



Once drab Down Under shops are getting new look, thanks to American influence. Here are two views of shop at Australian GC, near Sidney.

U.S. Influence in New Australian Pro Shop

The new pro shop of W. Mackenzie at the Australian GC in suburban Sydney shows the influence of American pro shop on club officials, members, professionals and manufacturers in the golf-happy land Down Under.

There isn't the room or the stock that American pro shops carry at clubs that are comparable in prestige and size with Australian GC. But the stock is conveniently and tastefully displayed, the walls of the shop are bright, floor covering is attractive and there are large windows in the roomy shop.

On one door of the shop is a large mirror so the player can see his swing — and Mackenzie can give the member a quick "shop lesson."

The club captain sold the members on authorizing modernization of the shop. Members are pleased with the results. Dunlop Rubber Australia Ltd., golf sales staff worked with Mackenzie in laying out the shop and got valuable ideas, they say, from Golfdom.

Golfers Have to be Early Risers to Play in Long Beach

Writing in the Long Beach (Calif.) Independent Press Telegram, Jerry Wynn recently told of some of the early risers who come to Recreation Park to be either first or among the first to tee off on Saturday mornings. They start coming in



around one (a.m., that is) and hang around until 5:30 before it is light enough to hit the first shot. To give you an idea of how they stack up—a fellow who pulls in at 2:30 is usually seventh or eighth in line; at 4 he is down around 30th.

Gene Combs, chief starter at the city's three courses, constantly takes verbal abuse because he can't allot starting times for Saturdays and Sundays when people call up a week in advance. There is no rule against his doing it. It's just that reservations are backed up more than a week. Disgruntled golfers didn't realize what the city was up against until they read, for example, that in March 28,000 rounds were played on the 45 municipal holes even though the weather was poor.

The early risers remain in their parked cars until the starter at the different courses arrives at 5:15. The order in which the cars are parked determines who is up first and so on. So far there has been very little trouble with persons who try to crash the line.

One Recreation Park regular has a bed built in the back of his car to enable him to withstand the ordeal of waiting. Another has been coming out to the course in the wee hours every Saturday for about four years. There is a true sense of honor among the players, too. When the line begins forming for starting tags everyone checks the car next to his to wake up any sleepers.