

# FAIRWAY NEWS



DECEMBER  
2021



*Wishing all our members all the best for the Christmas/ New Year period and good luck on and off the course for 2022.*

To paraphrase Rick from a well known movie "The problems of golfers don't amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world."

However it is worth looking back now that the full redevelopment of Sandy Golf Links is complete – course, driving range, buildings and putting green.

It was May 2019 when the last rounds on the old course were played. More than two and half years later with not only the course but the world changing Sandy Golf Links is gaining a reputation as one of the best courses going around.

Golf Australia Magazine has just ranked Sandy Golf Links as the 51<sup>st</sup> best course in Australia ahead of courses such as Royal Sydney, Huntingdale, Moonah Links and Sanctuary Cove. A bold claim some would say.

The interest in the course is reflected in the growing membership of our Club.

Lets hope we have clear run at golf and life in 2022.

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## Upcoming events

<b>25 December</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>1 January</b>	<b>Stableford</b>
<b>8 January</b>	<b>Stableford</b>
<b>15 January</b>	<b>Par</b>
<b>22 January</b>	<b>Stableford</b>

### Recent Results

- Michael Kent led the way with 42pts on 30 October. Colin Burge (C Grade), Peter Russell (B Grade) were close behind with 40pts, Neil Singh's 38pts won A Grade and Liz Mann's 35pts won the Ladies section on a countback.
- Russell Jones won the VGL Medal on 6 November with a net 63. Glenda McDade's net 69 won the Women's Section. Other good scores were returned by James Honner (A Grade) and Andy Bakker (C Grade) - both net 64. Peter Russell took out his second B Grade prize in as many weeks with his net 65.
- After a weather interruption the Par round on 20 November saw three players shoot +5 with Frederick Hughan taking the overall prize on a countback. Michael Kent won A Grade and Russell Jones continued his form of the previous week to win B Grade. Michael Lenkic(+3) took out C Grade on a countback and Jenni Clarke (-1) won the Women's section.
- Helen Ansems 40pts was the best score on 27 November and won the overall prize. Belinda Anson (Women) and Jarrod Miller (C Grade) were close behind with 39 pts. David Mallen (36pts A Grade) and Alan Abbes (37 pts B Grade) were the other winners.
- Andrew Preston's sizzling net 58 took overall honours on 4 December three shots ahead of the field. Steven Zakic and James Lefebvre shot net 61s with Steven getting the A Grade nod on a countback. Bernie Bagley(net 64) won B Grade also on a countback from Peter McLeod. Aaron Chrystie won C Grade with a net 63. Helen Ansems continued her good form taking the Women's section with a net 68.
- Peter Karvelis' 40 pts was the best score on 11 December. Andrew Kenny (37pts), Allan Abbes (39pts), Rob Williams (39pts) were the winners of A,B and C Grades. Anna Puchalski's 37pts won the Women's section.
- The magic score to win the mid week competition recently is 42pts – four recent winners having returned that score.

### THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG

Where did that year go..!! Interspersed with Lockdowns and Covid restriction we managed to complete the year with the benefit of being able to play unencumbered golf (excluding all of the encumbrances relating to weather; wind; quick greens; soft bunkers; hard bunkers and so on). The course has turned out to be a show piece of Victorian and Australian golf with high praise coming from Golf Australia Magazine and no doubt much to the chagrin of those courses not rated as highly (some of which with very notable names). So next time you have a lowly score, then just write it off to the calibre of the course you are playing on. A year of a very disrupted fixture saw very few Trophy winners, but big Congratulations to those who managed a successful outcome.



My thanks and gratitude to all Committee members whose efforts throughout the year have always been directed toward an ensuring an enjoyable day for all of the members when attending our fine facility.

The year can't close without a note of Congratulations to our Captain Geoff Thornton on his election as a Club Life Member. Geoff's efforts throughout his duration as a member of Sandringham have been tireless in making the club a place we are all proud to be a member of.

Finally, to all our members, have a great Xmas and New Year and stay safe whatever you do or wherever you go. I am sure it goes without saying that each and every one of us is looking forward to 2022 to be a year that is as normal as it can be in the new circumstances we are all now living under.

Regards

Rob Harris

- Leigh Busby and Tom Tomlin won the Christmas 2 Ball Ambrose in difficult conditions with a score of 57.25 comfortably ahead of James Honner and Sean Paterson on 58.75.
- PS Welcome back to Sean - a four time Club Champion playing his first competition in a while.

## News and Notes

### Club Apparel

Members can purchase Club apparel.

