

## Beginners Clinics

The Beginner Clinic Program at Belvoir Park Golf Club is now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year. The program has been running every Friday morning since 2015 back when Di Ratcliffe instigated the program and was Lady Captain and Mark Bamford took the lessons. The aim was to boost the number of members.

It starts with an hour long lesson for the first five weeks and is always followed by cake, coffee and a chat. During the first years the lessons were conducted by Mark Bamford (Regional Development Officer with Golf Victoria and also member of Belvoir Park). In recent years the club's PGA Professional, Paul Powell, has taken the participants through the lessons.

For the rest of the year there has been two hours of play out on the course (followed by more coffee, cake and chat!). It starts as "hit and giggle" but as the year progresses participants are taught the basic rules, the etiquette of the game, how to use a scorecard and then by term 4 they learn about the golf handicap and the different formats of the game. A few Belvoir Park members accompany the new players – two of whom are accredited "Community Golf Instructors". Many thanks to the helpers who give up their time to assist, Leo Treble, David Baird, Tim Maxwell, Peter Savy, Sue Slattery and long time assistant Geoff Adamson.

The program is now part of Golf Australia's "Get into Golf" initiative.

During the nine years there have been over 130 participants who have travelled from locations such as Castlemaine, Lockwood South, Junortoun, Raywood, Gisborne and everywhere in between. Most are brand new to the sport, others have played before. Not all participants go on to play golf regularly – some decide golf is not their "thing" other have relocated, some were already members at other clubs or go to join their local club, but the program is achieving its initial aim. Of the current women members at Belvoir Park, 37 have participated in the Beginner Clinic Program.

Thanks to anyone who has helped in any way to make the program a continued success.

Jeff Harris,

Co-Ordinator