

THE LONG GAME

NEWSLETTER OF THE
GOLF SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA



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Vale Peter Toogood. One of golf's true gentlemen

*By Mark Hayes, Golf Australia and
Ross Baker GSA member, renowned club maker, collector and restorer*

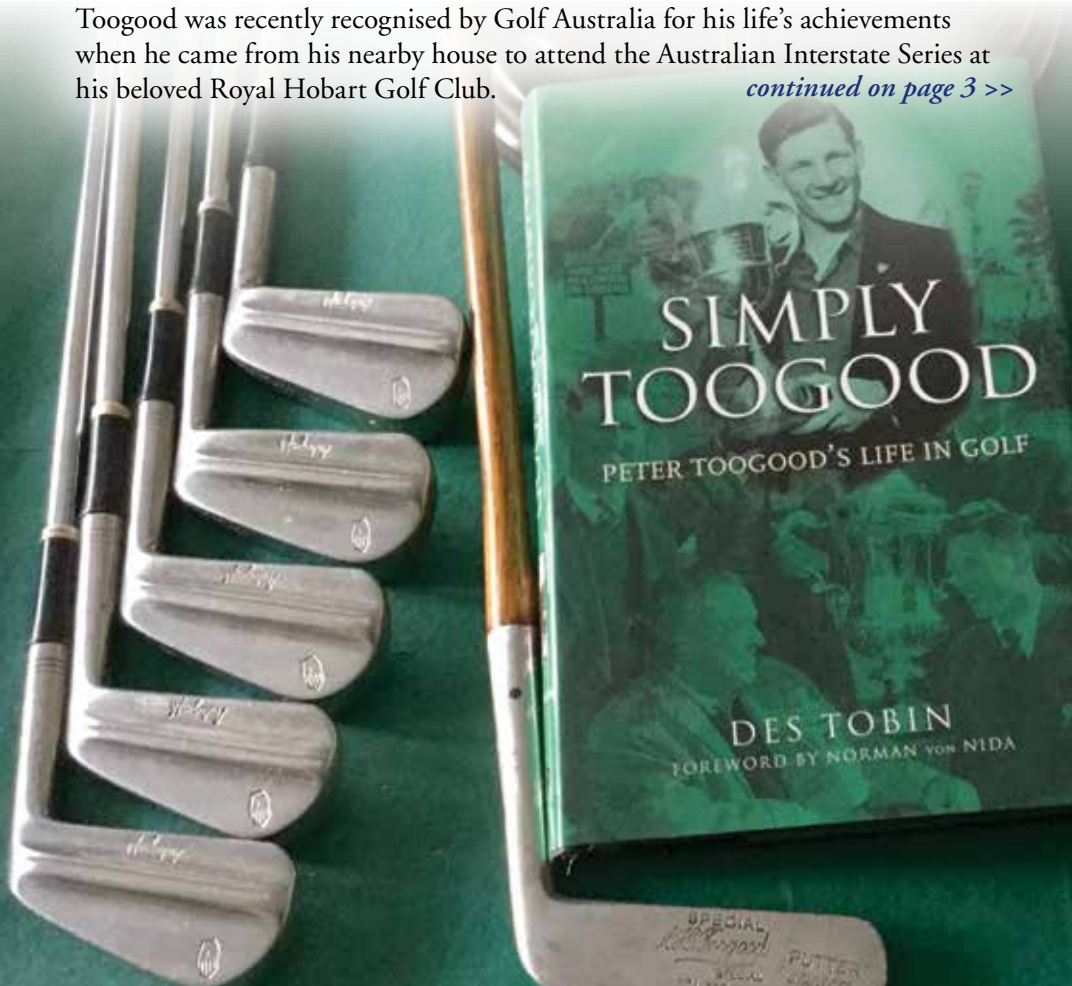
*Australian golf has lost a genuine legend in Peter Toogood who died on
5 June, aged 89.*

Toogood was a member of Australia's winning team at the original Eisenhower Trophy at St Andrews in 1958.

Amid a swag of tributes to his golf, Toogood was also remembered as one of life's 'true gentlemen' and among Tasmania's great educators. He was awarded an MBE for his services to education and golf in 1981, was an inaugural member of the Tasmanian Sporting Hall of Fame in 1987 and was later awarded an OAM at the same time as his brother, John.

Toogood was recently recognised by Golf Australia for his life's achievements when he came from his nearby house to attend the Australian Interstate Series at his beloved Royal Hobart Golf Club.

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LATE NEWS:

The Golf Society of Australia
regrets the passing of Golf
Society member:

Mr Colin A Phillips OAM
on Sunday 30th June 2019

Australian Golf Union
Executive Director
from 1978 - 2005

*See feature article on
Colin Phillips on page 10-12*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

see website for full details

JULY

July 15

Presidents Trophy
at Metropolitan Golf Club

July 19-21

The Walter Travis Trophy
at Maldon Golf Club
(Hickory event)

AUGUST

August 16

Kew Golf Club (Hickory event)

August 18

Annual Hickory Day
at Kingston Heath Golf Club
(Hickory event)

August 19

Historians Forum
at Kew Golf Club

SEPTEMBER

September 17

Metropolitan Golf Club
(Hickory event)

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

October 20

Sandhurst Golf Club
(Hickory event)

December 18

Trophy Round at
Woodlands Golf Club
(Hickory event)

Welcome to New Members

*The GSA welcomes the following
new members:*

Wayne Xing	John Cornish
John Scheffer	Simon Sheedy
John Thomson	Andy Phillips
Tom Lester	Michael Brash
Doug Turek	Graeme Seignior

President's Report

By Graeme Ryan

Members who attended the February dinner at Yarra Yarra would have heard the amazing and inspiring story of double amputee golfer Mike Rolls who played in the All-Abilities Championship at The Lakes during last year's Australian Open and at the World Cup at Metropolitan.



Mike was a sports-mad teenager when he contracted a deadly disease on a football trip. Overnight he was fighting for his life and when he regained consciousness, he had lost his right leg, half his left foot, two fingers, part of his nose and had extensive internal injuries.

Mike's recovery from this terrible disease is captured in his book 'Ditch the Dead Weight-how my toughest choice became my greatest mission' which I highly recommend.

At this dinner, we also heard from Golf Australia's Inclusion Senior Manager Christian Hamilton who outlined the objectives and progress of GA's initiatives in this important area.

The June dinner was held at Kingston Heath, where leading coach Dale Lynch spoke about his experiences with many golfers around the world and his views on the future of golf in Australia and overseas.

In addition to our dinners, hickory days and historians forums are well attended and most enjoyable. Advices will be sent to all members in advance of coming events.

