

# 2015 Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament

By 11.15 am the event players had registered and were sitting down to a hearty lunch. Before the groups teed off Anthony Lakey officially welcomed everyone, on behalf of the organising committee and thanked the very generous tournament sponsors; **Drummond Golf, Niddrie and NewEarth Constructions**, the tournament would not be possible without their support. Clubs represented at the event were; Neangar Park, Rosanna, Victoria, Yarrambat, Sandhurst, Long Island, Gungahlin Lakes, Southern, Woodend, Romsey, Gisborne, Medway, Patterson River, Kyneton, La Trobe, Bacchus Marsh, Riverside, Mt Macedon & Bacchus Marsh West. Each course provided maps of the lay-out as well as copies of the local rules for each group.



**Immediate past WGDD Captain Beryl Cole with Gary Watts Shield winners Gabriela Ruffels & Jordan Ward**

## Day One, Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> – Romsey G. C. M - P72/S72/S124, W - P71/S73/S119

**Daily Sponsor – CIIC Insurance.** Age & handicap based groups. The long summer saw the course very dry with only the greens and immediate surrounds showing strongly green and trenches to install irrigation piping running down the centre of every fairway added to the challenge. The round was also made more difficult by Little Corella damage on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> greens. The mixture of mature and younger trees caught some players out, once in the trees only the most adventurous or creative players were still able to shoot at the green. The smaller greens also forced players to carefully consider their approach shots. A highlight of the day started with a 9 on the par 4 3<sup>rd</sup> by Mitchell Hall (Yarrambat). Mitchell, showing great character, then played the remainder of the course in six under! Other good rounds came from Jordan Ward (Long Island) 75, Kieran Vogels (Sandhurst) 75 and Gabriela Ruffels (Victoria) 76. The day's results were;

**Boys' U18** Scr Jordan Ward (Long Island); 75 **H/C** Michael McCarten (Romsey); 94/24/70

**Boys' U15** Scr Li Su (Medway); 79 **H/C** Corben Leong (La Trobe); 93/24/69

**Girls 'U21** Scr Gabriela Ruffels (Victoria) 76 **H/C** Kristi Bilkey (Neangar Park); 81/5/76

## Day Two Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> – Lancefield G. C. M - 72/71/117, W - 72/73/118

**Daily Sponsor – Lancefield Bakery.** Handicap based groups. Lancefield, a more open course, was also dry but the more open fairways gave all golfers a chance to correct errant shots. Players were able to more easily get out from under trees or shoot back to a fairway or green. The greens putted very true and generally had an even pace. Recent dam works on the 8<sup>th</sup> saw a few players in trouble however those who had listened to, or read, the local rules were able to take a free drop. Kieran Vogels 79 again lead the boys while Kristi Bilkey 79 lead the girls in.

Day two results were;

**Boys' U18 - Scr** Kieran Vogels ; 79

**Hcp** Jason Koesmarno (Gungahlin Lakes); 80/4/76

**Boys' U15 - Scr** Corben Leong (La Trobe); 85

**Hcp** Jarryd Martin (Bacchus Marsh W); 91/15/66

**Girls' U21 - Scr** Kristi Bilkey; 79

**Hcp** Jaynaya Wharton (Rosanna); 87/9/78



**Glenn Moore & Mary-Anne Thomas with MRJT Champions Kristi Bilkey & Kieran**

At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round four boys were in contention and one girl stood well above the rest of the stroke field.

**Day Three Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> – Mt Macedon Golf Course. M- 67/67/118, W- 70/71/115**

**Daily Sponsor – Mary-Anne Thomas.** Score based groups. The top group Kieran Vogels -154, Jordan Ward -156, Mitchell Hall -158 and Jason Koesmarno -158 teed off on a warm, still day. The boys' champion would come from this group. A steady round from leader Kristi Bilkey -160 would see her retain the title she won in 2014. Mt Macedon was by far the greenest of the three courses and all players found the greens to be in excellent condition. The nine-hole, 18 tee course proved very challenging and provided many players with highs and lows over the afternoon. The many large, old trees across the course and lining the fairways saw quite a few competitors use a local rule and gain a free drop from tree roots.



**Morten Hafkamp & Harry Weaver watch as Tom Roberts tees off on the 10th**

The leading group of boys fought out a tough front nine with Mitchell Hall taking the lead early on but in the end another very steady round from Kieran Vogels saw him return a 74 to take the boys' championship by 5 shots from Jordan Ward with Mitchell Hall one shot further back. Another good round saw the girls' title again go to Kristi Bilkey.

The day's results were;

**Boys' U18** Scr Kieran Vogels 74 Hcp Ned Sullivan (Woodend); 87/18/69  
**Boys' U15** Scr Li Su; 82 Hcp Harry Weaver (Riverside); 87/28/59  
**Girls' U21** Scr Kristi Bilkey; 81 Hcp Jazy Roberts (Neangar Park); 93/19/74

**Overall tournament trophies;**

**Gary Watts Shield;** Jordan Ward; 75 Gabriela Ruffels; 76  
**MRJT Champions;** Kieran Vogels; 228 Kristi Bilkey; 241  
**MRJGT Runners-up;** Jordan Ward; 233 Jaynaya Wharton; 272  
**Chris Gaunt Cup** Corben Leong 266/197 K. Bilkey; 241/226

The member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas presented the events major awards. Mary-Anne spoke of the positive benefits from sport and said she was especially pleased to see so many younger golfers actively involved in the tournament. Parents, family & friends are a vital support to all these younger competitors.



**Mary-Anne Thomas & Glenn More with Chris Gaunt Cup winners Kristi Bilkey & Corben Leong**

The 2015 tournament closed with many thanks to;

- the players and their families,
- the tournament sponsors,
- the organising committee, Luke Rebecchi, Charles Everist, Dave Muller, Beryl Cole & Glenn Moore and Anthony Lakey
- all those who prepared food and provided refreshments on and off the course.

The three golf clubs were also thanked

- for allowing the tournament to utilise their courses and
- for all their hard work preparing their courses and rooms so that the event could take place.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Macedon Ranges Junior Golf Tournament will be held over the**

**Labour Day long weekend; March 12/13/14, 2016**