



Senior Golfers' Society of Australia **TOUR OF CHILE**

23 March – 4 April 2025

Peter Robbie	Don Fraser KC	John Steuart
Tour Captain	Tour Coordinator	Tour Treasurer



Tour Games and Activities



Sunday	23 March	Opening Function
Monday	24 March	Valle Escondido Golf Club
Tuesday	25 March	Los Leones Golf Club
Wednesday	26 March	Tour and lunch at Viña Matetic
Thursday	27 March	Prince of Wales Country Club
Friday	28 March	Marbella Country club
Monday	31 March	Sport Frances Golf Club
Tuesday	1 April	Polo and Equitación San Cristobal
Wednesday	2 April	Free Day
Thursday	3 April	Hacienda Golf Club
		Tour Dinner at Mestizo Restaurant
Friday	4 April	Lomas de la Dehesa Golf Club
		Farewell dinner Sport Frances

Tour Members

John Banting	Jan Banting
Mike Cassidy	Vivienne Cassidy
Michael Connell	
Don Fraser	Lindy Fraser
Wal Hall	Anne Hall
Michael Harvey	Fiona Harvey
Peter Marshall	Cathy Clarke
Peter Robbie	
John Steuart	
John Webb	Prue Webb
Stewart Wharton	Chris Wharton
Murray Williams	Rosey Williams

Tour Party

		
John and Jan Banting	Mike and Vivienne Cassidy	Mike Connell
		
Don and Lindy Fraser	Wal and Anne Hall	Michael and Fiona Harvey
		
Peter Marshall, Cathy Clark and Peter Robbie	John Steuart	John and Pru Webb

		
Stewart and Chris Wharton	Murray and Rosey Williams	

Introduction

This tour followed on from the inaugural tour to Australia by Agosech where a party of fourteen golfers played eight courses in Sydney and Melbourne.

Peter Robbie, who was a member of the last touring party from Australia to Chile accepted the SGSA's invitation to captain the team and Lindy Fraser volunteered to be the ladies' captain and also organised the tour golf shirts for the tour members. The touring party appreciates their work and cheerfulness in organising the draws, marshalling the players, and getting us all to the golf courses in good order. John Steuart performed the task of tour treasurer with skill and efficiency. Other tour members filled different roles and thanks go to all who contributed.

Much of the preparation for both tours and liaison with Agosech was carried out by the SGSA tour coordinator, Don Fraser, who was also a member of this tour.

Fransico Ruiz and Jose Antonio Lavin V, who captained the incoming Chilean Tour, and is the President of Agosech were helpful and efficient in organising the golf events and other functions. Additionally, Gert Schon, Vice-President of Agosech played an important role in hosting the tour during Jose's absence in the US for the first week. Marcela Bravo, Secretary of Agosech was instrumental in ensuring the tour ran smoothly and answering the many questions from the touring party.

We express our appreciation and thanks to each of them for their involvement.

Sunday 23 March 2025 OPENING FUNCTION

Report Don Fraser

Having checked in to the excellent Santiago Marriott Hotel, the touring group gathered in the foyer for the start of the tour. It was rather an informal occasion as a number of the Agosech organising committee and their partners joined the group in the foyer for drinks and nibbles. A welcoming speech was given by vice President, Gert Schon, with responses by Tour Captain, Peter Robbie, and Tour Coordinator, Don Fraser.

Many of the group then made their way to a nearby Italian Restaurant with Sergio (pictured below with John Steuart and Tour Captain, Peter Robbie) joining us for an informal dinner.

John Steuart, Sergio, and Peter Robbie



Monday 24 March 2025 Valle Escondido Golf Club

Captain's Report

John Webb

Following our most enjoyable welcoming cocktail party on Sunday night, our group of 9 women and 12 men, all finely tuned athletes who made up the Australian Team, surprisingly and eagerly congregated on time in the lobby at 7.20am.

With much anticipation we waited for what we thought would be a bus, however 4 minivans were instead sent to transport us to Valle Escondido Golf Club. They turned out to be a quick and effective solution to the task of transporting 21 golfers from the hotel to the course and back.

