

The red flagged verandah is in striking contrast to the white plaster ceiling of the verandah of the 80 year old part of the Heidelberg Club House.

## The Golf Clubs of Victoria

VI. — Heidelberg and  
Eastern — Young Clubs in  
Old Surroundings

By KATHLEEN McEWAN

Photographs by  
NASH-BOOTHBY

the double homestead which houses the Heidelberg Golf Club is reached.

Because of the two distinctly different styles of architecture employed in the houses, which are joined together by verandahs and passage ways, one 40 years old, almost modern beside the other old red brick house built 80 years ago, this club house supplies more than ordinary interest. It is only a year ago since the Heidelberg Club, a branch of the Yarra Club, moved into the renovated homestead, which is now one of the most delightfully cosy, artistic and roomy club houses in Victoria, and even though this club has yet a long way to go on the playing side, it is certainly very much more advanced from a club house point of view than many older clubs. Its directors and office-bearers consider themselves fortunate in having been able to secure a property so easily adapted to club house purposes. The work has been done well and consistently. There is no jarring note. Mr J. H. Sharwood, the president, with Mr J. S. McCullough, honorary secretary, although they have worked hard in launching this new club, have had so much loyal support from their committee, directors, and members, that the task has been an enjoyable one. As far back as the 'sixties, Heidelberg was considered the Toorak of Melbourne, and anybody who was anyone at all in those far-off days, had a home there. This fact, no doubt accounts for the many beautiful old residences scattered on the undulating hillsides. The Governor of the then young colony spent much of his time in this beautiful district, now recognised as the artist's paradise.

### HAND-MADE BRICKS

But how came the house to be built of bricks? The question is a natural one, for we all know Melbourne boasted

LOCAL interest has always centred in the Old Colonial homestead which nowadays houses the Heidelberg Golf Club at Lower Plenty, three miles from Heidelberg, not only because of the beauty of the views with which it is surrounded, but mainly on account of the wealth of old historic associations in which it is enshrouded. Many romances of the crinoline period have been enacted in this romantic setting. The old house was built by a very early colonist, R. T. Brown, who was the first man in Victoria to breed Clydesdale horses.

Leaving the city, the main road to Eltham runs through one of the prettiest districts surrounding Melbourne, past the beautiful modern villas and well laid out gardens of Ivanhoe, on over the hills past suburban farm homes, and down the winding valley across the Plenty River at Lower Plenty, until

no brick kilns 80 years ago. Apparently Mr Brown was an enterprising man, and the bricks were bought at the wharf, having been brought out from Scotland as ballast in one of the first ships which came here to pick up some of the first wool grown by the well-known Henty family. They are, of course, hand-made, and are still in an excellent state of preservation. The red-flagged verandah which shelters three sides of the old house is lined with plaster, and this uncommon finish adds to the quaint old-world atmosphere. As one would expect, the windows have very small panes, and the old-fashioned garden, where four o'clocks form a gay border amongst other old-world flowers, has not been disturbed, even though the interior of the six-roomed house with its door windows opening to the floor, and its flagged kitchen and dairy have been modernised and are now used by the club's green-keeper, Mr H. Alexander, and his wife and family, who know how to cater for the needs of hungry golfers.

In the club house proper (built by the late Mrs Thomas, a widow of one of the partners in the drapery firm of Messrs Craig, Williamson and Thomas), opening off the 10ft. wide hall, is the secretary's office on the right, from which a magnificent panorama embracing the first tee, river holes, and distant hillsides, meets the eye.

Opposite is the prettily furnished associates' lounge, from which entrance is gained to the well-appointed locker room and bathroom. Modern steel lockers are installed, and here, as everywhere else throughout the house, the massive doorways of beautiful polished wood demand admiration. Such doors and woodwork are seldom seen nowadays, and one feels grateful that the club has preserved them. Handsome leadlight

