FAIRWAY NEWS



AUGUST 2023

Why you should be using OneGolf

Here are some reasons new and old why members should set up and access the Club's OneGolf site regularly:

- It's the easiest way you can book your spot in Club comps (see later).
- It has a member directory that provides contact details for fellow members
- Your can access your handicap history through the GolfLink tab.
- You can access leader boards for all Club comps
- It provides Club information such as a link to the new Buy, Swap and Sell function – see Captain's Report and later in newsletter.

Even if another member of your group normally does the admin it's worth knowing what's there.

This Issue includes

Why you should be using OneGolf **Rules Reminders** Upcoming Events **Recent Results** The President's Blog Captain's Corner Buy, Swap and Sell Trial Major Competition News Booking entering and scoring SGC comps News from the professional ranks News and Notes Flagsticks – in or out? Things you can find in the GA App Daily Difficulty - what it means for your score Hole Index analysis Get it? Got it? Good Thank you from Riverside Essendon.

Some Rules Reminders

There is **NO** free drop from sandy paths and other sandy areas on the course

You **cannot** take a drop (with penalty) from where you lost a ball. You **must** play a Provisional ball or **put another ball in play** from where you last played.

Get it? Got it? Good!

Sandy Golf Links has two different coloured flags on the flagsticks. Thinking quickly – what are they and on which nine do they appear? Answer on Page 8

Late Breaking News

Ace scored by Ruth Branagh on 11th hole on 5 August. See Page 4

U	pcoming events
12 August	Stableford, , Captain's Trophy R3
19 August	Pairs Aggregate Stabletord JJ Meade Trophy VGL Teams Event
26 August 2 September	Stableford Stroke, VGL Medal
9 September	Stableford

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Recent Results

- Bruce Ingram's 46pts streeted the field on 10/6 to win the overall. Next best was John McCarthy's 40 pts to win B Grade. Richard Grace (39pts C Grade), Neil Singh (38pts A Grade) and Hannah Newman (32pts Women's Division) were the other winners.
- There were a number of windy Saturdays in June and July and 17/6 was probably the worst(so far!). The Daily Difficulty rating was the maximum +3 (see later), which makes Anna Puchalski's 37pts to win the overall an exceptional performance. No other player scored more than 35pts. Craig Brenner won A Grade with that score as did Ben Akdag and John McCarthy in B Grade – Ben getting the nod on a countback. Darcy Whiting won C Grade with 33pts also on a countback from Frederick Hughan.
- The rescheduled Ray Fraser Trophy (Pairs Aggregate) was played on 17/6. Tom Tomlin and Paul McGarry took out the trophy with 72pts. Al Lahood and Thomas Jewell were runners up with 70pts.
- Phoc Do's excellent net 63 won the overall on 1 July. Roger Van Hilst won the VGL Medal and A Grade with a net 64. B Grade was won by Jeff Coghill (net 67) on a countback from Darren Swinnerton and Andrew Kwan. The same score won C Grade with Andrew Steggall getting the nod on a countback from Dan Harrison. Kate Caridakis (net 66) won the Women's Division.
- Michael Sneyd's 38pts won the overall comp on 8/7 on a countback from Peter Russell who won B Grade as compensation. Four time Club Champion Sean Paterson won A Grade with 37pts and Cathy Dixon's 34pts won the Women's Division. Something was off in C Grade that day as Grant Nicholson's 28pts was enough to win the Division on a countback from Tony Morgan and Frederick Hughan.

THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG

Well, I have managed to return from overseas and the trip is already a long distant memory and now it is all about how to chip, putt and drive better so as to

achieve a respectable score.



The course is still presenting itself in a very favourable condition and thanks to the tireless efforts of the green keepers and ground staff. I am sure we can all probably come up with an issue that we could complain about, but overall, I doubt that there is a lot that could be classified as "First World Issues".

As we are now past the half way mark of 2023 and we rapidly proceed toward the warmer months (fingers crossed.!!), it means that we are also approaching the Club's AGM, which as usual is scheduled for November. Whilst this is still over 3 months away, it behooves me to ask all members to consider whether or not they would like to serve the Club in a Committee role.

All positions will be open to nomination and this includes from President to General Committee member. There will be more reminders as we near the actual time of the AGMthink about it folks...!!!

Finally, in closing I leave you with a thought that is probably applicable to a large portion of our membership.

"The older I get, the better I used to be"....Lee Trevino

Regards Rob Recent Results (cont.)

