filled our eight once take away cups with either freshly made milk or dark chocolate, then loaded in the samplings, as well as an assortment of toppings. Undoubtedly, these concoctions registered a four-figure calorie count.

The last sentence of the SGSA'S tour itinerary for today stated, "Returning to the city at around 4:30 you will have time to freshen up and explore more of Melbourne's restaurants and nightlife." Freshen up, for sure. Explore more of Melbourne's restaurants and nightlife, only three couples ventured on to Rubira's for dinner.



# Tuesday, February 28



# Wednesday, March 1

## Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club

### Second Match

#### Captain's Report: Doug Waston

# PK

Our intrepid group played the Peninsula Kingswood Country Club (PK) North course on Wednesday, March 1st. We had set out from our lodging at the RACV Club in Melbourne in the rain, but by the time we arrived at PK, blue skies augured a glorious day. PK's president, Dr. Jenny Picking, welcomed us over lunch. She, as well as PK's members in attendance, could not have been more warm, gracious and inviting. We learned that PK has 1,700 members, quite large by U.S. standards, and a three-year wait list, becoming more common in the U.S. In contrast with the eleven other clubs on our mainland itinerary, PK is very similar to a U.S. country club, with two courses, a swimming pool, tennis courts, fitness center, large ultra-modern clubhouse and several accessory buildings, one of which contained accommodations for overnight guests.



PK North is a magnificent and spectacular course, with numerous sharply cut and shaped bunkers in the Dr. Alister MacKenzie vein; large, undulating, interesting putting surfaces that extend all the way to the very edge of the protective bunkers; firm, fast, and tightly manicured fairways; interesting elevation changes, with a particularly spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean and downtown Melbourne from #3 tee, and terrific routing, with a grand finishing hole nestled in natural amphitheater for spectators (None were there watching us.). As a bonus, there was a cacophony of squawking parrots hidden in the trees and bushes on several of the holes. Each hole was its own special design (no up and back or parallel fairways here), with the par 3's being particularly memorable. The playing conditions were superb! PK North is rated #5 in Australia by Golf Australia Magazine, although, not surprisingly, many of the members we talked with feel as though it should be rated #1 in the Sandbelt region, if not in all the country. In short, our group was treated to a magical experience at Peninsula Kingswood!

The format for today's competition was an Aussie version of match play (one point per match) using the Stableford scoring system. Unfortunately, the result was another loss for the Team, the Aussies prevailed 7 to 4.

# Wednesday, March 1



# Thursday, March 2

## Kingston Heath Golf Club

### Third Match

#### Captain's Report: Todd Stucky



Fully settled in at the RACV Club in beautiful Melbourne's CBD, we arrived at Kingston Heath Golf Club with great excitement. The club was established in 1909 then moved to its current site in the Australian sand belt in 1925. This move included the complete dismantling and re-assembling of the original clubhouse at the new location while the golf course opened as a par 82! The club is proud of Dr. Alister MacKenzie's 1926 bunker plan, which remains as one of the reasons Golf Digest rates Kingston Heath #16 in its world rankings.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by our Australian tour leader Gary Lee and club captain Peter Clark. After a very Australian lunch featuring wine and grilled fish, we raced to the range to hit a few shots prior to a 1:30 shotgun start. As advertised, the golf course was a stunning example of classic links architecture. Wide fairways lead to fast greens surrounded by classic MacKenzie bunkers. Coupled with perfect playing conditions, we enjoyed a memorable day of golf at a truly world class golf course. Although we came up short in our match, 8-4 the Team relished playing such a magnificent layout.

Peter Clark hosted a lively post round gathering featuring local beers and trays of delicious small plates. As is our custom, we presented the club with a lovely USSGA plate commemorating our special visit to Kingston Heath Golf Club.





# Thursday, March 2



# Friday, March 3

## The Royal Melbourne Golf Club Fourth Match Dinner, The Royal Melbourne Golf Club Captain's Report: Chip Lutz



THE ROYAL MELBOURNE GOLF CLUB

With great anticipation we arrived at The Royal Melbourne Golf Club to play the last of our sandbelt courses in the Melbourne region before heading to Brisbane several days later. As you could expect we were all eyes and ears upon arrival where we were greeted by David Field, our host for the day, and raised the USSGA flag along with the SGSA flag outside the clubhouse. A light lunch was enjoyed in the clubhouse along with our club hosts and competitors alike, and we were given a presentation by Richard Forsyth, Director of Courses, with details of the course conditions and agronomy. This continued to create excitement and build our expectations for an amazing day on the course. Although we were unable to play the championship composite routing, which includes twelve holes from the West and six from the East, the West measured up in every way to its #4 spot in the Golf Digest world rankings. We were truly amid some of the greatest of all designs by none other than Dr. Alister MacKenzie!



Our hosts combined the SGSA Victorian Society's Annual Dinner for their members and wives with our Farewell Dinner. David Field introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Richard Allen, author of more than 20 books, including, *Golf's Life Lessons*, his most recent. Richard delighted the group with amazing historical golf facts, details of championships, players and events alike that helped link us all in a captivating expose on the traditions and connectivity of the game. Additionally, Dave Bullock was recognized for his personal accomplishment of playing a career 500 different courses around the world, Royal Melbourne West being the 500th.

Although the team completed this portion of the competition in the loss column (10½-1½), we turned our focus to Brisbane for another go at the Aussies to hopefully climb out of the cellar. As we said our goodbyes to our new friends from Barwon Heads, Peninsula Kingswood, Kingston Heath and Royal Melbourne, we hope that these new friendships will endure time, and we will be reacquainted in the future. Nothing like new and old friends alike. Golf always brings us closer!

Friday, March 3



# Friday, March 3



Friday, March 3



# Saturday, March 4

CHANCERY · LANE

## Free Day Melbourne

### Tour Coordinator's Report: Sam Carroll

The Team's first free day since arriving on February 25. The only organized activity for the day was a personalized afternoon walking tour of Melbourne, courtesy of the award-winning company Walking Tours of Melbourne. Two evenly divided groups met our guides at 1:30 at Federation Square and set off on foot. The customized four-hour tour included three themes. The first was Marvelous Melbourne, a journey along "The Golden Mile" of Collins Street and 185 years of iconic Melbourne places. Next was Fabulous Architecture of Melbourne, where our guides moved from stories of the early lanes to the goldrush boom to inter-war to the modern era of carbon-neutral design. Lost Melbourne brought to life vanished buildings and lanes, hidden corners, forgotten infrastructure, lost hills, waterways, subways and basements. As informative as the tour was, it was also exhausting.

Rallying from daytime activities, the Team spent a festive evening at Chancery Lane, a "hatted" restaurant adjacent to the RACV Club, courtesy of David Field, who recommended the venue and secured a private room for the occasion. Thank you, David!



# Saturday, March 4



# Sunday, March 5



## Travel Day

### Melbourne to Brisbane

### Brisbane River Cruise

### Welcome Cocktail Party, Mike and Joy Hume's Home

### Tour Coordinators Report: Sam Carroll

We said our good-byes to the RACV Club at 8:00 and departed for Melbourne's Tullamarine Airport for the QF 612 ~ two-hour flight to Brisbane. Gary had made our group reservations, and we were taken aback at how well prepared the QF group check-in personnel were to handle 24 passengers and 50+ pieces of luggage.

On arrival, we were met by Fred Hess, Don Fraser and his wife Lindy. Don is the president of the SGS Queensland. After gathering our luggage, Fred led the Team to the coach that would take us to the Brisbane Hilton, our home for the next six nights. There was little time to spare after checking in since the coach plus Les Nathanson, Captain of the SGS Queensland, pulled up at 3:45 to deliver us to the South Bank Boat Mooring where we boarded a pontoon destined for Mike and Joy Hume's river front home and a Welcome Cocktail Party. The 30-minute cruise was delightful as we proceeded through the heart of Brisbane's CBD, with its stately office towers and attractive residential high rises, to a lovely stretch of single-family homes dotting the west side of the river.



