

School Sport Australia Golf History

These Championships commenced in 1977 but were preceded by seven years of annual interstate competition between New South Wales and Queensland boy's teams. Since 1970, these two teams have been competing for the "Gavin Semple Shield" in honour of an Inspector of Schools in Queensland who donated the trophy to the competition.

1977 INAUGURAL CHAMPIONSHIP - Sydney, New South Wales

Held in New South Wales at Avondale, Asquith, Killara and Monash Golf Clubs from the 22nd to 26th August. Nine State teams (each of 8 players) competed with girls' and boys' teams from ACT, NSW, QLD, and Vic and a boy's team from SA taking part. The competition included a full round of teams' match play and an 18 hole Individual Championship for girls and boys.

1978 SECOND CHAMPIONSHIPS - Brisbane, Queensland

Held at the Virginia Golf Club from 4th to 9th September. NSW, QLD, SA and VIC, each fielded boys and girls teams whilst the ACT, and NT, only took part with boys teams; ie 80 competitors. Individual Championships extended to a 36-hole event.

1979 THIRD CHAMPIONSHIPS - Melbourne, Victoria

Held in Victoria at Patterson River and Rosedale Golf Clubs from 24th to 29th August. Again 80 competitors took part in the Teams Match play and Individual 36 holes event with representation by State/Territories the same as 1978.

1980 FOURTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Adelaide, South Australia

Held in South Australia at The Grange, Thaxted Park, Marino, Flagstaff Hill and Riverside Golf Clubs from 25th to 29th August. This Championship was of historic note in that PGF provided greatly increased sponsorship. The team size was reduced from 8 to 6 competitors. The appointment of a National Golf Secretary was made and all states and Territories took part. The 15 teams (90 competitors) consisted of girls and boys teams from NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC and WA, with boy's teams from ACT and NT and a combined Territories girls team. The Competition included a 36 hole Individual Championship as well as complete round of Match Play (7 for boys and 6 for girls).

1981 FIFTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Held in the ACT at Federal, Royal Canberra and Yowani Golf Clubs from 24th to 28th August, this championship heralded the emergence of Colgate Palmolive as our major sponsor, together with TAA, Ford Sales Aust., Precision Golf Forging and Kinetic Sportswear. All States were again represented. The competition included Teams Match Play (7 rounds for boys and 5 rounds for girls) and an Individual 36 hole Championship.

1982 SIXTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Perth, Western Australia

Held in Western Australia at Cottesloe, Royal Fremantle, Melville Glades and W.A.G.C. (Mt Yokine) Golf Clubs from 5th to 11th September. All States and Territories were involved with 14 teams of 6 players competing in girls and boys Teams Match Play competitions. For the first time matches did not continue past 18 holes for a result. An Individual Stroke championship over 36 holes was included and the Carnival was most efficiently run as always with the increased number of competitors.

1983 SEVENTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Newcastle, New South Wales

For the first time a country region Newcastle, New South Wales provided the venues for the Carnival. With the generous co-operation of the Newcastle, Nelson Bay, and Maitland Golf Clubs, NSWCHS hosted the Carnival in place of Tasmania in the rotation system. No new teams were included in the program from 4th to 9th September, and once again the Championships were a huge success.

1984 EIGHTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Darwin, Northern Territory

The Northern Territory hosted this Carnival being the first National event in the Territory and on the newly constructed Darwin Golf Course. All States/Territories competed, with the inclusion of a combined girls' team from NT / TAS. A most enjoyable and successful event highlighted by sudden death play-offs in both the girls and boys Individual Championships, a new Associate Course Record being established. The extra day included in the program allowed for a scenic trip to Kakadu National Park and an extra half-day rest period.

1985 NINTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Hobart, Tasmania

Travelling "overseas" for the first time to Hobart was well worth the effort as the Championships were highlighted by a most cheerful atmosphere and very well organised. All State/Territories participated with Tasmania rejoining the girl's event and a sole NT girl participating in some parts of the program. A number of picturesque courses overlooking water provided excellent golfing. The continuing support of long standing sponsorship and the involvement of the Commonwealth Bank for the second time was important for the success of the Carnival.

1986 TENTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Adelaide, South Australia

South Australia hosted this Championship to coincide with the Jubilee 150 Celebrations. All State/Territories competed in the boys' events whilst all States (excluding Territories) competed in the girls' events. Together with the continuing financial support of the Commonwealth Bank, P.G.F., and Australian Airlines (formerly TAA), SA businesses including Balfours, contributed to the success of the Carnival. All Championship Courses in Adelaide were used as well as Riverside Golf Club. A cooperative venture with S.A.L.G.U., the SA Junior Mixed Foursome event was undertaken and all visitors entered what was a most enjoyable opening.

