

CAPTAIN GEORGE SMITH - OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

After successfully completing the design, supervision and funding of the "St John's Beautification Scheme", George Smith immediately took on a major role at the Flinders Golf Club, while continuing his service at St Johns until 1961.

David Maxwell, one of the founding members of the Flinders Golf Club, resigned from his role as Secretary because of ill health. The Committee Minutes of the Flinders Golf Club held on 9 November 1935 give the details: *'Mr George Smith, having announced his willingness to act, was then formally elected Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Club.'*

In the 1938 Flinders Golf Club Annual Report, an Addendum was added by the President, Sir James Barrett. He wrote: *'The Report would be indeed incomplete unless the most ample acknowledgement were made of the honorary services of the Secretary, Mr George Smith. His constant attention, business methods and unfailing courtesy are difficult to describe in adequate language. I am sure all members will join with me in expressing their high appreciation of his work. The excellence of the links and economical yet efficient administration are unique in Victoria.'*

For the 1940 AGM the President wrote *'The links are in splendid order and the combination of efficiency and economy has impressed every member. The progressive yet conservative policy of the late Mr D.M. Maxwell has been brought to fruition by Mr George Smith. All members of the Club join me in expressing their gratitude to Mr Smith for a remarkable and apparently unique piece of work. The Club now possesses a superb Links, out of debt, watered, and a place of beauty and repose for all.'*

In 1943 George Smith married Rena Holland, daughter of Thomas Holland of Flinders. Up to this time George had resided at various guest houses in Flinders. At the time of his marriage he was staying at Flinders House. He bought land at Flinders which bordered on the western boundary of the Flinders Golf Links and built a house for himself and his wife, Rena, which they named 'Hurst Lodge'. It had a magnificent view across the links to West Head and Phillip Island. The access to the property is named 'Georges Road.'

George and Rena were very active in the Scout and Guide movements and very supportive of their respective Churches. There is a plaque attached to a large rock in the Flinders Park, and an item in the June 1989 edition of the Flinders District Historical Society Newsletter explains: - *'members will have noticed the disappearance from the Flinders Common of the old Guide and Scout hut. To mark the site, a memorial stone and plaque were unveiled by Sir John Holland, [brother of Rena,] on 28th August 1988. The ceremony was conducted in St Andrews Church'.*



'Sir John paid tribute to Nancy Stephens for her initiative in organising the plaque, which not only marks the site of the Guide and Scout hut, but is a memorial to Rena and George Smith, who not only played a leading part in guiding and scouting, but in other community activities, especially the Flinders Golf Club and the Churches of St Andrews and St Johns. George, who was born in 1884, died in 1968. His wife Rena, outliving him by 18 years, died in 1986'.

The Eagle Lectern is a lasting memorial in St John's Church to the life and work of George Smith: Benefactor; Architect; Sportsman; Administrator; Chorister; Church Warden; and Vestryman.

In Loving Memory of Captain George Smith M.B.E.
Who Died 4th August 1968 Aged 84 Years
Presented By His Wife Rena and Brothers
Thomas, Walter and William.