The pontoon deposited us on Mike and Joy's dock, and as we looked up the gently sloping yard, there stood a dozen or more SGS Queensland members and their wives awaiting our arrival. It was an inspiring scene, accompanied by an affable greeting, one that exemplified the Aussie hospitality so typical of our time on the mainland. After cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres and an abundance of spirited conversation, the Team boarded our coach for the return trip to the Hilton with our thoughts turning to Monday's matches at Indooroopilly and breaking into the w column.



# Sunday, March 5



# Monday, March 6

## Indooroopilly Golf Club Fifth Match Dinner, Queensland Club Captain's Report: Bill Mynatt



**INDOOROOPILLY**  
GOLF CLUB

On Monday, March 6, after a brief 20-minute bus ride from our hotel, the Team arrived at Indooroopilly Golf Club. We were welcomed by our host, Les Nathanson, the Captain of the Senior Golfers' Society of Queensland and a would-be participant in two other matches, Brisbane Golf Club and Royal Queensland. The day was very warm and the sun very bright, leading one Indooroopilly member to comment on #1 tee that Queensland was the skin cancer capital of the world. Comforting thought as we began play.

The course, all 36 holes, sits on the banks of the Brisbane River. The East is public allowing visitors to pay and play, while the West is a member only layout. We played the West. On special occasions, the club sets up composite courses combining the four nine holes into various permutations. The club approved a Master Plan in 2006 to upgrade the West, and most recently, engaged Ross Perrett and Carrie Webb as co-architects to

reshape the East and West. It should be noted that in three days, February 26-28, 2022, otherwise known as the Eastern Australia Floods, Brisbane received 26.65 inches of rain. Since, as previously noted, Indooroopilly lies immediately adjacent to the Brisbane River, the courses suffered tremendous damage. While the West was in excellent shape for our visit, several holes on the East have not fully recovered.

After a thrashing by our Indooroopilly hosts (Aussies, 10 ½, U.S. 1 ½), I presented Les with a USSGA commemorative plate in appreciation for welcoming the U.S. team so cordially. Noting how competitive Australian athletes are, I shared with the assembled group my long admiration for one fiercely competitive Aussie, Jon Hendricks. Jon moved to my town, Lake Forest, Illinois and was a regular tennis doubles opponent. Every match Jon contested every point. Jon was named Athlete of the Year in Australia in 1955 and won a swimming gold medal in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. To my delight, several of the Senior Indooroopilly golfers shared with me that Jon Hendricks is well-remembered in Australia. What a great time our U.S. team enjoyed at Indooroopilly playing such competitive matches on an excellent course with an outstanding group of Aussie ladies and gentlemen.



# Monday, March 6

After returning to the Hilton, we forgot about our poor showing at Indooroopilly and sparked up for what promised to be a memorable dinner at Queensland Club, a brief 15-minute walk from our hotel. Founded in 1859, the Clubhouse went through many iterations before the present stately structure, which became fully operational in 1987, emerged. Our hosts, Don and Lindy Fraser, were joined by two dozen other SGS Queensland members and their wives in welcoming the Team. During a captivating, thoroughly researched toast, the well-spoken Don was in rare form as he explored the shared similarities and societal differences between Australia and the United States. In reply, Sam spoke extemporaneously about our two country's shared values, thanked the SGS Queensland organizing committee and asked the Team to stand as he offered a toast to the hosts.



# Monday, March 6



Queensland Club



Monday, March 6



# Tuesday, March 7

## Brookwater Golf & Country Club

### Sixth Match

#### Captain's Report: Barclay McFadden



The Team awoke early on March 7 after a lovely evening at Royal Queensland Club. We boarded our coach at 6:30 to take us to Brookwater Golf & Country Club, a little under an hour southwest of downtown Brisbane. As Coach Captain Todd Stuckey was under the weather, his Supervisor Carrie Stuckey stood in for him to ensure that everyone was on board with the proper blue shirts. Several other teammates were missing due to various travel ailments including a few cases of Covid. The morning was a fine fall day with fair skies and a forecast of temperatures in the high 20s C. We were greeted by Dr. Leslie Nathanson, Captain of the Senior Golfers' Society of Queensland team that day. Janet Nathanson was also there to help sort out the ladies matches since we were missing several lady players. We arrived at Brookwater in time to use their excellent practice facilities. The practice green was notable for the "SNAKES SEEN IN AREA" sign.



Brookwater is a Greg Norman and Bob Harrison design that opened in 2002. The parkland course was a dramatic change from the sandbelt courses of Melbourne, as well as Brisbane's Indooroopilly Golf Club that we had played the day before. The terrain was like many U.S. courses with steep valleys, small streams and hardwoods lining the fairways. However, in such serene settings in the U.S., players do not encounter kangaroos. Nor do players in the U.S. find Willy Wagtails, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo's or Tawny Frogmouth's, three of the ~400 bird species recorded in Brisbane. The contours often pushed errant shots into the marshy edges of streams and deep roughs which only the bravest player would enter to locate his or her ball given the snake warnings we had heard and seen. Some golf writers have compared Brookwater to Augusta National with echoes of Dr. Alistair McKenzie's undulating terrain, creative bunkering and sloping putting surfaces. It also reminded some of the U.S. team of San Francisco Golf Club.

The competition began with a shotgun start at 8:30. With four members of the Team on the injured reserve list the Aussies gallantly filled in. Proximity winners were Cindy Freimuth, Kerry Rutan and Vicki McDonald for the ladies. For the men, Jerry Maycock, Stan Freimuth and Peter Roswell were winners. Congratulations to the Freimuths's for their double! The Brookwater match was the closest of the trip so far with the Aussie Seniors eking out a 6 ½ to 5 ½ victory. The final match ended the competition with the Aussies one up to decide the outcome. The Senior Golfers' Society of Queensland were terrific hosts and Brookwater General Manager Aaron Scanlan provided wonderful hospitality. A USSGA commemorative plate was presented to Mr. Scanlan and Dr. Nathanson as a token of our appreciation for their time and effort to host us at Brookwater.

After returning to the Hilton and freshening up, several members of the Team headed to the Howard Smith Wharf for dinner at Greca, a contemporary Greek restaurant noted for "...serving memorable food with the generous spirit of Mediterranean hospitality in a spectacular riverside setting." With not easily forgotten views of the CBD's skyline across the Brisbane River of the CBD skyline, those participating enjoyed an eight-course meal delivered in a timely fashion by a most courteous group of servers.

# Tuesday, March 7



# Wednesday, March 8

## Australia Zoo

### Tour Coordinator's Report: Sam Carroll



Our first and only free day in Brisbane featured a visit to The Wharf Mooloomaba, followed by a private tour of the Australia Zoo.

The Wharf was a 90-minute drive by coach from the Brisbane Hilton. Arriving at 10:45, we were treated to morning tea before embarking on a brief stroll along the boardwalk overlooking a pristine beach filled with Queenslanders immersing themselves in the “Sunshine Coast lifestyle and seaside culture.”

Then on the Australian Zoo in Beerwah and an 11:45 lunch at the Warrior Restaurant located inside the Crocodile Hunter Lodge, named for The Crocodile Hunter Documentary Series, featuring Steve and Terri Irwin. Steve and Terri would go on to film over 300 episodes of variations of The Crocodile Hunter Series before Steve tragically died in an accident while snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef in 2006. These programs have been enjoyed by over 500 million viewers worldwide.

To sum up our visit, it would be fair to say we had close and personal encounters with an incredible array of wildlife. Close: rhinos, zebras, giraffes, meercats, cheetahs, tigers, birds of prey, salt-water crocs, kangaroos, anacondas, dingoes, Komodo dragons, elephants, iguanas, pythons, boa constrictors, tortoises, Tasmanian devils, wallabys and wombats. Personal: see photos.

