



## Barry leads from start to finish to claim 2011 Club Championships

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Pat Buckley



Welcome to the last Newsletter of 2011. As it is nearly 12 months since I assumed the role of VGC President I thought I would reflect on what has occurred at the club during this time.

#### WET WEATHER

Whilst I not dare say this is a thing of the past, at least we had minimal rain in October, unlike last year. It is now "fingers crossed" time with respect to the coming months. VGC has recovered very well from a course and financial point of view since the December/January deluge so continuing fine weather would be great for the Club.

#### WET WEATHER APPEAL

The Board of VGC will be eternally grateful to members for their support of these initiatives. A club is only as good as its members and the way members assisted the Club to get back on its feet shows why VGC is such a great club.

#### COURSE

I cannot compliment Barry Lemke, Green's Superintendent, and his staff enough for the great job they have done in returning the course to its best, since the deluge. I play a lot of courses around Brisbane and South East QLD. Apart from some of the resort courses, VGC is in as good a shape as any in our region. Also, Holes 19-27, which suffered the most during the deluge, have taken even more hard work to

get them back on track. The income generated here through social play cannot be underestimated so it is great to see numbers gradually returning to normal.

#### MASTER PLAN

The Member's Forum was well attended earlier in the year and since then the Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC) has met with Wayne Grady Golf Design (WGGD) a number of times. As stated in my last update, we are currently awaiting, from WGGD, a draft plan, cost estimates, cost benefit analysis and a proposed sequencing of works to ensure the least amount of disruption. Once these are available we will present them to members. Finally, as stated before, the Master Plan is a 20 year project which this Board will only implement in a financially responsible manner. Given the club's current level of debt, there are NO plans to further indebt the Club to implement the Master Plan.

#### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Previously, I have made reference to how Queenslanders fare with respect to golf club subscriptions compared to our southern cousins. But there is more. I have just returned from the Sunshine Coast where I hosted 80 golfers from around Australia for a week of golf. Naturally, over a cold beverage or two, the conversation turned to how much each of us pay to be a member of a golf club. The horror stories I heard from those from NSW & Victoria were almost beyond belief. They are paying, on average, between \$2,500.00 and \$3,500.00 per year at clubs that are no better than VGC. These poor buggers were green with envy when I told them how much we, at VGC and other Brisbane clubs, pay. I cannot see how clubs can justify such high fees but then things have always been different south of the Tweed River.

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### **DEPARTURE & APPOINTMENT**

Unfortunately, Glenn Barnes, Vice-Captain, has decided not to renew his VGC Membership for personal reasons. I would like to thank Glenn for his hard work while he was on the VGC Board. Hopefully he will re-join the Club sometime in the future.

As elections are due shortly, the VGC Board has decided not to fill the vacant position in the short term. Further, as a result of Glenn's departure, there was a vacancy on the Master Plan Steering Committee and I am pleased to say that Tom McCormick has accepted the VGC Board's invitation to join this committee.

In closing, on behalf of the Board and Staff of VGC, can I wish all members and their families an enjoyable and safe festive season.

Good golfing,  
Pat

### **CAPTAIN'S CORNER**

Mathew Toomey



### **SINGLES IN CONJUNCTION WITH FOUR BALLS**

The Match Committee is introducing a trial change to four ball competitions from 1 December 2011. Players will now have the option of paying an additional \$2 fee to enter a single Stableford competition in conjunction. The single card will be used for handicapping purposes and there is an additional prize.

We often receive feedback from members about the "unattractiveness" of four ball competitions given they are not handicapped (unless a team has 42 Stableford points or better) and they tend to favour higher markers. This change will hopefully create an extra incentive for members to compete.

The trial will run from the start of December 2011 through to the end of February 2012. During this time, 8 four ball competitions will be held (on either a Saturday or Sunday). The Match Committee will then determine if there is sufficient demand for the addition single competition to continue.

More information on the change (including rules and conditions) can be found on the Club's website.

### **CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Congratulations to 16-year-old Brendan Barry who is Virginia's Club Champion for 2011. Barry's amazing short game gave him a decisive edge over the rest of the field. He finished with a total of 288 (+6) to win by a staggering 15 shots from Ben Garland and Steve Sinclair.

Barry is the first wire-to-wire winner since Steve Sinclair in 2004 and the first junior winner since Andrew Buckle in 1998. It's a worthy achievement for someone so young.