Upon arrival on a coolish morning the Team were warmly greeted by Francisco Ruiz- the 2022 Chilean Society Outbound Tour Organiser and former President, and deputy incoming tour organizer, Gert Schon.

After meeting our Chilean hosts and caddies organised for the day, we were ready for a welcoming address by our Tour Director Don Fraser, Captain Peter Robbie and Francisco, who welcomed us to Chile in great style.

We then opened our campaign on this very scenic golf course overlooked by the amazing Andes Mountains. Unfortunately, the speed of the greens hijacked us all with many 3 putts and indeed 4 putts by some.

Following the completion of the game we were treated to a magnificent lunch preceded by lovely canapes.

It was evident from the discussion our team hadn't fared well and as a consequence Francisco & Gert announced a loss to the Australian Team of 1 Match to 5. A truly memorable day to start the Tour.

Ladies' Captain Report

Lindy Fraser

The first day for the ladies as well saw us getting used to caddies, which were welcome as the course was quite hilly and wet on the ground. We played a best ball stableford with Rosey and Jan scoring 35 points sharing the honours with Lindy and Fiona, also with 35 points.

Tour Captain, Peter Robbie and Mike Connell



Tuesday 25 March 2025 Los Leones Golf Club

Captain's Report

Stewart Wharton

With the ladies having a day-off the men ventured out to the oldest golf club in Chile. A storied and prestigious country club founded in 1910 and occupying its current site, in an affluent area of inner-Santiago, since 1934. Over the previous two days our hosts spoke highly of the club and the course building our expectations.

The course is a 6,520m, par 72, parkland course, very well presented, fairly flat and with good, quick greens. The club is an oasis in a busy city with views across city buildings and apartments to the Andes. From the time of our arrival at 8:00 in the morning to when we left, the club was a hive of activity.

With our team feeling slightly less jet-lagged we started the day inspired and full of optimism. The team pairings were in close to handicap order as were our opponents.

Feedback from our team indicated the course did live up to expectations but unfortunately, we couldn't get the result our way, going down 4-2. Carolus Brown, the highly entertaining Agosech captain for the day, made many astute decisions in his team selection, giving the hosts a slight edge in the close contests.

Winners on the day were Murray Williams and Michael Connell, 1 up, with Michael making it two wins from two matches, and John Webb and myself also 1 up after being all square starting 18.

Don Fraser and Michael Cassidy made it to 18, eventually going 2 down and Peter Robbie and Wal Hall made it to 17 before going down 3 and 1. John Banting and Michael Harvey got to 16 for a 3 and 2 loss whilst John Steuart and Peter Marchall succumbed 5 and 4. So all-in-all a respectable performance against a team dominated by local members.

The post-game lunch was enjoyed in a wonderful, vibrant setting on the restaurant terrace, with the gin and tonics, pisco sours and wine flowing.



Wednesday 26 March 2025 Tour and lunch at Viña Matetic (Wine Tour)

Report Rosey Williams

Midway in our first week of golf, the Australians piled on to a bus and set out for the lovely Viña Matetic vineyard and winery, located in the Rosario Valley. It has 152 hectares of cultivated wine, participates in wine tourism and boasts a beautiful boutique hotel and restaurant on site.

The winery was founded in 1999, by the fourth-generation descendants of Jorge Matetić Celtnja, a Croatian immigrant who arrived in the southern Chilean city of Punta Arenas in 1892. He was considered a pioneer in adopting Syrah in cold climatic conditions.

We had a detailed, interesting talk and tour of the winery, before tastings and lunch. Viña Matetic wines are organic - grown and produced without the use of chemicals or pesticides on the vines, while a variety of animals control weeds, including geese, chickens, alpacas, cows and sheep. The use of agriculture preparations based on natural ingredients such as cow manure, quartz and medicinal herbs improve the quality of the compost and natural fertility of the vineyards.

Our host shared some statistics with us, explaining that while Chile is the 7th highest producer of wines in the world, its consumption rate sits at the 18th. He joked that Chileans needed to lift their game!

After an opportunity to taste some delicious whites and reds, it was time for a long lunch in the Equilibrio Restaurant, before heading back to Santiago.

