

Croker school hits Canberra

Rob Vanderzalm

AUSTRALIA'S largest and most widely regarded golf school for PGA professionals and amateur golfers has opened in Canberra.



Peter Croker and Peter Kohlsdorf have teamed up to run a series of programs at the Canberra International Golf Centre under the Croker Golf Academy.

The school is the first of its kind in Canberra. And it's expected to provide a wonderful employment opportunity for PGA of Australia members.

The schools also operate at The Dunes and Manly Golf Club in Sydney, and PGA members will be the big winner.

Croker said golf professionals will not only have a place to improve their own golfing skills, but also be given an opportunity to make a good living out of teaching golf.

"The schools are designed to expand a golf instructor's skills base and bring greater enjoyment to their students."

Up to five PGA members were being sought as part of the first intake of teachers for the Croker Academy of Golf at the Canberra International Golf Centre.

He said each teacher would earn a minimum of \$60,000 for a 38 hour working week and all coaches have the opportunity to work with Croker and Kohlsdorf.

The teaching program is also expected to appeal



Peter Croker, ready to go in Canberra

to amateur golfers looking to further their game over a number of days, through individual lessons or group lesson programs that are available and will be delivered by the PGA staff trained by Peter Croker.

"We are focused on building the golf swing from the ground up – starting on the short game.

"A technique to stop impact breakdown and build touch for distance control in putting,

chipping and pitching has been developed.

"And we welcome players of all abilities – ranging from beginner to elite amateurs."

Kohlsdorf is well-known to those in the ACT, with the Canberra International Golf Centre offering a 64-bay driving range and one of the largest golf retail outlets in the country.

For further information contact Peter Croker on 0415 292 549. ◀

Sandbelt gets Government funding

THE eight Victorian golf clubs that make up Melbourne's "sandbelt" are to receive funding to promote their courses to an international audience later this year.

Tourism Victoria told *Inside Golf* that a marketing allocation had been made to lift the profile of the courses in the lead up to the 2011 Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne.

The cluster of courses includes Royal Melbourne, Kingston Heath, Victoria, Huntingdale, Commonwealth, Yarra Yarra, Metropolitan and Peninsula.

A Tourism Victoria spokesperson confirmed the clubs had worked closely together on a number of projects and the courses would form part of an overall campaign to drive golf tourism in Victoria.

"We think these courses are internationally recognised so they're an important vehicle to promote golf in the state," the spokesperson said.

The sandbelt courses are among the state's largest earners of green fee income with the rate for overseas visitors ranging from \$160 to almost \$300 per round.

Inside Golf understands the decision to single out eight clubs has disappointed a number of courses. Especially those golf clubs that have courses of equal if not better quality.

The term sandbelt has become increasingly diluted in recent years as the argument over the eight clubs' unique geographical qualities has failed to accurately describe what sets them apart. ◀

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