1987 ELEVENTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Sunshine Coast, Queensland

Queensland as host centred the Carnival in the scenic country region of the Sunshine Coast. All States competed in the girl's events whilst State/Territory boys teams were involved. An increased sponsorship from the Commonwealth Bank and P.G.F., together with the support of Australian Airlines and Spalding provided a sound financial base for the Carnival. A special mention to Headlands and Caloundra Golf Clubs for their active involvement and interest should be recorded and as a result many local businesses provided added assistance to offset the necessity of a player's levy for the first time in several years. All competitors and Officials enjoyed the social game prior to the Official Opening. Once again a sudden death play-off decided the boys' individual whilst Jane Shearwood (VIC) recorded our first hole-in-one.

1988 TWELFTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Melbourne, Victoria

The Carnival was highlighted by play on excellent Championship Courses viz. Royal Melbourne, Metropolitan, Kingston Heath, Woodlands and Victoria Golf Clubs. A highly efficient organisation provided a successful week enjoyed by all. Once again no girls teams accompanied the Territories boys and continuing sponsorship from the Commonwealth Bank, P.G.F., and Spalding assisted greatly. It was noted that more State/Territory teams were attracting financial support from State golfing bodies.

1989 THIRTEENTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

For the first time industrial disputes prevented Tasmania and Western Australia from travelling. All other State/Territories successfully made alternative plans arriving in Canberra by Sunday prior to competition start. The NT team took 3.5 days travel by bus. Programs were changed to provide two complete rounds of Match Play for the girls teams present, whilst the boys program ensured that each State had a daily match. Three girls from the ACT were permitted registration and played in the Individual event at Royal Canberra. A very successful Carnival using Yowani, Federal, Yass, Queyanbean, and Capital courses with the Stroke Championship at Royal. The Commonwealth Bank was again the major sponsor with the usual generosity from P.G.F. and Spalding.

1990 FOURTEENTH CHAMPIONSHIPS- Perth, Western Australia

WAGSSA as hosts conducted an excellently planned and presented event, which was blessed with outstanding weather. The competition included girl's teams from all States and boys teams from all affiliates. The continuing support of sponsorship by Commonwealth Bank, P.G.F. and Spalding was supplemented by local business. Venues throughout the week at Gosnells and Melville Glades were very supportive and excellently presented. Of special mention was the volunteer assistance on course to facilitate the efficient movement of the field. Congratulations on a fine event.

1991 FIFTEENTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Orange, New South Wales

Unfortunately the closure of the Tasmanian SSC office in November 1990 meant the withdrawal of Tasmania not only as a competing State but also as the host for the Carnival. New South Wales CHS was able to provide a venue at short notice and the Commonwealth Bank (major sponsor) together with the supporting sponsor PGF and Spalding willingly agreed to maintain their support. The Country City of Orange provided an outstanding Championship at Duntry league and Wentworth Golf Courses. Excellent weather, together with outstanding organisation made this a most happy event. Well done to Tony Stair and his committee ably supported by NSWCHS Sports Office.

1992 SIXTEENTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Alice Springs, Northern Territory

The NTSSC hosted an excellent carnival in Alice Springs at which a team of Invitation players [6 boys and 6 girls] nominated from other states was included to avoid a bye in the draw. The two Girls from ACT were included and eligible for all events. Long time sponsors PGF and Spalding together with Alice Springs business houses were of great assistance to the organisers following the withdrawal by the Commonwealth Bank completely. In the individual competition, the Ladies Course Record at Alice Springs G.C. was lowered by two of our players, whilst for the first time in the Boys Event two sub-par rounds were recorded. The introduction of a Teams Aggregate Stroke Competition for the Dean Shakes Trophy was keenly contested. This year saw the election of a new National Secretary, Neil McCormack from NTSSC.

1993 SEVENTEENTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Gold Coast, Queensland

The venues provided by the QSSSSA for the event tested the mettle of many young golfers as the trees at Burleigh Heads Gold Coast Golf Club and the water hazards at Paradise Springs Golf Club all seemed to relentlessly attract golf balls into their clutches. Unfortunately, ACT did not participate and the reduced number of teams resulted in a shorter carnival. The event saw the dominance of the Host state Queensland with undefeated results in both boys and girls Match Play and runaway wins in the Teams Stroke Events. Added to this was individual honours as Stroke Champions both boys and girls and runners up in each event. The "Batman Ride" at Movieworld featured as the talking point of the excursion for some participants.