We are working closely with the project managers of the Sandringham development where our golf museum and library will be located. Also, our displays at Moonah Links and the National Sports Museum will soon be entering new phases of expansion.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Vale

*The President, Committee and Members
of the Golf Society of Australia are saddened to learn
of the recent passing of members:*

John Worrell OAM

Peter Toogood AO MBE

Mr Colin A Phillips OAM

*Our thoughts and condolences go out
to their family and friends.*

Vale Peter Toogood. One of golf's true gentlemen

Continued from page 1...

He was leading amateur in the 1954 Open Championship, finishing 15th overall at Royal Birkdale, the same year he beat his brother John in the Australian Amateur final, prompting the legendary headline, “*Toogood too good for Toogood*”.

Toogood was chosen to play in the 1958 Eisenhower Trophy, the first edition of the world team championship still contested today, alongside Doug Bachli, Bob Stephens and future superstar Bruce Devlin.

Devlin said it “took 52 hours for this group of kids” to fly to St Andrews, but worse was to come for the Australian team which drew a later tee time on the first day as remorseless winds swept the Scottish coast during the afternoon’s competition.

Toogood once recalled: “There was tremendous wind and rain and of the 116 players, only seven broke 80 and they’d all hit off by 7.30 in morning. The wind was blowing the ball off greens, we’d hit ‘em on and they’d roll off, so we were 17 strokes behind after the first round. But we gradually caught up, tied and won in a playoff (a full day against the Americans). That was pretty special.”

“Peter was a hell of a player... a very straight hitter and, with respect, I’d put him on the intense side, because he was very meticulous about each shot he was trying to play. There was definitely no ‘cavalier’ about him... but boy, could he play” said Devlin. “But I think more than that, he was just a genuinely nice person as well; respected by all in Aussie golf and around the world, for that matter.”

That reverence was never clearer to Toogood’s oldest son, Chris, who recalled marvelling at his father’s fame – largely unknown because of his modesty – when Jack Nicklaus won the Australian Open at Royal Hobart in 1971.



*GSA Committee member Neil Walker
with Peter Toogood*

“I was just a little fella, but I remember seeing Jack approach Dad and the two of them talking like they were long-lost mates... which I suppose they were,” Chris said.

“He wouldn’t like me talking about it, but I remember thinking, ‘That’s Jack Nicklaus – and he knows my Dad, asking him all sorts of questions... that’s amazing’.”

But the thing that made Toogood a genuine Tasmanian legend is that he willingly and happily rejected that fame and played with great passion for his home state, being a part of Tassie’s only three teams to have won the Interstate Series – in 1968, 1974 and 1977.

Of the 36 club championships that Toogood won, 19 came at Royal Hobart after nine in earlier days at Kingston Beach and two more at Huntingdale while he was studying in Melbourne.

He also developed an interest in golf course construction, and later in life was passionately involved in the Australasian Golf Museum at Bothwell in central Tasmania.

Ross Baker, renowned club maker, collector and restorer, recalls his good friend:

One of Australia’s best golfers and a ‘true gentleman’ in every sense of the word. Peter will be sadly missed.

I put a few of my things together to remember my dear friend Peter. The hickory putter was the putter he had as an 8 year old boy, but didn’t need, when he ‘holed in one’ at Kingston Beach Golf Club, becoming the ‘youngest golfer in the world’ to have a hole-in-one at that time. The 3 iron he used (same model as the putter, stamped with AH Toogood and made by Himmerman and Kirk of Mordialloc) is displayed in the Australasian Golf Museum, Bothwell Tasmania, along with the ball.

The set of George Nicol irons was used by Peter to win the New Zealand Amateur in 1956, as well as the Trans-Tasman Cup in which he partnered Harry Berwick. Berwick also won the New Zealand Open during that trip. The irons are somewhat special, in that the heads were purchased by Peter’s father Alf, when they travelled to Great Britain in 1954. That year, Peter was the Low Amateur at the Open Championship, won by Peter Thomson. He also made the semi-finals of the British Amateur which was won by Doug Bachli.



Following the recent passing of Peter Toogood, a letter was sent to his widow Berenice from the GSA expressing our condolences.

For those interested in knowing more about Peter Toogood’s life in golf, the biography written by GSA member Des Tobin titled ‘*Simply Toogood*’ is highly recommended.



Brendan Moloney



2019 Don Lawrence Trophy Winners Justin Ryan and Simon Sheedy

The boys from Central Vic win a close one. Don Lawrence Trophy at Woodlands Golf Club 14 May 2019

By Kim Hastie

The annual Don Lawrence Trophy, our popular 4BBB event was played at its regular venue Woodlands Golf Club in near perfect autumn conditions

The field of 28, made up of regular participants with guests, new members and past winning combinations, notably Tony Rule and Andrew Thomson, who were attempting a 'three-peat' having won the event in 2017 and 2018.

At lunch before teeing off, Brendan Moloney, well known GSA member and lifelong friend, gave a humorous insight into some of his memories of Don Lawrence.

As Secretary Kim and Committee member Morag North processed the cards, it appeared the result was going to be very close.

They noted at the turn Andrew and Tony would have felt comfortably on track for a third win, going out with an impressive 27 points, a struggle on the inward nine, saw them finish with 43 points but still well positioned.

Edward Mitchell and Norm Davies paired for the first time, also returned a score of 43-points to take the runner-up position from Andrew and Tony due to their better back nine.

One of the last cards in was from Justin Ryan and new member Simon Sheedy, with a winning score of 44 points.

At the presentations Secretary Kim commented that as she marked their card, she could attest to their very consistent play.

So, the Rule and Thomson quest for three wins was not to be, nevertheless it was nice to see the young men from Central Victoria making the trip to play and win the 2019 Don Lawrence Trophy.

Justin is from Bendigo and Simon is from Maldon.

The after-golf presentations and buffet dinner were greatly enjoyed. Unfortunately, this year Don's widow Muriel was unable to attend due some health issues. She recently moved to South Australia to be closer to her family.

Results

Winners of the Don Lawrence Trophy

- Justin Ryan and Simon Sheedy 44 pts

Runners up

- Edward Mitchell and Norm Davies 43 pts c/b

Best score by member/and non-member guests

- Geoff and Elizabeth Knight 46 pts

Best 9 out - Andrew Thomson and Tony Rule 27 pts

Best 9 in - Justin Ryan and Simon Sheedy 25 pts

NTP

11th Men - Simon Sheedy

17th Men - Michael Church

17th Women - Kim Hastie

President Graeme Ryan spoke to the group, thanked Woodlands Golf Club for their ongoing hospitality and for hosting another thoroughly enjoyable day.

Rules modernisation and the latest changes.

By Tim Gale, Golf Australia National Referee



In 1774 the earliest known written Rules for the game of golf were signed off by John Rattray, an Edinburgh surgeon and Captain of the Gentlemen Golfers of Leith. The original thirteen rules were progressively modified by many different golf clubs over subsequent years, and in the 1890s the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews was given responsibility for a worldwide code (excluding the USA and Mexico). There have been subsequent major revisions in 1899, 1934, 1952, and 1984. The major rule revisions this year are the first for 35 years.

