

Victorian Veteran Golfers Association Inc.

Reg No A0023016N

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th August 2025

At the Mt Derrimut Golf Club

The President: Ern Kraulis opened the meeting at 10.25 am and welcomed all serving Councillors present.

1/. Present: President Ern Kraulis. Secretary John Robertson. Treasurer Greg Bennett. Councillors: Ann Dickinson. John Raven, Geoff Cohen (phoned into meeting). John Roberts. Brian Smith. Neil Fowler. Guest Peter Novotny (nominating councillor for 2026 Western Zone)

2/. Apologies received. Vice-President Geoff Cook. Captain Peter Turner. Moved Brian Smith, seconded by John Raven. **Carried.**

3/. “If any Executive Member or Councillor has any pecuniary interest in any subject or matter to be discussed at VVGA Council meetings, please advise VVGA President Ern Kraulis of your interest.”

4/. To receive minutes of the previous Council meeting held at the Mt Derrimut Golf Club on 02/02/2025.

Moved John Roberts and seconded by Greg Bennett that these minutes be received. **Carried.**

5/. Business arising.

No business arising

4/. Correspondence is included in the agenda.

5/. Correspondence Out: as included in the agenda.

Business for discussion arising from correspondence.

Moved, Greg Bennett, Seconded John Roberts, that all inwards and outwards correspondence be dealt with and received. **Carried**

5/. Financial Report: Treasurer Greg Bennett

Treasurer Greg Bennett reported the current financial position of \$9,038.51 in the Savings Account, and \$15,000.00 and \$5000.00 in our Term Deposit Accounts.

Moved. Greg Bennett, seconded by John Roberts, that the Treasurer's report as presented be accepted, and accounts already paid be approved. **Carried.**

Treasurer Greg Bennett: Moved that VVGA Affiliation fees for 2025/2026 remain at \$4.50 per member, seconded by Neil Fowler. **Carried.**

Greg has announced that 2026 will be his last year as VVGA Treasurer and will not seek renomination at the 2026 VVGA AGM. Any member interested in this position can contact Treasurer Greg or President Ern Kraulis for further information.

6/. Captains Report:

Captain Peter submitted a written report. Peter reported on the upcoming VVGA Teams Event to be held at the Portland Golf Club on September 16th & 17th, 2025. Peter has tracked down the trophy for this event, and it will be at the Portland Golf Club for presentations.

VVGA State Championships at Belvoir Park, November 24th & 25th 2025, preparations are well in hand for this event.

Malcolm Macpherson, Individual Stableford Challenge, Phillip Island Golf Club, a meeting with the club is being convened in October 2025, and the Flyer/entry forms will be out early March 2026.

The VVGA 4BBB event will be played at the Myrtleford Golf Club on March 23rd & 24th, 2026. A meeting is scheduled with the club in early September 2025 to produce the event flyer, which is expected to be out early January 2026.

Moved, Ann Dickinson, that the captain's written report be received and accepted, seconded by Brian Smith. **Carried.**

7/. Councillor Reports.

Bayside Zone.

John Raven. Bayside Zone is struggling to get playing members due to ongoing rises in competition fees. Districts within this zone are hoping to trial games, combining districts to get more players at events. The cost per game on the peninsula is \$100 per game.

Councillor John has surveyed members, and cost is the biggest issue for members.

John has also had a meeting with the Eastern Zone and Bayside Zone presidents to discuss a way forward for veteran groups.

Western Zone

Ann Dickinson. Ann reported that entries for the VVGA Teams Event at the Portland Golf Club currently have 114 players entered, and this will be capped at 120.

Ann also passed on that Bevan Zimmerman, Glenelg District member, has passed away.

The VVGA State Championship at the Horsham Golf Club will be played on November 9th and 10th, 2026. These dates are due to a request from Horsham Golf Club.

Sunraysia District is currently looking for a new district secretary.

Sunraysia District Championships A & B grade winners were lady members.

Eastern Zone.

Geoff Cohen. Has suggested that the Council look at all Veterans events being played from the forward tees due to the age of all members.

Geoff submitted a report on the inaugural Trafalgar 4BBB event, 104 players attended.