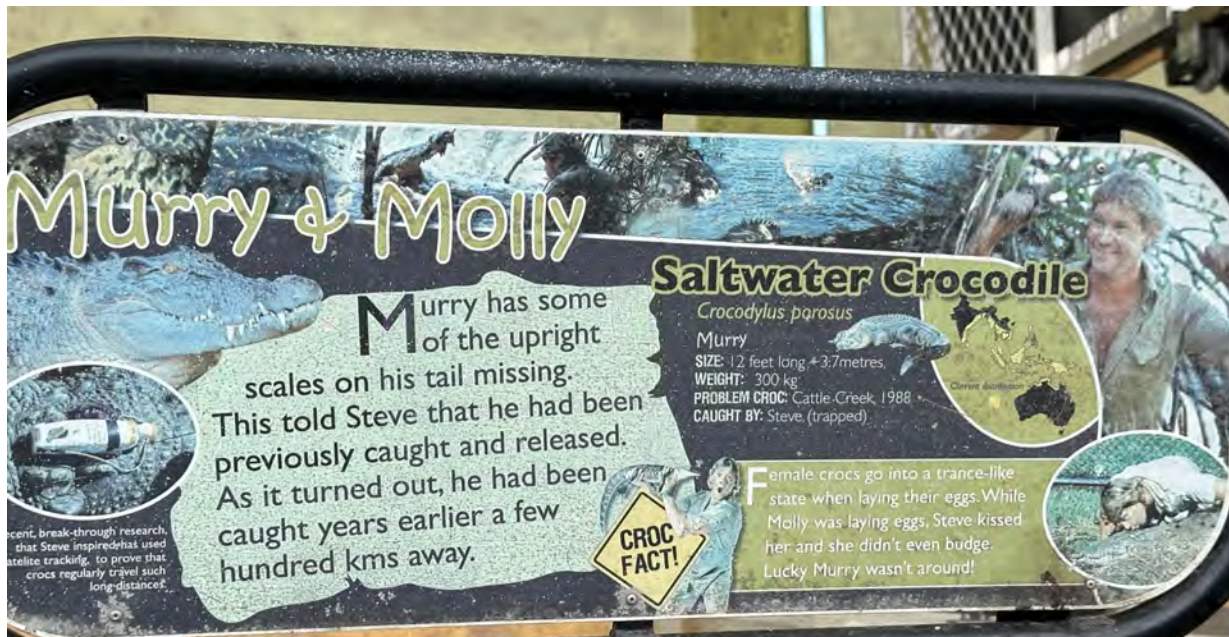




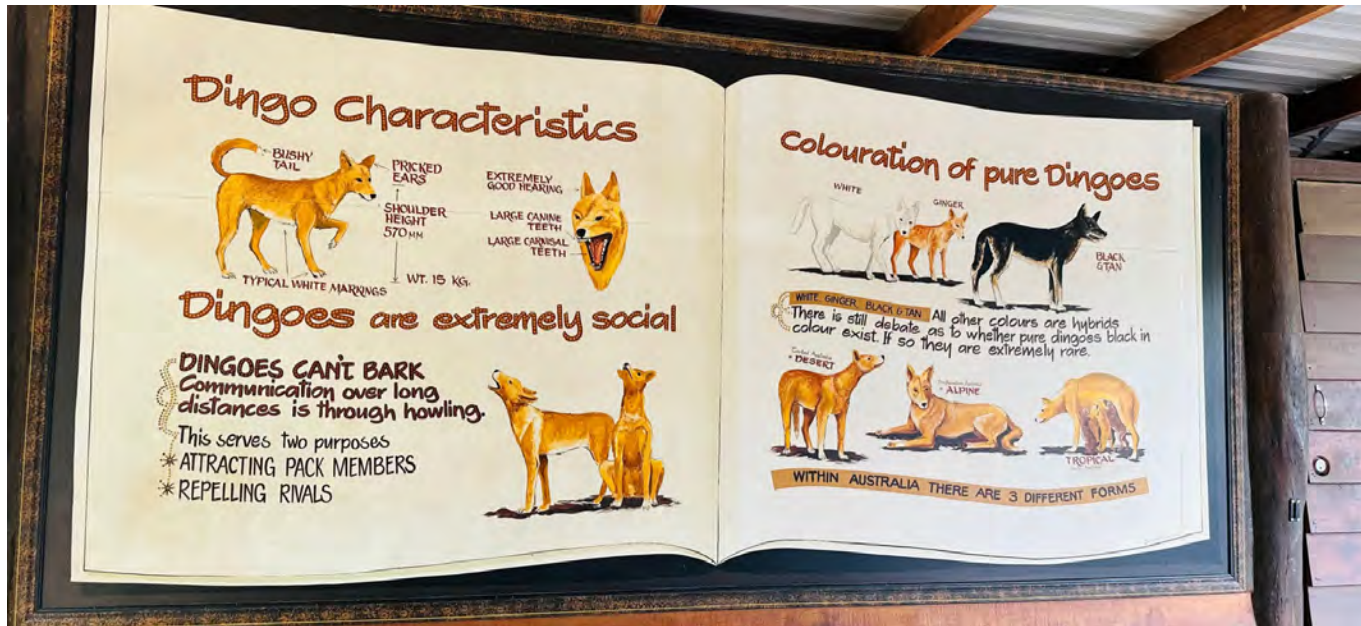
Wednesday, March 8



# Wednesday, March 8



Wednesday, March 8



# Thursday, March 9

## Brisbane Golf Club

### Seventh Match

### Dinners, Home Hosted

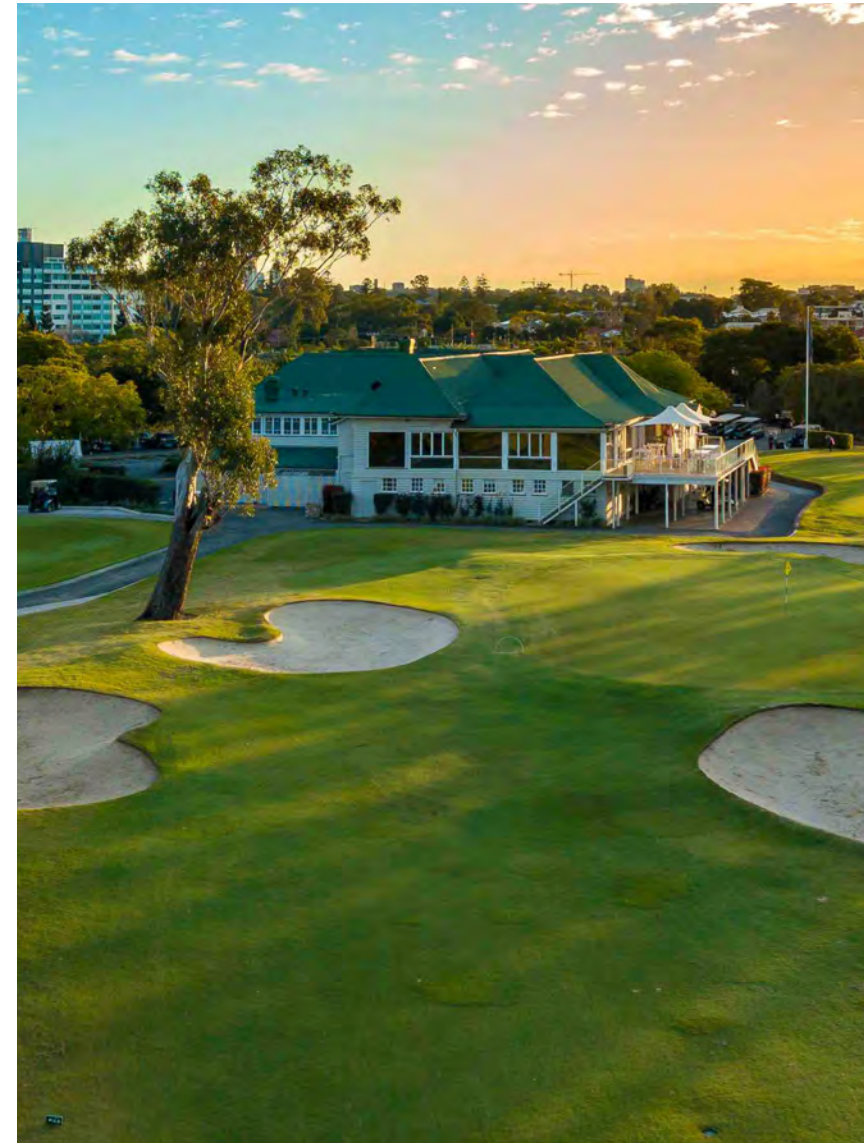
### Captain's Report: Per Heidenreich



An uncharacteristically hot humid day greeted the Team as we arrived at Brisbane Golf Club to play our seventh match against another band of talented Aussie golfers. Founded in 1896, Brisbane Golf Club started as a nine-hole course in nearby Chelmer. In 1905, the club moved to its present site where Scots-born Sydney professional and three-time Australian Open Champion Carnegie Clark set out the new course. Those of us from the U.S. familiar with Champion Ultradwarf Bermuda took note of the fact that Brisbane was the first club in Australia to reconstruct its greens with this grass, completing the three-year conversion in 2015.

Since four of the U.S. players were still suffering from enteritis and were unable to play, the Senior Golfers' Society of Queensland (SGSQ) members running the show cleverly used an alternating player form of match play to assure all twelve matches would be played. Play began at 11:00 using split tees. The U.S. men excelled at the nearest-to-the pin competition, taking the honors on #4, #7, #11 and #13, while the Aussie women also ran the table on the par 3's. The U.S. men and women did not fare so well in the matches however, as the SGSQ players prevailed 8 to 4. As one SGSQ player observed afterwards, "There seemed to be a lot of headshaking and concern on the part of the U.S. team." To which I thought to myself, "Why would there not be. We've dropped seven consecutive matches to the Aussies."

Refreshments were served in the members lounge following play, at which time thank you's were extended to our SGSQ hosts, the club's professional staff, golf course superintendent and general manager. An embossed ceramic plate was presented to the club to commemorate the U.S. team's visit there.



# Thursday, March 9



# Friday, March 10



## Royal Queensland Golf Club Eighth Match

### Captain's Report: Lach Hough

It was an early start, 6:30, for our final competitive round of golf in Brisbane. The likelihood of rain was in the offing as we departed the Brisbane Hilton. Our destination was Royal Queensland Golf Club, the host club for golf in the 2032 Summer Olympics in Brisbane. This match would be the second "Major" of three in the U.S. men's battle with the SGSA for the trophy commemorating the USSGA's inaugural visit to Australia. Having



been soundly thumped at Royal Melbourne West in the first leg, our hopes were high that the U.S. team would prevail. We were further encouraged upon our arrival as the rain stopped, and we were welcomed by our SGSQ hosts to an American style championship golf course.

Royal Queensland was founded in 1920 by a group of prominent citizens of Brisbane. The original course was designed by the afore-mentioned Carnegie Clark, the Australian Open champion of the day. In 1926, on his visit to Australia, Dr. Alister MacKenzie added his touch to the original design by focusing on the greens and the greenside and fairway bunkers. But that's not the end of the story. In December 2005, the Queensland state government decided to expand a city bridge that cut across the course property. Enter Michael Clayton, who it was said, "...transformed an unremarkable course on dull, featureless land into one of the more interesting flat courses in Australia."

The results were close, but once again the Aussies prevailed 7 to 5. The U.S. men now trailed the Aussies 2 to 0 for the trophy, and the Team suffered its eight consecutive defeat.