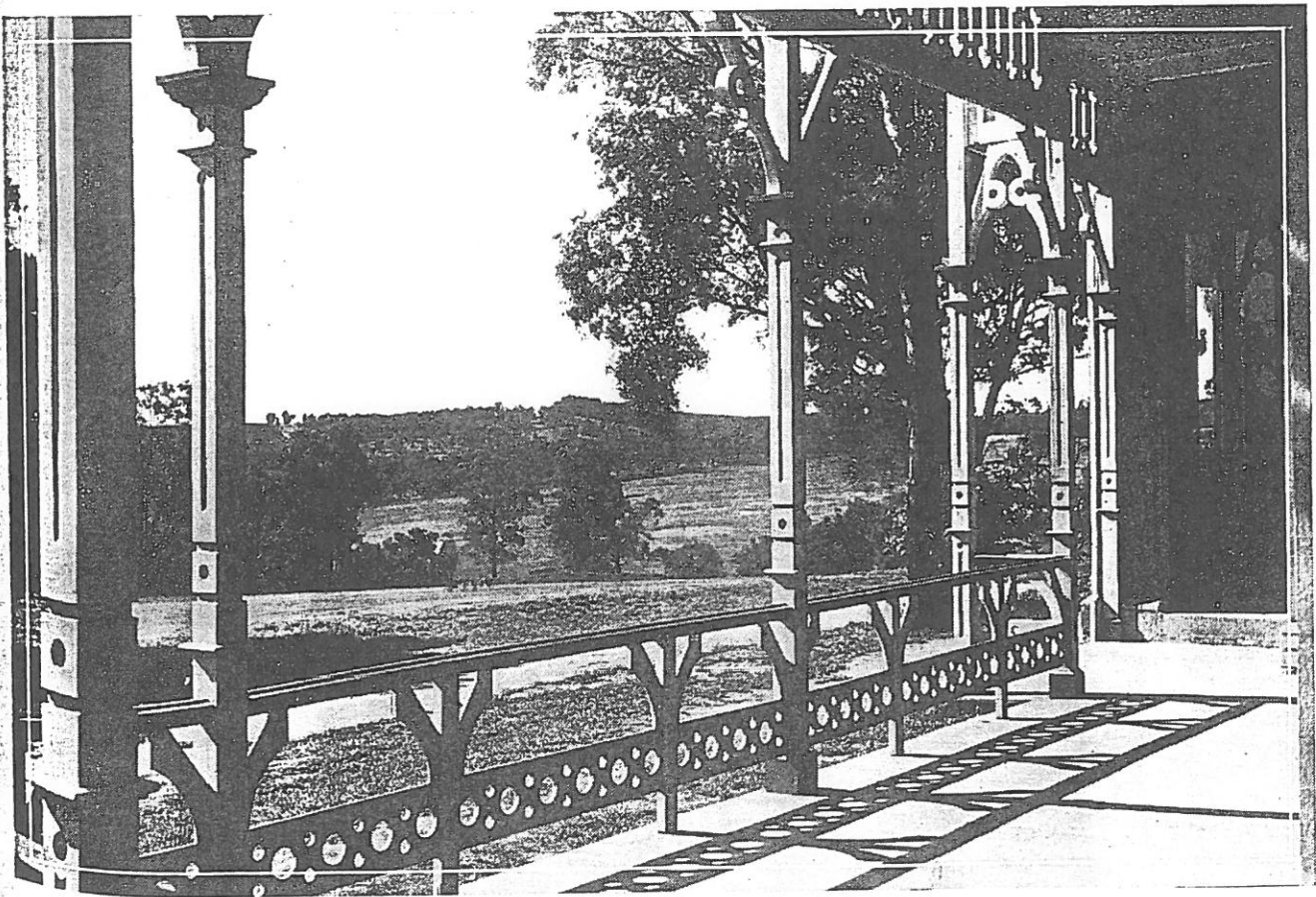
windows allow the western sun to filter into this restful room, which has double doors from the bay window recess, opening on to the verandah. Cane chairs painted black, and a writing desk of dark wood, are in pleasing contrast to the gold and blue flecked corduroy wall paper, rose bordered carpet, and dainty chintz curtains. The wide Axminster carpet of old rose in the entrance hall offers cheerful greeting. Chairs and settees furnish this 50ft. long hall, and the many colored leather cushions on which the club's initials, "H.G.C.," are engraved, add extra comfort and make waiting in what takes the place of a general lounge a pleasure.

The men's locker room is on the right, behind the secretary's office, and its lofty walls are surrounded by 150 steel lockers. The only addition to the club house is to be found here, where excavations were made to allow for a well-appointed shower room. A short flight of stairs leads from the locker room, from which a doorway opens on to the western verandah.

At the end of the hall the commodious dining-room is situated, and here again the big leadlight bay windows, massive woodwork of the doorways, open fireplace, and servery are its most decorative features.

ELECTRIC FITTINGS

Needless to say, the tables in the window recess are the most popular, for fellow members playing on the undulating course can be viewed adding or subtracting (according to one's frame of mind) to or from the glorious vista of blue hills. Further along the L-shaped hall, past the modern servery with its electric stove and two electric urns, providing



A peep from the verandah of the delightful surroundings of "Tullamore." The door opens into the diningroom.