Geoff reported on future planning for this event, the positives from the event, and networking.

The forward tees were played, and a suggestion was made for VVGA to implement them at all tournaments.

Metropolitan Zone.

Neil Fowler. No report

Southern Zone.

Steve Preston sent a written report on the Maryborough Golf Club application for the 2026 VVGA Teams Event, stating that they have received the paperwork for this event.

Steve reported on feedback from the Colac Golf Club Country Championship event.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Steve has relinquished his position as Southern Zone Councillor. Council thanks Steve for his time as a councillor and wishes him well in the future.

Ballarat, Corangamite, and Geelong currently lack representation on the Council. Any members from these districts interested in serving as a Southern Zone Councillor should contact me or VVGA President Ern for details.

Northern Zone.

John Roberts. Northern Zone played their challenge between North Eastern, Dalhousie, and Goulburn Valley with 112 players representing their districts.

Broadford Golf Club has applied to host the 2027 Malcolm Macpherson Challenge Event

Loddon Zone.

Brian Smith. Belvoir Park Golf Club's new golf professional has been appointed and will begin duties soon.

Brian has indicated that the playing numbers for the Central district are good.

Vice-President Geoff Cook.

Planning for the VVGA State Championship Event at Belvoir Park, Bendigo, is progressing well. The Monday evening dinner will take place at the Golden Square Hotel.

Jacob Boyce is the new golf professional appointed and will start on Monday, 15th September 2025.

Along with the VVGA President, Geoff and Ern are developing Policies, Procedures, and By-Laws to complete the governance documentation that will dovetail into the VVGA Rules.

Vice President Geoff has announced that he will not be standing for Council and the Vice-President's position at the 2026 VVGA AGM. If any member is interested in standing for this position, please contact VVGA President Ern Kraulis.

VVGA Secretary reported that VVGA President Ern and he played in the inaugural Peter Kelly Memorial Event at the Donald Golf Club. Seventy-eight players represented Wimmera and Kara Kara Districts. President Ern assisted with trophy presentations.

Moved, Brian Smith, seconded by Geoff Cohen, that all the Councillors' reports as tabled be received and accepted. **Carried.**

GENERAL BUSINESS.

An email from David Waters, President of ESVGA, has been written to the council requesting that the VVGA look at shifting our tournaments so that they don't conflict with district events. After a discussion with VVGA President Ern and Vice-President Geoff Cook, a letter was drafted and sent to David, stating that the VVGA State tournaments take precedent over all district events. This reply was endorsed by the council and Councillors.

The VVGA has received notification of a sponsorship opportunity. This was previously received last year, and it will be forwarded to all districts to follow up if they wish to. Moved Brian Smith and seconded by John Raven that this correspondence be passed on to district secretaries. **Carried**

The VVGA has reinstated the VVGA Championship Trophy after it was found and returned to the council. It has been updated to the current year. Councillor John Raven has contacted the original sponsor of the trophy to see if they wish to continue this sponsorship. They replied that their sponsorship has been allocated for this year.

Vacancy in one of the VVGA teams entered at the Teams Event at Portland G.C. Moved Greg Bennett, seconded Brian Smith, that due to all Councillors being entered in the team's event at Portland Golf Club, we seek a player to fill the vacant position. **Carried** (This position has been filled).

AVGU General Business for discussion.

The AVGU has a proposal to have a Management Liability Insurance policy and has presented this proposal to all States.

After a council discussion, it was moved by Greg Bennett and seconded by John Raven that, due to the VVGA having its own Combined Liability Insurance, this covers the VVGA Council and District Committees Indemnity and Members Public Liability Insurance. The VVGA does not support or wish to take part in this insurance proposal. **Carried.**

New emblem, the VVGA is not against this idea, and while we would not at this stage be changing our identification, we could change our letterheads on our correspondence to reflect any changes.

AVGU Teams Event, the VVGA has sought interest in this event within our districts, but there is no interest in this event from our members. Will this take players away from the National Championships?

Victoria is rostered to hold the National Championships in 2029.

Next Meeting 10/12/2025 at Mt Derrimut Golf & Country Club

The meeting closed at 12.50 pm.

Signed; President.....

Dated.....