



Forest Hills Golf Club

Celebrating
75 Years
1937 to 2012

Dingley Village Victoria

The History of the Forest Hills Golf Club

The Forest Hills Golf Club has had a long history. It began back in 1904 with nine holes being established in Stud Road, Dandenong where the current Dandenong TAFE is situated. This golf club was then called the Dandenong Golf Club.

In 1909 the club moved to Dandenong Park in an area between Pultney St and Dandenong Creek. In 1910 the club shifted to paddocks of a Mr. Hungerford which consisted of 13 holes. For unknown reasons the club moved back to Dandenong Park in 1912.

Dandenong Park area was unavailable for golf between 1917 and 1919 due to the War. After the 1st World War in 1919, golf started again on a property owned by Macpherson and Rodd and nine holes was established adjacent to the State School, now occupied by the Historical Society.

During 1920 the Dandenong Golf Club established 18 holes on the property of Mr. Hemmings over the Dandenong Creek and south east of Macpersons paddock. This is now the location of the Dandenong Workers Club in Wedge St Dandenong.

The Dandenong Golf Club changed its name to Kingswood Golf Club in 1931 and the course was redesigned by MA & HV Morcom. With the urbanization of Dandenong in 1936, Kingswood Golf Club decided to relocate to its current home in Centre Dandenong Road, Dingley Village.

As a result of Kingswood relocating, the Forest Hills Golf Club was established on the Hemmings Paddocks in 1937. The club was so named because at the time, the club was in a Forest under the Dandenong Hills. At the same time as its establishment, and deciding the club was going to be opened to the public and not just be a private golf club, it joined the Victoria Golf League. This was done in 1937 and the Forest Hills G.C. was the 14th club to join the VGL which itself was established in 1934.

In 1949 a group of Forest Hills members left the club and formed Spring Valley Golf Club at Dunlop Road, north of Heatherton Road Springvale.

Most of the history from 1949 to 1999 has been lost through the various moves, however with the growth of Dandenong and Doveton throughout the 1970's, the 18 hole course was reduced to 9 holes as new estates were being built.

In 1957 the Club won its first Victorian Golf League Pennant, which was represented by Claude Gooding, Charles Manning, Walter Hodge, John Ivey, Archie Franklin, Julian Ward, Ian Hetherington (Captain) Jack Quigley, and Brian Jones. They defeated Brighton 4 and 3 on 21st July 1957. The club has been very competitive in the VGL Pennant and has won 8 Handicap Pennant Flags, with 3 Handicap Flags between the years 2006 to 2011. This has seen the Club rise from Division 7 to Division 4 in the VGL Handicap Pennant.

In 1998 having come to a mutual arrangement, Forest Hills Golf Club left the Dandenong Workers Golf Course and moved its home to the Oakleigh Golf Course at the corner of Park Road and Oakpark Drive in Oakleigh. This is a Par 29 with only 9 holes, 7 of which are Par 3's.

After 5 years, the Stuart Appleby Fountain was looking for a headquarters for its Junior Golf Program and so the Forest Hills Golf Club had to relocate again. In 2003 the Club took up residence at the Spring Park Golf Course, Corner Centre Dandenong & Lower Dandenong Roads, Dingley Village where it is still today. This course is a Par 33 and is 2,205 metres long. It is considered to be one of the best 9 hole courses in Melbourne. Six of the 9 holes were a part of the Southern Golf Course, before a tragic accident occurred when a player was communing between the course proper and the 6 holes over Lower Dandenong Road. As a result the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works and the Southern Golf Club came to an arrangement whereby Southern would acquire MMBW land adjacent to the existing course, and the MMBW would take over the 6 holes and create a Public course. Later when the MMBW dissolved, Parks Victoria took control and developed it into a 9 hole course.

Juniors have always been a priority with the Club, fostering a number of very good players who have played Pennant at various Metropolitan Clubs. Stuart Sears and Ian Hetherington both won the VGL Medal of Medalist for their respective years. The Coulon brothers, David and his younger brother Daniel, who both were sent to the VGL Golf School each year by the Club, have shone through. David being the Club Champion for the past 16 years and represented the Club in both Pennant and major VGL Events, and Daniel who turned Professional and taught at the Capital Golf Club in Canberra and Mission Hills in China. Daniel is currently the Director of Malaysia Golf.

Being an early member of the Victorian Golf League, the Club has for a number of years had members join the VGL Executive Committee. Over the past 75 years, 3 Members have joined the VGL Executive Committee. The 1st being Jack Sutherland. Unfortunately there are no records to indicate the number of years he served. 2nd was Ted Rogers who served for 19 years. Through Ted's commitment to golf, the Club and the VGL, Ted was given the privilege of Life Membership to both the Forest Hills Golf Club and the Victorian Golf League. The third member to join the VGL was Peter Frost, the current Club Captain and Handicapper, who joined in 2011.



1957 Winning Pennant Side