

GOLDEN DIVOT 2025

Y E A R B O O K



WELCOME to the COUNTRY

For The Golden Divot faithful, the tournament doesn't begin with the first tee shot - it begins the evening before, behind the doors of Sawtell's iconic Athletic Club, where the annual Divot Speakeasy comes to life.

Each year, our city mates make the pilgrimage north, welcomed to the country by the Sawtell locals for an evening of perfectly poured Guinness, quality cocktails, great company and plenty of laughter. Proudly hosted by the Sawtell Athletic Club and expertly MC'd by the ever-welcoming Sharon B, the room transforms into a prohibition-style hideaway where old friendships are rekindled, new players are embraced, and the anticipation for the weekend ahead begins to build.

The golf takes a back seat as stories grow taller, glasses are raised and the banter flows as freely as the Guinness. By the time the lights dim on another unforgettable evening, the passwords have been forgotten, the laughs have been shared, and another chapter of The Golden Divot has officially begun.

TRADITION • MATESHIP • LEGACY



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WHAT A DAY

The 2025 Golden Divot was a landmark chapter in the tournament's history, blending 25 years of tradition with a fresh vision for the future. Held at Sawtell Golf Club, the day celebrated everything that makes Divot special - great golf, fierce but friendly competition, lifelong mateship and the stories that only this event can create. New traditions sat comfortably alongside the old, marquee players added excitement, and the growing Divot brand continued to evolve beyond a single tournament into a thriving golf community. By the time the final putt dropped and the presentations began, Divot 2025 had once again proven why it remains one of Sawtell's most anticipated sporting and social events, leaving players already counting down to the next chapter.





COMMUNITY SPIRIT

D A N L L O Y D

The Golden Divot has always been about more than just golf. It's built on the generosity of people who quietly roll up their sleeves and contribute without expecting anything in return. In 2025, Dan Lloyd from Mid North Coast Build embodied that spirit perfectly.

Better known as a master craftsman on the building site, Dan proved his talents extend well beyond construction, taking charge of the spit with the confidence of a seasoned pitmaster. Alongside the legendary Duff, the pair kept the Divot family well fed throughout the day, ensuring players, volunteers and supporters could simply enjoy everything the tournament had to offer.

It's acts of generosity like Dan's that make The Golden Divot what it is. Every hour volunteered and every meal served helps strengthen our community and allows the Divot team to continue giving back to those who need it most. That's what community spirit looks like—and Dan Lloyd is a shining example of it.


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ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