1994 EIGHTEENTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Melbourne, Victoria

Played on the magnificent Sandbelt courses of Spring Valley, Kingston Heath, Royal Melbourne and Southern Golf Club this years Championships will provide a golfing highlight for many of the interstate participants. Queensland once again dominated both the Girls Stroke and Match Play events and the Victorian Boys returned to the winner circle after some twelve years to take out all the Boys major trophies. ACT were welcomed back in both Boys and Girls events but unfortunately South Australia did not take part due to a state decision on age groupings for the Championships.

1995 NINETEENTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Played on the three premier courses in the ACT, Federal Golf Club, Yowani Country Club, Royal Canberra Golf Club and the recently developed Murrumbidgee Country Club the Championships will prove to be a golfing event of significance for many stars of the future. Queensland once again dominated the PGF Girls Match Play event and the Queensland Boys defeated the Victorian Boys on a countback to take out the PGF Boys Match Play event. The teams stroke events saw Queensland easy winners to take out both Boys and Girls Dean Shakes Trophies. Individual Stroke honours were decided by a play off in the Boys with Queenslander Peter Smith victorious over team mate Travis Johns on the first hole and local ACT junior Nikki Campbell a two shot winner from Tamara Johns of Queensland.

1996 TWENTIETH CHAMPIONSHIP - Port Macquarie, New South Wales

New South Wales as host centred the Carnival in the very beautiful north coast region of Port Macquarie. Founding sponsor PGF together with the support of many local businesses provided a sound financial base for the Championship. The PGF Teams Match Play events were extremely close with New South Wales Girls going through undefeated. The Boys PGF shield was once again decided on a countback with Queensland defeating Victoria by one individual match. In the Dean Shakes Stroke trophies events Queensland were the clear winners in both Boys and Girls events. Dylan Campbell (Qld) shot a course record equalling 68 on his way to claiming the Boys Stroke Championship and Nikki Campbell (ACT) defended her stroke championship by breaking the ladies course record with a second round 74 to take out this years event.

1997 TWENTY FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP - Alice Springs, Northern Territory

The Northern Territory School Sports Council once again hosted this years championships in the Red Centre on the magnificent Alice Springs Golf Course with the stunning MacDonnell Ranges as a backdrop. The PGF Teams Match Play events were strongly contested with Queensland Girls and Victorian Boys going through undefeated. Queensland Boys and New South Wales Girls were victorious in the Dean Shakes Teams Stroke Event. Aaron Snape and Katherine Hull both from Queensland took out the Individual Stroke honours.

Life Membership was conferred on Richard Farrell from Queensland in recognition of his many years of meritorious service to schools golf.

1998 TWENTY SECOND CHAMPIONSHIP – Bunbury, Western Australia

School Sport Western Australia with the assistance of the Bunbury community hosted this years championships in the southwest on the magnificent courses of Capel and Bunbury Golf Clubs. The PGF Teams Match Play events were strongly contested with the New South Wales Girls and Victorian Boys going through undefeated. New South Wales Girls were easy victors in the Dean Shakes Teams Stroke Event. However for the first time a countback was needed in the boy's event with New South Wales and Queensland locked on scores of 603 and New South Wales were the victors. Richard Moir from Queensland took out the Boys Individual Stroke honours and Janelle Lynch and Rachel Bailey both from New South Wales finished on 155 with Janelle winning the play off to take out the Girls Individual Stroke honours.

1999 TWENTY THIRD CHAMPIONSHIP – Adelaide, South Australia

South Australian Secondary School Sports Association with the assistance of the schools in the Adelaide community hosted this years championships on a variety of magnificent courses. Tea Tree Gully, Thaxted Park, Fleurieu, Riverside and Grange Golf Clubs. The PGF Teams Match Play events were strongly contested with the Queensland Girls and the Western Australian Boys victorious. Both the Queensland Boys and Girls teams played strongly to take out the Dean Shakes Teams Stroke Events. Nigel Stivala (VIC) and Suzie Fisher (NSW) played outstanding golf to take out the Individual Stroke honours. David Bottroff was presented with Life membership in recognition of his many years of meritorious service to Secondary School Golf.

2000 TWENTY FOURTH CHAMPIONSHIP – Toowoomba, Queensland

Queensland Secondary School Sports Association with much valued assistance from the Darling Downs Regional School Sports Office hosted the 2000 Championships at the very picturesque Toowoomba Golf Club. The tight tree lined fairways proved a highly suitable backdrop for the great week of golf that followed.