The stated goals of this recent modernisation exercise are to make the Rules more easily understood and applied by all golfers, to be more consistent, simple and fair. They also sought to remove restrictions that were deemed to be unfair or unnecessary (and so eliminating many penalties), and with procedures easier to apply. They are also intended to assist with the current problematic 'slow play' issue.

Summary of the changes:

It should be noted that all previous Rules remain. Less than 20% of the Rules have undergone significant change, and the remainder have undergone major rewording without changing their meaning. Many of the previous Rules have been combined, resulting in the total number of Rules being reduced to 24.

In no particular order of priority the following changes are noted:

- If a ball at rest is accidentally moved during a search, or when on the putting green- now no penalty, estimate the original spot and replace the ball.
- If a ball in motion is accidentally deflected by anyone or anything- no longer a penalty, and play the ball as it lies.
- When taking relief the dropping procedure has been standardised, with the ball been dropped from knee height into a Relief Area (1 or 2 club-lengths in radius) within which the ball must also come to rest.
- Searching for a ball is restricted to 3 minutes.
- Embedded ball relief is only available as a result of the previous stroke, and in the General Area (the new term for 'through the green').
- **On the Putting Green**, almost any damage maybe repaired; the line of putt may be touched in pointing out a target; there is no penalty if the ball played on the putting green accidentally strikes the flag stick in the hole, when held up, or when lying on the ground. Whilst another ball is in motion after a stroke on the green a ball at rest may be lifted or be played. A caddy may mark, lift and replace a ball without specific authorisation. After a ball has been marked, lifted and replaced, if it is then moved by the wind or moves for no good reason it must be replaced.
- **In a Bunker**, a ball is now within if it is 'inside the edge and resting on sand'. There is now no restriction on moving/removing a loose impediment. There are relaxed restrictions on touching the sand with a club or hand. There is a new additional Unplayable Ball relief option: for an additional penalty stroke relief may be taken outside the bunker back of the line from the hole through where the ball lay, for a total of two penalty strokes.

- **Penalty Areas** (old term 'Water Hazard')- these have been expanded to permit inclusion of any area on the course deemed by the Committee to be 'difficult to find and play a ball', for example deserts, jungles, lava rock fields.
- Expanded use of Red areas is encouraged. Elimination of opposite side relief for a Red area (unless adopted by a Local Rule).
- Player may move Loose Impediments (leaves, stones, sticks etc) and 'ground' the club when playing a stroke from the Area.
- A club damaged during the round may still be used, and usually may not be replaced.
- A caddy must not be positioned behind their player during the stance as well as during the stroke.
- **To promote faster Pace of Play**, the Rules recommend playing a stroke within 40 seconds or less, and also playing out of turn in Stroke Play 'Ready Golf'. Other changes to help pace of play include the simplified dropping procedure; reduce time of ball search; expansion of Penalty Areas; greater use of Red Penalty areas; no requirement to announce or be supervised by a marker or opponent when lifting the ball for identification, to determine if embedded or if damaged; and the ability to putt with the flagstick in the hole or when another ball is in motion. An optional Local Rule for a ball lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds should also help.

My personal view is it that the Penalty Area changes, the changes to the relief procedure, and the permitted changes on the putting green, all of which result in less potential penalties, may be the most beneficial modifications and should increase the enjoyment of the game and also materially aid the long-standing slow play problems that has beset our game in recent years.

Reference: The R&A www.randa.org/rules

The evolution of the Vic Open

By David Greenhill, *Golf Australia*



Long-time Golf administrator DAVID GREENHILL has been instrumental in the evolution of the Vic Open. With the 2019 Open having been played with joint Men's European Tour and LPGA co-sanctioning, he reflects on a long personal attachment with the event.

The Vic Open has always meant a lot to me from a golf perspective, but it now represents something more than just a professional event. It's about equality, inclusivity, engagement and the way our sport should be going into the future.

It clearly demonstrates that even at the highest level, men and women can play golf and compete side by side in an enjoyable and fun atmosphere. Same prize money, same courses, same excitement and same crowds watching both. Basically, same everything. The way golf should be.

My personal Vic Open journey began farewelling my mum, Di, at Hobart airport in 1976 on her way to Kingston Heath as part of a Tasmanian two-woman team to be part of the women's amateur section which Tony Charlton introduced into the Vic Open in 1973.

Mum was accompanying the great Lindy Goggin, one of the finest golfers that I've ever seen play. "I played with Kel Nagle in the first round," she remembered. "He was such a generous man and fully supportive of the innovation of having the women amateurs involved."

Before we teed off, he gave an interview on the first tee and the camera then followed us down the fairway." Mum also recalled that Tony Charlton had actually picked her and Lindy up at Tullamarine when they arrived.

My father had become friends with the legendary Australian broadcaster and event administrator whilst an assistant professional at Metropolitan during the 1950s and Tony wanted to make sure that Lindy and my mum were greeted by a familiar face upon arrival. I probably didn't fully appreciate the significance at the time, but the knowledge that Tony was the instigator behind women being part of the Vic Open during the 1970s was something I never forgot.

After a family move to Victoria in 1979 and the golf bug having bitten me, the connection with Tony Charlton Vic Opens began again through some fantastic championships played at Metropolitan. Headlined by a star international player, the fields boasted the best of Australian golf played in February sunshine over a classic sandbelt course with huge crowds, excitement and a true sense of a Melbourne sporting occasion.

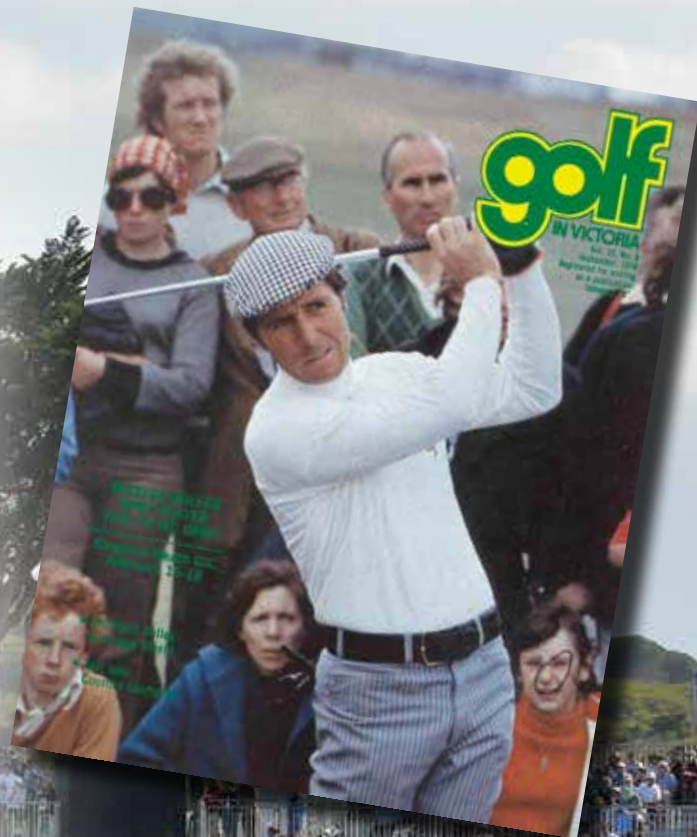
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The answer then seemed obvious – why not reintroduce the Women's Vic Open played in conjunction with the Men's Open? Two shows for the price of one with equal prize money for men and women. Professional golf as it should be.