- Craig Punshon's 39pts beat a tightly bunched field to win the overall on 15/7. Tom Rogacki (38pts) won A Grade and Jenni Clarke (37pts) won the Women's Divison. Darren Swinnerton (37pts) took out B Grade on a countback from James Henneberry. C Grade was fought out by a couple of veterans with Stuart Low getting home on a countback from Phil Ramsden after both scored 38pts.
- The Par Club Medal on 22/7 was won by Danny Morgan with an excellent +5.
 David Mallen (A Grade +3) and Jayne Grant (Women's Division Sq) won their Divisions. Don Tasevski(+1) beat Ilja Sidoti on a countback for the B Grade win and Michael Lenkic (+2 C Grade) did likewise over Richard Grace and Greg Scott.
- David Waters 40pts won the overall on 29 July. In a perfect sequence with no countbacks the other Divisions were won by Michael Kent (A Grade 39pts), Ryan Gillespie (C Grade 38pts), Tim Green (B Grade 37pts) and Christine Nicholson (Women's Division 36pts).
- Club Secretary Colin Hockley won August's VGL Medal. His net 61 was also good enough to win the Overall on a countback from Sarah Adam-Gedge who won the Women's Division. Clayton Ford (net 62) won B Grade on a countback from Gary Gibb. Paul McGarry (A Grade net 64) and Dan Harrison (C Grade net 65) were the other winners.
- Lots of 40pt winners in mid week competition during this period with Tanya Groves (44pts) and Alexander Hurrell's (42pts) the best followed by Stephen Abbott, Steve Harrison and Xavier Murphy with 41pts.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Hello everyone.

There are a couple of changes to the MiScore system to bring to members attention.



During July, MiScore reverted to the self submission of scores. This means that a player using MiScore would not be impacted if their partner used a manual card. MiScore will also compare hole by hole results for 2 players using the app so that only matching scores could be submitted.

We are still waiting for MiScore to provide Nearest the Pin submissions via the app, it was due in July so hopefully not too long to wait now.

Players will have noticed sand has been added to most bunkers. Just when we were getting used to playing off a lean surface, we are having to learn how to dig out of fluffy sand and embedded "fried eggs". I have had more than 1 hole ruined recently struggling to adapt. This makes it more important to rake and smooth out the surface when you leave the bunker as deep footprints can easily trap a ball and ruin someone's day.

There are also many areas of general improvement and GUR sections around the course. Please ensure you know the rules when taking relief and minimise walking through areas under repair to give the new growth the best chance for the coming spring weather.

We are trialling a webpage to advertise for tee time swaps and used equipment.

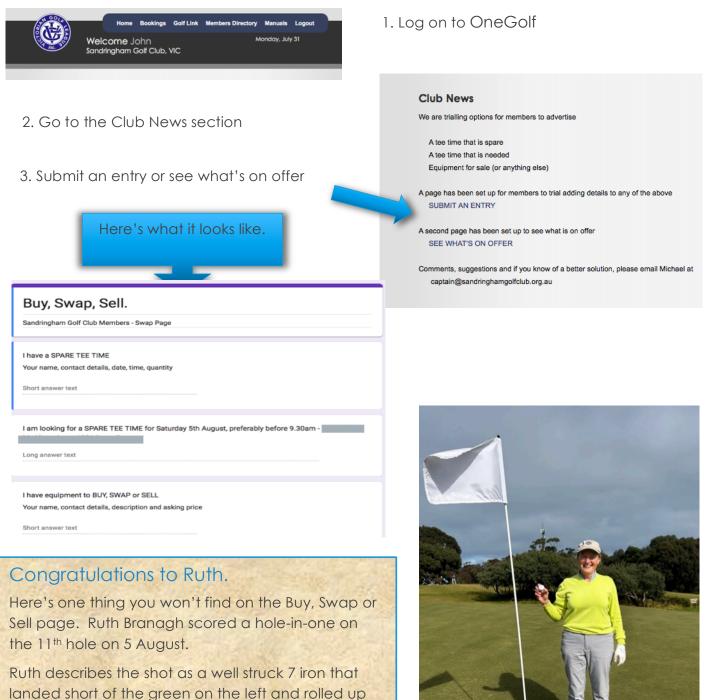
The intent is to connect members with a spare tee time with those looking for a spot. This will help maximise the number of club members in the early time slots. If members find this service useful we will make it a permanent feature and look to find a better technical solution that allows for easy edits and notifications. All suggestions are welcome.