Whilst the third round was severely affected by rain, the response to the new format was largely positive. On that note, it will be retained in 2012 with the final two rounds played over the same weekend.

### **BDGA PENNANTS**

The BDGA pennant season will start earlier next year - on 19 February 2012. Virginia will be competing in Division 3 against Brisbane, Wynnum and Ashgrove.

Scores are currently being monitored and the squads will be announced in mid January. Hopefully it'll be a great season!

### **PRO-AM & SHOOT OUT**

A big thanks to everyone who helped organise this year's Followmont Transport Virginia Golf Club Pro-Am. It takes months of preparation and this year's event ran very smoothly.

The Pro-Am title was shared by Paul Donahoo and Andrew Tschudin. Both finished with a score of 67 and picked up more than \$2,000 for their efforts. It turned out to be a day of tough scoring with only 11 of the 82 professionals breaking par.

### **CHAMPIONS DINNER**

The Champions Dinner will be held in conjunction with our Birthday Night on Friday, 25 November 2011 at 6pm. It is our opportunity to honour those players who have won a major competition during the year. The function is open to all members and more information is available on the Club's website. Hope to see you there!

Matt.

### **THE VIEW FROM THE OFFICE**

David Bell - Secretary / Manager



Hello to all Virginians,

Firstly, congratulations to Brendan Barry who lead from start to finish in this year's Championships - a great effort for a young man with a magical short game!

The Followmont Transport Virginia Pro-Am was, I believe, a great success and was won by Andrew Tschudin and Paul Donahoo with a score of 67. We would not be able to hold events such as this without the excellent support of all sponsors and especially Followmont Transport and Alan Salpietro. Many thanks to all of our excellent sponsors.

Please note that if you would like your business listed in a Members' Business Directory, please contact me. I think this will be a great way of getting more out of your Club and increasing the value of your membership.

It is important to me that all members feel at home at the Club and as such, I want to tell you more about some of our staff - from now on, we will include some staff profiles in the newsletter and the first two can be found further on.

Further to that, it is equally important to recognise the achievements of our members so we will also be introducing a member acknowledgements section - don't miss our first one in this issue!

There are some great events coming up and the last few months of the year are always busy - don't miss the Thursday Club Break Up (17 November), the Prince Charles Day (18 November) the Birthday Dinner and the Champions Dinner (both 25 November) and then of course closing weekend on 26 and 27 November. The AGM is then on Monday evening 28 November and we hope to see as many of you as possible there.

On a sad note, I would like to announce that Val McKellar will

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be retiring from her position here at VGC to spend some more time with her family and especially her young grandchildren. It will be a huge loss to our admin team and I am more than a little nervous - but in testament to Val's dedication to VGC, she has offered to stay on for a while in a part time way to ease the transition to her replacement.

Please thank Val when next you see her for her excellent service to the Club for over 14 years.

In closing, can I also wish you all a very happy and safe festive season and all the best for summer golf - may it not rain too much and may the sun shine not too hot!!

As always, please feel free to come and discuss anything about this great Club with me at any time.

Best regards, David.

## **AROUND THE HOUSE**

Rob Gaunt - House Director



### **BIRTHDAY CLUB**

Patronage over the last year has seen an average of around 100 members and guests every month that enjoy this fantastic value for money smorgasboard and on behalf of the Virginia Golf Club I would like to take the opportunity to thank all members and their guests for their continued support.

### **BAR & BISTRO**

Sales have been consistent with previous years (with the exception of this years rain interrupted first quarter) and I am confident (weather permitting) the next 12 months will see improvements in this area.

### **CALENDAR**

Over the coming weeks both myself and David Bell will be working on a calendar of events covering the next 12 months. We will be locking in dates for functions such as the monthly Birthday Club, Trivia Night, Poker Night, Cent Auction and Karaoke Night, just to mention a few.

If you have any ideas for the Calendar, please let me know.

Happy golfing and I will see you Around the House!  
Rob Gaunt (House Director)

## **FAIRWAYS, TEES & GREENS**

David Buckle - Greens Director



The past three months have seen further course repairs to areas that were severely damaged by the January floods. There have been renovations to some of the bare patches on fairways; major repairs to Cart Path Potholes and Washaways; reconstruction of bunkers due to erosion, construction of additional drainage lines in excessively wet areas to mention a few. This work is ongoing and will continue through the Summer Months. That said, I'm sure you'll agree that our course has been returned to a condition that makes it most enjoyable to

play on. We still have some way to go to complete all 'repairs' but these should be achieved within the next month or two. More detail will be given in the following paragraphs.