The two Vic Opens I really remember were the 1982 championship where a rookie Mike Clayton outlasted stinking hot weather and broke through to win over fellow Victorian star, Bob Shearer and the great Lee Trevino. I'd only ever seen the then five-time major winner (he'd win a sixth at the US PGA in 1984) on the 'Pro-Celebrity Golf Series' which used to air late at night on the ABC, so to see him up close at the Vic Open was just sensational – unorthodox technique but he could really play. He just invented shots and played them instinctively.

However, Mike played great golf and had a memorable hole-in-one at the 13th in the third round on his way to the first of two Vic Open titles. It was an early example of how Australia's best young professionals could compete against international stars and perhaps that was also part of the Charlton motivation for getting the household names of world golf to routinely play the Vic Open.

The Vic Open remained a key event on the Australian tour throughout the 1980s, however tough times were ahead. Economic recession, increasing challenges from other sports and diversifying interests of former golf sponsors saw it become increasingly more difficult for all golf events to maintain momentum and growth. There was no tournament in 1990, but returned in 1991 as a youthful Robert Allenby won the title at Woodlands as an amateur on the back of sublime ball striking.



The Vic Open continued during the 1990s and 2000s amidst ever more difficult sponsorship challenges for professional golf events. Despite a lot of talented people working tirelessly towards keeping the Vic Open going, the reality was the 2011 Men's Championship was played at Spring Valley for \$100,000 in the first week of January.

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The evolution of the Vic Open

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Either something had to change or the men's version of the event, which had started in 1957 and had so many household names as former winners, was in serious jeopardy. It was also a broader period of change with the VGA and Women's Golf Victoria having amalgamated in November 2010 to form Golf Victoria.

Confronted with the Vic Open challenge and a desire to showcase the merging of men's and women's golf at State level, the answer then seemed obvious; why not reintroduce the Women's Vic Open played in conjunction with the Men's Vic Open? Two shows for the price of one with equal prize money for men and women. Professional golf as it should be.

The first joint event was played at Spring Valley and Woodlands in 2012 with a \$125k purse each. Turning up to open the tournament office on the Monday of Championship week, Golf Victoria's David Greenhill (then with Golf Victoria), knew the event had a good chance of working. "I saw four young professionals, two men and two women, happily go to the 1st tee to start a practice round together". A further boost on the eve of the tournament came through a call from Tony Charlton himself, wishing Golf Victoria every success and how pleased he was to see women and men competing simultaneously.

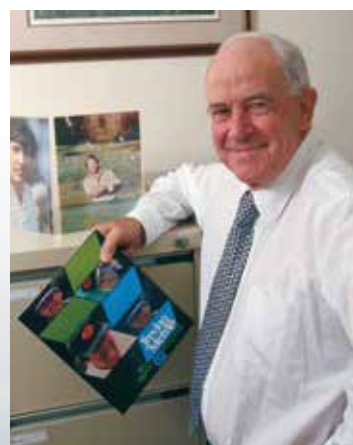
Following ongoing support from the Victorian Government and several commercial sponsors, an association with the 13th Beach Golf Club was formed which allowed the event to develop and grow within a 36-hole facility.

The new vision has been well supported by Golf Victoria, the 13th Beach Club, the Australian PGA and Australian Ladies Professional Golf. An extensive pool of volunteers has also been a key catalyst in building the Vic Open into something special.

The Vic Open secured co-sanctioning via the European Men's and the US Ladies Professional Golf Association Tours, with 66% of all players from overseas. These partnerships saw four days of live global TV coverage showcasing the beautiful 13th Beach links courses as well as highlighting men and women playing for equal prize money – such a strong and important message.

Together with huge galleries (over 20,000 across the four days) and international winners in Scotland's David Law and Celine Boutier from France, the Vic Open now holds a significant place in world golf. Indeed, inspired by the energy, excitement and colour of the 2019 Vic Open, the Northern Ireland Open is to be transformed to a similar format later this year. This is golf for the future.

Endless possibilities now beckon for jointly conducted men's and women's golf events to assist in fully growing the game. Golf is a game for everyone after all. In this context, it's impossible not to think back to Tony Charlton and remember his inspiration and encouragement to try something new.





Graeme Ryan, Dale Lynch and Tony Rule

Kingston Heath Dinner Monday 3 June 2019 with Dale Lynch

By Tony Rule

The second dinner of the year was held at Kingston Heath Golf Club with 60 members in attendance. The guest speaker was Dale Lynch who has been one of Australia's foremost golf coaches for almost 25 years.

Dale first came to national prominence as the coach of a precocious young talent by the name of Aaron Baddeley. Aged 18, Aaron was the first amateur to win the Australian Open in 39 years. Dale described how impressive his ball striking was at the time. He could hit it both ways high or low. Fellow Australian Geoff Ogilvy commented that "at age 18 he was the best ball-striker I'd ever seen". The very next year Baddeley successfully defended his title at Kingston Heath despite not playing his best golf. Dale is still of the opinion that Aaron could have been the world number one but as members, well know history has proven otherwise.

In 2006 Geoff Ogilvy became only the third Victorian to ever win a major championship when he won at Winged Foot. Who can forget the spectacular up and down he made on 18 for par whilst others behind him, notably Montgomerie and Mickelson, struggled up the ultimate hole? Dale described how the pitch shot that he played that day on 18 was one that they had been working on for almost a year. The soft high pitch shot that they added to Geoff's arsenal enabled him to access tight pins, they first realised they needed that shot at the PGA Tour stop in Tucson. The rest is history.

Dale also provided some fascinating insights on players such as Tiger Woods, Kevin Na and Craig Spence. Kevin Na was the ultimate 'range rat' who would spend all day on the practice fairway. Na insisted that Dale gave him his first lesson on tournament eve at Augusta much to his chagrin. Na's response to Dale's reluctance in commenting on his swing was simple "I'm not going to make the cut the way I am playing so what does it matter!"

Dale described Craig Spence as an artist who got lost when he went to America and became a 'range rat'. Such are the vagaries of professional golf.