Happy golfing. Michael Kent

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How to access the trial of the Club's Buy, Swap and Sell page.

As mentioned by Michael the Club is trialling a Buy, Swap and Sell page. The feature is intended to help members to advertise for tee time swaps and used equipment. The intent is to connect members with a spare tee time with those looking for a spot. This will help maximise the number of club members in the early time slots.



into the hole. It's Ruth's first ever hole-in-one!

Note: It's possibly the first hole in one on the 11th since the course was remodeled. Certainly in SGC Competitions

Major Competition News

John Pittard Singles Match Play

Round 3 and Round 4 matches have now been completed.

Round 3 results were:

	Clayton Ford def Bruce Baldey 4 and 2	Andrew Bakker def Tim Noonan 3 and 2				
	Geoff Thornton def James Lefebvre 5 and 4	Colin Burge def Alan Abbes 2 and 1				
	Jason Rainbow def Oliver Cunliffe 2 up	Chris Labour def John McCarthy 1 up				
	Mark Brooks def Sean Weidemann 5 and 4	Mark Engel def Steve Brook 5 and 3				
The 4 th round results are:						
	Clayton Ford def Geoff Thornton 4 and 2	Andrew Bakker def Colin Burge 2 and 1				

Jason Rainbow def Mark Brooks 3 and 2 Mark Engel def Chris Labour 5 and 3

The draw and results can be accessed through the results page of the website or here https://www.sandringhamgolfclub.org.au/cms/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Pittard-Draw-Sheet3-1.pdf

Ian Fraser Pairs Match Play

Eight pairs won their way into this competition and the first round has been completed. First round results were:

Mark Heaven/ Shane Upton lost to James Mackie/David Tomlin (Forfeit)

Tim Noonan/ Jason Rainbow def Stuart Low/Geoff Thornton 2up

Matt Scot/ Michael Sneyd def Rob Harris/Colin Hockley (4 and 3)

John Bris/Laurie Spence def Alan Abbes/Gumby King Scott (Forfeit)

One semi final match has already been played and the team of Matt Scott and Michael Sneyd are into the final. Their opponents are yet to be determined.

Matt Scot/ Michael Sneyd def

John Bris/Laurie Spence 4 and 3

James Mackie/David Tomlin vs

Tim Noonan/ Jason Rainbow

L G McDonald Memorial Trophy

The LG McDonald is a knockout competition played concurrently with the VGL Medal events as scheduled in the Fixtures. In the round on 1 July Jeff Coghill and Patrick Maginness made it through to the final where Pat's excellent net 65 got the win over Jeff's net 72 on 5 August. Congratulations to Pat.

Founders Shield

Gavin Kinnaird still holds a 1pt lead in the Founder's Shield Eclectic competition although both he and his chasers have improved their scores. Gavin is on 62 pts. Don Tasevski is on 61 and Dan Harrison is third on 60pts. There are five players on 59pts. Check the Eclectic tab in One Golf for progress and your own score. The Eclectic counts your best stableford score on each hole in stableford rounds. The Founders Shield will run until the Stableford round on 11 November. Plenty of time to get that extra point or two on those crucial holes.

Captain's Trophy

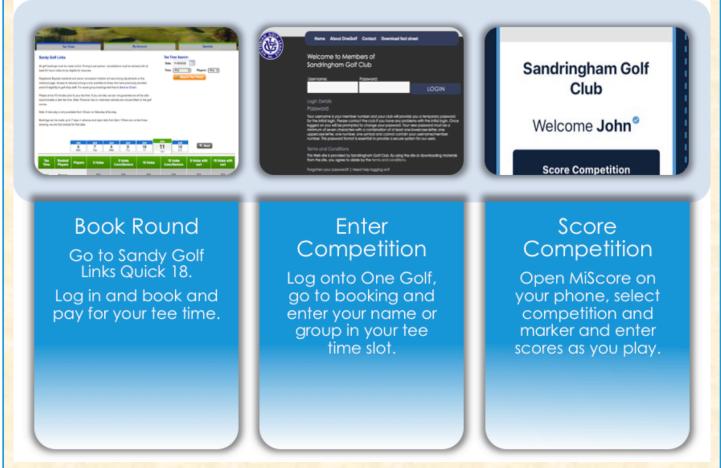
With one round to go on 12 August Rob Harris leads the Captain's Trophy on 68pts. Jenni Clarke, Ruth Branagh and Ben Akdag are next best on 65pts

Reminders on booking, entering and scoring Sandy Golf Club competitions.