The PGF Teams Match Play events were strongly contested with the Queensland Girls and the New South Wales Boys victorious. The Victorian Boys and the New South Wales Girls teams played strongly to take out the Dean Shakes Teams Stroke Events. Two new team trophies were introduced with Victoria claiming the David Bottroff Southern States Shield and Queensland the inaugural winners of the Kath Atherton Salver. Adam Bland (SA) and Sarah-Jane Kenyon (QLD) played outstanding golf to take out the Individual Stroke honours.

The continued support of founding sponsors PGF International allowed substantial prizes to be presented to the winners and place getters in the various individual events. National Secretary Neil McCormack was presented with the School Sport Australia Service Award for his involvement and contribution to school golf since 1979.

2001 TWENTY FIFTH CHAMPIONSHIP – Echuca, Victoria

“Simply the Best” very aptly describes the hosting of the SSA Golf Championships. The elite school golfers played in balmy weather conditions for all but a few hours on Thursday afternoon at the picturesque Rich River Golf Resort Moama. The standard of play by both the girls and boys easily matched the excellence of previous years with founding sponsors P.G.F. continuing to provide prizes for the Individual winners and place getters. The Championship was highlighted by Sarah Kemp’s (NSW) new ladies course record of 71. Nick Flanagan (NSW) took out the Boy’s Championship. The Girls PFG Teams Match Play was a fantastic series with NSW girls and QLD both winning three teams matches but NSW able to reclaim the PGF Shield having won one more individual match with WA in third place. The Boys PGF Teams Match Play, however saw QLD emerge from the pack on the last day winning both their matches to claim the PGF Shield from NSW. It was announced that Ros Fisher (WA) would be presented with the School Sport Australia Service Award for her involvement and contribution to Schools golf. This Championship saw the passing of an era with the retirement of Neil McCormack as SSA National Secretary Golf after three terms at the helm.

2002 TWENTY SIXTH CHAMPIONSHIP– Canberra, Aust. Capital Territory

Four of Canberra's magnificent contrasting Golf Courses, Royal Canberra, Gold Creek, Murrumbidgee and Federal were hosts to the Championships. Extremely difficult weather conditions were a test of all golfers' skills and character. On Wednesday the Weather Bureau declared a Land Gale Force Warning. The Canberra Times reported "Surfs up on Lake Burley Griffin". So the Educational cruise was cancelled. Such settings produced some very keen competition with the result of the boy's PGF Shield in doubt until the completion of the last match on Friday. New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria all won three teams matches but N.S.W. claimed the Shield with 18 individual matches to QLD and VIC 14.5 matches each. The Girl's PGF Teams Match Play Shield was easily won by New South Wales. Both Individual Champions were determined by playoffs. The Boys was between Leigh Deagan [VIC] and Andrew Dodt [QLD] and the Girls between Ebony Heard [SA] and Alison Whitaker [VIC]. Leigh Deagan became the 2002 Boys Champion and Ebony Heard became the first SA girl to win the Girls Individual Championship. Unfortunately NT did not compete but we are assured they will be back in 2003. School Sport Australia Service Awards for their involvement and contribution to school golf were presented to Helen Pascoe and Brenda Carnavas. This year saw the election of a new National Secretary, Brenda Carnavas from QSSS.

2003 TWENTY SEVENTH CHAMPIONSHIP– Ocean Shores, NSW

NSWCHSSA hosted the Championships in the Northern Rivers District of NSW. This Championship course was designed by Bruce Devlin some 30 years ago and has many unique features. The six par 3's, six par 4's and six par 5's with their enormous greens are set against a backdrop of bushland and sparkling lakes which make it one of the most spectacular courses in Australia. Founding sponsors P.G.F. continued to provide prizes for the Individual winners and place getters. The Boys PGF Team Match Play was dominated by the winners Queensland. The NSW girls won the Girls PGF Match Play event. The Boy's Stroke Champion, Jason Day (Qld) shot a 65, the lowest round of the Championships. Sarah Oh (NSW) won the Girls Individual Stroke event. Both the Queensland Boys and the NSW Girls teams played strongly to take out the Dean Shakes Teams Stroke Events. The NSW girls team coming from behind to beat the Queensland girls by 2 strokes. An Invitational Girls Team competed to provide more competition in the girls match play draw. Two Life Members, Richard Farrell and David Buttroff were welcomed to the Championships during the week.

