

Heritage

JUNIORS

The rare distinction of the youngest member winning the club championship was achieved by Douglas Ranger in 1933. He was sixteen years old when he defeated his brother Kenneth, aged 18, in the final. They had joined the club three years earlier and at the time of the final both boys played off a handicap of three. Their father, Bill Ranger, was club captain from 1932 until 1933. The family returned to live in their native England at the end of 1935, but Kenneth remained in Australia to attend Point Cook in Victoria and pursue an air force career.



Douglas Ranger swings his club, watched by his brother Kenneth

Peter Davies was admitted to membership at the age of sixteen in 1949. His contribution to the Club is outlined in Champion Golfers – Men.

A Junior Club was formed in 1955 and records indicate an active Intermediate and Junior Members Association (IJMA) in the 1960's and 1970's with the young people enjoying social gatherings at car rallies and movie nights.

In 1964 Drew Tovey became the first Queenslander to win the Australian Schoolboys Championship. (See Champion Golfers – Men).

Other juniors to star in Club events during that era include the Egan brothers, Paul and Peter, who were also members of the winning 1975 junior pennant team (see Pennants – Men).

Greg Norman was a member of Indooroopilly for eleven months during his teenage years, before returning to Virginia Golf Club in 1974.

In the 1980's Danny Spencer and George Gunderson were successful in attracting junior golfers from country areas to Indooroopilly. This program helped the Club win their first men's open pennant for many years in 1986.



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Richard Backwell

Richard Backwell played in the Junior World Cup for Australia in 1980 at St Andrewes Scotland. He joined IGC as a 17 year old in 1981 from his home in Toowoomba. Richard had fond memories of George Gunderson who looked out for him and a couple of other young country recruits at the time.

He won two club championships in 1982 and 1986 before taking up a golf scholarship in the USA. After graduating with a Diploma in Business, he turned pro golfer in 1990. Richard lived in the US for 13 years and played in many countries, though mostly on the Japanese tour from 1993 to 2003, before returning to live on the Gold Coast.

Marty Roberts was Club Champion in 1988. He won the Doug Sanders World Junior Teams Championship in Scotland with Shane Tait in the same year. The following year he won the Australian Junior Championship.



Marty Roberts in his Australian blazer – 1989



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Some players who joined as juniors not only excelled at golf but have made administrative contributions.

- Peter Davies (twelve times Club Champion and member for 50 plus years) served 24 years on committee including as Captain 1961-65, President 1972-74, 1976 and was elected President of the Australian Golf Union in 1996.
- Rick Holzgreffe (Club Champion in 1975) joined Indooroopilly as a junior and was Club President in 1993-94.
- Ben Cullinan (Club Champion in 1990) joined the club in 1983 and later led the junior group.
- Kunal Bhasin joined the club in 1996 and served on the junior coordinators committee.

From the time he arrived at the club in 1991, Ian Triggs actively promoted junior golf and held regular clinics for sons and daughters of members.



1998 Indooroopilly juniors Xmas break-up:

L-R: Ian Triggs, Fran Poultney, Dan Poultney, Elizabeth Tucker & Andrew Roach



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Our first junior interclub team in 1998.
L-R: Fran Poultney, Felicity Trenfield, Kathryn Prescott

When junior girls interclub started in 1998 Indooroopilly was one of four Brisbane clubs to field a team. This competition resulted in the later introduction of junior girl pennants administered by the Brisbane and District Ladies Golf Association.



Cathy Hay won the Junior Trophy for Greatest Reduction in handicap in Queensland in 1999, reducing her handicap from 40 to 19 during the year



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In 1999 Christian Gillott was the inaugural winner of the PJ Davies Trophy, honour board event for the IGC Junior Boys Championship.

Member of Qld Development Squad & IGC Junior Pennant team member in 1999.

2007-2010 Golf Operations Co-ordinator at Golf Qld.

Became youngest ever Golf Australia National Referee.

The Lakes GC (Golf Manager 2010-2013) & (Assistant General Manager 2013-2017).

Newcastle GC (General Manager from 2017 - 2022).

Indooroopilly Golf Club (Membership, Communication & Operations Manager from 2023). (Appointed CEO October 2023).

1997 photograph of Christian Gillott with grandparents Barbara & Alan

Rika Batisabaga joined IGC as a junior. He won the PJ Davies Trophy in 2000 and went on to win the club championship in 2005 and 2007. He turned professional in 2008.