- Polo shirt \$30. Sizes 'S' to '5XL'. Men's design only at the moment.
- Cap \$10

Email:

[captain@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au](mailto:captain@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au) or text 0413 438 048

### Golf Gloves

Members are now able to purchase high quality Cabretta Leather golf gloves at discounted prices.



Details of the process were sent to members by Club Captain Geoff Thornton on 27 September. On the Checkout page **please do not change the email address** – leave it as captain@sand...

### Club Championships 2022

The 2022 Club Championships is scheduled for February 12, 19 and 26 – see Captain's Corner for an update.

The Match Committee has determined that the number of qualifying rounds for the Club Championships will be reduced from 5 to 3 due to lockdowns of approx 2 months (Sept/Oct) of the 5 months that members normally have to qualify.

### Nearest the Pins

Don't forget that prizes for *Nearest the Pin* are available on Holes 9 and 16 on Saturdays. A couple of recent prizes have been won with distances of over 6m!

### MiScore App

Do you know that you can download the MiScore App to your phone, and subscribe for \$16.49pa to enable you to use MiScore at courses where MiClub is operating.

## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

I wish to acknowledge the outstanding job John McCarthy does to regularly produce the Fairway News. John always finds an interesting tale to work in with the competition results and other Club matters.



The *final round of the Club Championships* in February may be impacted by the Athena Women's PGA event which will be played at Sandy on Feb 26 and 27 and televised live on Fox Sports. We are waiting for a response from course management. If necessary, we may need to start a week earlier (Feb 5). Maybe the tournament will be the catalyst for improvements in the course mapping and distances on sprinkler heads.

*A few matters regarding competitions:*

- On Stroke rounds you also need to calculate your Stableford points, which are used to update handicaps.
- Record your Daily Handicap on the scorecard, not the GA Handicap. Use the Look-up Charts provided. Also write the Entry number.
- Cards should be left in the box on the day you play; not several days later. Late cards will not be processed.
- Cards not returned are processed as "No score, not approved" and adversely affect your handicap.
- If your name is not on the Comp Sheet you are not in the Comp, and your card will not be processed.
- If you enter the Comp make sure you use the Club scorecard, not the card used by the public. Club scorecards are available in the cafe and pro shop, and on Saturdays in the Clubs Comp Room.

You will make our Comp Steward, Jay Ramsden's life a lot easier if you follow these simple steps.

With recent Covid developments, who knows what 2022 has in store for us. So make the most of the Christmas season and be positive about 2022.

Geoff Thornton

## Congratulations to new Life Member – Geoff Thornton

At the Club's AGM in November Club Captain Geoff Thornton was made a Life Member of the Club. Many members will know Geoff but may not appreciate the work he has and continues to do for the Club.

In terms of official roles soon after Geoff joined the Club he assumed the role of Treasurer, which he held from 2012-17. He was President in 2018-19 and has been Club Captain since 2020.

As well as doing a fantastic job in each of these positions Geoff has managed the Club's fixtures, the website and both the Handicap and Senior Pennant teams (not usually at the same time!) He has also been the key person when discussions and negotiations take place between the Club and course management, which also often involves liaison with the other Clubs who play at Sandy.

On the playing side Geoff has represented the Club in two Pennant teams and has won the last and deciding match in two winning Handicap Pennant finals. He was the Club's Singles Match Play Champion in 2017 and Handicap Pennant Player of the Year in 2015. He also won the VGL Veterans Championship in 2018.



Congratulation Geoff on a well deserved honour!

Geoff joins an elite group! Here is a list of our current life members:

Ian Blackie	Bill Morecroft	Geoff Thornton
Alan Jameson	Bill McLaughlin	
John McCarthy	Alan Taylor	

### Club Function 27 February 2022

The Club has booked the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron for a function on Sunday afternoon 27th February 2022. It will be similar to the successful event that was held in 2019.

Partners are invited.