### **WORKING BEES**

Our 2011 Program will conclude on 11 November with our final Working Bee from 6.00am - 8.30am followed by a thankyou breakfast on The Terrace. Much has been achieved along the Fairway Tree-lines with one major one - the 7th- to go. Hopefully its clearing will happen on the 11th. It is with much gratitude that I and all Board members acknowledge the time and effort some twenty-six members have generously donated towards the betterment of our course throughout the year and we thank them for their efforts.

### **GREENS RENOVATIONS**

Renovation of Greens 1 to 18 was completed successfully in Mid-October and all greens are coming on well. The weed -eradication program is now in full swing. Greens 19 to 27 will be renovated in the near future. Access to the Right Hand Side of the Second Green has been closed with a view to encouraging golfers to use the newly built pathway through the garden bed adjacent to the Right Hand Bunker. Please refrain from wheeling pull buggies across this side of the Green as major damage will occur over time.

### **PRIMARY ROUGH**

All primary rough is being kept under control at a height of 40mm.

### **FAIRWAYS AND TEES**

Many bare areas of our fairways have already been patched with more to follow. It is estimated that 100 meters of turf will be required to complete the repairs. We have identified a number of dead trees and branches for removal. Work on these will be carried out shortly. Recently, there was a burst pipe on the 6th fairway. This resulted in a great deal of damage to the surrounds. As it was a Council pipeline, BCC staff repaired the damaged pipe and the large hole filled by Greens Staff. At the time of writing, we are awaiting the delivery of turf from the Council.

All Tees have responded excellently to the renovations and top-dressing.

### **BUNKERS**

Bunker Sand replacement commences early November. The appropriate sand is on order for this task.

You are reminded to replace rakes pointing from the centre of the green to the back edge of the bunker placing the handle of the rake immediately inside the outside edge of the bunker.

### **COURSE AUDIT**

A monthly audit of all aspects of the golf course is conducted by our Course Superintendent Barry Lemke and myself, sometimes in consultation with our club professional Shayn Barnham. During these audits we attempt to identify items that may have been neglected or overlooked or perhaps need an upgrade. Should you believe there is something we've missed please inform me personally and I'll make every effort to attend to your concern. My contact details appear in the club Fixture Book. I am extremely grateful to those members who have identified items in need of attention. While most of these matters have been rectified, I have been made aware of a number of Strangler Vines that are slowly choking some of our trees. Should you notice any on your 'Course Travels', please let me know so that action can

be taken to remove same if they are not too far advanced.

### NEW 'TEMPORARY' TENTH TEE

Our New 'Temporary Tenth Tee' is now up and running and it has already been put to use due to the wet conditions of the day. From all reports it proved a success!

### DAM

In recent weeks, we have had some inquiries from Developers regarding the possible use of the material from our proposed dam area. At this stage, nothing further has eventuated, but should the right opportunity arise (which is what we have been waiting for!), the Board will certainly look to move ahead with the project.

### PROPOSALS FOR 2012

All of the listed items fall within our 2011/2012 Budget Forecast.

- Completion and hopefully adoption of our Course Master Plan: early 2012
- Sand - Improvement Program for Bunkers: November to February
- Weed eradication Program to Tees, Greens Surrounds & Fairways: continuous
- Continuation of Voluntary Working Bees: Monthly
- Greens Renovations : late January & early October
- Establishment of 328 Nursery for patching out couch in Greens: early 2012

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2011

Over the course of the last twelve months it is easy for us to overlook what has been achieved by our hard working Greens Staff, assisted by our Member Volunteers. I want you to cast your minds back to December -February when the rains caused our course to be unplayable on many occasions for a number of reasons e.g. flooded fairways, waterlogged fairways, overgrown fairways, saturated greens. The list continues. Fast forward to October; let us reflect on a few achievements:

