

Risk pays off for Norman



A guest at yesterday's clubhouse opening checks out some of the lavish facilities.

Photo: Toni Caldwell DE1103CE

By Simon O'Brien

DEVELOPING a golf course in greater Springfield was a risk that paid off, according to Greg Norman's right-hand man.

Medallist co-director and Brookwater course designer Bob Harrison said yesterday, investing in the fledgling suburb five years ago was initially worrying.

"It was four or five years back and Medallist was new and we weren't sure if it was safe or a risky thing to do, taking the chance on an outer south-west suburb of Brisbane," he said.

"But, in the end we decided to come where all the development was, so we took a chance and it has come into bonanza.

"The course is well acclaimed."

He said the duo would now focus on maintaining the high quality of the club, while continuing the development of the residential estate and preserving the natural environment.

Norman also stressed their desire to preserve the surrounding environment.

"I know you get some people saying (the course) is too difficult but at the end of the day this golf course blends in beautifully with the environment, with mother nature," Norman said.

"Is it too tough? I personally don't think so."

Meanwhile, club general manager David Townend was relieved to open the clubhouse yesterday.

He said he was looking forward to turning some of his focus to the development of the clubhouse as a function centre and restaurant.

"It is close enough to two years that we have been in the temporary building but we are finally now finished and we can focus on other goals rather than just providing golf rounds," Mr Townend said.

Deputy Premier Terry Mackenroth joined Norman to unveil a plaque and officially open the clubhouse.

The building boasts a members lounge, a restaurant, a bar with a terrace overlooking the 18 green, a function room, change rooms, locker rooms and a fully stocked golf shop.