2004 TWENTY EIGHTH CHAMPIONSHIP– Darwin, NT

The Darwin Golf Club and Palmerston Golf and Country Club in the Northern Territory hosted the 2004 School Sport Australia Golf Championships. The Darwin GC Championship course was designed for the tropics by Peter Thompson and Michael Wolveridge. The 6 001m 18 hole Palmerston Layout consists of two completely different 9-hole settings. A combination of tree lined fairways; elevated tees, numerous bunkers and magnificent lakes delighted and tested everyone. Sports Trainers provided invaluable support to our Golfers in NT weather in which most were unaccustomed. The two larger than life "Lizards" added a unique NT touch to this Championship. Founding sponsors P G F continue to provide prizes for the Individual Stroke Championships. This lasting support was greatly appreciated by the many winners. Individual Stroke Champions were Eagle Chang [Qld] and Inhong Lim [Vic]

The Queensland Boys Team dominated the competition by winning the PGF Teams Match Play, the Dean Shakes Team Trophy and the Gavin Semple Shield. The Queensland Girls won the PGF Teams Match Play. The New South Wales Girls Team took out the Dean Shakes Team Trophy and the Kath Atherton Salver. We renewed the acquaintance of former National Secretary, Neil McCormack when he was welcomed to the Championships during the week. I am sure the "Jumping Crocodiles" have provided an unforgettable Educational Excursion. The diverse culture of the "Top End" has added to everyone's educational experience.

2005 TWENTY NINTH CHAMPIONSHIP– Riverland, SA

Loxton, Renmark and Waikerie Golf Clubs hosted the S.S.A. Golf Championships in the Riverland Region. Loxton G.C., on the banks of the Murray River is rated among the top ten courses in South Australia. PGF representative, Adrian Crisp presented their prizes for the Individual Stroke Championships. Individual Stroke Champions were Mitch Krywulycz[NSW] and Kristie Smith[WA]. The Queensland Boys Team won the PGF and Gavin Semple Shields. The Queensland Girls won the PGF Teams Match Play and the Dean Shakes Team event. For NSW the Boys took out the Dean Shakes Team event and the Girls the Kath Atherton Salver. The David Bottroff Southern Shield was won by the WA Boys and Girls. School Sport Australia Service Award for his involvement and contribution to school golf was presented to Roger Stephens (Vic).

2006 THIRTIETH CHAMPIONSHIP– Perth, WA

W.A hosted the S.S.A. Golf Championships at the “best” of Australia’s Resort Courses, The Vines. Both The Lakes and Ellenbrook courses were played with the highlight being a 64 from Daniel Nisbet of Queensland who, with Whitney Hillier from W.A. won the Individual Championships. NSW boys and girls won the PGF Shields for match play while the Queensland teams won the Gavin Semple Shields for Team Stroke play. The Gavin Semple Shield was retained by the Queensland boys while the NSW girls won the Kath Atherton Salver from Queensland. WA convincingly won the David Bottroff Southern States Shield. The Educational Excursion to Fremantle Prison provided the opportunity to see a piece of living history. School Sport Australia Service Award for her involvement and contribution to school golf will be presented to Judy Stainton (Vic) this year. Team accommodation at the Resort provided a new experience for SSA Golf.

2007 THIRTY FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP - Victoria

Played on the Mornington Peninsula using Rosebud, The Dunes, Moonah Links, Portsea and The National Golf Clubs. The individual champions were Allyce Watkinson (New South Wales) and Paul Fenton (Western Australia). New South Wales won both the boys and the girls PGF shield for match play. The Gavin Semple Shield, for team match play, was won by New South Wales and Queensland won the Kath Atherton salver for girls team match play. The David Bottroff Shield for match play between the southern states was won by Victoria. The Dean Shakes trophy for team stroke plat was won by Queensland in the girls event and New South Wales won the boys division.

2008 THIRTY SECOND CHAMPIONSHIP - Yeppoon, QLD

Queensland hosted the championships at Yeppoon and Ridges Resort courses. The individual champions, both from New South Wales, were Jessica Noh and Danny An. The PGF Shield for teams match play were won by Victoria in the girls division and New South Wales won the boys event. New South Wales won both the boys and girls Dean Shakes stroke Trophies. Queensland won the Kath Atherton Salver and Victoria won the David Bottroff Shield.

2009 THIRTY THIRD CHAMPIONSHIP – Canberra, ACT

Australian Capital Territory hosted the S.S. A. golf Championships at Yowani Country Club, Gold Creek and Gungalhin Lakes Golf Clubs which were all very well presented and testing courses. The individual stoke champions were Jessica Park (Queensland) and Simon Viitakangas (Queensland) and the teams stroke play events, the Dean Shakes trophies, were both won by Queensland. New South Wales won both the boys and girls match play Trophies, the Gavin Semple shield and the Kath Atherton Salver. A tour of the A.I.S. was the highlight of the week in Canberra and was enjoyed by all players and managers.