- Return of Course to Good Condition under trying circumstances due to disastrous floods
- Construction of Temporary Tenth Tee
- Drainage Repairs to 5th Green necessitated by the excessive wet
- Additional Drainage Lines in front of 1st & 15th Greens; behind 17th Green
- Patching of a number of bare areas on fairways
- Removal of low tree branches to enhance grass growth, ease of maintenance with machinery, improve speed of play, cosmetic improvement
- Major repairs to sealed cart paths eroded by floods
- Erosion repairs of many bunkers
- Provision of first class Greens as a result of excellent renovation procedures
- Neat Clubhouse surrounds
- Installation of Garden Beds to define Entrance Road from Members Car Park
- Provision of new workshop & course signage with more to come
- Temporary repairs to Service Road
- Edging of Lily-Pily Garden beside 12th Green
- Replacement & straightening of Cart Path Barriers
- Installation of additional Cart Barriers
- Regular maintenance of Short & Long Game practice Facilities
- General upkeep & maintenance of irrigation lines
- Drainage of LHS 14th Bunker
- Installation of new sand/bucket bins at Tees 1 & 10, and course entrance

All of the above & more were achieved at a cost well within the 2010/2011 Budget Forecast. My congratulations to all who helped achieve such a fine result.

### CONCLUSION

November 30, 2011 will herald the conclusion of my second year as Greens Director. Initially I accepted the nomination for the position on the condition that my knowledge of golf course construction, design and maintenance and general care was extremely limited. I set out to learn the how, what, when and why. I have been indebted to many people who have assisted me in the process in particular our Greens Superintendent, Barry Lemke who is extremely skilled in his role and continues on a constantly upward learning curve; our small number of greens staff members who work so diligently and co-operatively as a team; our Club Professional Shayn Barnham who has only been too willing to give of his time to share his expertise with me whenever I have sought his advice; our club Captain Matthew Toomey whose knowledge of the rules of golf and course related matters is outstanding; and to Secretary Manager David Bell & our President Pat Buckley and Past President Chris Hunter who have been extremely supportive of all that we have set out to achieve. My two visits to the USA have also been of great benefit. I have no doubt that when our Course Master Plan is finalised and accepted, the role of future Greens Directors and their working relationship with our Greens Superintendent and his staff will be made so much easier, our course and members will benefit from the proposed long range improvements, and overall savings will result.

I look forward to continuing in my role in 2012.

Happy Golfing  
David

### GOOD OIL FROM THE GOLF SHOP

Shayn Barnham - Club Pro.



As another year winds down, I hope all of you get some time to relax and come out and play a bit of golf. Over the summer months we will be open until 7pm in the evening so you can take advantage of the cool afternoons and more daylight. Carts can be out on the course until 6.45pm and are only \$18 for members after 2pm which is a great deal, especially if you have a guest with you.

### CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

For those of you who aren't in our coaching database (you should be, just drop us an email - [vgcgolfshop@optusnet.com.au](mailto:vgcgolfshop@optusnet.com.au)), we have an offer for club members which would make a fantastic Christmas gift - we are offering a 90 minute on course playing lesson, in a cart, with one of our excellent PGA professionals, which are normally \$110, for just \$85. This special is available for purchase until December 31, 2011 and valid for use from January 1 to June 30 2012. This is a great way to get an overview of your whole game and how to improve each aspect. For those of you who prefer to work on your swing on the range, we have vouchers available for lessons and lesson packages from just \$49.

Over the next few months, you will see some great looking new gear arrive in the shop and on our website. Callaway have released a new RAZR iron and driver, which are very competitively priced. We also have the Callaway Tour Van arriving here at Virginia on Friday November 25 so you can go through the same fitting process as the tour stars do. We only have a limited number of spots available so book in quickly through Golf Shop.



Titleist has just released their new AP1 and AP2 irons and new Vokey wedges. These are very, very sexy looking golf clubs. You need to see them in the flesh to understand what I mean and we have demo irons and sets available for you to try.

Last newsletter, I spoke about the new Eagles and Birdies Travel cover which holds clothes as well as your clubs. It is a proven winner in beating the excess luggage fees which the airlines are currently charging and it has completely sold out Australia wide. If you need one for any holiday travelling, place your order now as we have more stock arriving in the first week of December.

Eagles and Birdies also have a new range of lightweight cart bags out for Christmas. These feature full length, fully stitched 14 way dividers, large cooler pocket, tough fade resistant fabric in a range of colours and an oversize putter well. Better still, if you purchase one during the next three months, you go into a draw to win a trip for two to San Francisco to watch the 2012 US Open.

Speaking of competitions, anyone who buys a dozen Titleist balls before January goes into our draw to win a Limited Edition Titleist staff bag, which is on display in store, and someone within Australia will win a trip to Cape Kidnappers in New Zealand.