Thankfully, our SGSQ hosts served up a gourmet lunch, which in combination with their friendly, gracious ways helped the Team pull itself out of the dumps. Club president Evelyn Foley, a participant in the day's matches, cordially welcomed us, accepted a decorative plate commemorating the USSGA's visit to the club and received well deserved compliments from the Team on the hospitable reception we received. SGSQ president Don Fraser summarized the week's events and offered his best wishes for the remaining leg of the tour — Sydney.

# Friday, March 10



# Saturday, March 11

## Travel Day

### Brisbane to Sydney

#### Tour Coordinator's Report: Sam Carroll



Our coach departed the Brisbane Hilton promptly at 8:00, taking the Team to the Brisbane Airport. Once again, the Qantas group travel desk was alert to our arrival and handled the check in and baggage deposit process seamlessly. QF 521 pushed back on time at 10:10 for a ~90-minute flight to Sydney. True to form, two SGS New South Wales members, John Barbour and Rod Davies, greeted the Team at baggage claim and directed us to a waiting coach. Rod accompanied us to our hotel for the next ten days, the Shangri-La. Saturday must be a “moving day” for, upon arrival, we encountered an enormous crowd in the lobby trying to check in. It took a while, but once in our rooms, any amount of time we waited would have been worth the effort, for what unfolded through the expansive windows in our rooms was a spectacular 270-degree view of Sydney Harbor, The Sydney Harbor Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. It was a moment to savor and the view, during the day and at night, never ceased to amaze us during our ten-day stay at the Shangri-La.

At 6:00, three waves of the Team departed the Shangri-La in maxi-taxis for an organized dinner at Otto, an Italian restaurant located in the surrounds of Finger Wharf on Woolloomooloo Bay. This structure is the longest timber-piled wharf in the world and was completed in 1915. During its working life for around 70 years, it mainly handled the export of wool, but also acted as a staging point for troop deployment to the World Wars as well as a disembarking point for new migrants arriving in Australia. This would be the first of two Sydney restaurants located on a wharf we would enjoy.





# Saturday, March 11



# Sunday, March 12

## Free Day

### Eastern Suburbs Tour

### Welcome Cocktail Party, Royal Sydney Golf Club

### Tour Coordinator's Report: Sam Carroll



“Let me show you my backyard”, said Helen Fraser, founder of the touring company Ultimately Sydney, as a compliment of the team gathered outside the Shangri-La at 8:00 for a four-hour walking tour. We began in Australia’s oldest suburb, The Rocks, as Helen wooed us with countless stories of the area which has evolved from a penal colony to housing two of the world’s most prominent icons. After two hours exploring The Rocks, Helen led us to one of the prominent icons, the Sydney Harbor Bridge. Colloquially referred to as “The Coathanger”, this ~100-year-old structure took 1,400 workers eight years to complete. It is the world’s largest steel arch bridge. Four pylons were added to the bridge solely for their aesthetic value, and we spent the better part of an hour wandering through the south-eastern pylon which contains a museum and tourist center, with a 360-degree lookout at the top providing excellent uninterrupted views across the harbor and city. At noon, we bid Helen adieu and returned to the Shangri-La for lunch and to freshen up for afternoon activities organized by the SGS New South Wales.

