



Our first dinner for this year was held at Yarra Yarra Golf Club in the heritage Eaglemont Room and was well attended by over 70 members and their guests.

Graeme Ryan welcomed everyone with a special mention to Anne Court, our Patron, Mike Rolls and Christian Hamilton our guest speakers and the Captain and the President of Yarra Yarra.

Christian Hamilton

After a delicious entrée of king prawn or smoked chicken salad, Christian Hamilton spoke of his appointment as Golf Australia's National Inclusion Manager and his passion for promoting disabled golf.

Golf Australia runs 18 events annually with 8 events earning World Ranking Status, and now has 100+ PGA Members with PGA All Abilities Coach accreditation.

The Australian All Abilities Championship in 2018 was a world first and saw 12 players with a disability (based off the World Rankings) play in the Emirates Australian Open under the same conditions as the professionals.

We learnt that going forward, there are things that we can all do to be more inclusive. Golf Australia now has an Inclusion Action Plan for Clubs and Facilities which provides a framework for clubs to start their own journey towards real inclusion.

Mike Rolls

After a most enjoyable main course Mike Rolls told his story with emotion and humour about waking up in hospital after a football trip to Tasmania. He was 18, and as a result of Meningococcal disease, his right leg, left foot and two fingers were amputated. He had been in an induced coma for many weeks and was unable to speak due to a breathing tube and could only watch the utter dismay on the faces of his family and friends as they visited him.

After a long stay in hospital he was able to head home. One day his father finally drove him, much against his wishes to the Dunes Golf Course and persuaded him to get into a golf buggy and as they drove up the first fairway, he decided that he wanted to play golf again - his courage and spirit returning.



Mike, now a double amputee plays off 6, is a motivational speaker and helps to promote disabled golf. His talk was inspirational and entertaining – highlights include his memories of being determined not to fall over during the golf swing and that he has golf legs and has dancing legs!

We all went home with admiration for Mike's journey back to health, his strong will, courage, endless determination, and his incredibly supportive family.

The Committee extends a sincere thanks to both Christian and Mike for giving their time, sharing knowledge and their unique experiences with our members.

Morag North

