

Victorian Veteran Golfers Association Inc.

Reg No A0023016N



**Minutes of Council Meeting
held Wednesday 15th April 2026
At Mt Derrimut Golf Club
10.30am**

President Ern Kraulis opened the meeting at 10:22 am and welcomed all present.

1/. PRESENT: President Ern Kraulis, Vice President Geoff Cook, Captain Peter Turner, Treasurer Greg Bennett, Secretary Ann Dickinson, Councillors Brian Smith, Peter Novotny, Bob Bates, John Roberts, David Waters, Geoff Cohen (via phone)

2/. APOLOGIES: Neil Fowler

Moved Greg Bennett Seconded Geoff Cook Carried

3/. *"If any Executive Member or Councillor has a pecuniary and / or conflict of interest in any subject or matter to be discussed at VVGA Council meetings please advise VVGA President Ern Kraulis of your interest."*

Ern moved a motion that we accept David Waters as the new Zone Councillor for Bayside.
Seconded Bob Bates. Carried
(David to order 2 x shirts and Greg will organise a badge)

4/. Receive minutes of the previous Council Meeting held at the Mt Derrimut Golf Club on 10/12/2025.

Moved John Roberts Seconded Geoff Cook Carried

5/. Matters arising from these minutes:

Try to have 2027 VVGA events locked in by June 2026. Western Zone are contacting districts regarding this. John Roberts to continue to look for suitable course.

10 x VVGA logo caps (if sponsored) for VVGA events. **Geoff Cohen to continue to look at sponsorship for bucket hats.**

Wimmera Veteran Golf re: VVGA teams event feedback from women. **Ann has sent a letter to Wimmera with the response from VVGA.**

AVGA event in Victoria 2029. Need to decide where , and when (end October /early November 2029). Find Tournament Director (host district). **See Ann's report.**

Teams event trophy to be available prior to 2026 event at Buninyong. **Geoff Cohen will have it at Phillip Island event.**

6/. Correspondence IN:

1/12/25 Lisa Zanker re: Perry Fletcher award photos and info
2/12/25 Parmaker Sponsorship invoice
9/12/25 Neil Muller – new ESVGA Sec and request for VVGA model rules
11/12/25 SG vets 2026 fixture
11/12/25 Geoff Cohen re Sponsorship/Membership subcommittee
15/12/15 Peter Turner – Buninyong GC planning meeting report
23/12/25 Myrtleford GC re Bendigo Bank sponsorship for flyer
26/12/25 Ian Parlby request help with input scores through GA Connect
4/1/26 Sport Cover renewal declaration form
16/1/26 Sports Focus update contact details
21/1/26 NW Vets update re Sec/Treasurer and Captain
21/1/26 Johansen Insurance Broker
22/1/26 WG Vets requesting confirmation of VVGA Teams event dates
24/1/26 ESVGA new Secretary
27/1/26 VVGA 4BBB entry at Myrtleford GC
29/1/26 Johansen Insurance Brokers renewal
1/2/26 Geoff Cohen request re: details of Parmaker sponsorship
1/2/26 Geoff Cohen re: Parmaker sponsorship
3/2/26 Geoff Cohen – VVGA caps details
6/2/26 Sports Focus membership
9/2/26 Bill Estrada – application from Traralgon GC to host 2027 4BBB
11/2/26 Geoff Cohen – query re: VVGA affiliation fees
12/2/26 Vets Golf SA website address update
19/2/26 Geoff Cohen – Australian Senior Golfer magazine
20/2/26 John Raven resignation
2/3/26 Phillip Island GC Malcolm Macpherson entry form
5/3/26 Geoff Cohen – Volunteer grants 2026
12/3/26 Bob Bates re: MiScore and Corangamite Vets
17/3/26 Johansen Insurance update
17/3/26 2025 affiliations
18/3/25 BDVGA contact details update
30/3/26 Microsoft subscription – due to Microsoft linked to ex-Secretary John Robertson, Ann has been advised to let subscription lapse, then have an old version put onto laptop so is no longer linked to John. Committee agreed.
1/4/26 email from David King re: 4BBB event
7/4/26 email from Phillip Island GC re: which tee boxes to use
7/4/26 email from Geoff Cohen
8/4/26 letter from ESVGA re: 2025 AGM
13/4/26 applications from Sale GC and Bairnsdale GC to host in 2028.