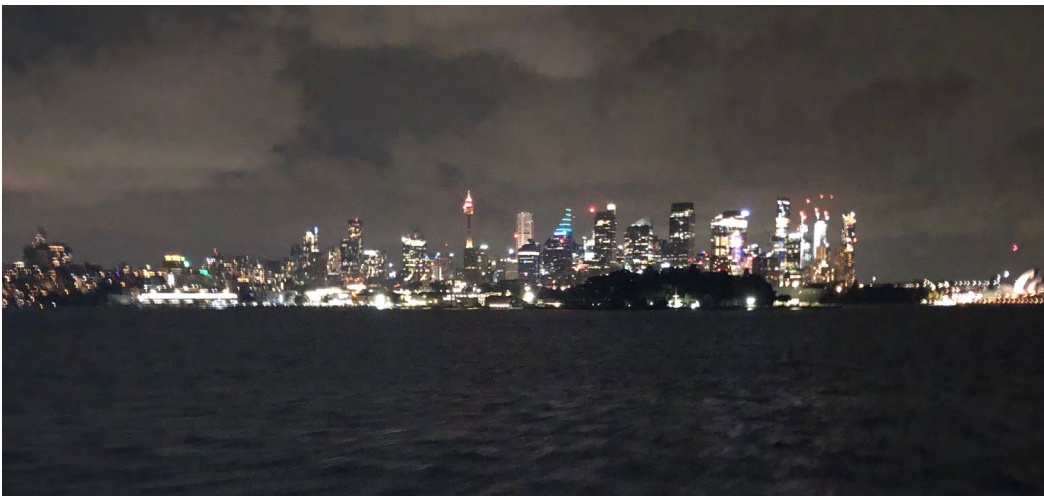
2:30 arrived and we boarded a coach bound for a tour of Sydney’s Eastern Suburbs (aka “Double Pay”), featuring some of Sydney’s well-known beaches, tourist destinations, natural scenery, water views from stately homes built on steep hillsides and populated by people, who, according to journalist Stephen Lacey, are annoyingly beautiful. One of the highlights of our tour was expert commentary delivered by Rod Davies and John Barbour.

Just after 4:00, we arrived at Royal Sydney Golf Club for a Welcome Cocktail Party. Royal Sydney was founded in 1893 and is one of Australia’s premier sporting and social clubs. In the U.S., Royal Sydney would be called a country club because it features an 18-hole Championship Course, a 9-hole Centenary Course, two golf practice areas, a golf teaching studio, 18 tennis courts, two bowling greens, two croquet lawns, a squash court, three championship quality snooker tables, a fitness center as well as an elegant clubhouse. The Team was in awe, but not only because of the marvelous facilities. The SGS New South Wales members, led by John Barbour, and their wives who greeted us, along with Adam Cornell, Captain at Royal Sydney, and the club’s staff, could not have been more welcoming.

To top off our first full day in Sydney, several of the Team headed to Hugos Manly, our second wharf restaurant, for dinner. Maxi-taxis took us there, but we were more adventurous on the return trip, boarding the ferry at Manly Wharf for a spectacular, eye-popping 25-minute ride on a crystal-clear night to Circular Quay and the Shangri-La.

Sunday, March 12

Hugob  
MANLY



# Monday, March 13

## Elanora Golf Club

### Ninth Match

## Elanora Country Club

### Captain's Report: Stan Freimuth



We had a late morning departure from the Shangri-La and headed for Sydney's Northern Beaches, site of Elanora Country Club. Elanora is an Aboriginal word meaning "home by the sea." The club was formed in 1928, and during the later years of World War II Elanora became a popular resort for the officers of the American forces and for those of the British Navy stationed in Sydney.

Gil Coles, our host for the day, warmly greeted the Team. A light lunch was served, perfect nourishment for our task ahead: to finally win a match against the Aussies. After a 1:00 shotgun start, the Team found Elanora's playing corridors tightly treed. Many fairways and greens were pitched quite steeply, their conditioning excellent. Speaking of tightly treed, towering eucalyptus were omnipresent, offset by natural bush and wetlands. We encountered a variety of birds, including parrots, parakeets, cockatoos and kookaburras, laughing at the struggling American golfers no doubt, while sitting in the old gum trees.



At the conclusion of the matches, however, there was no laughing heard from the Team after Gil announced the results: Aussies 9, U.S. 3. After thanking Gil and the Elanora staff, a commemorative plate was presented to the club. Then, anxious to drown our sorrows over another loss, we headed to the members bar for cocktails, wine and a delicious barbeque dinner. Once again, the highlight of the day, and evening, was the Aussie hospitality and the camaraderie shared between our two teams.

# Monday, March 13



# Tuesday, March 14

## The Australian Golf Club Tenth Match Dinner, The Australian Golf Club Captain's Report: Dave Bullock



On Tuesday, March 14, we were privileged to play The Australian Golf Club, the oldest golf club in their country and host to a record 21 Australian Opens. Upon arrival, it was apparent that this was a special place starting with the quality service from the outside staff to the organization of the day throughout. We entered their beautiful clubhouse where they had on display several boards of history and information including past champions of the Australian Open held there. Those champions include Jack Nicklaus, a three-time winner and other notables such as David Graham, Greg Norman, Craig Perry, Jordan Spieth and Cameron Davis.

The locker rooms were spacious and adorned with all the modern amenities. Prior to lunch, we spent time on the driving range that had a roof over the hitting area which came in handy since the rain was starting and would continue off and on for the next few hours. The club hosted a lovely lunch in the Carvery Room where we met our opponents for the day and then it was off to a mini shotgun start for the matches.



Upon first look at the golf course, it was not lost on us that there were similarities between the Australian Club and Augusta National. The rich green grass, the white sand bunkers and the pine trees and pine straw grouped together gave a similar feel to the home of The Masters. The Jack Nicklaus design had many of his signature features including generous fairways, challenging approach shots and an abundance of water, particularly around the greens.

A formal dinner was held in their dining room after the matches. After the scores were announced, the Aussies won 8 ½ to 3 ½, we presented their Club Captain, Paul Oneile, with a USSGA decorative plate as an expression of our appreciation and a connection between our Association and their club. As we left the Australia Golf Club, we did so knowing that we spent a fine day at a prominent and distinguished club and will look forward to watching the Australian Open at a place that we now know well.

# Tuesday, March 14



# Wednesday, March 15

## Sydney Harbor, Private Harbor Cruise

Captain's Report: Sam Carroll



Notwithstanding the excellent courses the Aussies had lined up for the Team, there was no suppressing our long-standing excitement about spending the better part of this afternoon aboard the Motor Yacht JBW cruising Sydney Harbor, whose sparkling waters are synonymous with Australia's most famous city. Since arriving in Sydney, checking into the Shangri-La and moving into our 33rd floor rooms, we had been unable to take our eyes, day and night, off the panoramic views of the harbor, including, most notably, the stunning Sydney Harbor Bridge, the visiting cruise ships and the magnificent Sydney Opera House. The afternoon was warm and sunny, and once aboard the JBW, accompanied by several SGS NSW members and their wives, what unfolded before our eyes was, arguably, the world's most beautiful waterway surrounded by hundreds of kilometers of shoreline, national parks and historic sites. Adding to the beauty of this unrivaled natural harbor, we observed that it was alive with ferries, yachts and kayaks. The JBW was but one part of this picturesque flotilla.



Adding to the enjoyment of this relaxed and pleasant occasion was a plentiful supply of canapes and drinks, prepared and served by a most courteous crew. There was plenty of banter and chitchat during our three hours aboard the JBW, not to mention an endless stream of questions posed by we Americans to our SGS NSW hosts. Returning to the Shangri-La, we rested up a bit before heading to Bondi Beach, Australia's most famous, for dinner at the iconic Icebergs.





# Wednesday, March 15



# Thursday, March 16

## New South Wales Golf Club Eleventh Match Dinner, New South Wales Golf Club Captain's Report: Gordon Burns



**NEW SOUTH WALES  
GOLF CLUB**

We woke up on Thursday morning to a welcome change in the weather. The golf at Elanora and the Australian earlier in the week featured some intermittent showers and the previous day at the Australian Zoo had been overcast. Thursday was sunshine with hardly a cloud. It would also turn out to be our warmest day with temperatures breaking 90°F by the afternoon.

While greatly enjoying the spectacular views of Sydney Harbor from our rooms at the Shangri-La, the group steadfastly continued to avoid breakfast for \$50 a pop at the hotel restaurant and instead located various alternatives down The Rocks. Everyone was appreciative of the generous bus departure time of 10:30 and could only admire the discipline of our bus captain, Todd Stuckey, and our official head counter, Frank Rutan. Our bus worked its way through the La Perouse National Park, and there at the end of the road was the New South Wales Golf Club.