### JUNIOR GOLF

We have a large number of promising juniors regularly coming to our Saturday morning clinics but after our break up day on Saturday December 3 (don't miss that one!), we don't resume again until the last Saturday of January 2012. To keep the juniors interested and give them something to practice for, we have a two day junior clinic running in January with a big junior competition the following day. Dates are Monday January 16 and Tuesday January 17 for the clinic with the competition on the morning of the Wednesday January 18. For registration forms, prices and information, give the golf shop a call or send us an email at [vgcgolfshop@optusnet.com.au](mailto:vgcgolfshop@optusnet.com.au).

Finally, for those of you that don't get a chance to play over the next few months, all of us here in the golf shop thank you for your support throughout 2011 and wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year, hopefully its one full of good golf!

Shayn and the Golf Shop Team

### Corporate Membership NOW OPEN!

*If your company is looking for a great way to entertain clients on a regular basis, a corporate golf membership would be perfect - flexible options - contact David Bell in the Office for more information.*



## ASSOCIATES NEWS

Gay Sparkes - Assoc. President



As another golfing year draws to a close, the unusually heavy rain at the beginning of the year became a memory with most of the remainder of the year being fine and enabling all major events to be completed within the allotted time. Reviewing the year, some of the highlights have been the Championships and Honour Board Events, the three open days were well patronised with over 100 players at each event, and the enjoyment of all players taking part in weekly events. Our Monday and Saturday fields have struggled at times to muster the required numbers for a competition. Look forward to better fields next year. A successful Back to Virginia Day was held in September with a good roll up enabling past and present members to get together over lunch. This being the last newsletter for 2011, I would like to thank all those who have helped make the year run smoothly and I look forward to completing my term as Associates President next year. Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous and enjoyable 2012.

Gay Sparkes  
Associates President

## CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Gail Bressington



We are now at the final chapter of the Golfing year. All the Championships have been decided and now we are able to enjoy some less serious forms of the game.

The Professional Trophy was won by Vera O'Donovan in the Mid-Week competition and by Danita McMurray in the Weekend Competition. Our thanks go to Shane Barnham for sponsoring this Competition and for his wonderful prizes which he gives each year and this year was no exception.

The Bronze Pennant Team did very well and though they did not win, a lot of their games were decided on the 18th Hole. All the players showed a great competitive spirit and approached each game with determination and dedication. Well done girls. The Pennant dinner was a great success and with 31 Ladies attending, the night was enjoyed by all. Thanks must go to Matt who once again provided a wonderful meal which was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

The President's and Captain's Day was enjoyed by all who came and with a Canadian Foursome being the game on the day and a Shotgun start being played. Everyone was able to enjoy a nice lunch together.

As I am completing my term as Captain at the end of this year I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone including the staff in the Office, Shayn and the Pro shop Staff, The Groundsmen for keeping the course in such a wonderful condition, Matt and his staff along with Owen and the Bar Staff for providing great service and enjoyable food and last but not least the Ladies Committee and all our members for making my time as Captain a very pleasant and memorable experience.

Gail Bressington (Captain)

## THURSDAY CLUB NEWS

Tony Sutton



OK! I Give Up! Where did the time go this year? I know I am not on my own but can you believe that another year has almost come and gone again? "They" say time flies when you're having fun - but this is ridiculous. Anyway, speaking of fun, I guess it's time to look back on the previous year and anticipate what's in store for the future.

End-Of-Year-Functions: Thursday the 17th of November will see our annual end-of-year "do" which I am confident will be just as good as previous events. Lots of prizes, prawns, balls, refreshments and all that has become a hallmark of this great annual day. Notices are up and around the Clubhouse so check it out. As for the function which features lots of Christmas, this will be held on Thursday the 15th of December.

Please Note: You do not have to be present at the November function to collect any prizes, but you Must Be Present on the 15th of December to collect, due to the seasonal and perishable nature of prizes.

During the year we had a few things which affected our fields, not the least of which was the weather. Having said that, it seems that the size of Thursday fields is improving and players are once again a great time in the best Social Golf Club in Brisbane. This not only helps our finances (and a chance to return some of the members' money to them), but also assists us to pass on some small benefits to the main Club. Well Done All!!!