At one point there was much press speculation that Dale would become the coach of Tiger Woods. Dale was coaching Arjun Atwal at the time and he and Tiger were good friends. Images of Dale demonstrating a swing to Tiger sent the media world into a spin. When asked if the rumours were true Dale responded "no comment", logically thinking that the press speculation wouldn't hurt business! It wasn't until John Huggan called to say that Golf Digest was about to print a big story confirming Dale's appointment that he decided to deny the rumours!

A most enjoyable dinner was had by members and guests who appreciated fine food and wine from Kingston Heath along with an informative and entertaining presentation by Dale.

COLIN PHILLIPS

– *Memories of Australia's Golf Chief*

By Bruce Baskett

When Colin Phillips was inducted into the Victorian Golf Industry Hall of Fame before 230 people last August it completed another chapter in the story of a man of golf who began his career in a humble position at Metropolitan some 57 years ago.

There were many twists and turns in the career since which saw him rise to positions of power in Victoria, Australia and, indeed, internationally through the Royal and Ancient at St Andrews where he was an esteemed member.

"I think I was about 14 when I first started playing golf at Heidelberg," Colin recalls. "My mother and father were both members there. My mother wasn't a bad golfer. She played Pennant for Southern. I did alright. I didn't get in the junior pennant team. I was pretty close but I never made it.

My old man wanted me to do accountancy. He got me a job with Gordon and Gotch, the newspaper and magazine distributor in the accounts department. There was a bloke there in management who was a member at Heidelberg and that's how it came about."

Colin stayed there about a year attending Melbourne Tech at nights to do an accountancy course. "I couldn't stand it really," he said. "I saw this ad in the paper for a position at Metro. I was about 18. I said to the old man this is what I want to do. Oh, he said that's a long way from where we live and blah, blah, blah. Anyway, I said I am going to apply for it and I did."

The eagle eye of the judiciary was crucial in Colin's appointment, a fact he did not know until sometime later.

The job had been previously advertised and another chap had been appointed.

It was his first day working in the then front office when Sir Douglas Little (a Supreme Court judge) walked around the corner and spotted him. Sir Douglas looked him up and down and declared: "I know you." He was a convicted thief. His first day was his last.

The Club re-advertised the position and that's how Colin came to apply and get the job.

Colin served from 1962-68 in the assistant's role at Metropolitan. "I did a course at the Burnley Horticultural College because there were always problems regarding the golf course. They had just opened the new second nine," he said. "It was never going well. The grass, the drainage, the whole thing. It was terrible really. So, they shot me off to Burnley and I did this course."

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“There was a group of guys from the Orange Golf Club who used to come down to Metro every year to play. They were bookies, farmers and a couple of lawyers and they had a lot of money.”

“There was a job going up there and one of them rang me and said why don’t you apply. I spoke to Captain Lowe about it and he said ‘Yes, I think you should apply. It’s about time. You’ve been here six years’.”

“I got the job and I got married at that time. My wife wasn’t over impressed with Orange so I said after about three years why don’t we go overseas and see what we can do.”

After some research and a number of letters to England, Colin got a job at Royal Blackheath. The secretary had been very ill and had retired. “The Club dates back to 1608, one of the earliest clubs in the world,” Colin said.

Then another twist of fate. He was already to move from London to take the job and he got a knock on the door. It was a member of Blackheath who turned out to be the Auditor-General of Britain. He said he had to come round to tell Colin that the ailing secretary had made an amazing recovery. He wanted his job back and the Club felt they had to give it to him.

The messenger had some good news, however.

He said: “I have spoken to this club that is nearby – West Kent – and they are interested in seeing you.”

Colin had got two jobs within a couple of weeks of arriving in the UK. The West Kent job came with a house. “A lot of the clubs did that in those days,” Colin said.

“The village is called Downe. Charles Darwin lived there for 40 years until he died and that house where we lived was part of his original estate. It was the stable keeper’s two-storey cottage right on the edge of the golf course.

I got on really well there. I stayed until the Victorian Golf Association approached me to come back.”

The key VGA man in luring Colin back was Lyle Dexter who was a past president of Commonwealth. The secretary of the VGA was going to retire in the future and the proposal was that Colin work as assistant and learn the ropes for a period.

“When I arrived there was a note to say the secretary had died while we were travelling and instead of being assistant, I was now the boss.”

A new chapter was beginning.

He found the Victorian Golf Association was in good shape. The resurgence in the Victorian Open was about to take off with Tony Charlton the key promoter.



“Tony actually worked for Ranald Macdonald at The Age and there was a department at the paper for special events which Tony ran,” Colin said.

“He convinced Ranald to get into golf and he didn’t take much persuasion being a very good golfer himself.

Tony wanted to save the Vic Open which was on its last legs and they did. They were terrific. They had all the contacts. It was held at Metropolitan in 1975 (Stuart Ginn) and 1978 (Guy Wolstenholme). Arnold Palmer came out in 1978 and Guy Wolstenholme won in a play-off. There was then a great sequence of five years at Metro from 1980-84.”

Soon Colin’s path was up onto the national stage.

The position of full-time secretary of the Australian Golf Union became available in late 1978.

The AGU delegates from the states gathered in Perth to decide their key official to run golf in the country.

NSW had their candidate and expected him to win as they believed they had the numbers. Colin from Victoria was the other candidate. The votes were in and the result announced. Colin had won by one vote 7 to 6.

Colin started on 1 January 1979 and was straight into the deep end, off the high board.

Colin said, “At that point the AGU had no money. When I took over it had nothing, not even an office. It was based in Sydney at the NSW golf association. The secretary Alan Higinbotham did it and there were no costs. Prior to that Bill Richardson at Royal Melbourne had run it from 1962 to 1974. The same thing applied and Royal Melbourne paid for it.”

The venue for the Open was still uncertain. It was still listed for Sydney. Colin thought the obvious place to have it was to bring it back to Melbourne. He knew he would get the support from the other states - except for NSW.

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COLIN PHILLIPS

– *Memories of Australia's Golf Chief*

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"I first of all spoke to Ranald and Tony to see if they would be interested and of course Tony jumped right at it. It was right up his alley," Colin said.

"I rang up Alex Lynch (then Captain of Metropolitan) and said what do you think. He said we would love to have it here. I went back to AGU President Jim Dixon and said this is the situation and Metro would love to have it."

"I asked Alex to come up with me to Sydney for the meeting which he did and the rest is history. Alex was fantastic and we got it to Metro. Out of nowhere."

At the same time Colin was moving the office to Melbourne and found a place in St Kilda Road. He worked out of the VGA for a while.

"There was only two of us. Me and an assistant. It remained that way for some time and eventually we put on a few more. Tom Duguid was terrific on the rules. He became the guru," Colin said.

"Seve Ballesteros was the big name from overseas for the 1979 Open. He was a good guy. Greg Norman was a bit difficult. Not as difficult as he became later. I still remember going into the locker room to find Greg. He was in tears. He bogeyed the 18th and missed by one shot so there was no play-off. He wouldn't come out for the presentation and just refused."