This was the final day of the official competition and consequently required a blazer for dinner. Many on the team bus were puzzled by how we could win the official competition, having already lost at Royal Melbourne and Royal Queensland. The captain of the day decided to take the challenge straight on, convinced that prior losses were solely a consequence of misunderstood scoring. After spending several minutes with the pro going over each detail, the captain took the floor to finally clarify for the assembled group exactly what the scoring would be. A brief stunned silence ensued followed by the declaration from our hosts that the captain of the day's presentation was entirely wrong.

We recalibrated, had a burger with minced kangaroo steak, gathered for a group picture and went to our respective tees. What followed was the most glorious day of golf. NSWGC is usually a windy spot, but we caught it napping and were treated to a mild breeze throughout the afternoon.

I think forever lodged in our memories will be the sense of wonder after cresting the hill on #5 to see the spectacular view below us of waves crashing on rocks, water colored in turquoise, blue and white swirling below #5 green. (see the cover page of this record). We then walked out on the rocks to the farthest tee for #6 and played back over the water to a par 3 that rivals #16 at Cypress Point. Not to be believed. Always to be remembered oh, the score. Aussies 8, U.S. 4.

A quick trip to the pro shop for a hat or a ball marker, a welcomed shower, and then the all-time greatest sunset of the trip (see opposite page) – maybe of our collective lives. Some oysters and prawns on the barbie for appetizers followed by dinner and remarks by NSWGC President Chris Coudoumaris. If we are never able to return, we felt so lucky that we had captured NSWGC at its best.

# Thursday, March 16



# Friday, March 17

## Royal Sydney Golf Club

### Twelfth Match

### Farewell Dinner, Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron

### Captain's Report: Frank Rutan



Today was our final match of the competition against the SGSA, in this case members of the Senior Golfers' Society of New South Wales. There was a heightened amount of pressure on the U.S. team to finally defeat the Australian juggernaut. The match was scheduled to be conducted at the historic Royal Sydney Golf Club in Rose Bay, a suburb of Sydney.

Royal Sydney is one of the preeminent clubs in Australia with a long heritage of championship golf. Since its founding in 1893, the club has hosted 15 Australian Opens, the most recent in 2016 won by Jordan Spieth. The weather was sunny and warm, and the course was set up in championship fashion.

Our Royal Sydney hosts provided a sandwich lunch on the club's beautiful northern terrace. Nicki Barrett-Leonard, the Royal Sydney Ladies Captain, welcomed the Team. In the spirit of St. Patrick's Day, and in celebration of their 44th wedding anniversary, Chip and Bonnie Lutz sported eye-catching four-leaf clover necklaces. Nicki went through the day's proceedings then shushed both teams out to their starting holes for a 1:00 shotgun start. One of the highlights of the course set up was the location of #1 tee. It was situated on the club's top terrace, immediately in front of a flagpole prominently flying the USSGA flag, a location typically reserved only for championships. Well, in the minds of the Team, this was a Championship. Thank you, Royal Sydney!



The golf course we played, as great as it was in the view of the Team, will soon be the subject of a major renovation, courtesy of Gil Hanse. Several Americans were overheard pleading with Royal Sydney members to not make any changes to a half-dozen holes — to no avail.

At the conclusion of the round, we boarded water taxis for the quick trip across Sydney Harbor to the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron for cocktails,

# Friday, March 17

dinner and awards. The RSYS is another historic Sydney institution known best for being the first Australian club to compete for the America's Cup. Beginning in 1962, the club began to seriously challenge the New York Yacht Club for the America's Cup when the boats were all in the 12-meter class. Their persistence helped the Royal Perth Yacht Club to finally wrest the Cup from the hands of the Yanks in 1983. When asked by journalists in 1962 the reasons he wanted to challenge for the Cup, Sir Frank Packer of Royal Sydney replied, "Alcohol and delusions of grandeur". A typical Aussie self-deprecating reply!

At the Farewell Dinner, I congratulated Nicki on the Aussies fine play, 7 to 5, and presented her with a USSGA Commemorative Plate as our thanks for a wonderful day.

Since this was the last competition, it also was time for the USSGA/SGSA Challenge Trophy to be awarded to the victorious Australian Seniors. The final score of the "Majors" was 3 to 0, SGSA. Accepting the trophy was our exemplary host Gary Lee, Honorary Secretary of the SGSA. While the members of the visiting USSGA team had hoped for a different outcome, we all agreed that what we gained from this experience far outweighed the disappointment of the loss.

This was also an opportunity to thank Sam Carroll for the time he committed to coordinating the tour with Gary Lee and shepherding the 24 USSGA participants during this trip. The members of the U.S. team, along with the SGSA, presented Sam and Judi with a brass platypus as a reminder of the unique qualities of the continent of Australia. Without hesitation, Sam and Judi enthusiastically announced the name of the platypus – "Gary." Without Sam's vision and patience this would likely have been just an ordinary golf trip.



# Friday, March 17



Champ: US Seniors - 1pm Shotgun S/R: 74.0 Slope: 130  
 Four-ball Stableford 3rd tee Tee: White Par: 72 1:00 PM 17 Mar 2023

Player Member Number H/C  
 1 Sam Carroll VS1524820934 9  
 2 Frank Rufan VS1524820948 7

Yards	Par	Index	P1	P2	MK1	MK2	Pin	Notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	W	P2
254	4	16					M	1											
481	5	8					F	2											
156	3	14					B	3											
383	4	2					F	4											
369	4	4					B	5											
137	3	18					F	6											
506	5	6					M	7											
269	4	12					B	8											
323	4	10					B	9											
2878	36																		
374	4	7					B	10											
388	4	3					B	11											
348	4	9					B	12											
463	5	17					B	13											
167	3	13					B	14											
394	4	1					F	15											
498	5	15					B	16											
183	3	5					F	17											
361	4	11					M	18											
3176	36																		

IN  
 OUT  
 GROSS Player:  
 H/C Marker:  
 NETT

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Friday, March 17



# Saturday, March 18



## Free Day

### Tour Coordinator's Report: Sam Carroll

With the conclusion of the Mainland Tour behind us and the Team having secured a perfect match record against the Aussies – 0 and 12 – our mindset shifted from golf to spending three days taking advantage of all Sydney and its environs had to offer, or as much of it as we could cram into three days. Continuing with Helen Fraser's Ultimately Sydney, our guide for the day, Luke, greeted venturesome members of the Team at 8:00 for a seven-hour walking and transport tour of Sydney. The walking component included stops at Mrs. Macquarie's Chair, the Royal Botanic Gardens and the New South Wales Art Gallery. At 11:15, we transferred by coach to the Australian National Maritime Museum in Darling Harbor, where for 90 minutes we roamed, with guides, through the submarine HMAS Onslow, the destroyer HMAS Vampire and a warehouse containing some of the more notable of 140,000 historic artifacts in the Museum's collection.

At 1:30, we hopped aboard a ferry for Lotus Barangaroo. Barangaroo is one of Sydney's hottest shopping and dining precincts, and the restaurant is in stunning outdoor space with a covered terrace on the wharf. Billing itself as Asian Dining Reimagined, Lotus delivered on providing an "elegant and unique dining experience that showcases Chinese food culture at its heart, but with a Sydney sizzle and local food-driven flair." Amen!

Seemingly, no sooner had we arrived back at the Shangri-La than it was time to regroup for dinner, followed by attending a performance at the Sydney Opera House. The venue for our 5:00 dinner was Café Sydney. It is true that Café Sydney "captures the essence of Sydney from its amazing location on the rooftop of the Customs House with spectacular harbor views and delicious food", not to mention the fact that the restaurant is a picturesque ten-minute walk along the harbor to the Sydney Opera House.

With 2,679 seats, the Performance Center of the Sydney Opera House is the home of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Along with a capacity crowd, the Team had reserved 24 seats on the next-to-last row (the last remaining when the tickets were purchased in early February) for tonight's 7:00 performance of Gershwin's Rhapsody In Blue. And yet, given its elegantly simplistic design and particularly rich and true acoustics, we might well have been center stage tenth row.