**Make it the first entry in the 2022 diary or e calendar or whatever you use these days!\***

*\* Note: Probably do it after you enter your significant other's birthday, your wedding anniversary, when you should plant tomatoes and the day you intend to break your course record – just put every Saturday for that last one!*

## 2021 Trophy Winners

### Club Champions (gross score stroke)

Open: J C Goudie Memorial Trophy	Gary Boschen	77,80,72(229)
B Grade	Paul Scanlon	84,82,84(250)
C Grade	Michael Wang	91,94,84 (269)

### Presidents Trophy (net scores (stroke))

Jason Maynard 64, 64, 64 (192)

### The First Lady (net scores (stroke))

Marian Ngyuen 66,63,73 (202)

### Captain's Trophy (Stableford)

Peter Karvelis 37,34,40 (111)

### Ian Fraser Memorial Trophy (Pairs Match Play)

No competition in 2020

### John Pittard Trophy (Singles Match Play)

No competition in 2020

### John French Memorial Trophy (best 10 rounds stableford Jan to Aug)

Peter Karvelis Total 374pts, Average 37.4

### JJ Meade Memorial Trophy (Pairs Aggregate Stableford)

No competition in 2020

### Ray Fraser Memorial Trophy (Pairs Aggregate stableford)

Bruce Baldey (35), Time Green (35) Total 70pts

### LG McDonald Memorial Trophy

Paul Rich

### Les Stainsby Memorial Trophy

Martin Dusek (24) 37pts (CB)

### Perpetual Founders Trophy

Bill McLaughlin Agg. 416

### VGL Medals (Stroke)

February	Steve Malcolm (22)	59
March	Michael Wang (24)	60
April	Peter Karvelis (16)	62
May	Michael Roker (23)	64
July	Philip Ramsden (33)	61
November	Russell Jones (21)	63

### Star Medalist

Peter Karvelis net 72

### Club Par Medal Winners

April	Peter Karvelis (19)	+9
May	Andrew Rumbelow (11)	+1
November	Frederick Hughan (32)	+5

### Monthly Medal Winning Lady Members

February	Glenda McDade (33)	net 66
March	Ruth Branagh (26)	net 67
April	Christine Nicholson (27)	net 65
May	Marian Ngyuen (20)	net 64
July	Jenni Clarke (30)	net 59
November	Glenda McDade (31)	net 69

### Lady Medallist

Glenda McDade (33) net 71

### Pennant Players of the Year

Scratch	Joe Margheriti
Handicap	Jay Ramsden
Seniors	Colin Burge

**Where to redeem your vouchers if you are lucky or good enough to win one!**

House of Golf

Some Drummond Stores

Sandringham Café for food or drink

Grape and Grain Liquor Cellars, Station St Moorabbin

Royal Melbourne Golf Club Pro Shop

## Annual General Meeting 2021

This year's AGM was conducted via a ZOOM online meeting on Tuesday 16th November at 7.30 p.m.

At the meeting annual subscription and joining fees for the 2022/23 year were kept at current levels and the 2021 Committee was returned.

Congratulations and a big thank you is due to the Committee members who give their time and effort to the management of the club.

Here is your Committee for 2022.

President	Rob Harris
Vice President	Tim Green
Secretary	Colin Hockley
Captain	Geoff Thornton
Vice Captain	Michael Kent
Treasurer	Christine Nicholson
Competition Steward	Jay Ramsden
General Committee	Jenni Clarke

## Major Competition News

### LG McDonald Trophy

Paul Rich has won the 2021 *LG McDonald* knock out trophy returning a net 70 on 6 November. Congratulations to Paul.

### Captain's Trophy

Peter Karvelis has had a stellar year and won the 2021 *Captain's Trophy* with a three round total of 111pts five clear of Peter McLeod's 106pts.

### Star Medallist

Peter also won the 2021 *Star Medallist Men* on 4 December with a net 72. Glenda McDade has also had a good year and won the *Star Medallist Women* with a net 71. Congratulations to both.

Peter's trophy haul also included the John French Memorial Trophy, a VGL Medal and a Club Par Medal as well as a number of weekly Grade wins. He also has lost about 8- 9 stokes off his handicap. Great year Peter!

### Perpetual Founders Trophy

Congratulations to Life Member Bill McLaughlin who won the 2021 Perpetual Founders Trophy which is awarded for the lowest aggregate for the best 6 rounds on VGL Medal days. Bill's aggregate of 416 shots gave him the award by 2 shots from Andrew Rumbelow.

## Know Your Course Quiz

These three photos were taken around the course in the last month. See if you can get three from three in our special “Know Your Course” quiz!

### 1. This gnome is:

- A. Part of an advance team to prepare the ground for the Gnostic Olympics after the FIGS (Federation Internationale of Gnostic Sports) chose Sandy Golf Links as the venue for the its 2022 games.
- B. On holidays now Covid travel restrictions have been lifted.
- C. Lost



### 2. This arrangement of tees and a feather is:

- A. The site of the opening ceremony for the Gnostic Olympics
- B. The nesting site of the little known and even more rarely seen Brown Bogey Bower Bird
- C. A temporary installation commemorating the tragic loss of a long time resident magpie by a low stinger off the 10<sup>th</sup> tee.