Even if you have someone else usually do the booking and entering for you all members should know the process.

The Basics

It's a three step process baby! Step 1 Book with the course; Step 2 Enter the Competition, Step 3 Score your round



Some Rookie Mistakes

Booking a tee time online thru Quick18 **does not enter** you in the comp. You enter the comp in OneGolf on the Booking Sheet.

Entering your name on the Booking Sheet in OneGolf does not mean you have booked a tee time. You must do this thru Quick18.

If you have entered the comp by putting your name on the booking sheet and then decide not to play, **make sure you remove your name from the booking sheet to avoid a black mark** against your handicap history. Five black marks in the last 20 rounds will render your handicap "Provisional"

Reminder

A reminder that apart from submitting cards to obtain an initial handicap, the Club does not process scores from other courses, nor from rounds at Sandy which are not part of a competition.

Fairway News August 2023

What's the professional game have in store for the rest of the year?

Golf's Major season is nearly over with the Men's 4 majors completed and only one of the Women's Majors yet to play – the Women's Open 10 -13th August. Still to come this year though are the battles between the USA and Europe for both men and women.

The Ryder Cup will be played at the Marco Simone Course in Rome from 25th Sept to 1 October. The USA hold the trophy after thrashing Europe 19pts to 9pts in 2021 but the Europeans will have the home crowd and if it is anything like when it was held in France in 2018 the atmosphere will be amazing. See photo right of the first tee which looks incredible but if you YouTube the same scene it looks even more astonishing.



The Solheim Cup will be played at Finca Cortesin course in Andalucía, Spain from 18-24 September. Europe is the current holder after defeating the USA by 15pts to 13pts in 2021.



Note: This article is a LIV free zone



News and Notes

Member Notes

Best wishes to Barry Russell and Trevor Schultz who are dealing with health issues.

VGL Teams Event 20 August

The VGL will conduct a Men's Team event at Melbourne Airport Golf Course on 20 August. The Club will support members who wish to play through the payment of the entry fee. Teams of 4 are required. Entry is via the VGL website but members wishing to enter should contact the Club beforehand Email: captain@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au Entries close 14 August

Club Apparel

Members can purchase Club apparel.

- Polo shirt \$35. Women's polos now also available.
- Cap \$10

Email: captain@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au or text 0413 438 048

Flagsticks! Their place in the game. In or out?

How are flagsticks defined? The rules say:

"A movable pole provided by the Committee that is placed in the hole to show players where the hole is. The flagstick includes the flag and any other material or objects attached to the pole."

They also state that the flagstick must be circular in cross-section, cannot include any shockabsorbing material or other material that might influence the movement of the golf ball. The rules do not require that the flagstick be any specific height, but the USGA recommends a flagstick height of at least 7ft(2.13m).

The maximum diameter is 2in(5cm) (that's a pretty thick flagstick!) from the top of the stick to a point no less than 3in(7.5cm) above the putting green. From a point 3in(7.5cm) above the green and down, the maximum diameter is 0.75in(1.9cm).

So in or out?

When the rules changed in 2019 about leaving the flagstick in the hole when putting there was a lot of speculation as to whether leaving the pin in would mean more putts would be holed. Golf Digest published a detailed analysis in 2019 (republished in Australian Golf Digest January 2023) that concluded that leaving the flagstick in had no benefit for 99.9% of putts. The analysis showed that hitting the flagstick was only beneficial for putts whose speed would have taken the ball 10ft(3m) or more past the hole. The methodology involved controlled putts from a distance 2.5ft (0.76m) and an extrapolation to putts of 25ft(7.6m) using PGA putting stats. It concluded that about 1% of 1% of putts from 25 feet or more are hitting the flagstick dead on at a speed that would take them 10 feet or more past the hole. That's .01% of the time. And those are the only ones where the flagstick would help – hence the 99.9% figure.

The analysis did not deal with issues such as the reduction in 3 putts if hitting the flag kept the ball closer to the hole and whether keeping the flag in helps with depth perception or reading the green.

A few years in it's interesting to see how the pros have adapted. Adam Scott seems to have the pin in for long putts and out for shorter putts – and his putting is probably the best of his career. LPGA star Brooke Henderson has the pin in all the time even asking for it to be replaced for really short putts after other players have holed out.



A couple of unusual flagsticks.