7/. Correspondence OUT:

5/12/25 response re: Perry Fletcher award
11/12/25 response to Geoff Cohen re Sponsorship/Membership subcommittee
16/12/25 receipt to Parmaker for sponsorship
27/12/25 Peter Turner response re entering scores through GA Connect
22/1/26 response to WG Vets re VVGA Teams dates
22/1/26 Insurance renewal (Johansen Insurance Brokers)
22/1/26 format of 4BBB and calendar of VVGA 2026 events
30/3/26 response to Wimmera Vets letter of 16/10/25 re: 2025 teams event
2/4/26 response to David King re: 4BBB event
2/4/26 condolence email to Neil Fowler (brother)

8/4/26 response from Peter Turner re: Phillip Island GC query re: tee boxes

Business for discussion arising from correspondence to be dealt with in General Business.

5/3/26 Geoff Cohen re: Volunteer grant 2026

12/3/26 Bob Bates re: MiScore assistance from Don Withan CVGA Captain

Moved Geoff Cook Seconded Peter Turner Carried

7/. Financial Report: Treasurer. (as attached)

Moved Greg Seconded Bob that the Treasurer's report as presented be accepted and accounts already paid be approved. Carried

8/. Captains Report: (As attached to agenda)

Moved Peter Turner Seconded Greg Carried

9/. Vice Presidents report: (As attached to agenda).

Moved Geoff Cook Seconded Brian Carried

10/. Councillors Reports:

Metropolitan Zone (Neil Fowler)

Nothing to report from Metropolitan Zone.

Northern Zone (John Roberts)

In mid-January, I had the pleasure of visiting Parkland Golf Club, where I enjoyed a delightful day of golf. Following the game, I was honoured to chair the Annual General Meeting (AGM), during which all existing office bearers were re-elected unopposed. Notably, we observed a slight increase in membership, reflecting the club's ongoing appeal.

I would like to extend my [congratulations](#) to Myrtleford Golf Club for successfully hosting the 2026 4BBB Championship. Their efforts were commendable, and I hope they will consider hosting future VVGA events, as their facilities and organization truly shine.

As of the date of this report, I am still awaiting a response from Marysville Golf Club regarding their interest in hosting future VVGA state events. I plan to follow up with them today, March 31, 2026.

Additionally, I have received an inquiry from Dalhousie Veterans about the status of their application to host the 2027 VVGA event. I will keep you updated on any developments.

I also reached out to Goulburn Vets and North Eastern Vets, and I am pleased to report that neither has any matters arising at this time.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to further engaging with our clubs in the Northern Zone.

Western Zone (Peter Novotny)

Issues

1. The potential effects of fuel shortages and price rises on travel to districts events is yet to be fully understood.

Events & Activities

2. Veterans Three- Way Inter-District Challenge to be held at Chalambar (Ararat) cancelled in April.

3. Membership in Wimmera District continues to rise this year.

4. Planning for the November VVGA State Championships at Horsham advancing locally led by David Baker. Considering including a stand alone event on Sunday prior to the championships.

Bayside Zone (David Waters)

Thank the councillors for inviting me to be a council member. I have had [congratulations](#) extended to me from other associations. I am pleased the ESVGA committee yesterday endorsed my taking this role.

The Bayside zone associations have played with Melbourne districts in a combined event recently and would like to have further similar events in coming years dependent on internal fixtures being compatible.

Individual associations have either played or planned games from other zones and/or planned games within Bayside zone.

The two objectives being; to foster greater experience and contact with other playing groups and to obtain better financial conditions with course managements.

Within the Bayside zone there is good communication between committees via presidents.

During the past year I have spoken with many people from different clubs and associations. These people are unclear on definitions and roles within the VVGA of councillors, association delegates and representatives. These need to be clear and transparent in order for players to understand the way the VVGA operates.

Loddon Zone (Brian Smith)

It has been a good start for vets golf so far. we have good attendances and great weatherat belvoir 99 players....castle maine 70....bendigo 98 ...neangar 96 players....we had a goulburn valley challenge at bendigo...the tom downie shield...which we were successful....We also had a captain v president day at neangar which was won by the presidents team.....the major problem that we will have in the future will be a lack of petrol supplies.....

Southern Zone (Bob Bates)

We need to discuss the Miscore application.

Also I attended the Ballarat District AGM on Wed Feb 11th at Buninyong Golf Club.

Also I attended the Corangamite District AGM on Tues March 10th at Terang Golf Club.
The process at Myrtleford needs to be defined as some player's complained about the Monday lunch packet.

Gippsland Zone (Geoff Cohen)

Golf is growing strong in the Gippsland zone with increased participation in all districts.

Interdistrict games

South played a shared game with Eastern Suburbs at Lang Lang on 19 March. 83 players participated. New friends were made and the game was played under excellent course conditions.

Gippsland districts challenge: Will be played at Yallourn GC on Monday 20th April - 40 players from each district will participate in this annual challenge.

South G will play a game with Peninsula district at Lang Lang on Monday 15th June.

Trafalgar 4BBB open to all Victorian vets will be held on Monday 29th June. Entry form will be sent out at the end of May to all districts. Last year this event was a major success with 108 players from 6 districts.