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hot and cold water throughout the house, is the smoke room adjoining the "nineteenth" hole, beautifully fitted with steel lockers, 12in. by 18in. This room, which used to be the original kitchen, is a rather sombre apartment, brightened, however, by a complete series of golf cartoons from London Punch, a gift from one of the members. Glass cupboards about the fireplace, and the walls are effectively finished with an uncommon dado. A door leads direct to the parking area.

This young club started with a silver spoon in its mouth. The list of gifts from members includes such presents as electric urn and stove, vacuum cleaner, writing desk, two radiators, hall furniture and cushions, garden seats, type-

just across the river, belonging to the Wragge family (the dignified old grey cement house is now surrounded by tall English trees), and one at St. Helena, named in memory of Napoleon's retreat by a retired army officer who came out here on the death of Napoleon, and who selected a large area beyond Greensborough, from the New South Wales Government, before Victoria was Victoria. The fourth at Pantan Hill belonged to a retired superintendent of police named Pantan.

#### IN THE DAYS OF THE BARN DANCE

No doubt gay laughter, and the music of the concertina, echoed under the shingle roof, which still remains, but



Ancient and Modern. The Clubhouse of the Heidelberg Golf Club has historic associations.

writer, hall clock, card index system, etc., as well as the flag and flagpole. It should never look back.

Out of doors, interest never flags. Situated as it is, so close to the river, it is not surprising to learn that the hill on which the house is built was intermittently used as a camping ground for a tribe of wandering blacks. Possibly it was due to fear that the two slanting peepholes were built in the walls of the old barn, in case of emergency. Whether the local inhabitants were ever called on to use this building as a sanctuary when the blacks became restive, or not, cannot be definitely ascertained, but many of the old residents do remember it well as the social rendezvous of the scattered district. Long ropes of plaited straw hid the bare walls on festive occasions, and the real barn dance was, no doubt, executed there with a right good will. In the whole of the district there were only four homesteads, so every opportunity was taken to attend these functions, for which every member of the household turned out. Besides this one, there was another

during the renovations a galvanised iron roof was added. The barn is now used as an implement shed, one end being reserved for a laundry.

One was dependent on one's own efforts in those far-off days. Not only was the sandstone of which the barn is constructed quarried out of a nearby hillside, but even as late as 40 years ago, natural resources were employed by the builder of the modern part. Behind the first green, near the bend of the river, a couple of hundred yards from the house, is the old kiln where the bricks for the interior walls of the modern part were burnt. There are still traces of the chimney, although as far as possible these have been covered with rubble, otherwise the vocabulary of the golfer whose well-hit shot met a straying brick would no doubt reach breaking point.

Another large shed, which flanks the courtyard, is of much more modern design, and was built to house the racehorses of Mr W. E. J. Craig, who for some years leased the property from that fine old Scotch lady, the late Mrs Thomas. Those

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young club may be forgiven should it throw its weight into the side of the bus question.

WIDE HALLS AND LOFTY ROOMS

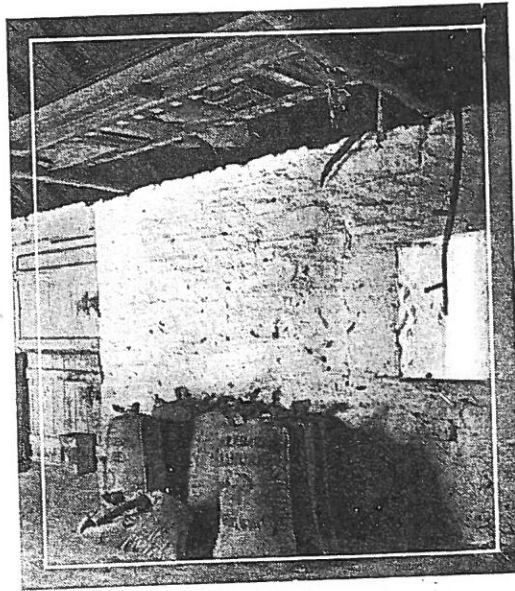
Needless to say, the house differs very little from the usual two-storey residence of that period—wide halls, lofty rooms, and massive windows—and few alterations were necessary to adapt it to club house needs. A hot and cold water service is installed, and staff quarters are provided for the housekeeper. The office, in charge of Mr Geo. W. Baldwin, is opposite the lounge, where a large, old-fashioned gilded looking-glass above the mantel mirrors the modern cane chairs, tables, and pretty blue, gold and black curtains with which this room is furnished. A photograph of Mr Stanley Bruce, driving the first ball on the club's opening day, is one of the most interesting objects in the dining-room, where cane furniture has been installed. This room boasts a piano, and many enjoyable social functions have taken place here. Upstairs are the locker rooms, toilet annexes, shower baths, etc. Here too is a smoke room, visitors' changing room, and associates' committee room. Beautiful wood has been used in the construc-

