



# Caddy in your pocket

It won't clean your clubs, but some have suggested it's just like having a caddy in your pocket.

Some golfing accessories miss the mark while others make perfect sense. The latest accessory technology to be rolled out at Sanctuary Lakes fits into the latter category.

Out of Europe comes GolfMate, a hand-held GPS system that arms both golfers and their guests with more on-course information than is available in any course guide.

The hand-held computer, distributed locally by EyeOn Australia, is already in use on about 60 courses around the world, with Sanctuary Lakes among the first in Australia to utilise the technology.

The GolfMate is a hand-held, full-colour, touch-screen device that enables golfers of all skill levels to measure exact distances, to the flag, over water, back onto the fairway or just about any point on the course.

The distributors believe the system will slice more than 15 minutes off a player's round. "Built-in features allow you to monitor player positions, anticipate bottlenecks and speed up play generally," says the company's blurb. "With a hurry-up message when players lag behind, you can control the speed they play at. Players using GolfMate spend less time pondering shots and looking for a distance marker on a sprinkler head and simply make their club selection and play their shot."

The system is an even more valuable tool at courses such as Sanctuary Lakes, where water comes into play on certain holes.

Golfers get to see detailed graphics of every fairway and green, with auto zoom showing precise distances. The detail helps enormously when deciding the kind of shot needed in any situation.

"Unlike everyone else, who was developing GPS technology in a golf cart, we developed hand held," says Marvin Pierce, Vice President of distributor EyeOn Australia.



Hit your mark every time.

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"Carts have some limitations... a cart can't always get close to the ball to give you an exact measurement, particularly if you have to walk back 30 metres to a tee. Sometimes in wet weather, carts may also be confined to the cart path, which again makes cart-based GPS systems limited in their use."

The distributor says that GolfMate is the only unit available originally designed for and used by US military forces. The specs have simply been modified to suit Australian conditions.

"Welding sparks wouldn't melt it. Ice-cold water and high-pressure steam wouldn't penetrate. We even ran over it with a 4WD. The only thing we didn't do was smash the front panel with a hammer," reads the advertising blurb for GolfMate.

The GolfMate is one of a number of exciting initiatives available at Sanctuary Lakes to enhance the club's corporate golf day packages. **■**

## SOME OF GOLF-MATE'S BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Easy-to-use touch-screen capabilities with hand-free operation.
- Golfers see their exact position, distance to key points on the course and other relevant game information.
- Golfers can score for up to four players on a single unit.
- The pro shop can send offers.
- Food and beverage orders can be made.
- An emergency button is available.
- It performs in all weather conditions.
- It allows the course marshal to monitor the speed of play and bottlenecks on course.

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