



COURSE MASTERPLAN

Bonnie Doon Golf Club - September 2010



Ogilvy Clayton



Ogilvy Clayton was formed by Geoff Ogilvy, Mike Clayton, Mike Cocking and Ashley Mead in 2010 and is dedicated to designing, building and preserving wonderful golf courses around the world. We strive to build courses that are interesting, varied, beautiful and fun to play whilst incorporating sustainable design solutions, aimed at leaving the land in a better condition than when we find it.

With a diverse range of skills, we offer a complete service encompassing everything from the first concept sketch, through to design, construction, project management and grow-in. We pride ourselves on attention to detail and limit the number of projects we work on at any one time. This allows us to dedicate the time necessary to every aspect of the job that contributes to the look and play of the course.

Contents

PART ONE - The Course

Introduction	4
The Greens	6
The Tees	8
The Fairways	10
The Rough	12
The Bunkers and Hazards	14
The Vegetation	16
The Practice Facilities	18
	20

PART TWO - The Holes

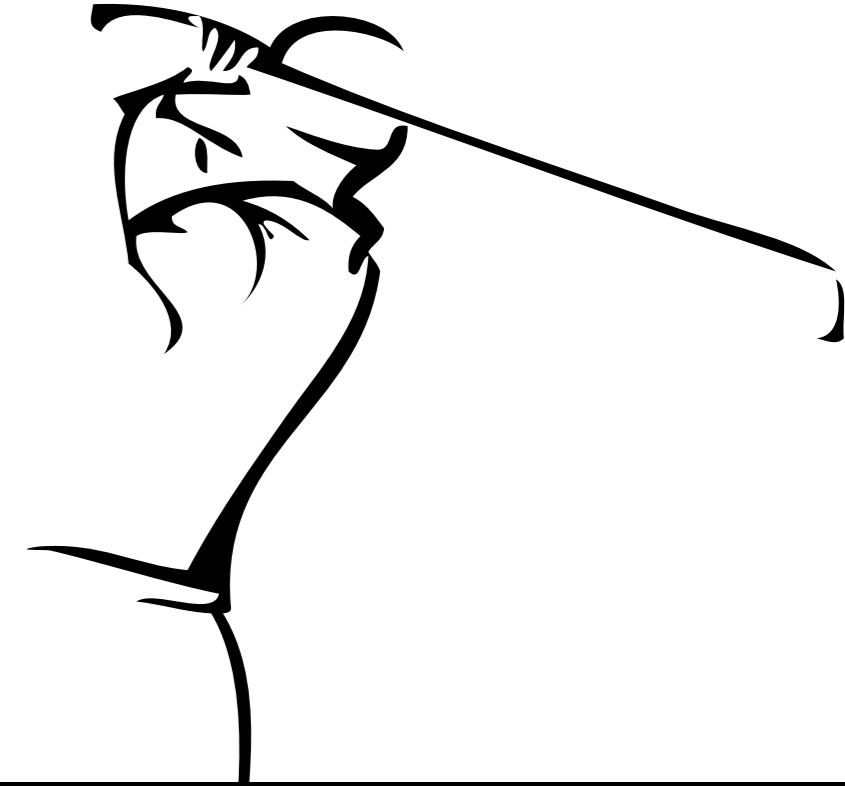
Hole by Hole Recommendations	22
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PART THREE - The Reconstruction

Sand Capping	62
Staging	64
	65

APPENDICES

- A – Proposed revegetation
- B – Proposed vegetation removal
- C – Masterplan drawing
- D – Proposed sand capping plan



PART ONE - THE COURSE

Bonnie Doon Golf Club - Course Masterplan September 2010



Introduction

Sand-based, undulating ground is the ideal land over which to lay the most interesting of holes. The original links in Scotland perfectly suited the quirky and random nature of the game and the crumpled undulation provided the most adventurous golf. The game adapted itself to inland sites and many fine courses were built on heavy soil but still it is sand based courses that set the highest standards. Certainly that has been true of the game in Australia and almost universally the best courses are built on a base of sand.

Bonnie Doon formed an important part of the early golf in Sydney and those who chose the sites of the formative clubs in the city identified perfect land on which to build The Australian, The Lakes, Royal Sydney and Bonnie Doon. Each of the four courses has been dramatically altered since. The freeway cut through the middle of the old Lakes; Jack Nicklaus bought a little of Florida to Sydney when he rebuilt the course in the fashion of the time for the Australian Open Championship; Royal Sydney has retained the original routing but a decade ago the greens and bunkers were rebuilt and the introduction of trees altered for all time the original 'linksy' feel of the site.

The early photos of Bonnie Doon show a course that looked to enjoy the same characteristics of sand and undulation. There appeared to be few trees in the fashion of the British links and an understanding of how to play in the wind was essential.