At 8:30, we journeyed back to the Shangri-La enriched by a day of amazing and rewarding experiences.



Saturday, March 18

CAFE SYDNEY  
CAFE SYDNEY



# Sunday, March 19

## Free Day

### Tour Coordinator's Report: Sam Carroll



Primed for the last day touring Sydney proper, we boarded a coach with our unceasingly cheerful guide Luke at 8:00. First stop was the Sydney Fish Market, Australia's home of seafood and the southern hemisphere's biggest fish market. Although not open on weekends, the wholesale auction part of the Market trades more than 50 tons and 100 different species of seafood every day, supplied by Sydney's local fleet and visiting vessels that unload their catches at the Market's commercial wharf. There are on-site cafes, restaurants, gourmet delis, butchers, bakers and, well, you get the picture. What better way to follow up an early-morning traditional scrambled eggs, bacon and toast breakfast at the Shangri-La than downing a dozen Sydney rock oysters at the Market at 8:30? Many of us did just that.

On to the Sydney Cricket Ground, a sports stadium where Australian and international sporting heroes play Cricket, Rugby League, Rugby Union and Australian Rules Football for a 9:30 guided walking tour of the precinct and the SGC Museum. We ambled on the SCG's hallowed turf, sat in the team's dressing rooms, journeyed through the historic members reserve, got a birds-eye view of the media center, took the walk of honor, visited the museum and heard entertaining stories of players, spectators and events – all in 90 minutes.

At 11:00, Luke escorted the Team to the tour's last stop, the Museum of Sydney. Over 90 minutes, we had a crash course about the people, places and cultures that have made Sydney such a cosmopolitan city through observing unique exhibits, reading fascinating documents, watching enlightening movies and listening to Luke's insightful remarks.

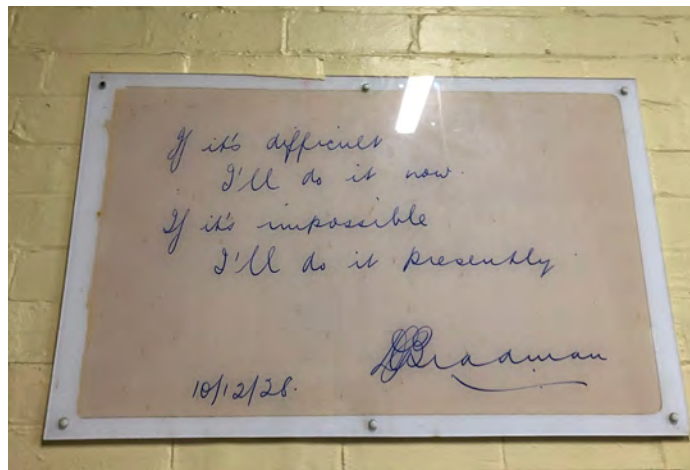
Returning to the Shangri-La at 12:30, the Team scattered for lunch prior to reconvening in two waves at 2:30 and 3:00 for guided walking tours of the Sydney Opera House. Our knowledgeable guides took us behind the scenes for a fascinating look at this Sydney icon. Built in three stages, 1959-1963, 1963-1967 and 1967-1973, the original designer, Danish Architect Jorn Utzon, came under fire in 1966, was forced to resign and left Sydney where he had relocated with his family to oversee the construction. Sadly, Utzon never returned to see this masterpiece of 20th century architecture completed. Responding to a question about the significance of the SOH, our guide stressed its unparalleled design and construction, its exceptional engineering and technological innovation and its position as a world-famous icon of architecture. Hear, hear!

Doubling down on icons, the Team gathered at Mr. Wong at 6:00 for our farewell dinner on the mainland. Located in a hard-to-find narrow alley, Mr. Wong "does Cantonese-style food in a larger-than-life way." Everything is big. With seating capacity for 240, the restaurant is spread over two levels in a lavish French-colonial setting. The menu has 80-odd dishes that tickle all the taste buds. The atmosphere is upbeat with moody jazz playing in the background.

Yet somehow the Team, joined by my five guests, Peter and Susan Vrachas, Richard and Carmel Schoeffer and Jim Rasaiah, wound up sitting at a table in a corner of the lower level that managed to feel intimate. The dinner ended on a celebratory high as we returned to the Shangri-La.



# Sunday, March 19



# Monday, March 20

## Free Day

### Tour Coordinator's Report: Sam Carroll

Rounding out our nine days in Sydney, it was time to venture beyond the city limits and head west, ultimately to the Blue Mountains. Another of Ultimate Sydney's expert guides, Rohan, welcomed us onto the coach for the day at 8:00 for the 45-minute drive to an intermediate stop, Featherdale Wildlife Park, in Doonside. The Park contains various species native to Australia and is known to be one of the world's largest collections of Australian fauna with 2,000 individual animals and 260 species.

After an hour at the Park, we reboarded the coach for a 90-minute drive to the Blue Mountains with high expectations to gaze at their soaring sandstone ridges blanketed in native bushland, take in the charming mountain towns, view the Three Sisters rock formation from Echo Point and ride three attractions at Scenic Park. Our expectations began withering ten minutes into the drive when the rain began. They sagged further as we climbed to 1,500, 2,500 and finally 3,200 feet, where there was limited visibility due to the fog. Not to be deterred, the intrepid Americans soldiered on to Scenic World where we boarded the Scenic Railway, built in the late 19th century to serve the Katoomba coal mine. At 1,023 feet in length, the ride was not scenic because of the fog, but it was steep. At 52 degrees, it is the steepest railway in the world.

At 1:00, we arrived at Echoes Restaurant, where perched at the absolute edge of the Blue Mountains National Park and at 3,200 feet visitors are offered not only renowned Australian cuisine, but panoramic views of the Jamison Valley stretching more than 60 miles – except when the fog is so dense visibility is limited to less than 100 feet. Such was our bad luck. However, our preordered three course lunches were delicious, the service was superb and there was plenty of jovial banter around the table. Right on time, our coach pulled away from Echoes at 3:00 for the two-hour drive back to Sydney and the comforts of the Shangri-La. Room service was the primary choice for dinner as we faced packing up for flights back to the U.S. and Tasmania the next day.



ECHOES  
BOUTIQUE HOTEL & RESTAURANT  
BLUE MOUNTAINS



# Monday, March 20

View from Echoes on a clear day



View from Echoes on March 20

# Tuesday, March 21



## Travel Day

### Sydney to Barnbougle Lost Farm Airstrip

### Barnbougle Dunes Golf Course

### Tour Coordinator's Report: Sam Carroll

March 21 was moving day. For Judi and Susie, it meant flying from Sydney to Houston to Orlando and driving on to Vero Beach. For Lach, Vicki, Todd and Carrie, it meant flying from Sydney to Los Angeles and driving on to Carpinteria, CA. For the rest of the team, it meant a 5:00 wake up call, early check out from the Shangri-La, picking up breakfast-to-go in the lobby and a 6:00 departure by coach to Bankstown Airport, Sydney's primary general aviation airport. After anxiously waiting for 90 minutes at the Execujet Sydney FBO while our Bass Strait Golf pilots sorted out the appropriate distribution of baggage and passengers between two planes, we rejoiced with wheels up at 8:15 for a two-hour flight to the Barnbougle Lost Farm airstrip.

Upon arrival, the Barnbougle ground transportation staff took the Team to Barnbougle Dunes for serial tee times starting at 11:00. With the men and women having played separately for twelve matches on the mainland, we decided to change the make-up of our foursomes to mixed for the four rounds in Tasmania. Teeing off under cloudy skies with the temperature hovering in the mid-60's F, each group managed to get around in just over four hours. Golf Digest rates The Dunes #16 in the world and #4 in Australia. We found the fairways very wide and the greens very lively, rolling with the natural undulation of the dunes. The fairway bunker at the 4th is the largest in the southern hemisphere (see accompanying photo). There were two notable highlights at the Dunes. Kathy broke 100 for the first time, carding a 96, and Kerry notched four birdies, probably not for the first time.

