

The 2011 Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament

The 2nd Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament, March 12, 13 & 14, attracted players from 16 clubs; Trentham, Hidden Valley, Portsea, Dorset, Glen Waverly, Heritage, Kialla, Lancefield, Patterson River, Sanctuary Lakes, Sunshine, Tullamarine, Wodonga, Woodend, Bacchus Marsh West and Romsey. The competition for 18&U, 16&U and 14&U boys and 18&U girls drew a field of 33 players with 12 on handicaps of 10 or better. The Mayor of the Shire of Macedon Ranges, Councillor Henry McLaughlin,

Mayor Henry McLaughlin launches the Tournament



addressed the players before they hit off for the 1st round of the three round tournament. Cr McLaughlin spoke of the efforts in the Shire to support youth within a strong community environment, the Shire's strong belief in local groups such as the three golf clubs jointly holding the tournament and their efforts to involve local youth. He also noted that it was great to see so many new visitors to the region with a good number staying at local B&Bs, guest houses or

caravan parks.

After the last six months of warm, wet weather all three golf courses, Woodend, Lancefield and Romsey, were in top condition; everyone was looking forward to seeing some good golf.

Saturday 12th - Round 1 at Woodend Golf Course (Par 66), The boys hit off in handicap-based groups while the girls played together. The weather was warm, the air was still and clear; good scoring was expected. Many family and friends followed each group. The many large, old trees that line most of the fairways proved troublesome for some players while others used the very same trees to bounce their balls back into a good position. Everyone, parents and friends included, were surprised and a little awed by the par 3, 160m 11th which drops almost 45m from tee to green. There was some fine golf from competitors who were playing the course for the 1st time. The round of the day was a 68/9/59, by Paolo Riccardi of Sanctuary Lakes. At the end of the day everyone enjoyed a good meal and a chat before presentations were made.

The Round 1 winners were;	Stroke	Handicap	
18&U Boys	Justin Paull 76,	Luke Rebbechi	87/22/65
16&U Boy	Luke Bexley 72	Ben Noel	82/15/67
14&U Boys	Paolo Riccardi 68	Archie Nankivell	91/35/56
18&U Girls	Steph Robinson 76	Tylah Hodgson`	90/34/56

Sunday 13th – Round 2 at Lancefield Golf Course (Par 72). All players hit off, in age-based groups, on another clear, still day with a forecast of temperatures between 25 to 30 and a slight chance of rain. Groups were on the course by 12.00 and all went well until 2.35 when heavy rain, thunder and lightning engulfed the course all play was halted. Committee member, Beau Warren, did a wonderful job locating and transporting groups back to the clubrooms. The organising committee used this break in play to cook and serve a warm meal while everyone waited for the weather to clear. The course coped well with the downpour and play was restarted at 3.30. The last minute rain allowed players to really attack the pins knowing the greens had softened a little and their shots would hold. Again scoring was excellent with many players well below their handicaps. The round of the day was from Justin Paull – 75/5/70 while Tylah Hodgson and Archie Nankivell again scored well below their handicaps.

The Round 2 winners were; Stroke

18&U Boys	Justin Paull	81,
16&U Boy	Luke Bexley	72
14&U Boys	Seamus Whelan	82
18&U Girls	Steph Robinson	82

Handicap

Troy Linehan	84/15/69
Jack Tate	93/20/73
Archie Nankivell	100/35/65
Tylah Hodgson`	98/34/64

Monday 14th – Round 3 at Romsey Golf Club (Par 71). Players hit off in the final

round in tournament score based groups. (This round was also the Gary Watts Shield). The day was sunny however players had to allow for occasional strong winds. Sunday's storm had freshened the fairways and softened the greens allowing everyone to attack the pins. Once again there was good sportsmanship and support between the players as most went around the third new course in as many days. The tournament seemed to be Between Luke Bexley and Justin Paull with Seamus Whelan and Hugh Parks being outside chances. After an even front nine Luke was able to pull away for a fine victory. For the third day in a row there was some excellent scoring from a number of golfers and, as a result, many of the tournament's players will now see their handicaps greatly reduced. The rounds of the day were a 73 from Luke Bexley and a 77 from Steph Robinson (This may be a ladies' record for the new layout at Romsey)



Mayor Henry McLaughlin with MRJT Champions & Gary Watts Shield winners Stephanie Robinson and Luke Bexley

The Round 3 winners were; Stroke

18&U Boys	Justin Paull	84,
16&U Boy	Luke Bexley	73
14&U Boys	Hugh Parks	84
18&U Girls	Steph Robinson	77

Handicap

Luke Rebbechi	80/22/68
Jarrad White	86/15/71
Charlie Robbins	92/23/69
Tylah Hodgson`	100/34/66

Gary Watts Shield - 18 Hole Stroke (Pres by Romsey Captain Andrew Clement)

Boy's Champion Luke Bexley 73 Girl's Champion Steph Robinson - 77

Chris Gaunt Cup - 54 Hole Handicap (Pres by Lancefield MRJT committee member John Rebbechi)

Boy's Winner Archie Nankivell – 195 Girl's Winner Tylah Hodgson - 186

Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament Champions - 54 Hole Stroke - Combined Par 209

(Pres by Macedon ranges Shire Mayor Henry McLaughlin)

Boy's Champion Luke Bexley - 226 Girl's Champion Steph Robinson - 235



John Rebbechi with Chris Gaunt Cup winners Archie Nankivell and Tylah Hodgson.

The organisers thanked the parents and friends who had driven the players to the tournament, the players for attending and being such good examples of today's youth, the many volunteers who worked so hard to get the courses into such excellent condition, the volunteers who prepared and served the meals and who cleaned up afterwards, the tournament's sponsors, **The Shire of Macedon Ranges, ClubTech, MTM Golfclubs and the Gisborne Branch of the CBA** and finally the organising committee themselves for all their hard work to organise and run the event.

The 3rd Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament will be held at the same clubs over the Labour Day Weekend, March 10th, 11th & 12th of 2012.