

## 2010 Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament



**Macedon Ranges Shire Mayor, Cr Rob Guthrie, with players on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the tournament**

This week's 1<sup>st</sup> Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament (MRJT) attracted a large number of low markers, with almost half the field of 30 off single figure handicaps, and it was expected that the event would be a tightly fought affair. **The event was sponsored by the Macedon Ranges Shire, Clubtech and MTM Golf Clubs. These sponsors both made the tournament possible and ensured high quality prizes for the various winners.**

**The first round at Woodend** saw the competitors play in mixed age groups. A good number of parents and friends accompanied the players around the picturesque course. Many golfers were at or slightly below par when thunder heralded the arrival of a very violent storm. At 2.50 pm play was suspended. The organising committee inspected the course at 3.30 pm, 4.00 pm and again at 4.30 pm before deciding to call the event to a halt; the continual rain and lightning had made it unsafe to play. After much discussion it was decided to make the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the MRJT a six-hole event as all groups had played those holes. At the end of Day one **James Cooper** (3 Sanctuary Lakes), Daniel Wright (4 Romsey) Connor Whelan (8 Woodend), Sam Mitchell (5 Huntingdale) Thomas Perkins (5 Gisborne) and Daniel Nugent (11 Trentham) were at the top of the leader board. Winners on the day were;

18 & Under – Stroke – James Cooper	Handicap – Thomas Perkins.
16 & Under – Stroke – Sam Mitchell (Huntingdale)	Handicap - Connor Whelan
14 & Under – Stroke – Thammasack Bouahom (S/Lakes)	Handicap – Seamus Whelan (W/end)

**The second round at Romsey** began after a good lunch, the competitors played in age groups. Following the heavy rain on Saturday the course was damp and some of the greens were quite wet so relief was given through the green. The tight fairways and small greens made every player work hard for a good score. The day was slightly overcast but the rain held off and there was some good scoring. Top markers James Cooper (3) shot two over par and Daniel Wright (4) shot three over. The Romsey leg of the tournament was also the 4<sup>th</sup> Romsey Junior Tournament; The Gary Watts Shield. Winners on the day were;

18 & Under – Stroke – James Cooper,	Handicap – Jarryd McGill (L/field)
16 & Under - Stroke – Daniel Wright	Handicap - Mathew Wilson (Pt Arlington)
14 & Under - Stroke – Seamus Whelan	Handicap – Hugh Parks ((L/field)
Gary Watts Shield – James Cooper	



**Former Vic opening batsman and Australian manager of Tyres-4-U, Gary Watts, congratulates the 2010 Gary Watts Shield winner James Cooper.**

16 & Under - Stroke – Brad Kimivets (W/end)

14 & Under - Stroke – Thammasack Bouahom

MRJT Champion – James Cooper (Sanctuary Lakes)

MRJT Handicap Winner (Chris Gaunt Cup) – Mathew Wilson (Port Arlington)

Trophies were presented by the organising committee; Tony Lakey (Romsey), John Rebbechi (Lancefield), Beau Warrener (Woodend) and Peter McLaughlin, the president of Lancefield Golf Club

By the end of the tournament a great camaraderie had developed amongst the players; the event was characterised by the good-natured support and ribbing and much laughter out on the courses and in the clubrooms. Once again the organising committee would like to thank the three golf clubs for their support; each day the players, and parents/friends were treated to a wonderful meal and friendly clubrooms. The courses held up well after the heavy rain and hail providing all players with many challenging situations. All competitors and parents/friends were both impressed by the success of the 1<sup>st</sup> running of a new competition and how well the three clubs involved had **conducted** their rounds of the event.

**The third round at Lancefield** saw the groups organised according to their scores. Players met at 9.00 am for a 9.30 am hit off. The sky was slightly overcast and it looked as if the weather might hold however at 11.40 am heavy rain began to fall, play was restarted at 12.20 pm. Leaders James Cooper Daniel Wright and Sam Mitchell (5, Huntingdale) were off in the first group and whilst all players struck the ball well James soon picked up a lead of three shots before Daniel pegged him back with some good attacking golf. Both players bogied the 9<sup>th</sup> hole to leave them one over for the day, James continued in the lead for the overall trophy. Daniel played a great back nine quickly picking up two shots but James was able to hold him off and win the first Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament. Mathew Wilson played another good round to easily hold off the field to win the Chris Gaunt Cup and become the 1<sup>st</sup> Macedon Ranges Junior Championship handicap winner. Winners on the day were

18 & Under – Stroke – James Cooper,

Handicap – Jarryd McGill

Handicap – Daniel Nugent

Handicap – Seamus Whelan



**Organising committee, Tony Lakey (Romsey), Beau Warrener (Woodend) and John Rebbechi (Lancefield) with MRJT Handicap winner Mathew Wilson and MRJT Champion, James Cooper.**

**The Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament will again be held, at the same three clubs, over Labour Day weekend in 2011**