

BRANXTON GC CELEBRATES OVERDUE PENNANT SUCCESS

BRANXTON Golf Club, winners of this year's Hunter River District Golf Association A grade pennant, has already set its sights on defending its title in 2020.

Located in the heart of Wine Country in the Hunter Valley and 60km northwest of Newcastle, Branxton Golf Club officials believe the club has the pennant talent to go back-to-back.

That would be something the club has never achieved in A grade before.

The club, which has a challenging nine-hole course, first won the A grade pennant way back in 1959 and had to wait another 39 years before its next triumph in 1998.

"We may be a small club, but a mighty proud club," the team's spokesperson Mick Tracey said.

"Many a talent has been realised through our club.

"Ian Jordan, Mr Searston, JJ Bercini, Mark Hale, Corey Lamb, Mick Watson and Brent Watson are just a few of the talented players that have done our club and themselves proud throughout the club's 98-year history.

"The club's B and C grades, juniors and seniors have also won many pennant titles during this time, distinguishing themselves as talents in their own right in the Hunter River District Golf Association competition.

"In 2011, an enthusiastic group of local juniors won the HRDGA junior pennant with an ambition to win the A grade pennants in the future."

Back then the team included Joshua Tracey, Cameron Johanson, Lee Heuston and Isaiah Wolferstan.




WINNERS ARE GRINNERS: THE VICTORIOUS BRANXTON GOLF CLUB'S A GRADE PENNANT TEAM.

Fast forward to 2019 and these former junior stars, now a little older and with more experienced, achieved their goal.

"They rose to the challenge after finishing third the previous two years," Mick said.

"In a memorable final this year, the team defeated a very strong The Vintage team 3/2."

This year's victorious team included Tracey (captain), Johanson, Heuston, Wolferstan, Cody Fletcher, Mick Tracey and Michael Simpson.

"The boys expressed their appreciation for the support from fellow members, especially captain Murray Johanson, the board members and club professional Marcus Ryter," Mick added. 

FOOTNOTE: Branxton's nine-hole golf course is a well-maintained par-70 layout with alternate tee positions to make up the 5547m layout. The course features two par-5s, four par-4s and three par-3s each with their own challenges.