What a great day!



The Tour Group on arrival



Learning about organic wines

Thursday 27 March 2025 Prince of Wales Country Club

Captain's Report

Murray Williams

The Prince of Wales Country (PWCC) was founded in 1925. The match today formed part of the PWCC centenary celebrations, and it was an honour and a pleasure to take part. The PWCC is a unique club in that it not only has the standard golf, tennis, swimming pool, gym, bars and restaurants facilities associated with a country club, but also hosts international rugby, cricket and hockey matches on the various fields that form part of the property. The touring group were impressed by the sheer magnitude of the offer. The clubhouse was elegant, and the colourful history of the club was on display throughout.

The Korn Ferry Tour had played on the course just 3 weeks prior to our arrival and the conditioning was the best we had come across so far. After only winning one match on Monday and two matches on Tuesday, the group was hoping for improvement at PWCC. The result was 3 matches to Australia and 3 matches to Chile in an honorable draw. Captain of the day Murray Williams welcomed all in Spanish and started to thank our hosts. The Chilean Captain of the day whispered into our tour captain, Peter Robbie's ear, "that was wonderful, but I did not understand a f..... word he said"!

Wonderful memories of a wonderful day.

Pairings and Results:

Fraser and Steuart win 6 and 5

Williams and Wharton win 5 and 4

Hall and Webb win 1 up

Banting and Connell lose 2 and 1

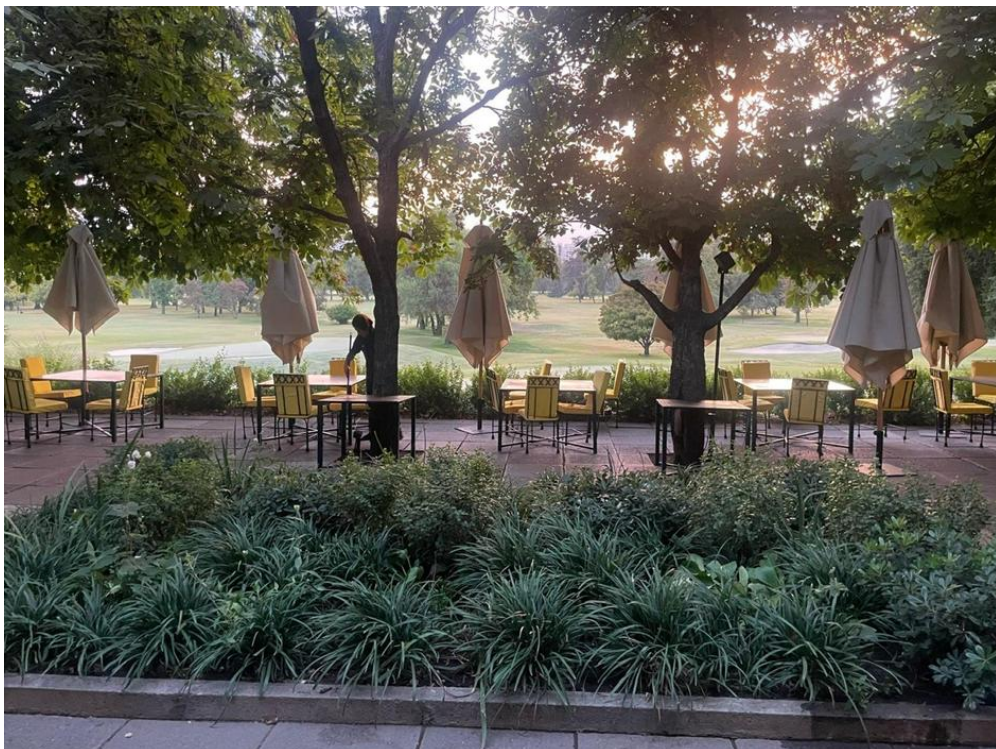
Robbie and Harvey lose 3 and 1

Marshall and Cassidy lose 5 and 4

Ladies' Captain Report

Lindy Fraser

The ladies played Bingo, Bango, Bongo with tactics abounding for each hole. The winner of the day was Rosey with 31 points and runner up was Vivienne with 31 points.