Merion Golf Club(I) in the USA uses baskets not flags. Makes its hard to use the flag to judge the wind! Merion is tough for the average golfer as there are no yardage markers and laser range finders are not allowed

Maybe the world's longest flagstick – 12ft (3.7m) In Arizona (r).



Sandy Golf Links flags are yellow on the front 9 and white on the back.

Things you can find out – if you have the GA Handicap App.

With MiScore giving us our handicaps the Golf Australia Handicap App is almost redundant. However it is still useful for calculating your handicap on different courses and keeping track of the handicaps for a group of people.

Here's one thing you don't get anywhere else as far as I can find – this function doesn't even seem to be available on the web page version.

If you bring up your handicap history in the GA App and click on the red graphic beside each round. You will get two pieces of information.

First: How your score ranks against all scores in Australia!

Second: Where your handicap ranks for all Australians of the same gender.

Score Details

On 8 Jul '23, John McCarthy had a net score of 30 pts whilst holding a GA Handicap of 14.5.

How good was that net score?

The average Stableford result for a player with a GA Handicap of *14.5* is *30.8 pts.*

The score of *30 pts* is ranked at the *47%* mark of net scores for all Australians. [The best net score is ranked at the 100% mark.]

Score Details

On 8 Jul '23, John McCarthy had a net score of 30 pts whilst holding a GA Handicap of 14.5.

Where does that GA Handicap rank?

The average GA Handicap for men & boys is 18.2.

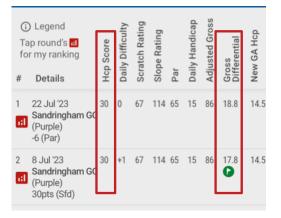
The GA Handicap of *14.5* is at the *67%* mark of GA Handicaps for all Australian men & boys. [The best GA Handicap is at the 100% mark.]



Daily Difficulty and how it affects you handicap.

Those with eagle eyes or too much time on their hands might have noticed something that seemed strange in the handicap history on the last page. There were two scores of 30pts yet one was shown as playing to 18.8 and the other to 17.8.

The culprit is the Daily Difficulty column, which in this case shows the round of 8 July was given a Daily Difficulty of +1. There is a long technical explanation on the Golf Australia Handicap page some of which is below but suffice to say the Daily Difficulty is a measure of how hard the course was on that day.



Daily Difficulty

The technical term for Daily Difficulty is 'Playing Conditions Calculation' (or 'PCC').

- The PCC is a measure of whether the scoring conditions for a round were clearly harder or easier than normal.
- PCCs are permitted to range anywhere between -1 (easier conditions) and +3 (harder conditions).
- The PCC result is the amount by which there was any variation from what is statistically normal.
- The PCC formulas are quite conservative. The PCC will only move away from zero if the scores clearly suggest that an adjustment is appropriate.
- Your 'Gross Differential' result for a round includes an adjustment for the 'PCC'.

Through GOLF Link, the PCC formulas take into account:

- The expected average Stableford score for each player in the field, based on their Daily Handicap.
- The actual Stableford score for each player in the field.

By applying statistical concepts to these percentages, GOLF Link calculates the likely level that the conditions were different to what is normal. For small fields, a larger variation in scores is needed to shift the PCC away from zero.

You are not handicapped on your Stroke score in a Stroke round ..., you are handicapped on your Stableford score for that round. The PCC for Stroke rounds ... is calculated from the Stableford scores of all players in the field.

	Round Details	Hcp Score	Daily Difficulty	Scratch Rating	
1	17/06/2023 Sandringham GC See more	35	+3	67	
2	10/06/2023 Sandringham GC See more	40	+1	67	125.00

Members who played on 17 June may remember how hard the wind was blowing that day. This was reflected in the Daily Difficulty, which was calculated at the maximum of +3.

How are the holes playing? Does our hole index hold up?

Vice Captain Geoff Thornton has crunched the numbers for the last 12 months up to 23 July 2023 and the numbers don't lie. The current index is holding up remarkably well and there **will not be any changes** to the indices. A couple of things to note:

Purple Tees

- Only one hole differed by 2 spots between the existing card and the playing data. That was Hole 5 that the card rates as the 6th hardest hole but which played as the 4th hardest over the past year.
- Hole 13 has snuck past Hole 8 as the hardest hole to play. Seems reasonable but for a good
 portion of the year the Purple tees have been at the front of the 8th tee box which may have had
 an impact.