Because the Open won by Jack Newton went so well, Colin said "it made the setting up of the organisation a lot easier. The Open went back to Sydney in 1980 where Norman won his first. It was still kept basically between Victoria and NSW until 1998 when it went to Royal Adelaide. The sponsors didn't want to go to the other states."

"It wasn't that hard to get the sponsors. Tony and Ranald had a lot of pull. We had some pretty big sponsors like Panasonic, Holden. Panasonic were really pleased because it went up to Japan," Colin said,

"It was just as hard to get the internationals to play the Open as it is now. After Tony and Ranald had finished their stint, we got IMG to replace them," he said.

"They had the players or contact with the players and it was much easier to get them but we had to find the money. I can't remember what Tiger got to come out for the first one but I think it would have been half a million or so. It was 1996 in Sydney and it was his ninth professional tournament. He finished 5th after opening with a 79.

Lee Westwood's play-off win over Norman in 1997 also has some good and not so good memories.

In those days the winner could take the Stonehaven Cup for a year. It was housed in a special box that Catanach Jewellers had made. The AGU would contact the holder a

month or so before the next one to ask where it was and to please get it back to Australia in time."

"When we opened it up after Lee's win there were dents in it and it was really in bad shape. I took it to Blair Catanach and he fixed it up fortunately. So everything was right. But something was published about it

When I got it back, I got in touch with his manager and told him how bloody unhappy I was about the whole thing. And he told Westwood and he got in touch and said it was perfect when he put it in the thing to send it back. And it must have been my fault and all the rest of it. I certainly didn't tell the press but it got out somehow."

Colin became executive director of the AGU and was the most important official in Australian golf for more than quarter of a century until it became Golf Australia in 2005.

The R&A immediately snapped him up and appointed him as its first Director for the Asia-Pacific region.

He was the first Australian to serve on the Rules committees for The Open Championship, the US Open and the Masters.

Colin's golf, although occasional in recent times, always showed a special affection for Metropolitan where it all started, thanks somewhat to the Judge who just happened to recognise the face of a felon as he passed by the office back some 57 years ago and a young man from Heidelberg took his first step on an amazing course of golf administration.



Doyen golf writer Don Lawrence and Colin

Australasian 12 Hole Hickory Cup

By Peter Stickley

Inspired by the first Open Golf Championship, Prestwick 1860, Year 2 of the Cup comprised three 12 hole rounds, played at The Dunes, Portsea and Eagle Ridge Golf Courses on the Mornington Peninsula March 2 – 4.

20 amateurs including a lady and a 13 year-old lad together with 8 pros representing Qld, NSW, Tas, Vic and UK competed.

Saturday was the final qualifying day with 6 teams including 4 pros forming the Hickory section of the Peter Stickley Vendor Advocacy Legends Pro Am on the final day.

Those who hadn't made the cut played in the concurrent underlying Mornington Peninsula 12 Hole Hickory Cup.

There was excitement throughout the event, many players dressed in period clothes, and prior to presentations, displayed their skill in a 50m shoot out from the clubhouse to a green over a pond. Tyler Talbot the 13 year-old won when he holed out.

The support of the AGHS, GSA, PGA and sponsors was acknowledged.

Final Results

Mornington Peninsula Hickory Championship

Gross Winner	Tim Sayers pro
Stableford Winner	Malcolm Davis
Winning Team	Andy Dakers pro, Chris Baker, Doug Turek
Runner-up Team	Des Arnold, John Smith, Chris Thorn

Australasian 12 Hole Hickory Cup

Gross Winner	Tim Sayers pro
Gross Runner-up	Chris Thorn
Winning Team	Andy Dakers pro, Chris Baker Doug Turek
Runner-up Team	David Good pro, Malcolm Davis, Peter Stickley