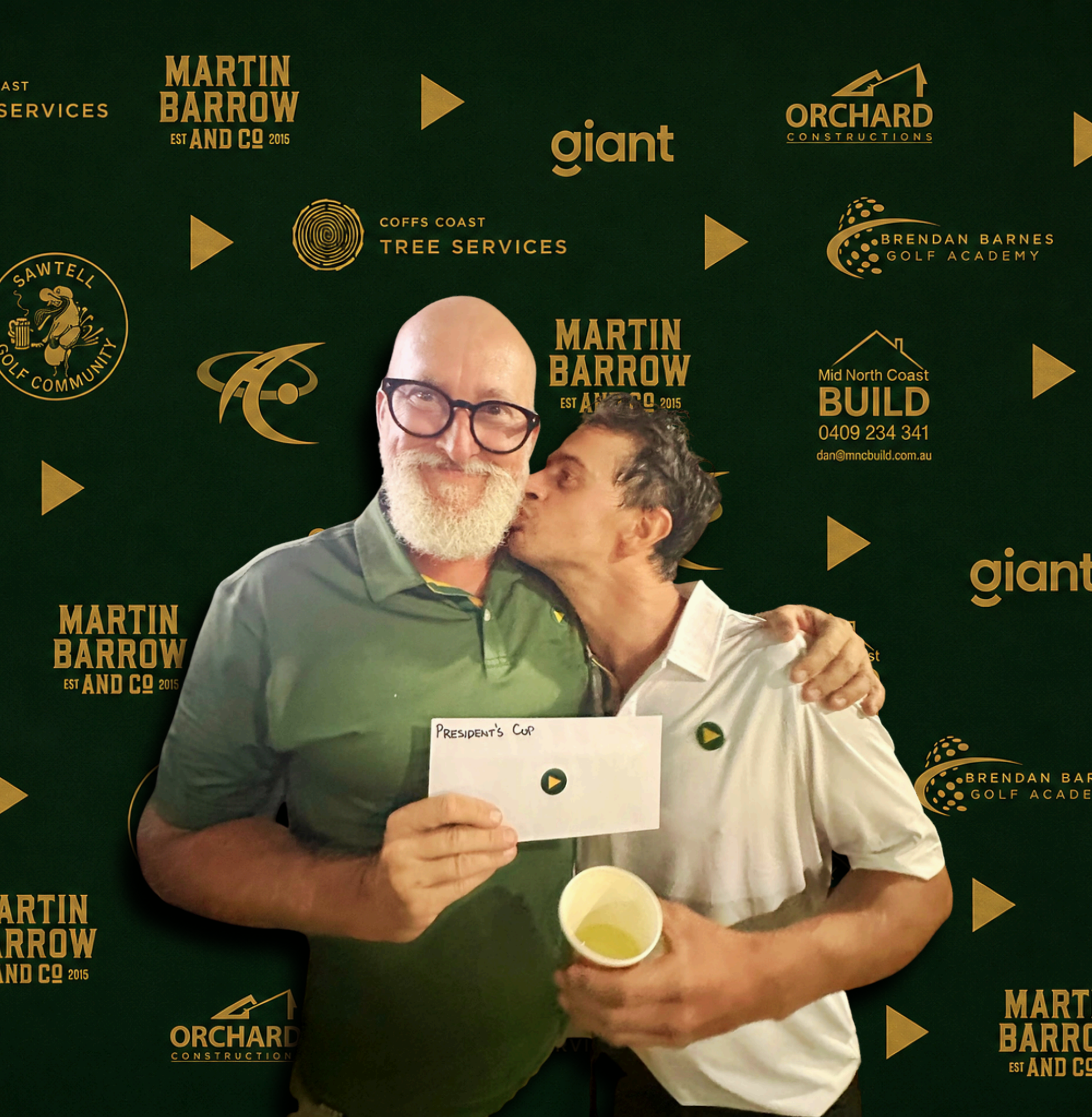
MAX NEAL

Few players have announced themselves on the Divot stage quite like Max Neal. Making his tournament debut in 2025, Max not only claimed the coveted Rookie of the Year award but also recorded the eighth greatest gross round in Golden Divot history - against a field of seasoned Divot veterans, the young star displayed composure, confidence and shot-making well beyond his years, immediately establishing himself as one of the tournament's brightest prospects.

Already crowned both Sawtell Golf Club Junior Champion and Senior Club Champion in the same season, Max arrived at The Golden Divot with an impressive résumé and left with an even bigger one. His natural talent is matched by a calm temperament, strong work ethic and an obvious passion for the game - qualities that separate good golfers from great ones. With his name already etched into the Divot record books after just one appearance, Max has all the credentials to become a future Green Jacket Champion.

While 2025 will always be remembered as the year Max announced himself to The Golden Divot, there's a strong feeling this chapter is only the beginning. As Sawtell Golf Club continues to produce outstanding young talent.





THE PRESIDENT'S CUP

C H A R L I E B E V A N

The President's Cup is The Golden Divot's way of thanking the members of Sawtell Golf Club for their ongoing support throughout the year. The player's top ten rounds are each awarded points, creating a season-long leaderboard that culminates in a thrilling "horse race" reveal at the Divot presentation.

After its introduction, the award was in danger of becoming known as the Darren Blaikie Cup. The great Sawtellian claimed the first two titles and would almost certainly have completed a remarkable hat-trick had he not stepped away from club competition in 2024. Returning in 2025 with broken ribs doing little to aid his preparation, Blaikie was unable to reclaim his crown.