tion of the substantially built blackwood staircase, which is lit by a handsome stained glass window. From the wide balconies and verandahs, which were recently rebuilt after a fire, a delightful panorama can be viewed, Mount Macedon, in all its blue beauty, proudly occupying the central position, with the haze of the city away to the left. In the foreground are the well cared for orchard properties of the neighboring farms, the red autumn tints vieing with the clustered red roofs of the eastern suburbs, which rise in a mass in the distance, in a riot of color.

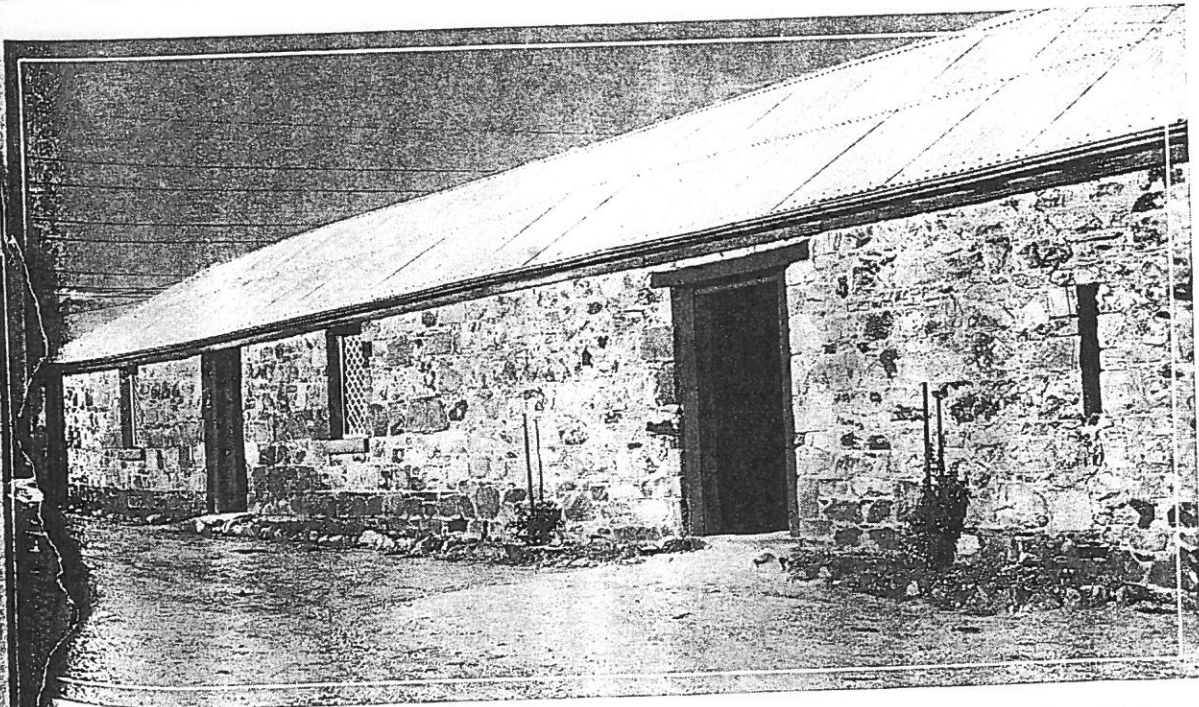
Mr J. Daly, the genial president, has fathered this club almost since its infancy, and has had the able support of Mr S. Scott, the honorary secretary, with an enthusiastic band of golfers who have seen the club grow to its present flourishing state.

Several of our Victorian golf clubs are using for comfort and convenience homes that were built by men of distinction in other ways than sport. In the case of the "Easterners" it may be said that they are carrying on the traditions of a man who

was not only a distinguished surgeon but a gallant sportsman.



Showing the slanting sides of the peepholes in the 18 inch sandstone walls.



Peepholes were built in the 18 inch wall of the old barn. It was used as a sanctuary by residents if the wandering blacks in the district became restive.

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