

Dear Greg,

- I was born in Camden 14/11/1948. I went to Camden Public School and then Camden High School. I left school in 1965 and worked at Whitemans in Argyle Street for 6 months, then started working in the Pro Shop at Camden Golf Club on weekends with Bob Richards (who was Camden's first full time Professional). Bob then offered me a traineeship which was accepted and I commenced in January 1966.
- I started playing golf at the age of 10 and was coached by Life Member and one of our great champions, Kevin Franzman. I became a junior member at the age of 12. I played Junior Pennants and two Major Pennant matches until I commenced my traineeship. During this time, I have great memories of members Fred Marden, Rex Wilson, Tom Higgins, Bob Bolton, Clive Nelson- all A grade players who helped me greatly.
- My traineeship with Bob Richards was for 18 months until Bob left and went to Manly Golf Club. The last 18 months of my traineeship was under Graham Bell, until I became a member of the Australian PGA.
- My first tour as a Professional was the NSW, SA, VIC Summer tour. To my surprise, Graham and 10 members of Camden Golf Club sponsored me for the tour. Arrangements involved travel with the great Ted Ball and Peter Harvey and a car provided by Bert Ford, Wollongong. When we were on our way back to Camden after the tour, we were hit head on by a car near Mt Kiera, resulting in the car being a write off.
- I spent 12 months on tour. Graham Bell left his position at Camden Golf Club and I was offered the Professionals position, which was gladly accepted. The arrangement agreed upon allowed me to play tournaments which suited both parties.
- I was the Club Professional at Camden from 1970- 1988 and then went to Riverside Oaks for 4 years, and finally returned to Camden from 1991 to 2001. During this time, I was the President of NSW PGA for 12 years and on the Australian PGA Board for 8 years.
- As a Professional golfer, I played the Australian and New Zealand tour for 30 years and the European Tour for 3 years. All of this with the support of the Board and members of Camden Golf Club.
- My results as a golf professional included the following: won 42 ProAm events, runner up to Gary Player in the Australian Open in Perth, finished 3rd in the NSW Open on four occasions; won the Royal Fremantle Open and Nedlands Masters and became the first player to win the Australian Order of Merit in back to back years.
- In Europe, I came second in the Belgium Open, 2nd in the European 4Ball with Roger Davis; played in the British Open in 1978 at St Andrews and in 1979 at Royal Lytham.

- The best players that I played with- Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Tom Watson, Raymond Floyd, Fred Couples, Ted Ball, Greg Norman, Brian Jones, Billy Dunk, Ian Baker-Finch- and many more of the greats of Australian and world golf; highlight- playing with Seve Ballesteros in Europe. Seve helped me so much and we became close friends. Obviously a sad loss when Seve passed away at a young age.
- My memories of Camden Golf Club- in the early days, it was a great family club and so supportive of me at the start of my career. The course has improved and is now one of the best in NSW. The Pro shop was always small in the early days. The management at the club was always great- Fred Marden, Rob Watson, Derek Linden, Darryl Wilson, Gary Linford.
- Top players that I can recall at Camden during my time there- Tom Higgins, Bob Bolton, Bob Hooton, Clive Nelson, Warren Linden, Brett Moyes, Matt Jeffrey, plus many more- also thought I better mention my son's golf ability- Robb Tickner.
- Other Highlights- in 2004, I was made a Life Member of the Australian PGA.
- I recall how lucky Pat and I were when we were first married. We had nowhere to live and the management at the club offered the 'flat' above the clubhouse. We lived there for 3years until we built a house in Camden South. The only problem for us at the club residence was that when the bar closed in the club, some of the members said 'no worries- Tickies bar is open upstairs'.

Chris finished our chat with the following- a beautiful thought.

'I have had a great life in golf- but only for Camden Golf Club, the management, members, Board Members it could not have happened. So to everyone at Camden Golf Club, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Please say hello to all our friends there'. (Pat and Chris Tickner).