



# September 2011 NEWSLETTER

## Amateur Open

Saturday evening and the course is underwater. Greens 6 and 7 are awash. Change the tees, holes and try to mow them as best you can late into the night. Will we be able to play tomorrow?

Blessed by a cloudless early morning sky the course recovers quickly. Puddles here and there - bunkers a mess but our Open is on.

The Club did very well in acquiring \$1000 in prizes with Major Sponsorship from our local Bendigo Bank. There were several visiting low markers in the field but as usual the course held its own. The excellent prizes were widely disbursed.

Forty competitors enjoyed the day. Next year let's get eighty competitors and make it an event not to be missed.

## Golfer of the Month

It is hard to overlook Warren Musk for his excellent win in our Open against some very well credentialed outsiders. Earl Carey gave himself a chance with two NTP's but Warren is a big occasion player who knows how to produce his best at the right time.

## AGM

Time to thank and say goodbye to our present Committee Members and to elect next year's office bearers.

The importance of carefully selecting Committee Representatives cannot be underestimated. Let wisdom be with you.

## Another Jaunt

No doubt under the bad influence of several of our members who insist on taking extended holidays Chris Kemp thinks he should do the same and is on his way to Jamaica and Las Vegas. Let's hope Jamaica is cheap but even the high value of the Australian dollar is unlikely to help Chris very much in Las Vegas.

Come to think of it how do retirees get holidays anyway? Holidays from what? Not working here and going elsewhere so they don't have to work there either?

## Australia's Best Course?

The Yanks are coming to play the President's Cup at Royal Melbourne. Big deal. The Golfing World will watch. Why Royal Melbourne? Is it such a big deal too? Thirty six holes - it's big that way. Two busy roads keep members on the alert as they move from green to the next tee. On one side Sandringham Public Course has a busy eighteen holes and on the other is Victoria (Peter Thomson's Home Club) and the Cheltenham a nine holer where Geoff Ogilvy learned the game. Then there is the separate Australian Golf Academy Driving Range. And all this in the middle of suburbia.

The course is an easy stroll. The fairways are quite generous but miss and the native grasses and low lying ti-tree scrub can be diabolical. The greens are very large, very fast and quite severe in the undulations. Not only do you have to be on the green but you need to be on the right part of the green. All holes are memorably different yet none are seemingly that difficult to be beyond a reasonably competent golfers ability.

As a sand belt course it has no drainage problems and as far as bunkers are concerned - just keep digging. Some holes go green to bunker without any fringe.

Charity days see the thirty six holes crowded from dawn to dusk.

Members don't know how much fees will be until they add up the years expenses and divide by the number of members - that's how much you pay.

Are Royal Melbourne Members a bit snobbish? If you get a chance to visit RM you're likely to be made to feel very welcome among people who love their golf ....like we do. Perhaps they can recall they once had a broken barbed wire fence too.

## To Come

Apart from our Christmas Party the last major golfing event for 2011 is the Village Plate. Qualifications for this handicap match play event will be held on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> September.

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