



Media Release
Tuesday 20 January 2007

Australian Amateur Championships - an historic first!

A groundbreaking Golf Australia initiative will see the Australian Men's and Women's Amateur Championships (Match Play) played together for the first time at one of the world's premier courses, NSW Golf Club, from March 26-29, 2007. The Championships will showcase our nation's and some of the world's elite young golfers as they strive for success on the national and international stage.

Golf Australia National Squad player Tim Stewart and Helen Oh will be back to defend their respective titles but it won't be easy for the pair as they will be forced to contend with a strong field from home and abroad.

Frances Bondad, coming off a win at the Australian Women's Stroke Play will be chasing another victory at the Amateur Championships. The NSW local triumphed by four strokes at Indooroopilly Golf Club ahead of a quality field including fellow National Squad members Emma Bennett and Bree Arthur.

West Australian Kristie Smith will also prove tough competition. The 18-year old performed well at Royal Sydney Golf Club in February to be the best placed Australian amateur in the MFS Women's Australian Open. Smith is off to the United States shortly and will be keen to make space for a trophy when packing her bags!

Rick Kulacz meanwhile is one to watch in the men's side of the draw. The 21-year old took out last year's NSW Open and had a solid end to 2006 as he played alongside Greg Norman in the MFS Australian Open and emphatically won The Dunes Medal on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. Rated as one of our country's brightest stars, Kulacz is hungry for another win which might well be at NSW Golf Club in March!

Former champions of this event include Brett Rumford, Kiwi Michael Campbell and Andrew Buckle who pushed Tiger Woods all the way in the recent Buick Invitational.

The winners of the Australian Amateur Championships will be granted exemptions into the main draw of the MFS Australian Open and the MFS Women's Australian Open.

Keep your eye on <http://www.golfaustralia.org.au> for more updates and information as we lead up to the 2007 Australian Amateur Championships!

WHERE: NSW Golf Club, Sydney, NSW

WHEN: Men's 22-29 March, Women's 24-29 March

FORMAT:

- **Men's** - The Australian Men's Stroke Play Championship (72 holes) will qualify 32 players for elimination match play (all at New South Wales Golf Club)
- **Women's** - 36 holes stroke play (at Terrey Hills Golf & Country Club) to qualify 32 players for elimination match play (at New South Wales Golf Club)

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