

## **Barwon Grove Golf Club Synopsis**

### **The 'Tin Shed'**

The Barwon Grove Golf Club is 49 years old; it was originally located where the current tennis courts are on Geelong Rd, Barwon Heads. The original membership grew in numbers, mostly consisting of wharfies from Melbourne & Geelong with a few locals added in.

Local police requested the Clubhouse be moved to its present location behind CFA, which at the time was considered out of sight. The Membership of the Club has always been diverse and full of local characters which have defined the Club. Many of the elder community and younger community to this day enjoy, each other's company on a Sunday afternoon at the Clubhouse.

The Club house is affectionately known as the 'Tin Shed' it was built entirely by members, improved and extended over the years to the comfortable and unique facility we have today.

The Barwon Grove Golf Club is not fortunate enough to have its own course, but play at the Barwon Heads Golf Club (BHGC) on Sunday mornings; this arrangement goes back to an agreement of land swap with BHGC and a State Government. The Act of Parliament was struck by the then premier John Cain Snr. When BHGC is not available 13<sup>th</sup> Beach Golf Club is kind enough to give us access to their course, our club members appreciate being able to play on such wonderfully manicured and acknowledged golf courses!

Raising funds for charities is high on the agenda of the Club, focusing on children in need. Our main fund raiser is our Good Friday Auction on behalf of 'Rainbow Riders'. The club in the past has supported the 'Cottage by the Sea' (CBTS) in Queenscliff and before that the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal. 19 years ago the club became aware of the CBTS and its lack of Government funding and was very dedicated to assisting their cause. From a humble start of \$100 donation the club has raised over \$200,000 for this wonderful cause. The club has now turned its attention to the 'Rainbow Riders' whom are just beginning their efforts in assisting under privileged children.

The Club has embarked on many raffles to support the Good Friday Auction. We encourage any potential donors to contact us with items that can be auctioned on Good Friday and invite as many people to attend a fun day where they can bid for quality items and may pick up a bargain.

The Barwon Grove Golf Club also supports other Clubs and organizations in Barwon Heads by allowing them to use the facility. The Barwon Heads Soccer Club hold their AGM and monthly committee meetings at the Club, the BH Kindergarten hold their annual fundraiser there free of charge, the Darts Club held regular competition nights there and the BH Cricket Club hold their 'out of season' meetings there. The Club is very much a community Club.

The club is family orientated and has always supported worthy local community causes, in the past the club has raised funds to assist in the payment of medical bills, sending sporting groups overseas, donated \$10,000 to a local family, also \$14,000 for an operation to insert an automatic insulin pump into a local lad, given a \$1,000 to Jacob Marsden to assist in the purchase of a new wheelchair, \$2,000 to the Barwon Heads Hall for a new roof, this year; \$500 to assist in the formation of the Barwon Heads Soccer Club, held a fund raiser for a local gentleman whom suffered a stroke at 52 (his daughter attends the BH Primary school), donated \$2,000 to the Alfred Hospital Burns Unit after the Black Saturday bushfires and donated \$2,000 to the BH Football Club to purchase a new set of jumpers for the juniors. All this whilst maintaining its own viability.

Annually, the club donates amounts of money to the following organizations;

- The Barwon Heads Kindergarten
- The Barwon Heads Primary School
- 13<sup>th</sup> Beach Surf Life Saving Club Juniors
- Barwon Heads Cricket Club
- Barwon Heads Soccer Club (newly formed)
- Barwon Heads Basketball Club (newly formed)
- Barwon Heads & Ocean Grove Little Athletics
- Barwon Heads Tennis Club
- Barwon Heads Football Club Juniors
- Barwon Heads Pony Club

This Club is so unique, it has even supported a funeral which was held at the Clubrooms, many weddings and wedding receptions have occurred at the Club, many of our past members and local residents have been fare welled at wakes at the Club and many of the local young adults have come of age at the Club and held their 21<sup>st</sup> there.

None of this would be possible without the support and hard work of our committee and members and most importantly the continued fantastic generosity of our locals and other supporters. The Club has been very much self sufficient and has never looked for assistance from local council, State Governments or the Federal Government.

The 'Tin Shed' invites local families to call in on a Sunday's between 12 and 6pm, have a drink and a social chat and perhaps join our club. This Club embodies everything which is Barwon Heads; a small community which looks after its own and cares for those less fortunate!