

## BILL YOUNG

When Life Member Bill Young died in 2005, President of the time, Tom Carroll, said the following at his funeral.

“Only three months ago the Drouin Golf and Country Club celebrated fifty years of playing golf at Matthew Bennett Park.

It was soon after the Club’s first meeting in June, 1955 to re-form after several years in recess, that the name W.G. Young started to appear in the Club’s minutes.

The committee of that time made the decision to take up residence as a golf club at Matthew Bennett Park.

Indeed this was a brave decision.

Until this time, this area of crown land had been used mainly for horse racing and in the centre of the track, Motor Bike racing, and not a lot else.

The site may have been attractive in that the land could be leased for a nominal fee and that aesthetically it was a natural bush setting ideal for such a venture.

However, the heavy clay soil and wiry grasses and tussocks were not an ideal base on which to start building a golf course.

It was soon realised that something had to be done about drainage for during the wet times of the year you could barely walk the area let alone hit a golf ball. You would trudge towards it looking for a dry area to place your feet and then on arriving where you thought your ball was, look for several minutes for a ball that had obviously buried itself in the muddy surface, or on some occasions totally buried never to be seen again.

Enter Bill Young.

A lot of Bill’s friends were already involved with the Club either as committee or players. Bill was called to the fore because of his profession as a land surveyor, to plot the levels of the terrain so that some drainage work could be carried out.

Bill, always a community minded person, agreed to assist. Levels were charted, drainage works began and holding dams to catch the run off were built.

As time passed, the playing area gradually improved assisted greatly by Bill’s expertise and generosity in providing gratis his ability and his time.

Bill continued providing his services as the Club grew from a nine-hole sand scrape course then to 12 holes and 18 holes with grass greens designed by Bill.

In addition to all of this a small clubhouse was also underway. Bill had a lot to do with the planning of this as well assisting with the gaining of planning permits and the like.

The Committee, of course, was also very clever to have Bill involved in all of the work that went on.

As Bill was employed by the Shire of Buln Buln in his role as surveyor, he knew all of the angles that had a habit of cutting through the red tape. Permits seemed to get granted with a minimum of fuss and at very short notice. It has been stated that a former President on occasions was heard to say, "Do we need a permit for that?" only for his query to fall on deaf ears.

What Bill contributed to the Club in his professional role as well as his personal time and effort in \$\$ terms we can only guess.

After only seven years of the Club re-forming Bill was awarded the highest honour, that is Life Membership, in 1962.

Being awarded Life Membership of any organisation is an honour bestowed on few but admired by many.

The name W.G. Young is engraved on the Club's honour board for all to see. It will remain forever as part of the Club's history."

**Written by George Shand**