Friday 28 March 2025 Marbella Country Club

Captain's Report

Wal Hall

Friday 28th March 2025 was a watershed in international women's sport. At Marbella Country Club (located two hours' drive west of Santiago Chile) several groupings of Chilean and Australian women played in a seniors golfing event concurrently with a match contested by male teams representing Chile and Australia.

The gentlemen's international event was tied three matches apiece. Australian winners were Peter Robbie and John Banting (1 up); Peter Marshall and Mike Cassidy (3 & 2); and John Steuart and Wal Hall (3 & 2). In the finest traditions of Chilean Australian golfing relationships, all players made sacrifices to support the splendid Chilean seafood, beef and viticultural industries at the post-match lunch hosted by the Agosech members. In an otherwise slow news day, reports were received of an extraordinary occurrence when Don Fraser (an amateur sportsman from Queensland) hit a small white ball 150 yards into a hole in the ground. Unconfirmed reports indicate that Mr. Fraser's A-Sample has tested negative for performance enhancing substances. Additionally, Murray Williams, who claims to have witnessed the spectacle, has apparently returned a negative result to a screening for hallucinogens.

Mr. Fraser was characteristically modest when discussing his achievement, however it is understood that he has arranged for the hybrid club and ball he used to be gold-plated. Given the level of interest and excitement that his exploits have engendered, he has engaged the services of a media liaison officer and a single malt consultant.

Discussions of Mr. Fraser's triumph were muted on the return coach journey to Santiago, due in no small part to the prescience of a fellow member of the touring party who provided foreign currency to cover Mr. Fraser's transport costs to an alternative destination.

Ladies' Captain Report

Lindy Fraser

The competition for the ladies was another 4 ball best ball event and we were delighted to welcome two Chilean ladies to join the Touring Ladies in this competition. After the game there was celebratory champagne shouted by the most recent member of the Hole in One Club.



Don Fraser with his first hole in one.

The Weekend Break 29-30 March 2025

Report Don Fraser

With golf over for the week the various members of the Touring Party found a variety of activities to pursue. The following pictorial sequence identifies some of those activities of choice.



Monday 2 April 2025 Sport Frances Golf Club

Report Don Fraser

This event only involved the members as we were joining a regular Agosech tournament held at Sport Francis Golf Club. The weather was fine and the course full of doglegs which some of our members found challenging. It was a very big field and Agosech members turned out in full force. Again the results were not as the touring team would have wished but some excellent golf was played, the team being led by Tour Captain, Peter Robbie. After golf an excellent lunch was hosted by Agosech President Jose Antonio Lavin V with Gert Schon in the clubhouse overlooking the course. A large number of presentations were made, including to members of the tour party.



Wal Hall, John Steuart with partners, Rodrigo Errazariz and German Edwards



John Banting sizing up hole 9



From left Jose Antonio Lavin V, Marcela Bravo, Peter Robbie and Gert Schon.

Tuesday 1 April 2025 Club de Polo and Equitación San Cristobal

Captain's Report

Peter Marshall

The day commenced with a scheduled departure from the Hotel at 8.15am with all transport on time resulting in a timely arrival at Club Polo. As we were not teeing off until 10am those seeking the practice range had ample time. Apparently range balls were somewhat difficult to secure yet our members met the challenge. Coffee and biscuits were provided in the clubhouse.

Our host distributed cards marked for our four-ball match play. When issued with these cards we noted a number of changes amongst the male pairings had taken place which resulted in total confusion amongst players and their Chilean pairings. New groups were hastily organized, and we teed off on both front and back nines with the ladies leading the way.

With beautiful weather we set out to experience an impressive, elevated course with magnificent views of snowcapped mountains and Santiago City glimpses through tree lined fairways. We stopped halfway for a light bite and refreshments provided by our hosts. On returning to the club feedback was extremely positive from all players.

The final result for the men eventuated in a 3 all draw.