### 3. This scorecard is in pieces because:

- A. Someone didn't want anyone to know about the 10 they took on Hole 12.
- B. It is an avant garde sculpture entitled “Death of the Scorecard” now on exhibition at the National Gallery.
- C. The gold medal winning work of gnostic card cutting legend Banxi Einarsson



## Vern Morcom - Prolific Golf Course Architect and his link to Sandy.

The history of sand belt golf in Melbourne usually starts with the legendary Dr. Alister MacKenzie and his visit to Australia in 1926 where Royal Melbourne West Course is his crowning jewel (maybe matched by Augusta in the US). MacKenzie's Australian partner Alex Russell oversaw the construction of Royal Melbourne (including the design of the East Course) and designed Yarra Yarra, Riversdale and Lake Karinyup amongst others.

Assisting MacKenzie and Russell and actually building the greens, bunkers and managing the turf at Royal Melbourne was Royal's green keeper Mick Morcom. Mick was highly praised by MacKenzie: "Morcom is, I think, the most intelligent Greenkeeper I have come in contact with in this or any country and understands my plans thoroughly."

Mick's son Vern also worked at Royal and then went onto have a prolific career in his own right. Vern Morcom became head greenkeeper at Kingston Heath in 1928 but the number of courses he designed or provided advice on is astonishing. His achievements are documented in a book called "The golf courses of Vern Morcom" by Toby Cumming. According to Cumming Morcom's contribution consisted of:

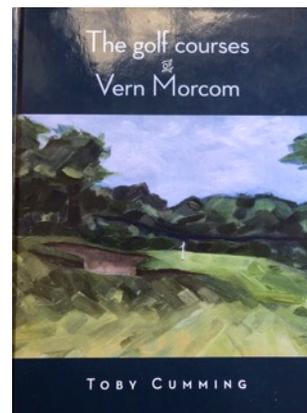
Full design	34	Part Design	12
Major remodel	17	Minor remodel	26
Supervision	1		

Writing this book has obviously been a labour of love for Cumming as he documents in the appendix that he has played 65 of the courses in the tally above including the date played and the cost. He includes a detailed description of each course – sometimes hole by hole. A lot of the courses are in regional Victoria but some of Morcom's most well known full design work was at Kingston Heath, Spring Valley, Curlewis, Royal Hobart, Kingswood and a major remodel of Metropolitan. He also did work in South and Western Australia. Obviously over time some of Morcom's designs have been changed or even closed down.

Of relevance to us is that Morcom designed the old Sandringham course – both the old back nine (1946) and second nine (1955). Pictured right is an aerial shot of the first 9 holes in 1945. Current hole 8 is at the bottom. Greens and tees have been altered but the recent redevelopment has kept the rough distance and shape of a number of the original holes including current Holes 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14 and 17. The name given to our current 5<sup>th</sup> hole "Vern's Elbow" reflects Morcom's penchant for dog legs!

Vern Morcom should be better known and this book does a fine job to help that cause.

Toby Cumming's book is available through Ryan Publishing.



## Novelty Golf Gifts for Christmas\*

*Fairway News* takes no responsibility for the success of and/or reaction to the gifts mentioned below. Other items reviewed by the Fairway News panel have been omitted on the grounds of good taste or because one of the panel members wants to surprise a fellow member. Or both!

### The Chelsea Charles Golf Goddess Stroke and Score Counter Bracelet

The sales pitch says it all really!

"A great gift option for the fashion-conscious golfer who doesn't want to carry a counter in their bag or on their belt.

It makes use of fine plating for a beautiful and attractive finish, and each of its beads is hand-etched.

This bracelet's beads can be moved around to keep track of scores and strokes, and the beads will stay put unless intentionally shifted. Furthermore, the accessory comes ready in a special box that contains care instructions and suggestions for how to use its counting features. It fits most wrists and comes in a number of colors and bead designs."



### Golf ball embedded in a beer glass.

No need to say anything about this one really. You can also get a Broken Glass Car window sticker that looks like a golf ball has shattered a car window. Can also be used on laptops apparently.

### Eject-a-Putt

Note that this one is a bit useless in our current situation where we can't remove the flagstick. It also requires a bit of subterfuge to place it in the hole when you playing partners aren't looking.



### Answers to "Know Your Course" Quiz

In all cases the answers are None of the Above which makes it a bit of a trick quiz as that wasn't an option. So sue me! Please note if you do find the gnome you won't like your next shot!