Entry type: Organisation
Entry ID: AWE2233

Women’s Golf Victoria

(1906 -)

Born	19060101, Victoria Australia
Occupation	Sporting Organisation

Summary

The Victorian Ladies’ Golf Union (VLGU) was established in 1906 after the golfing women of Geelong, in 1905, had initiated moves to create an organisation to further the development of golf for women in Victoria. There were six foundation clubs – Caulfield (later known as Metropolitan, Colac, Kew, Essendon (Northern), Geelong and Surrey Hills (Riversdale) – with a total of 278 members.

The women of the union immediately established themselves as women of action. Within its first six months, the Union had undertaken a standardised handicapping system, decided to introduce pennant competition, held a number of friendly interclub matches and initiated a silver medal competition, a competition that is still played as the Silver Spoon event. Since those early days, the VLGU has overseen metropolitan and country competitions, junior development and the emergence of some exceptional talent. Jane Lock, for instance, began her international career playing junior golf in competitions overseen by the VLGU.

Needless to say, the VLGU has undergone change and development throughout its 100 years of existence. Competition stopped, for instance, during the first and second world wars and the members put their considerable skills and networks to use to raise funds for the war effort. The Equal Opportunity Act of 1985 had a huge impact on the way clubs operated and laid the foundations for the way the sport is organised today.

The 1990s were a time of great change for the Union, with the most important issue being that of constitutional change. Over the years, the development of the sport in Victoria had outgrown the ability of the governing structure to operate efficiently and democratically. Between 1992 and 1994 the board worked to develop a new constitution that would take the Union into the new millennium. As a reflection of this new direction, a new name was adopted. In June 1995 the Victorian Ladies’ Golf Union became Women’s Golf Victoria.

In November 2010 Women’s Golf Victoria amalgamated with the Victorian Golf Association to form the umbrella organisation Golf Victoria.

Events

1906 - 1906
Victorian Ladies' Golf Union Established

1907 - 1907
Nellie Gatehouse wins the first State Championship presided over by the Victorian Ladies Golf Union

1925 - 1925
Inaugural Girls' Golf Championship of Victoria played

1925 - 1925
Mona Macleod wins the first of five Victorian Championships

1927 - 1927
The Victorian Ladies' Golf Union wrests control of the organisation of the Victorian Championship from the male run Victorian Golf Association

1929 - 1929
The first country golf tournament presided over by the Victorian Ladies' Golf Union is held in Hamilton, Victoria

1953 - 1953
The Mona Macleod Brooch competition is established to commemorate her contribution to women's golf

1961 - 1961
Burtta Cheney set a course record of 71 at Royal Melbourne

1966 - 1966
Burtta Cheney established the annual junior camp at Anglesea

1985 - 1985
The Equal Opportunity Act changes the way golf clubs are organised

1993 - 1993
Karrie Webb breaks Burtta Cheney's course record at Royal Melbourne

1994 - 1994
A new constitution in adopted

1995 - 1995
Victorian Ladies' Golf Union adopts the name Women's Golf Victoria

Published resources

Site Exhibition
She's Game: Women Making Australian Sporting History, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2007, http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/sg/sport-home.html

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Private hands (These records may not be readily available)
Papers of the Victorian Ladies Golf Union

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