East G vs South G will be played at Yarram on 7th September,

South G vs West G will be played at Drouin GC on 26th October,

East vs South will be played at Sale GC on 16th November.

VVGA events in Gippsland Malcolm Mcpherson challenge 4th & 5th May. Preparations are underway and 45 entries have been received.

2027 program Application to host has been received from Traralgon GC - for Council to approve at this meeting. GC met with the Traralgon delegate Mr Peter Bray and West Gippsland President Darryl Henderson on Tuesday 11th March to discuss the procedures and format of the event. Interest in hosting a VVGA event from Trafalgar, Sale, Maffra, Bairnsdale and Leongatha.' Council must look to hold more events in this region with VVGA support.

Note : No players from South Gippsland region attended the 4bbb due to lack of availability of carts.

Moved Greg Seconded Geoff Cook Carried

AVGA Delegates report (Ann Dickinson)

I have spoken with Brian Nankivell (President of AVGA) re: Victoria hosting the 2029 National Championship.

First decision: where? Possibly Yarrowonga District as was to be held there in 2020/2021 but cancelled due to Covid.

Need 3 courses in close proximity or 2 courses that can host am and pm.

Usually held early November, but can be last week in October.

Tournament Director – usually on committee of host district.

Need accommodation, dining venues, non-player events

Up to 350 people for dinner. Can be a smorgasbord

Committee deals with social events, functions, golf.

I also participated in a Zoom meeting in February with AVGA Delegates, looking at Guidelines and Agreements

Ann to look into cost to VVGA to host 2029 National Championship.

Will the format be as per 2020/2021?

Ann to contact Daryl Dunford (ex AVGA delegate) for further information

11/. GENERAL BUSINESS for Council discussion

General business from correspondence:

(from Geoff Cohen)

- 1) 2027 program - Approval for Traralgon to host 2027 4bbb event 15th & 16th March 2027 **Geoff Cook moved a motion that we endorse the nomination for Traralgon to host the 4BBB 15th and 16th March 2027. Seconded Bob. Carried. Geoff Cohen to clarify cost of egg and bacon rolls.**
- 2) 2028 program- needs to be completed – in progress
- 3) Government grants -opportunities. Membership/Sponsorship committee to be responsible for looking into grants
- 4) What is the documented procedure and criteria for selection of courses- VVGA need a template which is consistent for selection and visible for all to see- criteria =number of carts /does club use Mi score/ location of course in relation to accommodation / partner events activities in the area/ eating facilities/ course quality /course undulation amount of hills/ accommodation options./ practice facilities/ previous experience in vets events/ course ranking in top 100. **Peter to modify nomination forms for each event.**
- 5) state championship venues for 2027 and beyond- Can this prestigious event please be played on the Murray courses such as Tocumwal / Cobram Barooga/ Yarrawonga Murray downs./ Barham These are quality courses which should attract our better golfers and centrally located. **These are not particularly centrally located, and VVGA prefer to have different Zones hosting.**

Ann had an email from a player regarding purchasing a VVGA polo top. **Ann to respond that VVGA tops identify VVGA executive and Councillors, so not for other players.**

Nomination forms received from Bairnsdale and Sale Golf Clubs to host 2028 VVGA State Championship. Geoff Cohen's preference is East Gippsland so Geoff will follow up with them, including completing application form, and clarifying costs for the event.(is the \$90 for 2 days play plus the egg and bacon roll?)

Email from ESVGGA (7/4/26) regarding Incorporated rules and 2025 VVGA AGM. **Ern will send a letter to all Districts regarding how AGM is run and nomination time frames etc.**

1/.Any other General Business as raised at meeting by Councillors.

Greg suggested we have host clubs present an "event summary" re: financial profit (entries, bar, raffle), etc within one month after the event. This should encourage potential host clubs to nominate to host an event. Discussion ensued. Not all in favour of this.

We need a chair of the Sponsorship/Membership committee to replace John Raven. Geoff Cohen has taken on this role. David Waters will now be on this committee.

Ann suggested we hold some VVGA meetings over Zoom/Meetings or similar. Possibly meet online every second meeting. Ern to look into costings of this. Geoff Cohen will look to see if there is a grant to cover costs.

Bob asked if the VVGA have their own stand alone MiScore. VVGA don't.

David asked about VVGA Insurance and affiliation fees for clubs. Insurance to cover indemnity of VVGA Directors and affiliation fees are used for prizes at VVGA events.

VVGA banner – a work in progress. Geoff Cohen to send Ann designs who will forward them to committee

Next Council Meeting : Wednesday 5th August 2026

As there was no further General Business VVGA President, Ern Kraulis, thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 2:32pm

Signed (President).....

Dated.....