

Media Release: Monday February 18, 2008



NATIONWIDE TOUR HEADS TO VICTORIA

TOURNAMENT: Moonah Classic, Moonah Links, Fingal Victoria

DATE: February 21-24, 2008

FIELD SIZE: 156 players (78 USPGA Nationwide Tour, 73 PGA Tour of Australasia, 5 invitations)

CUT: Top 60 plus ties.

PURSE: AUD\$850,000.00 **FIRST PRIZE:** AUD\$153,000

DEFENDING CHAMPION: Inaugural event

PRE-QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT: Tuesday February 19, Sandhurst Club (Champions Course)

With the completion of the HSBC New Zealand Championship yesterday, the Nationwide Tour heads to Australia this week for the inaugural Moonah Classic to be played at Moonah Links Golf Club on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.

The Moonah Classic is an Australasian Tour Order of Merit event and is the fourth event on the 2008 US Nationwide Tour calendar following the season opening Movistar Panama Championship in Panama, the Mexico Open and the HSBC NZ PGA Championship.

The field at the Moonah Classic includes the three winners on the Nationwide Tour Money List so far. American Scott Dunlap who won the season opening Panama Movistar Championship, Australian Jarrod Lyle who won the Mexican Open by five shots and the winner of the HSBC NZ PGA Championship American Darron Stiles.

The AU\$850,000 Nationwide Tour co-sanctioned event will feature 17 of the Top 20 on the Final 2007 Australasian Tour Money List and boasts a crop of young guns including 2007 MFS Australian Open runner up Sydney's Won Joon Lee, 2007 Von Nida Tour Money List winner Andrew Bonhomme, 2007 Qualifying School Champion Bronson La Cassie and 20 Von Nida Tour winner's including Scott Draper, Rick Kulacz, Marc Leishman, Adam Bland, Kurt Barnes, Kim Felton and Ashley Hall.

Australasian Tour Money Leader New Zealand's David Smail is traveling to Moonah on the back of a second place result in Christchurch yesterday. The event will also feature proven stars Peter O'Malley, Steven Bowditch, Paul Gow, Paul Sheehan and Greg Chalmers who have all won on the Nationwide and Australasian Tour's.

The talented group will be part of a 156 player field of Australasian and US players looking to follow in the footsteps of contemporaries Stuart Appleby, Aaron Baddeley, Wayne Grady and Mark Hensby who all graduated through the ranks of the Nationwide Tour and enjoyed success on the biggest tour in the world.

Moonah Links has played host to both the 2003 and 2005 Men's Australian Open Golf Championship and will once again take centre stage as it hosts the event co-sanctioned by the Australasian and Nationwide Tours.

MEDIA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE: *Media Centre located in clubhouse*

Tuesday 19 February

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| 11.00am | Won Joon Lee (Aus) |
| 1pm | Darron Stiles (USA) – winner of HSBC NZ PGA |
| 1.30pm | Jarrold Lyle (Aus) – Winner Mexico Open |

Wednesday 20 February

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| 10.30am | Peter Thomson, course designer and five time British Open Champion, photo opportunity at the sand dune on the 16 th fairway |
| 12.00pm | Peter Thomson (media centre) |
| 3.00pm | Peter O'Malley (Aus) |

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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|----------------------------------------|----------------------|
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