2010 THIRTY FOURTH CHAMPIONSHIP- Port Macquarie, NSW

New South Wales hosted the S.S.A. Golf Championships at one of the finest of country Courses, Port Macquarie. This was a very testing course with the highlight being an equal course record of 73 from Chantal Hodson of New South Wales in the second round of the stroke championships. Jessica Park (Queensland) and Ricky Kato (New South Wales) won the Individual Championships. NSW boys and girls won both the match play events and were therefore awarded the inaugural Performance Golf Shield. New South Wales boys teams won the Gavin Semple Shields for Team Stroke play and the New South Wales girls won the Kath Atherton Salver. Victoria convincingly won the David Bottroff Southern States Shield. The Educational Excursion to Port Macquarie Koala hospital provided the opportunity to see the treatment of native animal in action.

2011 THIRTY FIFTH CHAMPIONSHIP - Adelaide, SA

South Australia hosted the SSA. Golf Championships using three metropolitan and one country golf courses, they were Tea Tree Gully, Flagstaff Hill, The Grange and Murray Bridge. All were well presented and challenging courses. Jessica Park (Queensland) won her third consecutive individual championship and set a course record 67 in her second round at Tea Tree Gully Golf Club. Ricky Kato (New South Wales) won his second boys championship. New South Wales won both the boys and girls match play event and successfully defended the Performance Golf Shield. New South Wales also won the Gavin Semple Shield and the Kath Atherton Salver. The Dean Shakes trophies for teams stroke play were won by the Queensland girls and the New South Wales boys. South Australia were the winners, for the first time, of the David Bottroff Southern States Shield and David was on hand to proudly present his Shield to the victorious local team. The Performance Golf Shield was retained by New South Wales. The educational excursion was held at the Monarto zoo and was very interesting.

2012 THIRTY SIXTH CHAMPIONSHIP – Perth, WA.

School Sport Western Australia hosted the S.S.A. Golf Championships using three Metropolitan Golf Courses, they were Melville Glades, Mount Lawley and The Western Australia Golf Clubs. These were challenging and well presented courses. Kieran Barratt (south Australia) won the boys stroke championship and Rachita Vasandani (Western Australia) won a thrilling girls Championship in a play-off from Shelly Shin (New South Wales). Western Australia won the girls team stroke championship and New South Wales won the boys championship. The teams' match play events were won by the Queensland girls and the New South Wales boys. Queensland won the Performance golf shield for the first time by the narrow margin of one point from New South Wales.

2013 THIRTY SEVENTH CHAMPIONSHIP - Bellarine Peninsula, VIC School Sport Victoria hosted the S.S.A. Golf Championships using four provincial Golf Courses, they were Thirteenth Beach, Curlewis, Lonsdale and Barwon heads Golf Clubs. These were challenging and well presented courses. Joshua Armstrong (A.C.T.) won (in a three way play-off from Josh Hayes (S.A.) and Kodie Koski (Qld)) the boys stroke championship and Rebecca Kay (Queensland) won the girls Championship. Queensland won both the girls and boys team stroke championship. The teams' match play events were won by the Queensland girls and also the Queensland boys. Queensland won the Performance golf shield for the second time. The David Bottroff Shield for Southern States was won by Victoria. The educational excursion was held at Bells Beach and the local surfing museum. Both venues were well received by the State teams.

2014 THIRTY-EIGHTH CHAMPIONSHIP - Toowoomba, QLD

Queensland Secondary School Sports Association with much valued assistance from the Darling Downs Regional School Sports Office hosted the 2014 Championships at the very picturesque Toowoomba City Golf Club. The tight tree lined fairways proved a highly suitable backdrop for the great week of golf that followed.

The PGF Teams Match Play events were strongly contested with the New South Wales Girls and Boys victorious. The New South Wales Boys and the Queensland Girls teams played strongly to take out the Dean Shakes Teams Stroke Events. Victoria claimed the David Bottroff Southern States Shield and Queensland were winners of the Kath Atherton Salver. Issac Noh (N.S.W.) and Doey Choi (N.S.W.) played outstanding golf to take out the Individual Stroke honours. New South Wales were first time winners of the Performance Golf Shield.

The continued support of sponsors Performance Golf allowed substantial prizes to be presented to the winners and place getters in the various individual events. Sue Thompson was presented with the School Sport Australia Service Award for her involvement and contribution to school golf over several years.

