



**Tim McCartney (Bendigo Bank) with 2014 MRJT Champions; Cameron John (Waverly) & Kristi Bilkey (Neanger Park)**

## 2014 *Macedon Ranges* Junior *Tournament*

The 2014 tournament began on a clear, sunny day at Lancefield Golf Club. As everyone sat down to a hearty lunch committee members welcomed the players and their parents/friends. On behalf of the committee Anthony Lakey thanked tournament sponsors; The Lancefield/Romsey Bendigo Bank, Drummonds Golf, Taylors Lakes, NewEarth Constructions and the Romsey Fruit Shed, the tournament would not be possible without their

support. Clubs represented at the event were; Rosanna, Bacchus Marsh, Neanger Park, Long Island, Lancefield, Waverly, Medway, Spring Valley, Sandhurst, Sunshine, Lake Gardens, Trentham, Yarra Yarra, Hidden Valley and Kilmore. All courses were effected by the ongoing heat and almost complete lack of rain. Players had to be able to manage each course carefully knowing that there was extra run on the fairways but that the flags could be attacked. Approach shots from the best position were at a premium.

### Day One, Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> – Lancefield G. C. Par 72

Age & handicap based groups. After a chance to sit down and enjoy lunch and catch up with fellow players the field hit off from the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> tees. The constant heat and lack of rain since Christmas meant that relief was given, to a club length on the fairway played and a handspan though the green. All players got good value from their drives with many finding themselves playing approach shots from much closer to the green than usual. During the round Kurtis Lynch and Cameron John gave a clear indication of both their ability and their intentions for the 2014 tournament. The greens were holding well and putting true so golfers with conviction got good results. The day's results were;

|                   |                     |                         |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Boys' U21</b>  | <b>Scratch</b>      | <b>Handicap</b>         |
| <b>Boys' U15</b>  | Kurtis Lynch; 73    | Troy Linehan; 85/11/74  |
| <b>Girls 'U21</b> | Cameron John; 74    | Ned Sullivan; 90/21/69  |
|                   | Tahlia Holmberg; 82 | Kristi Bilkey; 86/10/76 |

### Day Two Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> – Mount Macedon G. C. Par 67

Handicap based groups. Another warm, sunny day, Mount Macedon was in the best condition of the three courses with a tinge of green on many of the fairways. The course proved a challenge, its many older trees caught some players with balls dropping straight down or bouncing into tough positions while others found themselves precariously close to the creek with difficult recovery shots to get up and down. The sloping fairways also forced players to think very carefully about where to land their ball and a number were very thankful for the local rule that gave a free drop from tree roots. The greens were in good nick and allowed players to putt with confidence however it took a few holes for players to recognise that at "The Mount" you always putt towards the mount. Again all players enjoyed the afternoon tea as cards were counted and the day's presentations made.



**Ned Sullivan (Trentham) chips up at Mount Macedon**

Day two results were;  
**Scratch**  
**Boys' U21** Tom Crawford; 74  
**Boys' U15** Cameron John; 77

**Handicap**  
 Luke Rebbechi; 75/11/64  
 Aashish Sudarsanan; 78/10/68  
**Girls' U21** Tahlia Holmberg; 74



**David Muller with 2014 Chris Gaunt Cup winners Kristi Bilkey & Mitchell Ralston (Lake Gardens)**

Kristie Bilkey; 82/10/72  
 At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round three boys and one girl stood well above the rest of the stroke field; Cameron John; 74/77-151, Kurtis Lynch; 73/79-152, Tom Crawford; 80/74-154 & Tahlia Holmberg; 82/74-156.

In the handicap event leaders were; Luke Rebbechi-139, Mitchell Ralston-143, Tony Chen - 146 & Kristi Bilkey - 148.

**Day Three Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> – Romsey Golf Course. Par 72**

Score based groups. The top group Cameron John, 151, Kurtis Lynch, 152 & Tom Crawford, 154 teed off under clear skies with no wind. Unless things went awry the boys' champion would come from this group. Unfortunately overnight leader, Tahlia Holmberg 156, was unable to play so the girls' title was really

between Kristi Bilkey 168 and defending champion Taylah Hodgson 173. Again the hard fairways gave excellent value for drives however this extra distance had to be tempered with canny club selection or players would overshoot and put themselves in a poor position for their 2<sup>nd</sup> shot. The greens were very receptive to well played wedges and generally putted very true. however there was some variation in speed; all players carefully watched others' putts to better gauge the speed of a green

The day's results were; **Scratch**

**Boys' U21** Tom Crawford; 75  
**Boys' U15** Cameron John; 76  
**Girls' U21** Kristi Bilkey; 86

**Handicap**

Kristi Bilkey; 86/10/76  
 Mitchell Ralston; 84/13/71  
 Tylah Hodgson; 87/6/81

**RGC Junior Tournament -Gary Watts Shield; Presented by Dalhousie District Women's Captain Beryl Cole**

**MRJT Champions;** Tom Crawford; 75  
 Presented by Tim McCartney (Bendigo Bank)  
 Cameron John; 227

Kristi Bilkey; 86  
 Kristi Bilkey; 254

**Chris Gaunt Cup** Presented by MRJT committee member David Muller  
 Mitchell Ralston 251/214 c/b Luke Rebbechi; 248/214, K. Bilkey; 254/224

The 2014 tournament closed with many thanks to the players and their families, the tournament sponsors, the organising committee and all those who prepared food and provided refreshments on and off the course. The committees and members of the three clubs were also thanked for their efforts to prepare the courses and for opening their facilities to the tournament

*The Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament will again be held over the Labour Day long weekend March 7/8/9, 2015*



**WGDD Captain Beryl Cole with Gary Watts Shield winners Kristi Bilkey & Tom Crawford (Bacchus Marsh)**