Instead, Charlie Bevan produced the consistency needed to secure the 2025 President's Cup. In a fitting finish, Charlie edged out the ever-reliable Andrew Dent on countback after a season-long battle at the top of the standings. Strong performances throughout the year, capped off by a brilliant finish to the season, saw Bevan deservedly add his name to the honour roll.



PETE THE PUTTER

SCOTT MOODY

The Pete the Putter trophy is one of The Golden Divot's most treasured awards, named in honour of Pete, whose love of the game, quick wit and larger-than-life personality left an enduring mark on everyone fortunate enough to know him. While the Green Jacket crowns the overall champion, Pete the Putter celebrates the one part of the game that can turn an ordinary round into something unforgettable - the flat stick.

The 2025 contest delivered one of the most entertaining finishes in the award's history. After the dust settled, Frank Squadrito, Neil "Boxy" McCarthy and Scotty Moody couldn't be separated, forcing a dramatic three-man playoff that had players and spectators gathered around the practice green.

In a twist only The Golden Divot could produce, Boxy had generously paid Scotty Moody's entry into the competition. Fittingly, it was Moody who emerged victorious after producing an unforgettable "in-off" - his winning putt ricocheting off one of his own pulled playoff putts before tumbling into the hole. As the laughter erupted, there was only one verdict... it doesn't matter how you get the job done - Moody's name is on the trophy!





THE EAGLE

FROM OX TO THE BOX

The Eagle Award is among the rarest honours in The Golden Divot. In 2025, Neil "Boxy" McCarthy etched his name into Divot history with a superb eagle on the 4th hole, equalling the tournament record of three consecutive years in which an eagle has been recorded.

The previous benchmark was set by Tees on the 4th in 2008, Barrow "The Junior" on the 17th in 2009, and Phil Maclean on the 4th in 2010. While that feat stood proudly for fifteen years, many Divot historians believe the current streak is even more remarkable.

It all began with the legendary double eagle in 2023, when Barrow "The Junior" and Matt Strugnell both eagled the 17th while playing in the same group - a moment witnessed by Blythy and Legs that has become part of Divot folklore. The Ox from the Gold Coast carried the tradition into 2024 before Boxy completed the three-peat in 2025. From the Ox to the Box, the eagle changed hands to produce the longest-running streak in Golden Divot history.

Now the challenge is set - who will keep the run alive in 2026?





THE TURTLE CITY CHICKS

The Turtle Award has always been one of The Golden Divot's most unpredictable honours. While it can go to the wooden spooners or the slowest group, there are no hard and fast rules. It might recognise a late inclusion, the worst team score, a painfully slow round, or simply become the tournament's annual tongue-in-cheek award for providing everyone with a laugh.

The last truly memorable Turtle moment came in 2024, when the Goode–Moody pairing famously abandoned all hopes of Green Jacket glory by voluntarily turning their round into an Ambrose. Perfectly legal, completely ridiculous, and worthy Turtle recipients. Before that, you'd have to wind the clock back to 2005, when Dave Martin, Bob Strugnell, and the re-Petes Boettcher and Edwards claimed the honour after finishing last and bringing up the rear of the field.

In 2025, the Turtle found a more deserving home. The Sydney girls embraced the spirit of The Golden Divot from the opening tee, happily bringing up the tail of the field, playing at their own pace, soaking up the day and creating the vibrant, party atmosphere that has become the hallmark of every Divot presentation. Sometimes the Turtle isn't about finishing first—it's about making sure everyone else has the best day possible.





FREDDIE COUPLES

MASON GOLDSMITH

Freddie Couples is one of golf's most iconic players, admired around the world for his effortless swing, calm demeanour and ability to perform when the pressure is at its highest. Named in his honour, the Freddie Couples Award recognises the best-performing couple at The Golden Divot, celebrating those whose partnership proves just as successful as their golf.

In fitting fashion, Bec Goldsmith and Mark Mason capped off a magical 2025 by claiming the Freddie Couples Award on countback, narrowly denying the Chapmans an incredible three-peat. No pairing has dominated this event quite like the Chapmans, making the victory all the sweeter for the new champions.