Returning to the Lodge at Lost Farm after golf, we reclaimed our luggage, checked into our rooms and freshened up for dinner. The views of the Lost Farm course and surrounding coastline and hinterland from our rooms and the restaurant at Lost Farm were stunning. We enjoyed a delightful dinner in the Lost Farm restaurant.



# Tuesday, March 21



# Wednesday, March 22

## Barnbougle Lost Farm Golf Course

Tour Coordinator's Report: Sam Carroll



A light drizzle greeted the first group on #1 tee at 8:40 on the Lost Farm course, and rain continued to fall for two hours. Not to be deterred, our five mixed groups played on and were rewarded by the thrill of taking on Golf Digest's #37 in the world and #7 in Australia designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw. Lost Farm tracks along the northern Tasmanian coast and inland among sand dunes that are significantly steeper than those featured on The Dunes. Strategic



bunkering and undulating greens combined with wide fairways made Lost Farm a delight to play. It was hard to imagine that 20 years ago this track doubled as potato farm and cattle grazing land.

The crows at Lost Farm must be starved. One or more “stole” Frank’s and my balls after our approach shots came to rest about 50 yards short of the par 5 10th green. We were not in the same foursome.

Most of the Team returned to the Lost Farm Lodge restaurant for dinner. Stan, Cindy, Doug and I ventured into Bridport, five miles away, to dine at The Bridport Bunker Club. Along with the Club operating as a bar, café and restaurant, it’s also the home of the Bridport Ex-Serviceman, Community and Bowls Club. The annual dues are A\$15. Unremarkable in every way save one—the food and service were excellent.



# Wednesday, March 22



# Thursday, March 23

**BASS STRAIT GOLF**



## Travel Day

### Barnbogle Lost Farm Airstrip to King Island

### Cape Wickham Golf Course

### Tour Coordinator's Report: Sam Carroll

Another travel day as the Team departed Barnbogle Lost Farm's airstrip aboard two Bass Strait Golf planes at 8:30 for a 60-minute flight to King Island, a sparsely populated island in the Bass Strait, belonging to Tasmania. While only ~1,600 people live on the island, and it is said they all know each other, the lush green pastures that carpet the landscape are home to ~100,000 cattle, mainly Black Angus and Hereford.

Less than an hour after landing, we arrived at Cape Wickham Links, a Mike DeVries and Darius Oliver collaboration, ranked #12 in the world and #3 in Australia by Golf Digest. Golf Course Gurus describe Cape Wickham as "...a brilliant collision of rugged coastline, windswept dunes and unrestricted architectural design." With temperatures hovering around 70F, beautiful blue skies overhead and a relatively benign (for Cape Wickham) 20 MPH wind out of the northeast, the first of our five mixed foursomes teed off at 11:30.

As was the case at The Dunes and Lost Farm, we agreed to invoke the "Irish Drop" for balls that found Cape Wickham's thick four-inch rough, but for an additional reason. At Barnbogle, it was to speed up play. At Cape Wickham, it was to speed up play and avoid being bitten by snakes, which are prevalent there, especially species like the Tiger and Copperhead, both of which are highly venomous. Signs posted on the course offer golfers' advice on steps to take if bitten – move as little as possible, phone for assistance and do not wash, suck or cut the bite. We took the danger seriously and only encountered two Nope Ropes, a Tiger snuggled in the rough on #4 and a Copperhead slithering across #14 fairway.

Accommodations were onsite, a brief golf cart drive from the modest clubhouse. The biggest surprise was the top shelf dinner and prompt service we enjoyed in the clubhouse "dining room."



# Thursday, March 23



# Friday, March 24

## Travel Day

### Ocean Dunes Golf Course

### King Island to Moorabbin Airport, Melbourne

### Tour Coordinator's Report: Sam Carroll



March 24th dawned just as beautiful as the 23rd and stayed that way all day. After breakfast in the clubhouse "dining room", we departed by coach for Ocean Dunes, the 16th and final course on our itinerary. Designed by Graeme Grant and ranked #13 in Australia by Golf Digest, Ocean Dunes barely takes a back seat to the renowned Cape Wickham. The oceanside setting is spectacular and the elevation changes are dramatic. It is a tough walk, primarily due to the hilly layout and lengthy treks from greens to tees.

Ocean Dunes is noted for its quartet of par 3's. One highlight of the day was Per and Astrid, playing together, birdying #14, the 120-yard downhill (see photo). The course is also known for its high, thick, rough. Snakes were less of a problem, so there were several examples of the adult version of an Easter egg hunt.



The first group teed off at 10:00 and the last group arrived back in the clubhouse at 3:30, just in time to pack up and join the early finishers for the drive to the King Island Airport, only 15 minutes from Ocean Dunes. Our two Bass Strait Golf planes departed at 4:00 for the 60-minute flight to Melbourne's Moorabbin Airport. It was a somber flight and an even more somber coach ride from Moorabbin to the PARKROYAL Hotel adjacent to Melbourne's Tullamarine Airport. Check in went smoothly, and the Team scattered for our rooms, followed by on-your-own dinner in the hotel's restaurant. No golf for the next day, only 15-24-hour journeys back to our homes in the U.S.

# Friday, March 24



# Epilogue

Sam Carroll

**“This was the best; the most enriching U.S. Seniors experience I have ever had.”**

-Gordon Burns, Cape Wickham, March 23, 2023

At the time of this publication, it has been four months since the Team returned home. Dave and Kathy, Lach and Vicki, Frank and Kerry and Todd and Carrie are at their year-round residences in Greenwood Village, CO, Carpinteria, CA, Charleston, SC, and Portland, OR, respectively. Several have moved from FL homes to summer residences: Gordon, Frannie, Per and Astrid to Greenwich, CT, Judi and me to Rye, NY, Chip and Bonnie to Reading, PA, Bill and Fayre to Lake Forest, IL, and Doug and Susie to Manchester, VT. Stan and Cindy have shifted from AZ to Seattle, WA, while Barclay and Jane Perry have relocated from Charleston, SC, to Prouts Neck, ME. “Gary” found permanent residence at Judi’s and my FL home.

Since returning, friends have asked me innumerable questions about the tour. The one that has come up most frequently is, What was most memorable about it? My response has been unwavering – the people, our hosts and Judi’s and my traveling companions. The Aussies, having so much experience with inbound and outbound tours, could not have been more welcoming, easygoing and gracious. To invoke a popular USSGA phrase, They are fun to be with before, during and after golf. At each club, we were received as members rather than visitors. The Team arrived as twelve couples, many of whom had never met. We began bonding at Barwon Heads during social events and our first golf matches. I believe it was an old-fashioned “road trip” through the Yarra Valley on February 28 that sealed that bond, which over our 30 days together produced so many notable shared experiences and so much fun. It is hard to imagine how the tour could have been more rewarding. Well, one thought does come to mind. Perhaps if the Team had a less than perfect 0 and 12 match record against the Aussies, who deserve nothing short of our hearty congratulations for their fine play.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge how useful the SGSA’s record, authored by Gary Lee, of their United States Tour, September 10 – October 1, 2022, was to me in assembling this book. I copied the size, format, layout, order and content of Gary’s work with impunity. Just one more in a long list of examples of working with Gary that has sealed our friendship and the relationship between the USSGA and the SGSA. Thank you, Gary!



## The Trophy



## The Majors

### The Royal Melbourne Golf Club

USSGA 1½

SGSA 4½

### Royal Queensland Golf Club

USSGA 2½

SGSA 3½

### New South Wales Golf Club

USSGA 2

SGSA 4

### Final

USSGA 6

SGSA 12

The trophy was presented to Gary Lee, Honorary Secretary of the SGSA, during the Farewell Dinner at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron on March 17, 2023. A replica will be placed in the USSGA archives room/trophy case at the Apawamis Club, Rye, NY.

