

## **HELEN CLARKSON – LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Helen has given exceptional and valuable service to the club for the past twenty years. Helen has been an active and influential member of the club for approximately thirty years.

Helen has made outstanding contributions in various roles and positions in the club, having served as Club Captain and Match Committee member for many years and is currently serving on the 2011 Match Committee.

Helen is always approachable and helpful, readily being available to give advice. Other clubs also seek Helen's regular advice and guidance about club protocols, events and general information.

Helen was a major influence in establishing and founding 'Juniors' at Spalding Park Golf Club – coordinating and giving her time freely. Juniors are still running successfully, having been built on such a strong foundation.

Helen is always encouraging and supportive of new and potential members. She makes herself available to take players out for a game and ensures that they are always made to feel very welcome.

Helen has been involved in all aspects of the associates including Pennants, Northern Districts, Country Week and often represents the club, around the district at local open days, consistently representing the club in an honourable manner.

Helen is a very competent and knowledgeable member of the associates. She does not seek personal reward but is involved for the enhancement of the club only.

Helen has not only shown her outstanding golf prowess - having been both a club and district champion, but her invaluable, voluntary contribution to the Spalding Park Golf Club is worthy of recognition through life membership.

## **NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

Chris has been the head curator (qualified) of Spalding Park Golf Club since 1969. Since then Chris has supervised the massive earthworks, layout of the bunkers, planting of the grass fairways & greens, and installation of the reticulation. The course area is approximately 45 hectares.

Chris attends to the ongoing maintenance of the course and equipment. On many occasions he has designed and built equipment for attending to specialized work on the course. For example he has recently designed a broom sweeping machine to fill sand into holes in the greens after coring. Chris has also built a green roller and many other essential pieces of equipment too numerous to mention. This has saved the Club many thousands of dollars.

SPGC presently has in the vicinity of 430 active members, however it is also a public golf course and is available to any member of the Community. Chris has embarked on employing people such as those with special needs. An example is the employment of Trevor Hosking who has been under the guidance of Chris since 1996. Since that time Trevor has become a very experienced and valuable employee of SPGC and it would be hard to replace him in the event of departure from the Club.

A typical day for Chris at SPGC starts at daybreak and finishes at 4.30pm 7 days per week for virtually every week of the year. Nowadays he takes 2 holidays every 2 years and spends this time away with his wife and family. This equates to approx at least 60 hours per week, 52 weeks of the year.

The effort required is massive to allow for the work undertaken and supervised by Chris. He has virtually put his whole life on hold to get the SPGC to the condition it is in now. Chris has been supported all the way by his family and as it turns out his wife, daughter and son all work at the Club Pro Shop. Maybe this is the only way that they can get to see and talk to Chris.

Chris has done all this work on a voluntary basis for 42 years and it is estimated that he saved SPGC approx \$1.5 million in wages and machinery build and repair costs that would have had to be paid to a person in his capacity.

Chris was a professional crayfisherman up until 1995. When undertaking this activity he would between the 15<sup>th</sup> November to 15<sup>th</sup> March finish fishing at midday and then go to work at SPGC. In the period 15<sup>th</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> April he would be away at the Abrolhos Islands full time. From 1<sup>st</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> November he would be full time at SPGC.

In the last 16 years he has been a full time curator at SPGC.

We are very lucky to have Chris Clarkson at the Club and Spalding Park Golf Club thanks him.