



Northern Golf Club

# NORTHERN GOLF CLUB HISTORY

Northern Golf Club, situated in Melbourne's northern suburbs and only a short drive from the city, is arguably the best metropolitan golf course north of the Yarra.

Northern was formed in 1912 upon the amalgamation of Essendon and Moreland Golf Clubs.

Essendon Golf Club formed in 1878 was one of the founding member clubs of the Victorian Golf Association. Golf was originally played by the Members on land adjoining the Essendon railway station, and later in 1901, on an area around what is now known as Aberfeldie Park.

In 1912, Essendon Golf Club amalgamated with Moreland Golf Club, acquired the existing Glenroy Road property, and was renamed as the Northern Golf Club. The Club commenced with a Membership of 99 men and 31 ladies. The original Club colours were Red and Black, but in 1925, changed to our current Navy Blue and Gold.

Our Foundation President was the Honourable William Alexander Watt, who was President for the period 1912 to 1914. During this period, he was Treasurer for Victoria, while in 1913-1914 he was both Premier and Treasurer. He transferred from the Legislative Assembly of Victoria to the House of Representatives in 1914. During the absence of Prime Minister W.M. Hughes in Britain during 1918 – 1919, William Watt was Acting Prime Minister of Australia, and in 1920 was appointed as a Privy Councillor.

Great foresight by the Club's pioneers managed to obtain a magnificent location for golf. Generally flat, as is the characteristic of the area, but well drained and heavily treed with native eucalypts, which are an endearing feature of the course.

Throughout its 96 year history the course has undergone a number of reconstructions but significant changes by Thomson and Wolveridge and recent updates has resulted in a challenging 6014-metre par 72 course. Situated on a clay belt, the Club has sand-ana couch fairways and now rivals the sand-belt courses with its excellent fairway lies and ideal playing surface.

Northern is an outstanding Members course which can be quite demanding in the winter period but provides excellent all year round golf for its 1280 Members. This jewel of the north, a truly undiscovered golfing pleasure, is recognised by visitors and tournament players alike as a fine venue and an experience to be enjoyed. The course is highlighted by its large greens, which provide for a variety of pin placements to expose subtle variations of speed and line and make putting an interesting challenge.

Today's magnificent course is a credit to the Club's managements of recent years, which have pursued the design recommendations to develop large well-drained and fast greens, to re-shape and lengthen the fairways, construct dams in discreet locations and to create undulations to add character to the fairways. The continuing course development program incorporates tee and bunker reconstruction and restoration to ensure the standard of the club's magnificent course is upheld.

The course is further complemented by Northern's excellent clubhouse and facilities, which provide for the comfort and enjoyment of the Members and also as a well sought-after reception centre. The recent enlargement of the Club lounge and the addition of the covered outdoor area provide excellent social facilities for members comfort and are enjoyed and appreciated before and after a game.

Northern's Members enjoy a busy annual program of Club tournaments, events and weekly competitions. Northern Golf Club is the venue for the Northern Open, an Ivo Whitton event, and hosts Pro-ams, Charity golf days, and VGA, and WGV events. The Club is always strongly represented in pennant competitions and while premierships are always difficult to win Northern's players generally perform well.

Aware of its responsibility in promoting the game to ensure the future of golf, Northern prides itself on its Junior Development Program. This program has established a special calendar for its juniors, has enjoyed success in competitions, and has also taken golf to local primary schools.

The Club has also given special encouragement to ladies to increase their numbers playing golf.

Northern, which is well served by its staff and its Professional, provides its Members with a variety of golfing and social activities and opportunities and is a great local golf club with a proud tradition.

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Northern Golf Club is currently preparing itself for the future. Many Golf clubs are currently feeling the pressures of dwindling membership numbers, leading to higher and higher subscription levels.

Northern is looking to utilise its facilities as much as possible, for example by external businesses, as a means to attract different revenue streams, thereby alleviating annual subscription pressure on the Members. However, to do this we need to look at improving our current facilities to help attract those areas to the Club. The Club has embarked on a path of establishing better Clubhouse facilities through a plan to renovate and rejuvenate areas of the Clubhouse, with a view to better accommodate external business people, while at the same time minimising the impact on Members.

Quite recently, we have moved into the provision of an in-house catering service to ensure that we can provide the high level of quality dining to suit both corporate requirements, while at the same time meeting our Member's requirements for dining facilities.

We encourage all new Members to utilise the Clubhouse facilities as much as possible to assist in the ongoing development and growth of our catering service.

***WE HAVE A PROUD AND GREAT PAST, WE LOOK FORWARD TO AN EVEN BETTER FUTURE.***