PRO PURSE

1st Tim Sayers, 2nd David Good, 3rd Jeffrey Anderson, 4th Andy Dakers



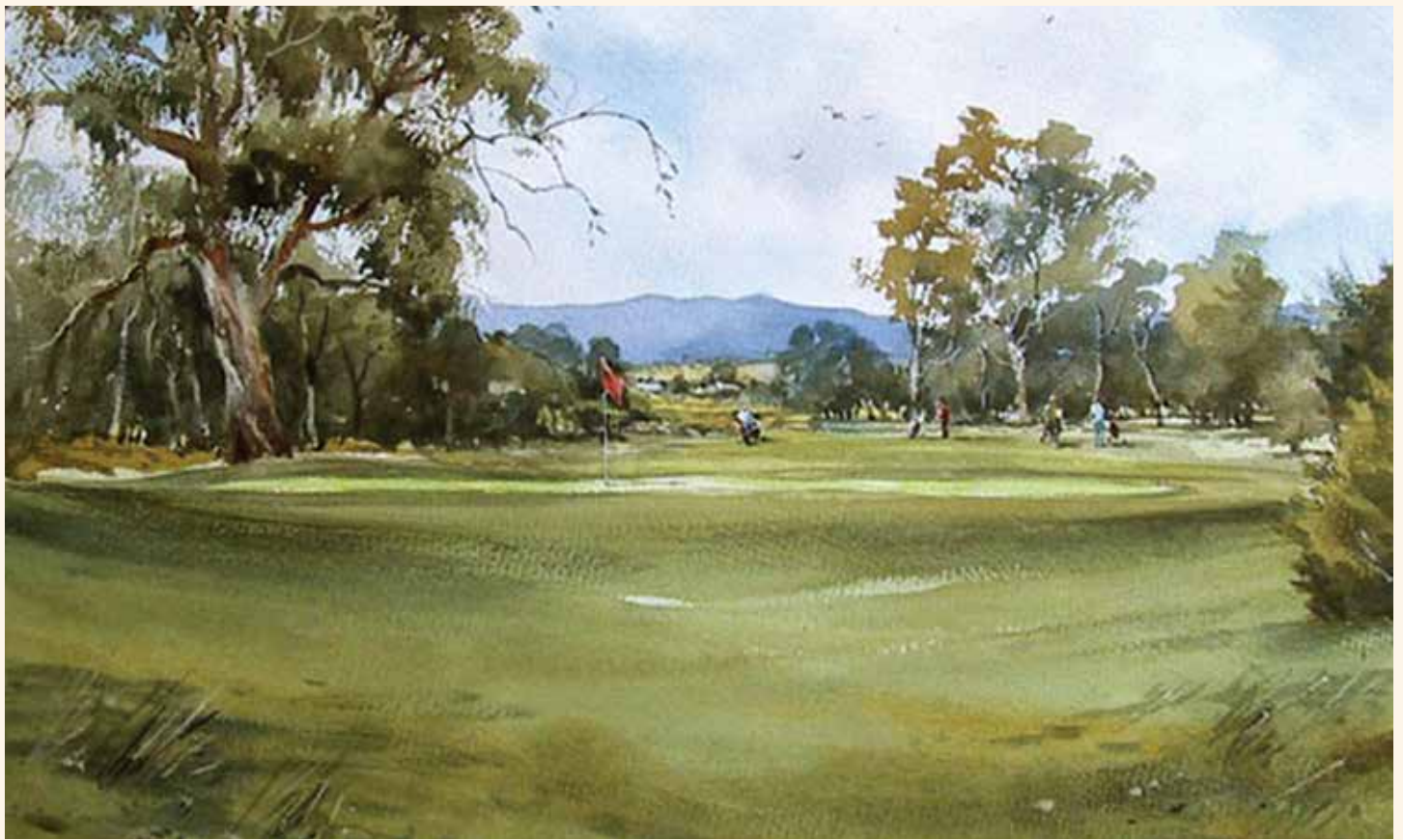
Winner Tim Sayers with Peter Stickley



David Good PGA Senior Tour



Winner Tim Sayers with Peter Stickley and Kim Hastie



The 17th, Mansfield Golf Club, Victoria. Robert Wade

The Dangerous Art of Golf

By Robert A. Wade OAM

Painting on a golf course is a hazardous occupation, forbidden by golf clubs for obvious reasons and absolutely adhered to by this artist! A golf ball between the eyes is something to be avoided totally and which would bring heavy legal costs for the club. My method of working has been developed over the last 35 years or so of painting golf holes, a method evolved from necessity, as I had no choice other than just to give up unless I could work out a way to overcome the problems.

Here's how it works. I can usually borrow a cart from the club that I intend to paint, then whizz out around the track ensuring that I am not worrying or disturbing the players. Having been a member of a club for over 70 years I have a pretty good idea of where I should and should not be! Sometimes I can see that I'm three or four holes ahead of the next group, that's when I can whip off a quick pen or pencil sketch for reference plus shoot a few photos for added reference. Before the digital system appeared, I used 35mm slides which I could use back in my studio, blowing up the images to 5 or 6 feet wide. This allowed me to feel that I was actually right back on site, no golfers, no wind, no rain or whatever. I have upwards of 75,000 slides in carefully catalogued magazines. 35mm film is now almost unprocurable and should you be fortunate enough to have the film in stock, it's almost as hard to find a laboratory that still processes it. I have digital cameras and projectors as well these days and the quality is definitely improving.

However, using the sketches and the digital images in conjunction, I can get pretty close to what I'm after.

Here at Mansfield Golf Club, a very pretty track just a couple of hours drive from Melbourne, I got lucky. There was plenty of room behind the green, so I could actually set myself up in a comfortable spot right out of everyone's way and knock off a small sketch in about half an hour. This, plus a couple of slides, (still in vogue in 2001!), gave me all the info I needed.

I spent about a week on the actual painting, getting most of the job drawn and painted in a day, but then came the fine tuning and this is like adding finishing touches to a dress by a seamstress, buttons and bows, zippers and so on, which often takes her longer than the actual sewing of the garment. So I did lots of thinking and adjusting until I was satisfied that the major elements were reasonably accurate and the rest of the painting had a mood and a painterly approach that distanced the image from a photographic representation. Voila! There it is!

I began painting at 6 years of age and became a professional artist over 60 years ago. I now have over 100 works hanging in clubhouses all around Australia and overseas, including the R&A St Andrews, Wentworth, The World Golf Hall of Fame USA, Royal Dornoch, Royal Melbourne, Royal Sydney, The Australian and so on.

Two great interests in my life..... Golf and Watercolour. How lucky I am, that two of my great loves came together many years ago and continue to be a major part of my life.



Vern Morcom Tribute Plate at Flinders Golf Club

By Andy Bassett, Leongatha Golf Club

On Friday 1 March, the Flinders Golf Club hosted the 2nd annual H.V.(Vern) Morcom Tribute Plate.

This event was first held in 2018 at the Leongatha Golf Club, after the Men's Committee decided Vern Morcom should be recognised for all the incredible work he had done on golf course design, and consulting on course improvements. Leongatha Golf Club was designed by Vern Morcom.

The aim of the Vern Morcom Plate day is to bring together as many of the clubs that Vern was involved with, as possible, and to share the story of each hosting club's association with Vern.

Up to now, the Plate has been an event between one representative team from each of the invited clubs playing. From 2020, the Plate will simply be known as the Morcom Tribute Plate in honour of both Vern and his father, Mick Morcom also a golf course designer, who worked on many projects and golf courses together.

As the day is an open event, all other clubs and teams that compete on the day, play for the Greenkeepers Cup which is also dedicated to not only Mick and Vern Morcom but all keepers of the greens. Both Vern and Mick served for many years as Head Greenkeepers, Vern at Kingston Heath Golf Club and Mick at Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

The day was well attended with 68 players across 17 teams fronting up to do battle with representatives from a number of clubs that could not attend the inaugural event in 2018. These included Royal Hobart, Metropolitan, Rossdale, Kyneton, Kew and Spring Valley.

Clubs including Kingston Heath G, Moe, Flinders, and Plate holders Leongatha returned for 2019.

Hosted by General Manager Chris Poulton and his team at Flinders, the course was in superb condition despite the soaring temperatures. In the interest of the player safety, the heat policy was enforced mid-afternoon and play was suspended, subsequently resulting in a 9 hole event.

Unlike Leongatha Golf Club in 2018, the hosts were unable to salute on the day and the mixed team from Rossdale of Christopher Brown, Bernadette and Geoffrey Terrell and John Puts, took out the Plate with a fine gentsomes score of 55.

The Greenkeepers Cup was however, defended and won by the Leongatha mixed team of Lianne Adamson, Maryanne Gartner, Karen Orford and Michael Thomas, also with a score of 55 points.

Despite the heat, the day was a successful one with all who attended enjoying the event, the course and especially the superb hospitality of Chris and his team at Flinders.

The members from Royal Hobart were presented with a copy of a letter Vern had written in the late 1950s, regarding his opinion on the progress of work at Royal Hobart, which he had consulted on to be done, as improvements to their course.

Dene Morcom had made this copy available, and Dene attended Flinders Golf Club on the day to assist with presentations of the trophies along with her cousins Guy Murfery and Gail Chatziyakoumis, all of whom are grandchildren of Vern and great grandchildren of Mick Morcom.

The 2020 Morcom Tribute Plate will be played in the La Trobe Valley at the Vern Morcom designed Moe Golf Course which is another testing course set in a picturesque rural outlook over Lake Narracan. We hope your club can join us on the day at a date to be announced.

Good golfing.



Geoff Ogilvy delights the gallery at the Peninsula Kingswood Golf Club.

The ALL NEW Peninsula Kingswood Golf Club launched

By Golf Australia

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews officially opened a new jewel in Melbourne's Sandbelt, the Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club (PK) last month.

