

Papadatos Unites Central Coast Juniors with Kind Gesture.....

Kids - Would you like a FREE Vokey wedge with that?

Local Central Coast Tour Professional Dimi Papadatos leads the way bringing all Central Coast Juniors together in a quest to conquer the Mountain at Bathurst.

Although each of the travelling golfing families did a 60km/h hot lap in the family wagon around the famous Mount Panorama Race track, it was the Peter O'Malley Jack Newton Junior Masters that brought 26 local juniors together from across the Central Coast District to compete and have fun across the Bathurst weekend.

It was Papadatos who set the tone for the weekend on the Friday night at camp with an extremely kind gesture donating a personal tournament played Titleist Vokey wedge to each of the 26 Juniors. Emotional district Junior Development Officer Mick Lamaro said "That's our thoughtful Dimi, he is forever giving back to the grass roots, it was a special moment witnessing the priceless reaction, tears, excitement and disbelief from the boys and girls aged 10 to 17. Forever memories, special turning point in each of these Juniors golfing/life journeys. Forever the gentleman and one of a kind Dimi – thank you.

Passionate Mick Lamaro hosted the Junior trip away. Organised for juniors across all the district clubs, their parents, and siblings. The touring group stayed at the Bathurst Sheep Cattle & Drome Station at Heritage Park. "It was so rewarding to see all the kids having fun together at the farm, practicing, relaxing as they awaited their Saturday and Sunday tee times" says Mick.

With the Juniors already rewarded the night before the tournament, thanks to Dimi and Drummond Golf Store sponsored show bags, all that was left to do was to enjoy the tournament, meet new friends and give it your best. Another local Coast connection saw our Annika Boyd from the Toukley Golf Club and now working for JNJG – hosting her first tournament with close to 200 boys and girls competing.

With Papadatos the recent VIC Open Winner on the grind preparing for his return to the European Tour, he still managed to check in, encourage and keep an eye on the leaderboards for the weekend.

Dimi mate, as you compete in the 150th Open at St Andrews this July, there will be 26 Central Coast Juniors sitting on the couch with their Vokey wedges cheering you on all the way and may your forever good deeds be rewarded with the Claret Jug. Whilst you have 26 kids – potential caddies on standby for you.

Papadato's even made the time to be part of a special presentation night back home held at the Toukley Golf Club. "I'm so proud of the young ones and happy to lend a hand at all times when I'm here back home on The Coast" said Dimi with a big smile.

"I see how much these talented kids practice, love their commitment, but I'm more impressed with how a couple of the kids handled and bounced back from some unfortunate luck and rulings across the weekend" – says Dimi

The game of Golf is absolutely thriving across the Central Coast thanks to role models like Dimi, up and coming mentors like Darcy & Annika Boyd, Jordie Garner and extremely passionate volunteers behind the scenes with JDO Mick Lamaro leading the way.

"All the titles and trophies collected in the winners circle was a bonus to compliment the fun and successful weekend had by all" said Mr Lamaro.

Congratulations goes out to Riley Millers from the Magenta Shores Golf Club for winning the Overall scratch event with a marvellous 5 under 71 & 66. Kooindah Waters & The Vintages Harry Preece chased down Toukley's young gun Blake Cranston to win the Under 11's Scratch. Wyong's Girls Club Champion Kiara Connolly-Jackson took out the Under 13's Division. With Shelly Beach's duo of Archie Morris and Desiree Herden taking out their division titles in the nett.

How good is golf going on the Central Coast? They are so blessed to have a circuit of NINE different district courses to play, 4 golf driving ranges and 3 indoor golf simulator centres to practice at.

"JNJG tournament director Dale Hughes was full of praise for the large Central Coast contingent and highlighted the regions success coming down to the united encouragement and support of all the parents like Mick Lamaro, Andrew Cranston, Jason Millers and many more. Its amazing witnessing all the friendships and the families cheering on not just their own, but all the kids participating in the event" – says Hughes.

"We do have the best of the best from across the State competing at each of these events. But the Coasties are always here to compete and at the same time turn it into a fun road trip adventure as well" says Dale.