Cobb & Co Coaches was the venue for a very interesting and enjoyable educational excursion.

2015 THIRTY-NINTH CHAMPIONSHIP - Canberra, ACT

ACT School Sport with much valued assistance from Chris Jones, teacher at UCSSC Lake Ginninderra hosted the 2015 Championships.

The event was significant from a governance and partnership perspective with the age group moving from 19 and under to 17 and under. Golf Australia (GA) and School Sport Australia had signed a new partnership agreement during the year which meant greater GA involvement including a high performance and pathways forum presented to all players by GA as well as GA attendance at the post event meeting and dinner.

The event was hosted by Federal, Queanbeyan and Gungahlin Lakes Golf Clubs as well as Yowani Country club. The PGF Teams Match Play events were strongly contested with New South Wales Girls and Boys victorious. The New South Wales Boys and the Victorian Girls teams played strongly to take out the Dean Shakes Teams Stroke Events. Victoria claimed the David Bottroff Southern States Shield and New South Wales were winners of the Kath Atherton Salver. Corey Jones (N.S.W.) and Kono Matsumoto (VIC) played outstanding golf to take out the Individual Stroke honours. New South Wales won the Performance Golf Shield.

The Australian War Memorial was the venue for a very informative and moving education excursion, significant for the snow that fell during the visit.

2016 FORTIETH CHAMPIONSHIP – Fleurieu Peninsula, South Australia

SA School Sport with much valued assistance from Alice Lange and Barry Hank hosted the 2016 Championships. The event was hosted by South Lakes, Victor Harbor and McCracken golf clubs.

Jones Comerford (N.S.W.) burst out of the blocks to win the boys individual stroke play championship by eight shots in a stellar performance. Kirsten Rudgeley (WA) played outstanding golf to take out the girls' individual stroke honours by two shots.

The PGF Teams Match Play events were strongly contested with Queensland Girls returning to the winners list after a three year absence and the Victorian Boys were victorious for the first time since 2008.

The New South Wales Boys and the Victorian Girls teams played strongly to take out the Dean Shakes Teams Stroke Events for the second year in a row each. Dean Shakes was present to present these awards.

Victoria claimed the David Bottroff Southern States Shield and Queensland were winners of the Kath Atherton Salver. New South Wales won the Gavin Semple Shield and Victoria won the Performance Golf Shield.

The mouth of the Murray River by boat through Lake Alexandrina was the focus of the education excursion. This was a magnificent once in a lifetime experience for the students.

2017 FORTY FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP – Adelaide, South Australia

Golf finally made its debut at the tenth edition of the Pacific School Games. Both age groups competed together for the first time. The event was a great success. Courses to be played during the week were Glenelg, West Lakes, Grange, Mount Osmond, North Adelaide, Adelaide Shores and finally Kooyonga where both age groups came together for a presentation luncheon after the final round.

Corey Lamb (N.S.W.) won the boys individual stroke play championship in a tense second hole sudden death play-off against Jordan Jung (W.A.). Jeneath Wong (VIC) played outstanding golf, shooting four under in tough conditions in the afternoon at The Grange GC to take out the girl's individual stroke honours by one shot.

The PGF Teams Match Play events were strongly contested with the Victorian Girls running out easy winners in an undefeated year and the South Australian Boys were victorious for the first time ever.

The New South Wales Boys and the Victorian Girls teams played strongly to take out the Dean Shakes Teams Stroke Events for the third year in a row each.

Victoria claimed the David Bottroff Southern States Shield and Queensland were winners of the Kath Atherton Salver. New South Wales won the Gavin Semple Shield and Victoria won the Performance Golf Shield for overall best performance.

2018 FORTY SECOND CHAMPIONSHIP – Coffs Harbour, New South Wales

NSW School Sport with much valued assistance from Daniel Brown hosted the 2018 Championships. The event was hosted by Bonville and Coffs Harbour golf clubs.

Harrison Crowe (N.S.W.) won the boys individual stroke play championship in a play-off from Jordan Jung (W.A.). Jordan was desperately unlucky, having lost the same event in a play-off in 2017.

Jeneath Wong (VIC) played outstanding golf to take out the girl's individual stroke honours by two shots for the second year in a row.

The Australian Teams Match Play events were strongly contested with NSW Girls returning to the winners list and the Queensland Boys were victorious for the first time since 2013.

The Victorian Boys and the Queensland Girls teams played strongly to take out the Dean Shakes Teams Stroke Events.