Sadly, this year saw the passing of one of the Thursday Club's founding members, John McDonald. John left us after a short illness. "Macca" was a credit to the Club with all his knowledge, insight, good-will and humour. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



All that is left for me to do now is thank all our members and helpers throughout the past year. Without them, our club would not function nearly-as-well as it does. Thanks also to the Staff of Virginia Golf Club who keep us hydrated on hot days and also do a lot of administration behind the scenes.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!  
Tony Sutton

## TUESDAY SENIORS CHAT

Charlie Hayman



Since our last newsletter we have seen all our major events completed for 2011 Golf Calendar. The results will be announced at our A.G.M/ Christmas Luncheon early in December. Congratulations go to all our winners.

Our last even event on this year's calendar will be our Melbourne Cup trip away to Caboolture Golf Club which will occur before the printing of this newsletter. A reasonable field

has been put together for this day- the 31st October.

Some of you may have seen the T.V. commercial on our in house T.Vs about the membership drive for Seniors to join us each Tuesday for an extra \$2.00 to play in 2 comps. We have gained several new members from these commercials.

We are starting to see several of our wandering members returning home from interstate & overseas holidays. This will help build up our field each Tuesday.

The weather over the past weeks has been excellent to play a round of golf without getting wet. The days have been cool but excellent for golf except for the occasional day of wind which has tested us all on both the back & front 9.

It was great to see 3 of our older Seniors turn up to share a drink or two after quite a long period of illness. Joe Columbine & Graham Brewster looked exceptionally well. Wandering around the 10th & 11th holes several of us caught a glimpse of one of our older members, walking the low 9 with his wife, after recovery from a bout of bad health. Ron Sorenson's humour & jibes have been sorely missed in the recent past.

Keep it up guys & good health to you all for the future.  
Charlie Hayman.



# Them's the rules! OK?

### QUESTION

I've blocked my drive on the 11th and my ball has come to rest on the gravel service road. Do I get a drop? If so, where can I drop the ball?

### ANSWER

*As per the local rule board, all paths are treated as immovable obstructions and relief may be taken in accordance with Rule 24-2.*

*If you choose to take a drop, you must determine the nearest point that will give you relief from the path and which is no closer to the hole. Note that this point must provide "full relief". You can't drop your ball off the path but still be standing on the path. Once you've identified your nearest point, it is recommended you mark it with a tee.*

*You must then drop the ball within one club length of this spot. The ball must be redropped if it (a) rolls to a point where it is on the path or you will be standing on the path, (b) rolls more than 2 club lengths from the point where the ball first struck the ground, or (c) rolls closer to the hole than the spot you marked as the nearest point of relief.*

*If you redrop it and it again rolls to a point mentioned above, you must place the ball as near as possible to where it first struck the ground when you took the second drop.*

*You might find that your nearest point of relief isn't a nice place. For example, it could be directly behind a tree or on a scrubby lie. As an alternative, you can choose to play the ball as it lies on the path. It might be the better option.*

## MEMBERSHIP

John F. Heath - Membership Director



Well, they (who ever they are) say that some things come to an end - eg Elliot Road ends up in a park - golfers end up in a pond, bunker or hole. So said I end my role as a Director of this Club.

I have honestly enjoyed my time on the Board and helping the direction of this club of which I have been a member for 33years+.

My six years on the Board gave me full realization that you are not going to satisfy all members with decisions made, some decisions made were not totally to my liking, but we live in a democratic society and must abide by the "referees ruling" (something I did not always do as a cheeky half back)

I wish to thank all the members who supported me in my endeavors as House Director (3 years) and Membership Director (3 years).

In regard to membership which has slightly declined, the Board has made a decision to try and boost our flagging numbers so here is the "Deal"

### TARGETING AN EVEN PAR 71!

*After the recent membership renewal period, VGC has identified that we need a further 71 members across all playing categories. One for every par stroke of the course!*

*These additional Members will ensure that the recent trend of a declining membership numbers can be halted and will go a long way to reducing pressure to increase subscriptions greater than CPI increases in future years.*

*The Board was please to be able to keep subscriptions for the 2012 year at levels almost identical to the 2011 subscriptions and a healthy membership base will strongly assist in keeping*

*any future increases to a minimum.*

*The usual Membership "deal" revolves around an incentive to the new member - well we want to change that to provide an incentive to our existing members who currently support our Club so well.*

*Therefore, the Par 71 membership promotion will include an incentive for existing members to introduce new members to the Club.*

*The usual Joining Fee for new Ordinary, 6 day and Midweek member is \$650 - for this promotion it will be over 50% off at only \$300 PLUS the new member will receive a VGC Polo Shirt and Cap. AND, for the existing member who introduces the new member, the Club will credit your account with \$200 in CLUB CASH!!*