Divot folklore has it that the pair were so inspired by their victory they later exchanged vows on the famous Swilcan Bridge at the Old Course, St Andrews. Whether fact or fiction remains anyone's guess, but that's the magic of The Golden Divot. Strange things have a habit of happening, and sometimes all it takes is one unforgettable round of golf to create a story that lasts a lifetime.





THE RUSTY 10-IRON

B L A I K I E & M U I R

The Rusty 10-Iron teams event ensures the fight isn't over if your individual challenge has found the rough. After all, that's what teammates are for - to help get their mates back on the fairway and keep their hopes of silverware alive.

In 2025, two of the greatest players never to have slipped on the Green Jacket, Darren Blaikie and Ash Muir, combined brilliantly to claim the Rusty 10-Iron by two shots over crowd favourites Tees and AJ Blyth. It was an emotional pairing for the Blyth family, with AJ proudly taking the place of his dearly departed father, Craig, who had contested the Rusty for decades. After agonisingly missing the Green Jacket by a shot, AJ came within two shots of adding the Rusty to an already memorable campaign.

The victory delivered a second Rusty 10-Iron for both Blaikie and Muir. Coincidentally, each won their first alongside 2022 Champion, Kevin Selmes - Blaikie in 2017 and Muir in 2022. This time, the champion pairing had just enough class to get over the line and further cement their place among Divot's finest never to have won the Green Jacket.





THE PINK DIVOT

BEC GOLDSMITH

The 2025 Pink Divot attracted one of the strongest and largest fields in its history, bolstered by a huge Sydney contingent making the annual pilgrimage north. Perhaps a little weary from the long drive - and the Welcome to the Country festivities - the standard of golf was anything but sluggish, with quality scoring and fierce competition from the opening tee.

Making an immediate impression was Tara Rava, whose maiden Pink Divot produced a superb top-five finish, while the returning Sami Squadrato reminded everyone of her class with a long-awaited comeback and a strong fourth place. Modern-day Pink Divot great Jackie Chapman fell just short of an incredible third consecutive title but still delivered another outstanding performance. Meredith Bowls, making her tournament debut from Bonville Golf Resort, announced herself with a terrific runner-up finish, but there was simply no catching Bec Goldsmith. Capping off a remarkable year, Goldsmith added the Pink Divot crown to an already glittering 2025 season that included the Sawtell Golf Club Ladies Championship, further cementing her place among the region's premier golfers.





THE GREEN JACKET

T E R R Y M A T T H E W S

After five years of knocking on the door, Terry Matthews finally claimed the coveted Green Jacket in a well-deserved breakthrough victory. Since an impressive debut in 2020, where he finished fourth, Terry has been a consistent contender. In 2025, he delivered when it mattered most to become Divot's newest champion.

Runner-up honours went to AJ Blyth, who came within a shot of victory in one of the most emotional finishes in Divot history. Playing in the first tournament since the passing of his father, Craig, AJ produced a performance the old man would've been proud of - and perhaps his only chance to finally finish ahead of the cunning legend.

Divot veteran Marty "The Great White" completed the podium with his best result in thirteen years, while Mark Mason continued his impressive start in just his second Divot. Debutants Adam Halloran and Chris Neal announced themselves with top ten finishes, while seasoned campaigners Gazza Hardaker, Ash Muir, Darren Blaikie and Charlie Bevan once again featured prominently in another memorable championship.



BAR O' BLYTH

BAR O' BLYTH

Bar O' Blyth stands as a lasting tribute to one of The Golden Divot's great characters, Craig "Blythy" Blyth. Through AJ, Craig's mates ensured his presence remained a special part of the 2025 Divot, honouring a man whose friendship, humour and love of the event helped shape what The Golden Divot is today.

Today, every story shared, every beer raised and every laugh echoing through Bar O' Blyth serves as a quiet reminder that while great mates may leave us, their spirit never does. Craig's legacy is woven into the fabric of Divot Lodge, where he'll always be part of every Golden Divot weekend.