Official proceedings were followed by an exhibition match between touring professionals Geoff Ogilvy and Marcus Fraser, and PK club champions.

Six years in the making, PK is the most significant Sandbelt course redevelopment in Australia and is the result of an industry-leading merger between Kingswood Golf Club and Peninsula Country Golf Club that sets a benchmark for other golf clubs.

The 144-hectare site, located in Frankston, comprises a new clubhouse designed by Demaine Partnership and two 18-hole golf courses redesigned by renowned Australian golf architecture firm Ogilvy Clayton Cocking Mead.

The striking facility includes the clubhouse and restaurant, a 25-metre heated swimming pool, gymnasium, tennis court, bowling green, and luxury in-house and remote guest accommodation.

"Peninsula Kingswood is a gift to the game of golf – a great test that sits comfortably alongside Melbourne's other Sandbelt gems like Royal Melbourne and Kingston Heath," Premier Andrews said.

"This development is great for Frankston, for jobs and for everyone who loves golf. All involved should be very proud."

PK president Rob Dowling said the club set a new standard in Australian golf.

"Today is the culmination of the vision of the directors of two prestigious golf clubs who had the courage to merge, to sell one beloved club and to invest in the future when other clubs were failing," Dowling said.

"Peninsula Kingswood sets a new standard. Our courses have been designed to stand alongside the great heathland courses of the world, whilst ensuring playability for golfers of all abilities.

"While we are enriched by the history of both founding clubs, we are forward looking in our attitude to what this golf club can be. We have embraced equal opportunity in golf, we are attracting new members, we have developed a junior pathway program and we encourage partners, families and children to utilise the facilities through our family extension program; we do things differently."

OCCM's Mike Cocking said the aim of the course redevelopment was to realise the potential of the site by creating a true Sandbelt experience, both in design and construction.

"It is fair to say that we haven't before seen a renovation of this scale around the Melbourne Sandbelt. Every green, bunker and tee has been redesigned or rebuilt, fairways re-shaped and re-grassed, creeks and water bodies added, a state-of-the-art irrigation system (built), cart paths, drainage and vegetation works," Cocking said.

"What PK has achieved in the past four years is basically what every other Sandbelt course has spent the last 20 or 30 years accomplishing."

Dinner with Mike Rolls and Christian Hamilton at Yarra Yarra Golf Club

By Morag North

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 special mention of Anne Court, our Patron, Mike Rolls and Christian Hamilton our guest speakers, the Captain and 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 also has dancing legs!



Morag North with Mike Rolls

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 introducing Christian Hamilton



HICKORY HEROES & HEROINES REPORT

- Year to June 2019

By Claire Walker

Our fourth 9-hole event for 2019 was held at Yarra Yarra Golf Club on Sunday 16 June. We welcomed members from a large cross section of clubs (Metropolitan, Commonwealth, Sorrento, Box Hill, Bendigo, The National, Woodlands, Sandhurst and Heidelberg) and afterwards enjoyed refreshments in the club house.



Tony Rule winner at Kingston Heath with Claire Walker

February

This year we commenced at the Frankston Golf Club. Eleven enthusiastic golfers played this very 'Hickory Friendly' course. One and all enjoyed the BBQ afterwards and the open hospitable club house facilities. The course is a real classic!

7 April

A small group joined and played Garfield Golf Club. This is Grant McKay's home course.

28 May

Kingston Heath with fourteen golfers in attendance. Great time had by all with outstanding 24 points to Tony Rule.

16 June

Yarra Yarra with an excellent field of 15 participants. (6 more than last year) The recent course renovations and removal of many trees assisted with our many wayward golf balls.

Hickory Heroes & Heroines Report - Year To June

Continued from page 18...

Our next happening is on Friday 5 July at Heidelberg Golf Club (tee-off time is 1.30pm). 91 years young, the course is in a fabulous condition, the course and greens are second to none (no bias here of course). Do come along - it is a good layout for Hickory golf.

Future Dates for your diary for the rest of the year include the following:

Friday 16 August
Kew

Sunday 18 August
Kingston Heath

Tuesday 17 September
Metropolitan

Sunday 20 October
Sandhurst

Wednesday 18 December
Woodlands (Trophy Round)

Remember all are most welcome to join these Heritage Golf events. A number of Hickory club sets have now been beautifully restored and are available for hire at only \$10. With a Hickory in hand you have to expect the ball to fade, draw, hook and slice – it's all part of the fun!?!

Why not join the Hickory Heroes (and Heroines), take up the challenge, play some of the loveliest courses Melbourne has to offer and give Heritage golf a try?

N.B. We have adopted this year as a trial the handicapping system used by the British Golf Collectors Society.

Add 3 shots for scratch to 3 handicap

Add 4 shots for 4 - 8 handicap

Add 5 shots for 9 - 14 handicap

Add 6 shots for 15 - 20 handicap

Add 7 shots for 21 + handicap



Hickory Heroes at Kingston Heath Golf Club



Hickory Heroes at Yarra Yarra Golf Club



Some of the memorabilia that was on display at Spring Valley.

Insert: Graham Ball with his first ever Junior trophy

Historians Forum at Spring Valley

By Tony Rule

The first of our historians forums was held at Spring Valley Golf Club on 25 March.

The Club was founded on the 21st of September 1948 making it the youngest club in the Sandbelt. The course was designed by Vern Morcom, the son of the legendary Mick Morcom.

The 20 attendees were privileged to hear from two of the Club's Life Members Graham Ball and Dick Kirby.

The Ball name is synonymous with the Club. Graham's father was Club Captain from 1958 to 1961. Graham himself was Club Captain from 1984 to 1987 and Club Champion in 1960.

Graham's son Rick was Club Champion in 1982.

Dick Kirby was President of the Club from 1978 to 1981. Graham and Dick reminisced about their time as members, the early days of the club and the strength of the club today.

The club had its 70-year anniversary in 2018 and short film was produced for the celebrations. It was shown to the group and contained wonderful images of the club through the years along with some passionate and entertaining anecdotes from some long-standing members.



Graham Ball, Graeme Ryan, Dick Kirby and Stephen Ellis

There were contributions from Peg McMahon, Alison Millar, Pat and Gilbert Ong, Ken Dunstan and Harry Marks.

Whilst it was hoped that our members could get out for a hit post forum the weather had other ideas with gale force winds making the course unplayable.

We would like to thank Spring Valley for their hospitality and especially Dick and Graham who went to a lot of time and effort in preparing for the day. We hope that in the future members can have the opportunity to play the course and sample the work of Vern Morcom.

The Golf Society of Australia was formed in 1982 to research and preserve the history of golf in Australia. As part of this role, the Society manages the Museum and Library for Golf Australia. Golf Australia supports the Society by providing office space and administrative assistance.