Orange Tees

- There were more differences on the Orange tee card and also many fewer rounds processed (about 1/6th of those for the Purple tees).
- Hole 5 also proved harder off these tees rated 10 on the card it played as the 7th hardest hole.
- Hole 13 also rated as the hardest hole for these tees (No 2 on the card) and Hole 8(rated Index 1 on the card) dropped to Index 3 behind Hole 15(Index 3 on the card) that played as the 2nd hardest hole.
- Holes 10 and 18 are playing easier than their card indices both coming in 3 spots easier whilst Hole 2 (2 spots harder) and Hole 12 (2 spots easier) were others where there was some variation.

		CARD	PLAYING		CARD	PLAYING	
Hole	Par	Index	Effective	Diff	Index	Effective	Diff
1	4	14	14	0	9	9	0
2	3	13	13	0	15	13	-2
3	4	10	10	0	5	5	0
1	4	5	6	1	6	6	0
5	4	6	4	-2	10	7	-3
6	4	7	7	0	8	8	0
7	3	17	18	1	17	17	0
3	4	1	2	1	1	3	2
)	3	18	17	-1	18	18	0
10	4	8	8	0	7	10	3
11	3	9	9	0	12	11	-1
12	3	11	11	0	14	16	2
13	4	2	1	-1	2	1	-1
14	3	12	12	0	16	15	-1
15	4	3	3	0	3	2	-1
16	3	15	15	0	13	12	-1
7	4	4	5	1	4	4	0
8	4	16	16	0	11	14	3

FAIRWAY NEWS AUGUST 2023

What's with all this get it, got it stuff? (see last and this issue)

Warning: This story does not mention golf. If you are here for golf stories then move on.

Get it? Got it? Good! is a phrase from a 1956 movie called The Court Jester starring Danny Kaye, Basil Rathbone, Glynis Johns, Angela Lansbury and Cecil Parker. It's probably most famous for two things. Danny Kaye's physical and verbal comedy and a sword fight between Danny Kaye (hypnotised to believe he is a master swordsman) and Basil Rathbone who was actually an excellent swordsman in real life. The sword fight alternates between a high class fight and a comedic shambles as Kaye loses and regains his skills with the blade every time someone snaps their fingers and releases or returns him to his hypnosis!



The verbal sparring is a highlight with tongue twisters such as

"The pellet with the poison's in the vessel with the pestle; the chalice from the palace has the brew that is true!" or after the chalice from the palace is broken "The pellet with the poison's in the flagon with the dragon; the vessel with the pestle has the brew that is true."

These phrases are said with great rapidity by Kaye and others and are usually followed by "Get it? Got it? Good!"

Rathbone (in red) was twice British Army Fencing Champion and his swordfights are always listed in the best movie swordfights of all time especially those involving Errol Flynn in *Captain Blood* and *The* Adventures of Robin Hood.

Fairway News Contributions and Feedback

Fairway News is always looking for contributions so if you have any comments, suggestions, have a Sandy golf story to tell or fancy a bit of creative writing please send it along to newsletter@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au

Where to redeem	Sandy PGA Pro Shop
your vouchers if you	House of Golf
are lucky or good	Some Drummond Stores
enough to win one!	Sandringham Café for food or drink
	Grape and Grain Liquor Cellars, Station St Moorabbin
	Royal Melbourne Golf Club Pro Shop



Thank you from Riverside Essendon Golf Club

Late last year one of our fellow VGL Clubs was severely impacted by the Maribyrnong River floods and our club made a donation of \$250 to help with restoration. Riverside have sent a thank you and some before and after pictures. Great to see camaraderie between Clubs who are

opponents in Pennant





Dear Sandringham Golf Club,

On 14th October the Maribyrnong River broke its banks causing excessive flooding to low lying areas of Maribyrnong and Ascot Vale. This was the biggest flood in the area since 1974. The golf course flooded as it is on a natural flood plain. Our club house is situated below the ground level and was therefore inundated by flood water. Limited to no flood warnings were received in the area, meaning everything in the club house was basically destroyed except our honour boards which were salvaged (refer images below).

A lot of work and money was needed to get the clubhouse operational again. Riverside Essendon Golf Club extends a huge thank-you to your club for your generous donation of \$250. These funds have helped us replace our electronics, kitchen appliances, fixtures, and fittings etc. After a long six months or so with the recovery effort we are now back up and running.

In the coming months we may host an open day to showcase our restored golf club. Stay tuned for any correspondence on this.

Thank-you again.

John Berry Honorary Secretary. For and on behalf of the Committee of Management Riverside Golf Club (Essendon) Inc. A0026315A