*But wait, there is more!!!! To help you to integrate the new member into VGC, we will also throw in a FREE 2 person lesson with one of our excellent Professionals for you and your introduced new member!*

*Conditions apply and this offer is open from Monday 14 November and is only valid until 71 new playing memberships are sold or 29 February 2012 - whatever comes first. For other membership categories such as Intermediate and Student, please contact the Office for details on the offer.*

What I would like, as outgoing membership director, is for all members to give it a go and let's try to realize this goal of Par 71. Talk to your friends/girl friends/lovers/mates, etc and get them to Virginia Golf Club and enjoy the friendliest golf club on the planet.

Thank you Virginians (and Val McKellar for all her help. - Val made membership easy). Have a safe and happy Christmas and may your God go with you.

John F Heath  
Membership Director



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## MEMBERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Do you know your fellow members???*

In this newsletter, we will kick off a new section that will focus on our members - the reason the Club exists!

Please feel free to drop me a line at any time to pass on some tidbit of information that we can include in this section - david@viriniagolf.com.au - anything will be considered and it does not have to be golf related!

### HOLES IN ONE

Congratulations to Gerry Comadira, Anil Chandra, Ryan Doyle and Robyn Van Beekhuizen who recently snared holes in one!

### BIG BASH LEAGUE

Congratulations to Ben Dunk who will play in this year's Twenty 20 Big Bash League for the Sydney Thunder alongside David Warner and Chris Gayle.

### LONGEVITY

To conclude, it is fitting to save the best for last.

In 2011, Virginia Golf Club has welcomed three members into rarefied air - 50 years as a member of the Club!

Ashley Brown, Ken McLean and Peter McNiven all joined the Club in 1961 - Ashley and Ken on 24 February and Peter on 24 October.

This is an absolutely tremendous achievement and they join in the 50 plus Club Kevin Flanagan, Clare Drury, Guil Huxham, Gwen Wilson and all of our Life Members - Kevin is the outright leader with 65 years!!

To celebrate Ashley, Ken and Peter's milestone, we have renamed three of our most popular menu items in their honour.

For the next few months, we will be serving:

The Ashley Brown Beef Burger;  
The Ken McLean Steak Sandwich; and  
The Peter McNiven Chicken Burger.

Come and have one in their honour!

**Carlton Dry**  
**ONLY...**  
**\$3.00 per stubbie**



## STAFF PROFILES

*A new feature for the Virginian will be to have a look each edition at what makes some of our staff tick - our staff are here to make members' lives a little bit better and a little bit easier so it would be good for you to know a bit more about them.*

### JOSH PELIZZON

Josh is one of our younger Greens Staff and whilst he is only 21 years old, he has been on staff for 4 years. "This is the first and only job I have ever had" said Josh.



An avid outdoorsman, Josh loves canoeing, fishing and hiking and says that his favourite task is mowing the rough as he gets a real sense of accomplishment looking back at how much better the course looks after a mow - particularly the third nine. As a youngster it is no real surprise that Josh's least favourite part of the job is getting out of bed at 4am!

A mad Broncos fan, Josh brings some rather unique skills to VGC. "I really like snakes and collect them. I currently have 9 including a 3 metre carpet python". As an experienced snake handler, every now and then Josh will be called upon to move a certain slithery something along from a fairway or, as Vera O'Donovan will attest to, a greenside bunker!

### MAUD ROBINSON

Maud has been on staff at VGC for over 22 years and will be a familiar face to most of you! As a lady, she will, of course, not divulge her age but it is fair to say that as she started working at VGC before Josh was born, she is a bit older than him!



When not making you a burger or pouring you a beer, Maud loves working on an easel and her paintings and spending some time in her garden - she also has a penchant for new cars and seems to have a new one very often. As the staff carpark is adjacent to the 12th hole, she also seems to get more than her fair share of golf ball dints on her new cars!

Maud has been married to Denis for more than double the time she has worked at VGC and has 2 children and 4 grandchildren. As the oldest grandchild is just 18, she hopes not to have great grandchildren for a little while.

Having worked here for so long, Maud says "I have had so many favourite things at VGC over the years that it is now a part of my life" and in terms of a down side, "I have to say I do look forward to retiring so I can enjoy a proper Christmas season without worrying about all of the Christmas parties the Club looks after!"



*All the services the club provides is only as far away as the phone or internet*

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