

# impact report 2022

MENTONE



*Mentone Golf Club*  
*Celebrating 60 years of support*

MENTONE  
GOLF CLUB

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## mentone golf club – celebrating six decades of support for inclusion melbourne!

It is fitting that this year we acknowledge and celebrate the extraordinary Mentone Golf Club. The club has been generously donating funds to Inclusion Melbourne (formerly Gawith Villa) for sixty years, contributing more than \$178,000 over that time!

Founding members, Nancy Pike and Edna Coy, set in stone a legacy of generosity that continues today. Year on year, the club has steadily increased its donations – from the first donation of £114-2-6 to a huge \$10,000 this year. Considering the COVID restrictions in recent years, this is a remarkable feat.

The all-women club, formed in 1953 and based at the Sandringham golf course since 1960, runs a charity drive throughout the year that culminates in a Charity Golf Day held in October – scheduled to coincide with pre-Christmas shopping! According to Club President Lynda Douth, there is no secret to the sixty years of successful fundraising. She explains, “everyone just learns what they have to do, and having a large committee of thirteen helps!”

Each year, representatives of Inclusion Melbourne’s staff and service users are invited to the annual opening club lunch and are honoured to receive funds on behalf of Inclusion Melbourne. Over the years, some have recorded their experiences in Inclusion Melbourne newsletters and these share a common theme. Apart from the delicious food,

they highlight the warmth, sense of fun, and buzz of the event, as well as the Mentone Golf Club’s respect for and deep commitment to the work of Inclusion Melbourne.

Former CEO Andrew James says that fundraising by the club is done with little fuss, due to the team “being purpose-and-values-driven.” Board Member Mark Hearn describes the fundraising success as a reflection of their character. “It’s the strength of their relationships and commitment to making a difference. It’s in their DNA and a driving force.”

The relationships formed and the social aspect of the club are important to members. Lynda Douth describes the club as a community. Together with a love of golf, this sense of community connects members – with many friendships built over the decades. This is supported by a committee with a dedicated welfare role. Life members, who no longer play, continue to enjoy the camaraderie and friendship of the club and join in on regular events, including lunch and a ‘cuppa’ with players each week.

At the annual Charity Golf Day lunch, the sense of common purpose is on display. Generous donations from local businesses and club



Charity Day Perpetual trophy



Hampers at a Charity Day



members are raffled or auctioned. In any one year, raffle prizes include single items, such as a golf buggy or homemade Christmas pudding, as well as up to twelve bounty-filled, luxury-themed hampers combining member donations. The auction items include coveted experiences, such as entry fees to prestigious golf courses and weekend stays at various holiday locations. Members can also donate online, both when renewing their annual club fees and if unable to attend Charity Golf Day.



From left to right - Emma Bardin and Andrew James receiving a cheque on behalf of Inclusion Melbourne from Viv Bolch, former President of the Mentone Golf Club.

The effect of the Mentone Golf Club on Inclusion Melbourne cannot be overstated. Funds received have made an immeasurable difference to Inclusion Melbourne's ability to support people to live better and more fulfilling lives. A history of Gawith Villa written in 2003, describes the club's support as sustained, faithful, and as "giving lifeblood to Gawith Villa over the years". For the most part, the

annual funds received have helped Inclusion Melbourne keep up-to-date with modern equipment and technology and expand on programs. This year, Inclusion Melbourne's registered training organisation, Inclusion Training, upgraded a full set of class iPads.

At the club's annual presentation night, a perpetual trophy, and a take-home replica for the winners of the Charity Golf Day competition have been presented since 1986. Gifted by Inclusion Melbourne, the trophy commemorated twenty-five years of fundraising for Inclusion Melbourne. The committee of Inclusion Melbourne at the time must have been confident the trophy would live up to its name!

It is rare indeed that a commitment can last this long. Whatever barriers the Mentone Golf Club has come up against over the years, they have jumped over them and stayed on course with the greatest of ease and aplomb and left an incredible mark, building on their success each year. It is truly awe-inspiring!

From all of us at Inclusion Melbourne, sincere congratulations and a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful women that make up the Mentone Golf Club for your unwavering commitment to Inclusion Melbourne.

Student Jordan Birighitti uses equipment purchased with funds from the Mentone Golf Club

