

2026 HUNTER TOUR

We cancelled the Hunter tour last year after rain and mud interfered but this year could not have been a greater contrast. Over the years we have mostly had good weather in the Hunter but while there may have been equally good weather in the past I am sure there has never been better – warm, dry, sunny (hot in fact on the last day) and no wind.

But there was a downside, unfortunately, that being the disappointing condition of both courses on the first two days; the uncut furry greens at Kooindah Waters were sub-standard with bare patches and very bumpy although the fairways by and large weren't too bad but also had some bare patches.

The fairways at Pacific Dunes were lacking grass generally and cut very close. I found the biggest issue in playing preferred lies through the green was trying to find some grass to prefer onto – would have been better not to cut the grass so close in my view and the whole experience was not improved by the slow and furry greens and the roped off areas restricting cart access which made for lots of walking back and forth from the fairway edges.

The Vintage, however, was its usual immaculate self – lush fairways and pacy greens without being really fast that also ran true. What a treat it is to play this great golf course on a day when the sun gods all came out to play.

The **Tour Champion is Mark Thompson** who finished strongly at The Vintage to win by 5 shots in the end from the fast finishing **Geoff Herbert** who became the 6th player to achieve a **Hole in One** on tour when he aced the par 3, 17th at The Vintage.

The **BLUE TEAM** led from wire to wire to get home by 8 points from the RED's.

The accommodation at the Windsor Castle was again very good. All in all a great weekend with good company and some good golf. We also welcomed 2 new 'Hackers' - father and son team, Geoff and Brendan White from the Wyong Club and hopefully they will back up again further down the track.

And, just to complicate matters, my computer decided to put up the white flag and retire itself for good. I did manage to put the scores in for the first day's play at Kooindah Waters on Saturday night after dinner and wrote the results up on the summary sheet, but then it died overnight and because I had not connected to the Internet, it did not do the automatic back-up to the cloud and, as it now won't go at all, I can't access anything on it so that effort is now lost.

So, we had to resort to pen and paper to decide the results from Sunday onwards. Fortunately, thanks to help from Trevor Porter and Owen McCosker, we managed to do that without much of a delay and we were on our way in reasonable time from The Vintage after the presentation.

So, my first task of the new week is to buy a new notebook and I had thought I would enter the cards into it and produce the usual detailed report (which I suspect no-one looks at anyway) but I discovered I must have left the Kooindah score cards in the room at the pub so I now can't do anything but report much more broadly.

I will get the web site updated as soon as I can although I have managed to 'borrow' my grand-daughter's notebook to balance the finances and at least get the finance page uploaded and to write this report.