

CONCORD COUNTRY JUNIOR PROGRAMME – KEN TRIMBLE

The Concord Country Junior Programme has been an excellent means of supporting and encouraging golf participation for children in country New South Wales.

The recent visit to Denman on the June long weekend was a terrific success and involved children from Merriwa, Aberdeen and of course Denman. In total there were 40 children that participated in the two-day clinic.

The team from Concord were myself, Norm Buckley, Vince Curran and Buck Allen. John Clifford contacted me when he read the article in The Golfer about our previous visit to Denman and generously offered to assist with the clinic. Muswellbrook Professional Paul Finkle also attended to assist with coaching.

The programme would not be a success if it were not for the Members and Associates of Concord Golf Club. The donations of golf clubs, bags, buggies, shoes and golf balls allowed us to give at least 30 of the 40 children the equipment to continue playing golf in the future.

For your information the green tub at the front of the Pro shop has had approximately 25,000 balls placed inside it over the past two years. We gave approximately 6000 balls to Grong Grong juniors and approximately 10,000 balls to Denman Golf Club. The remaining 9000 balls will be used for our next trip in September.

In our three trips to date we have supplied 90 children with sufficient equipment to continue playing golf. The majority of the donated golf clubs are cut to junior length and re-gripped. Norm Buckley and Vince Curran are considering trainee ships after successfully completing their club construction certificate?? Both Norm and Vince have spent many hours organising the equipment prior to the trip.

Brett Clarebrough from Eagles & Birdies and Peter Wright from Burton Bags donated 20 bags to add to the 80 bags that have been donated by Concord Members and Associates.

Approximately 40 golf buggies have also been donated and passed on to both Denman and Grong Grong Golf Clubs.

I would like to express my appreciation to Alan Whelpton and Tony Moody for their generous support of the programme and of course Peter Lancken from Kennards Hire for the loan of the truck that was spotted parked outside the Wollombi Pub recently!

Needless to say we have been accommodated very well on each of our three trips. The respective club officials and members have asked me to pass on their gratitude to the Members of Concord Golf Club for their generosity.

Finally, from my own perspective, I would not have had the opportunity to travel the world and play with many great players as well as meet many wonderful people if it were not for golf. If we can assist in creating opportunity for kids that may not otherwise receive it then it is a good thing. Thank you for your generosity.