Retiring to the low-key clubhouse (apparently their main club is located in the city) we were presented with drinks and an excellent spread of BBQ pork and beef with a mix of local vegetables and a desert of crepes and ice cream on an upper floor open balcony. The wonderful sunny position saw one group keen to join three tables as one, successfully sending a full glass of quality red wine into the lap of a smartly dressed Chilean host.

Appreciation was conveyed to our hosts for the privilege of playing their fabulous course and the warm and convivial hosting received. It was noted we Australians were keen to master the skills as shown by their local member Joaquin Neiman World Amateur champion for 44 weeks, Australian Open Champion and LIV winner in Adelaide.

The captain takes this opportunity to apologize to John Webb for failing to recognise John when thanking his partners of the day (Trying to pronounce the Chileans names correctly caused this misdemeanor).

With buses again on time we then retired to our hotel with a small group retiring to the lounge for a light supper and a nightcap.

Ladies' Captain Report

Lindy Fraser

The ladies played an Irish stableford on this excellent golf course. The winners on the day were Fiona, Lindy, and Rosey with 72 points.



Snow topped peaks Club Polo

Thursday 2 April 2025 Hacienda Golf Club

Captain's Report

John Banting

Another beautiful day on a lovely, designed golf course.

We enjoyed a delightful lunch on the terrace of the golf club before a 1:30 tee time.

John Webb and Don Fraser had a convincing win of 7/6. Both played very well. Peter Robbie and Stewart Wharton won 4/3. Stewart made 3 birdies. Murray William and John Banting won a very close match 1up against Rolf and Pablo. With these matches in early it was looking good for the Aussie, but the Chileans won the final three match, so we had another tie at 3 games each.

Ladies' Captain Report

Lindy Fraser

Again, the ladies were delighted to be joined by Chilean partners, this time Fanny, Angela, and Pia, and played 4 Ball Best Ball stableford. The winners on the day were Rosey and Cathy with 42 Stableford points.





Thursday 3 April 2025 Tour Dinner at Mestizo Restaurant

Most of the tourists were able to join in a dinner at a fabulous restaurant about 10 minutes' drive away from the Marriott. The food and wines were superb and amazingly inexpensive. Thanks to Cathy Clarke for locating and booking the venue. It was an excellent choice.

The tour coordinator was presented with a memento of his hole in one to his obvious delight.



Friday 4 April 2025 Lomas de la Dehesa Golf Club

Captain's Report

Michael Harvey

Our final day of golf was at Club de Golf Lomas de La Dehesa up in the mountains north west of Santiago. The SGSA was desperate for a win to finish our campaign in Chile. There was a degree of confusion at security to the estate when one bus was held up for a considerable amount of time whilst our credentials were verified. Once they had established that Mr and Mrs "Harvest" were bone fide, we were allowed to enter. Due to a busy day on the course, our tee times were brought forward from 10:00 to 09:00 with a shot gun start so it was bit of a rush to find out opponents and our respective tees.

Team confidence was boosted by the Bantings, the Marshalls and Michael Connell having played the course 2 days prior. However, this proved to be in vain as the majority of SGSA struggled with recently cored greens a very tight layout, multiple dog-legs and the smallest greens most of us had ever encountered! The final result being a 2-4 loss to our Chilean hosts.

Après golf was limited to drinks and canapes (given the farewell dinner planned for the evening) with speeches from Fernando, Lindy Fraser and Michael Harvey followed by photographs on the lawn outside the club house. A wonderful day, excellent golf and fine hospitality.



Wal Hall and water carry



Fiona and Jan exploring

Friday 4 April 2025

Farewell dinner at the Sport Frances Golf Club

All of the tour members, dressed in coat and society ties with smart attire for the ladies, attended at the St Frances Golf Club function room for the final dinner. It was a wonderful occasion commencing with drinks at a function area which overlooked this fabulous golf course. Agosech members including popular local tour supporters Carolus Brown, and Darwin Opazo, and their partners, attended to farewell the Australian Touring Party.

The participants were entertained by karaoke, from the established local lead tenor of Agosech, David Tullo, and a duet from Agosech's wonderful and accomplished secretary, Marcela Bravo, with a visiting baritone, who together performed - *The Girl from Ipanema*.