Victoria claimed the David Bottroff Southern States Shield and New South Wales were winners of the Kath Atherton Salver. Queensland won the Gavin Semple Shield and Queensland won the Australian Teams Match Play Championship.

The Dolphin marine magic park was the focus of the education excursion. Golf Australia and the PGA of Australia also made presentations on US College Golf and Careers in Golf respectively.

2019 - 43rd SSA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS - MANDURAH WA

Mandurah played host to the 43rd SSA Golf Championships during the last week of August. Three superbly prepared courses enabled the nation's best junior golfers to showcase their skills under a variety of weather conditions. Mandurah Country Club was the venue for the Strokeplay and the benign conditions enabled NSW star Jeff Guan to fire rounds of 67-66, 9 under par to claim the title by 3 shots. Qld's Lion Higo captured the girl's event in a day of low scoring. Day 2's venue was the sensational Meadow Springs layout, an ideal course for the matchplay competition. Perfect weather for the first two days was replicated on excursion day as players and officials visited the Fremantle Prison.

The predicted foul weather arrived on Thursday and Friday as The Cut Golf Club bared its teeth, the tight layout and 45kmh winds (and rain) providing a stern challenge for all golfers. Without complaint, the players battled the difficult conditions and a State was crowned National Champion for the first time. South Australia won the Girl's Matchplay, Western Australia and NSW shared the spoils in the corresponding boys event and NSW took out the overall title. Congratulations to all the players and officials for the manner in which they conducted themselves during the week. A big thank you to Mandurah Council, Meadow Springs Golf Club, Mandurah Country Club and The Cut Golf Club for the manner in which they and their staff embraced the Championships. Congratulations to Lynda Merritt and her team for the outstanding organization of this year's event. In 2020 the SSA Golf Championships will return to the Bellarine Peninsula, south west of Melbourne.

2020 – No Championship was held due to COVID-19

2021 – No Championship was held due to COVID-19

2022 - 44th SSA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS – BELLARINE PENINSULA VICTORIA

Victorian School Sport with much valued assistance from Jeanetta Rodwell and Lachlan Scott(GA) hosted the 2022 Championships. The event was held at Lonsdale Links, Curlewis and The Sands, Torquay golf clubs. Tournament referees were Peter Hall and Libby Crowe. Max Fedmowski(Vic) won the boys individual stroke play championship by 6 shots with rounds of 71- 65 in very challenging conditions at Lonsdale Links. Max's afternoon round of 65 set a new course record.

Amelia Harris (Vic) played outstanding golf to take out the girl's individual stroke honour with rounds of 74 – 75. The Australian Teams Match Play events were strongly contested with Victoria Girls returning to the winners list and the Queensland Boys were victorious with a tight tussle with NSW that went down to the last few holes. The NSW Boys and the Victorian Girls teams played strongly to take out the Dean Shakes Teams Stroke Events.

Victoria won the Australian Teams Match Play Championship.

The Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre was the focus of the education excursion. The Centre seeks to build an understanding of Aboriginal histories and culture, celebrating the world's oldest living culture, Australia's shared heritage and dual responsibilities. Looking forward to warm weather when Qld hosts in 2023.

2023 - FORTY FIFTH CHAMPIONSHIP – Gold Coast, QLD

The Qld Representative School Sport Unit with much valued assistance from Merrill Lloyd and Warwick Cook, hosted the 2023 Championships. The event was held at Palmer Gold Coast(formerly Robina Woods), RACV Royal Pines and Emerald Lakes Golf Clubs.

Sam Cascio(NSW) won the boys individual stroke play championship by 2 shots with rounds of 71- 71 in very challenging conditions at Robina, where no male player broke par for the 36 holes.

Amy Squires(NSW) played outstanding golf to take out the girl's individual stroke honour with rounds of 68 – 72 to win by two shots with a 2 under par total of 140.

NSW won the Dean Shakes teams Strokeplay event for the boys with Qld taking out the girl's competition.

The Australian Teams Match Play events were strongly contested with NSW Girls returning to the winners list and the NSW Boys were also victorious with a tight tussle with Qld that went down to the last few holes in their respective matches.

NSW won the Australian Teams Match Play Championship.

The Gold Coast Performance Centre at Runaway Bay was the focus of the education excursion. The Centre seeks to build an understanding of the wellbeing of athletes across all spheres of health and fitness.

A massive feeling of appreciation to Convenor Warwick Cook(Qld) was conveyed by all players and officials for his tireless efforts and diligence to detail that ensured a successful championship.

Looking to brace ourselves for chilly weather when ACT hosts in 2024

Lionel Conroy - National Golf Advisor