PJ Davies Trophy 2000 winner
L-R: Ricky Flynn (Rika Batisabaga) with
runner-up Peter Kent

Virat Badhwar was a junior pennant team member
In 2010 he won the 13-14 years division of the Junior World Championship in the USA.
In 2012 he was a member of the winning Australian team in the Junior Golf World Cup and was individual champion with 12 under par.
In 2013 he was named the Qld Junior Sport Star of the year.
Virat moved to the USA in 2013 to attend Stanford University



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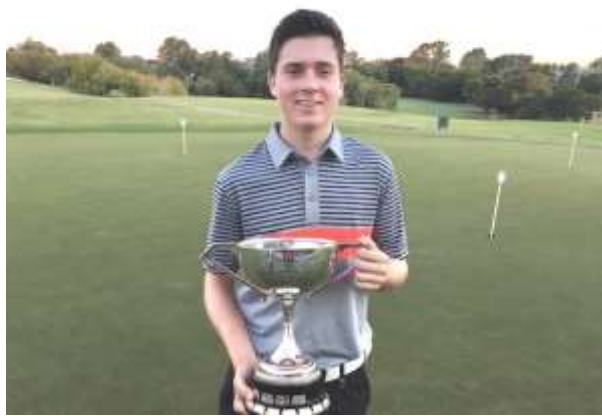
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Saturday afternoon junior girls competition at Indooroopilly in 2006
L-R: Rosie Lowe, Ira Korenevski, Libby Teslenko



Mary Lippiatt – winner of the trophy for Most Improved Girl under 21 in 2008



Keegan Short is believed to be the youngest winner of the Club Championship in 2015 at the age of 16 years 3 months.



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Issy Simpson



Issy Simpson meets Karrie Webb at IGC in 2018

Issy Simpson became the Club's youngest winner of the Women's Championship in 2017 at the age of 16 years & 8 months. She also became the first recipient of the Joan Fletcher Medal.

Whilst still a junior, Issy played in the women's successful 2016 and 2017 Division 1 pennant teams.



Ilani Short joined the Club when she was 9 years old. She won the 2019 Women's Championship at the age of 14 years 11 months, defeating Lyndal Plant in the final, thus becoming the youngest winner. Golfing talent abounded in the Short family. Ilani's father Dean was B Grade Champion in 2010 and as mentioned previously her brother Keegan was Club Champion in 2015. In 2021 Ilani won her second Club Championship, defeating defending Champion, Lyndal Plant in the final. See information on Ilani's later achievements in Champion Golfers-Women.



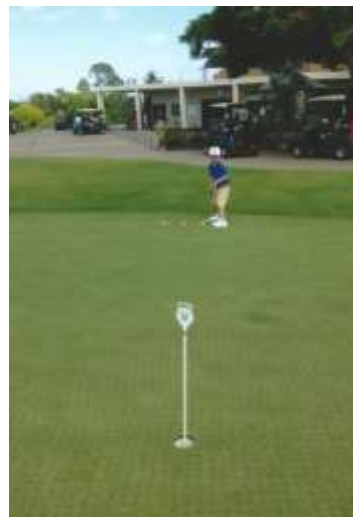
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Ten-year old Daniel Brown was the Junior Handicap Match Play Champion in 2020 becoming the inaugural winner of the Eckett-Muller Cup. He is pictured with runner-up Campbell Kerr (14 years).

Daniel's late grandfather, Don Brown, was a member of IGC from 1974 – 2004. Daniel started playing golf at a very early age. He is photographed below as a five-year old playing in a MiClub junior day at Indooroopilly.



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Ahead in 2025

We are excited that Indooroopilly will host the 2025 Australian Junior Amateur Championship from 7-11 April 2025.

The Australian Junior Amateur, conducted by Golf Australia, is a GA National Junior Order of Merit and World Amateur Golf Ranking event. 2021 was the first year the Australian Junior was combined to feature boys and girls playing on the same course at the same time. The same format will be in play for 2025, with a maximum field size of 156 players (78 boys & 78 girls). A cut will be made after 54-holes for the top 36 boys and top 36 girls plus ties.

Indooroopilly Golf Club has a history of hosting either the Australian Boys or Girls Junior Amateur Championship having hosted in 1975 (girls), 1996 (girls), and 2000 (boys).

The Australian Junior Amateur will feature the best juniors (under 18) and emerging talent from around the country.

