

Sharks in the Lake

Carbrook Golf Club has become internationally famous for an unusual feature that is believed to be a world first. The course which features a number of man made lakes has a number of resident bull sharks that have made Carbrook Golf Club home.

In a twist of fate in the mid 1990's, the area faced some extreme weather conditions resulting in a number of flood events of the nearby Logan and Albert Rivers. These rivers actually meet at the end of the club's property. During one of these events a number of juvenile bull sharks managed to be swept across the golf course in the flood waters and found themselves in the club's largest lake.

In the early days no one really knew about the club's new residents, however over the next 5 years or so, more and more sightings of a shark fin became a common occurrence at the club by its members. Eventually in the early 2000's a couple of photos were captured proving that the sharks were not a myth, but an amazing reality for the club.

As time moved on the sharks became part of the family at the club as more and more members and visitors eagerly scanned the lake during their round in the hope of capturing a glimpse of a fin. A photo even appeared in the Courier Mail in 2003 (Brisbane's main newspaper).

In 2011 however, General Manager Scott Wagstaff captured a video of the sharks after feeding them one morning. He posted the raw footage on YouTube and the local's secret became an international story almost overnight. The YouTube video has now over 2.2 million views and the sharks popularity has become a great draw card for the club with many visitors drawn to the club to hopefully see one of these amazing fish during their round.



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Shark Lake Challenge

A few years ago the club began a monthly tournament appropriately named the "Shark Lake Challenge". This black marker event sees the course set up at full length with difficult hole locations. Held on the last Wednesday of each month, the players able to handle the conditions and break their handicap receive a special "Shark Lake Challenge" shirt that money can't buy.

The Lake

The lake the sharks live in is 21 hectares in surface area and is up to 15 metres in depth. It is the result of sand mining from the mid 1980's through to the late 1990's. The water is brackish (a mixture of salt and fresh) and the lake is only 8 kilometers from the mouth of the river system which feeds into Moreton Bay.

There is speculation as to how many sharks actually reside in the lake. Recent studies have discovered that the sharks are actually breeding in the lake which is an extremely rare and quite amazing for land locked sharks. Estimates are there are between 6 and 12 sharks varying in sizes up to approximately 9 feet (2.7m) in length and weighing approximately 150kgs.

The sharks have become an integral part of the golf club. The members and visitors respect their environment and leave their golf balls in the water when they hit a loose shot around the 12th – 15th holes which run alongside the lake.

The club no longer allows any ball retrieving on its property for good reason. There would be thousands of balls that have been lost in the lake over the years, but with the sharks protecting their resting place, it will be a long time, if ever they are recovered.

[Watch the Youtube video](#) – search "Carbrook Shark"

