### So long, Farewell

Superintendent: Steven Burchett
Golf Course: Portarlington Golf Club

Association involvement: VGCSA Member

since 1999

Time on committee: Commenced in 2013.

Treasurer since 2015

#### Steve's turf career

- Started apprenticeship in 1989 at Commonwealth Golf Club.
- Went on to spend some time on staff at Capricorn International Resort at Yeppoon QLD.
- Returned to Victoria to be involved with the construction of Capital Golf Club.
- Took up the position of Superintendent at Chalambar Golf Club, Ararat.
- Travelled around Australia for 12 months with my wife and family. Can recommend!
- Came back to take up my current position of Golf Course Superintendent at Portarlington Golf Club and have now been here 15 years.
   Wow! Time does get away.

#### **Course overview**

Portarlington Golf Club sits on the northern tip of the Bellarine Peninsula, overlooking Port Phillip and Melbourne city skyline. We have Santa Ana couch turf fairways and tees with Bent/Poa turf on the greens. We average about 450mm of rain per year. The last few years have seen us introduce finer cut turf from green to tee, creating a seamless look. This is about as unique as we get.

# Take us through your turf management operations and how have you fine-tuned them during your time as Superintendent?

We dust our greens on a regular basis and mini tyne them four times per year. Growth regulator is used on greens all year 'round, every two to three weeks, but I haven't managed to catch on to the growing degree day concept yet. Our focus is good plant health and always trying to produce the best surfaces possible.

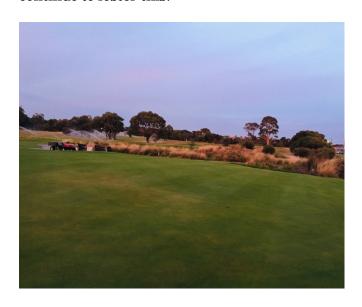
#### Describe your management style.

I've found with this job that having a supportive team is extremely important. So, fostering teamwork and encouraging people to be their best is high on my agenda.



### What inspired you to join the VGCSA Committee?

Mat Poultney asked me one day and I said yes. Thanks Matty. I have always enjoyed the support and networking opportunities that come with being a golf turfie. Being on the VGCSA committee enabled me in a small way to continue to foster this.



## Most pleasing/rewarding moment during your time as a committee member

Spending time with fellow committee members. They have inspired me and encouraged me to always want to grow and learn. The companionship is brilliant.

### Life after committee. What are your future plans?

We are just completing a master planning process undertaken by Mogford and Crafter. I'm sure this will keep us out of trouble, or in, over the next 5 to 10 years.

I'll probably continue to search for the perfect wave along our magic coastline as well.

#### Favourite spot on your course?

Anywhere where I can catch a glimpse of a sunrise or set. As with most golf course staff, we've seen plenty over the years but I'm not tired of them yet. It's a pretty cool part of the job. I'm still amazed by turf as a product and love seeing it at its finest, whether that's here or at another site.