During the dinner Agosech President Jose Antonio Lavin V spoke about the success of our tour and presented the Tour Coordinator with a beautifully illustrated coffee table book - *Travelling through Chile*. The tour Coordinator responded with thanks and reflected about the organisation of the tour and how much the participants had enjoyed the hospitality of our hosts. The tour captain also spoke reflecting upon the quality of the golf and the golf courses and results of our various competitions.



Conclusion

An absolutely fabulous tour with the opportunity to enjoy some superb wines and excellent food and wonderful hospitality from our hosts, with Jose, Gert, and Francisco leading the way. The courses were varied and interesting and presented well. The weather was superb, albeit quite cool, with the only rain falling over the middle weekend as snow in mountain areas. The clubhouses were beautifully constructed facilities, with many catering for sports other than golf. Each host captain excelled in planning and delivering our golf days and made us feel at ease during our matches and après golf.

The members of the tour party jelled well and there were lots of separate social activities organised amongst them. The hotel was extremely comfortable and obliging and an ideal location for setting off to our various golfing destinations. Thanks again to our hosts for organising the tour.

Tour Report

Edited by: Don Fraser KC

(With thanks to all reporters and assistance from John Steuart)

Various Tour Images



Equipment failure



Ladies' captain planning yet another variant for the ladies' competitions with questionable input from Michael Harvey and concern from an Agosech member



Ladies showing their style.



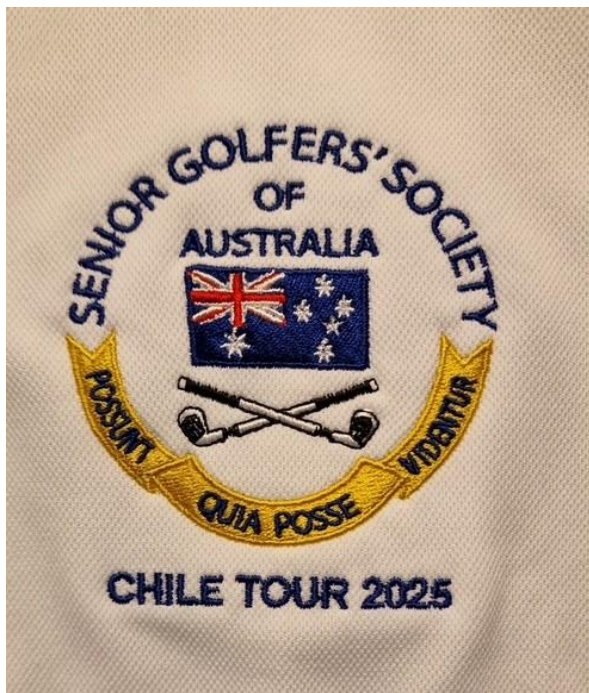
Captain being prepared for his speech



Last game



Tour Coordinator at Club Polo



Tour logo

MARTES 01/04 10:00 AM			
POLO			
PETER MARSHALL	ind	hcg	CAPTAN JORGE PALMA ind hcp
John Banting	2.9	2	Jose Antonio Lavin 9 9
Wal Hall	15	15	Roberto Koifmann 9.4 9 CA
John Webb	7	7	Cornelio Saavedra 18 19
Peter Robbie	12	12	Alfonso Ramirez 26 26 CA
Michael Connell	13	13	Sergio Bihan 22 23
Stewart Wharton	6.7	6	Alejandro Bafados L. 20 21
Murray Williams	14	14	John Teare 20 21
Michael Harvey	7	7	Fernando Orellana 23 24
John Steuart	19	20	Mario Ramirez 25 26 CARR
Don Fraser	22	23	Carlos Eichholz 26 28
Peter Marshall	22	24	Jorge Palma 30 31 CARR
Mike Cassidy	31	33	Ricardo Vicuña 33 35
VIERNES 04/04 10:00 AM			
Australian Schedule Indices CANCHAS equipo			

Typical draw



Peter Marshall not speaking Spanish to an appreciative Jorge Palma



John Banting, Murray with Jose and Julio Lavin



Patagonia



Machu Pichu