



AUSTRALIAN HELLENIC GOLF OPEN 2008

The Australian Hellenic Golf Open was held at Moonah Links on Melbourne's Mornington Peninsula on the 25th and 26th of October. Over 120 Greek Australian golfers participated in the tournament from across the country including Perth, Adelaide and Sydney.

In what has become a feature of the event an opening ceremony with a distinctive Hellenic flavour launched the tournament. A message of support was from the Hellenic Golf Federation was delivered by the Armatoli and the golfers were then treated to an Ancient Greek Dance Ceremony to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck to all players. Following this the tournament was officially opened by Paul Orfanos representing Tournament Sponsor – The Bank of Cyprus.

Money was raised during the event for the Australian Greek Welfare Society as part of a hole in one competition with the opportunity to win a car donated by sponsor Mercedes Benz Central Star Auto Haus.

The overall winner of the event was Con Xanthis from Sydney who will have his name engraved on the prestigious goddess 'Nike' tournament trophy. As part of the victory Mr Xanthis will receive an airfare to Greece donated by Major Sponsor Kon Kavalakis from Grecian Tours to participate in next year's 'Greeks Abroad' golf tournament organised by the Hellenic Golf Federation.

The President of the Australian Hellenic Golf Federation, Mr George Saisanas declared this year's event as the best ever.

"The involvement, support and the coming together of Greek Australians from across the country is the most heartening aspect of the tournament. The



The overall winner of the event was Con Xanthis from Sydney who will have his name engraved on the prestigious goddess 'Nike' tournament trophy.

venue, Moonah Links, was a fitting setting for the event. Our traditional ancient Greece inspired opening ceremony, the gyros night, and importantly the 'parea' and 'glendi' gave a distinctly Hellenic character to the tournament.

What is also encouraging are the increasing number, and quality, of male and female junior golfers participating in the tournament and this is something we will continue to foster. We are also extremely fortunate to have a loyal group of sponsors who continue to support our tournament and the broader activities of the Federation."

The event sponsors included Tournament Sponsor – Bank of Cyprus, Major Sponsors - GSM Lawyers, GVP Fabricators, Grecian Tours, St Lukes Advertising, Mercedes Benz Central Star Auto Haus, and Sponsors - Accountancy Group, Nikos Cakes, M & C Seafoods, Classic Colour Copying, Any Power Batteries, Navarone Transport, and Adidas Taylor Made.

George Spiliotis
Secretary AHGF 0414255562 (golf@ahgf.com.au)