THE IMMORTALS

THE GREATEST GROSS ROUNDS
in Golden Divot History
TRADITION • MATESHIP • LEGACY

1 ANTHONY
RAPLEY
67 (-3)

THE GREATEST
GROSS ROUND
IN DIVOT HISTORY

2 CAMERON
POLLARD
70 (-1)

THE CLOSEST ANYONE
HAS COME TO RAPLEY'S
MASTERPIECE.

3 LAUCHIE
SMITH
69 (-1)

THIRD ON THE
ALL-TIME LEADERBOARD.

35 BEC
GOLDSMITH
78 (+7)

HISTORY MADE

THE FIRST AND ONLY
FEMALE TO RECORD
A TOP 35 GROSS ROUND
IN DIVOT HISTORY.

DIVOT TOP 10 GROSS ROUNDS

RANK	FLAG	AB.	PLAYER	GROSS	TO PAR	COURSE	YEAR
1		AU	Anthony Rapley	67	-3	Sawtell	2023
2		AU	Cameron Pollard	70	-1	Sawtell	2025
3		AU	Lauchie Smith	69	-1	Sawtell	2023
4		AU	Anthony Rapley	72	+1	Sawtell	2022
5		AU	Cameron Pollard	71	+1	Sawtell	2023
6		AU	Chris Barrow 	73	+2	Sawtell	2009
7		AU	Anthony Rapley	73	+2	Sawtell	2025
8		AU	Max Neal	73	+2	Sawtell	2025
9		IT	Luke Squadrito	73	+2	Sawtell	2025
10		AU	Matt Strugnell 	72	+2	Sawtell	2023
35		AU	Bec Goldsmith	78	+7	Sawtell	2025

★ SPECIAL MENTION ★

Bec
GOLDSMITH

PINK DIVOT CHAMPION.
SAWTELL GOLF CLUB
LADIES CHAMPION.

THE FIRST—AND CURRENTLY
ONLY—WOMAN TO FEATURE
AMONG THE TOP 35 GREATEST
GROSS ROUNDS IN
GOLDEN DIVOT HISTORY.





GREATEST GROSS

ANTHONY RAPLEY

Every Golden Divot has its stories, but only a select few rounds earn a place in the history books. These are the performances where talent, nerve and a little bit of Divot magic combine to produce something truly special. From Anthony Rapley's record-breaking 67 (-3) in 2023 to the remarkable wave of elite golf witnessed throughout 2025, the all-time leaderboard has become a roll call of the finest rounds ever played in the tournament's proud history. Every name has earned its place, every score tells a story, and every round has become part of Divot folklore.

The honour roll continues to grow as each generation chases golfing immortality. In 2025 alone, Cameron Pollard, Max Neal, Luke Squadrito, Darren Blaikie, Ash Muir and Rohan McIntosh all added their names to the record book, while Bec Goldsmith made history as the first woman to feature among the greatest gross rounds ever recorded.

As the standard continues to rise, one question remains: who will be the next player to etch their name alongside the immortals of The Golden Divot?



SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS

The Golden Divot simply wouldn't exist without the unwavering support of our sponsors, whose generosity allows the event to continue growing while giving back to the local community. A heartfelt thank you to Martin Barrow & Co., Coffs Coast Tree Services, Alliance Electrical, Giant Media, Mid North Coast Build, Orchard Constructions, and the Brendan Barnes Golf Academy. Your support is far more than a logo on a banner - it's an investment in tradition, mateship and a community event that continues to bring people together year after year.

Equally deserving of our gratitude are the volunteers who make the magic happen behind the scenes. To the Barrow and Schofield families, Stacey (Ma), Jackie Chapman, and our much-loved SGs (pictured), thank you for the countless hours, the laughter, the hard work and the passion you pour into this event. Whether setting up, cooking, scoring, serving, cleaning or simply lending a hand wherever needed, you are the heartbeat of The Golden Divot. Quite simply, there is no Golden Divot without you.



DIVOT 2026

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER

SAWTELL GOLF CLUB
TRADITION · MATESHIP · LEGACY