The march of time inevitably brought change.

The encroaching and altering city has dramatically altered the feel of the southern part of the course and it brought with it the current boundary problems – problems that are the curse of almost every suburban course in the country. The holes 'over the road' in addition to the 5th, 9th and 10th holes have been rebuilt and they have adopted a distinctly different style and feel to the older holes on the clubhouse side of the course. Kikuyu replaced the original fine turf grasses and now the course is neither one thing nor the other and that is something that should be resolved.

Trees were inevitably planted – including many exotic and non-indigenous species which were at odds with the precious native scrubland – and now with many at full maturity they have changed the way a number of the holes play. Two of the short par fours on the opening nine – the 6th and 7th holes – are examples of holes that could be dramatically improved with some tree removal. The original course was built on a relatively small piece of land that afforded none of the expansiveness of its neighbours. There are however many fine courses built on small parcels of land including Kingston Heath one of Australia's very best courses lying on just 125 acres.

There are many things that can be done to give a tight course the

feeling of space and Kingston Heath is a fine example of the use of 'common fairways' and a limited use of trees conspiring to provide an open and expansive feel.

With the possibility of using the new parcel of land to the west of the current 2nd and 3rd holes the club also has the opportunity to spread out and in doing so solve some of the real issues with the current course.

Whilst the rankings of Australia's courses is an imperfect way of measuring architectural merit they are a reasonable guide and that Bonnie Doon is no longer seen as a Top 100 course should be a cause for some concern in a competitive membership market.

What is more concerning is that the club's site is a brilliant piece of land for golf but the quality of the architecture fails to exploit the potential of the property. The extra land can be used to great advantage and the bones of many of the original holes are first-class. This is a golf course that could easily sit amongst the top twenty or thirty in the country and the only way to raise the course to that standard is to address the architectural issues. Simply, the holes need to be improved and a critical part of that work is that the course – and the holes – move seamlessly from one to another all the way around. Currently there are two distinct golf courses out there and neither

is doing as well as the land and the historic standing of the club demands.

Almost all alterations will be judged on the basis of whether the holes have been made easier or more difficult. Our measure of the success of an alteration is based on whether a hole has been improved or not. That, of course, is somewhat subjective but so long as emotion is not an overriding judge we are confident the quality of our work and the common sense of our solutions to the problems will be well received by objective observers. In reading through this plan it will become apparent that some holes have been made easier and others harder, but overall we think the difficulty of the course should remain about the same. This plan is not about making Bonnie Doon a more difficult golf course.

The Greens

Great greens are a hallmark of all the world's great courses. If Bonnie Doon is to be considered one of the premier courses in the country, improving the quality of the green complexes is essential.

Great greens are always interesting and the orientation of the green and the placement of the surrounding hazards should dictate the strategy from the tee and determine the placement of the driving hazards.

Whilst there are some really interesting green sites at Bonnie Doon (2, 3, 5, 7, 17) there are few interesting greens. Generally speaking they neither reward thoughtful play nor punish poor positioning or execution, which is the cornerstone of strategic design.

Greens should be of a consistent style through the course but there should be as much variety as possible. Variety can be achieved in many ways: - through the green site itself - if it is perched up on a shelf, set below a hill or perhaps in a bowl; by varying the amount and degree of contouring – both on and around the green; through the arrangement of hazards, and finally the orientation of the green with respect to the line of play.



Well placed hazards and great green contouring are essential ingredients for world class green complexes. Some examples of great greens include the 10th at Kingston Heath (above) the 3rd at Royal Queensland (left) and the 13th at Barnbougle Dunes (far left)

The Tees

Where tees are relatively close to the previous green we try and link the area using short fairway grass which we believe provides a far simpler and more aesthetically pleasing alternative to rough or paths. If the areas are kept broad, there is usually ample space to spread wear and avoid the need for excessive cart paths. This approach is very common on the Melbourne sand belt as can be seen by the example over the page.

Whilst tees need to be flat and functional areas to hit from we try to ensure they appear natural and indistinguishable from the surrounding ground by utilising small hollows and mounds.

Wherever possible we try and minimise teeing areas, but if there is an opportunity to create an alternative tee shot with a different line of play, it should be encouraged.



An example of short grass around the 16th green and 17th tees at Victoria Golf Club, Melbourne. Only the presence of the tee markers alerts the player to the fact these are teeing grounds and not fairway or green surrounds.

The Fairways

Wide fairways are a critical part of creating thoughtful and strategic holes. Without width there can be no strategy. Greens should be designed so that there is a clear advantage to the golfer who plays to a specific part of the fairway, which is in turn defended by a ground hazard. For every metre players steer away from the hazard the more difficult their approach because of a poorer angle, a longer shot or an obscured view to the target.

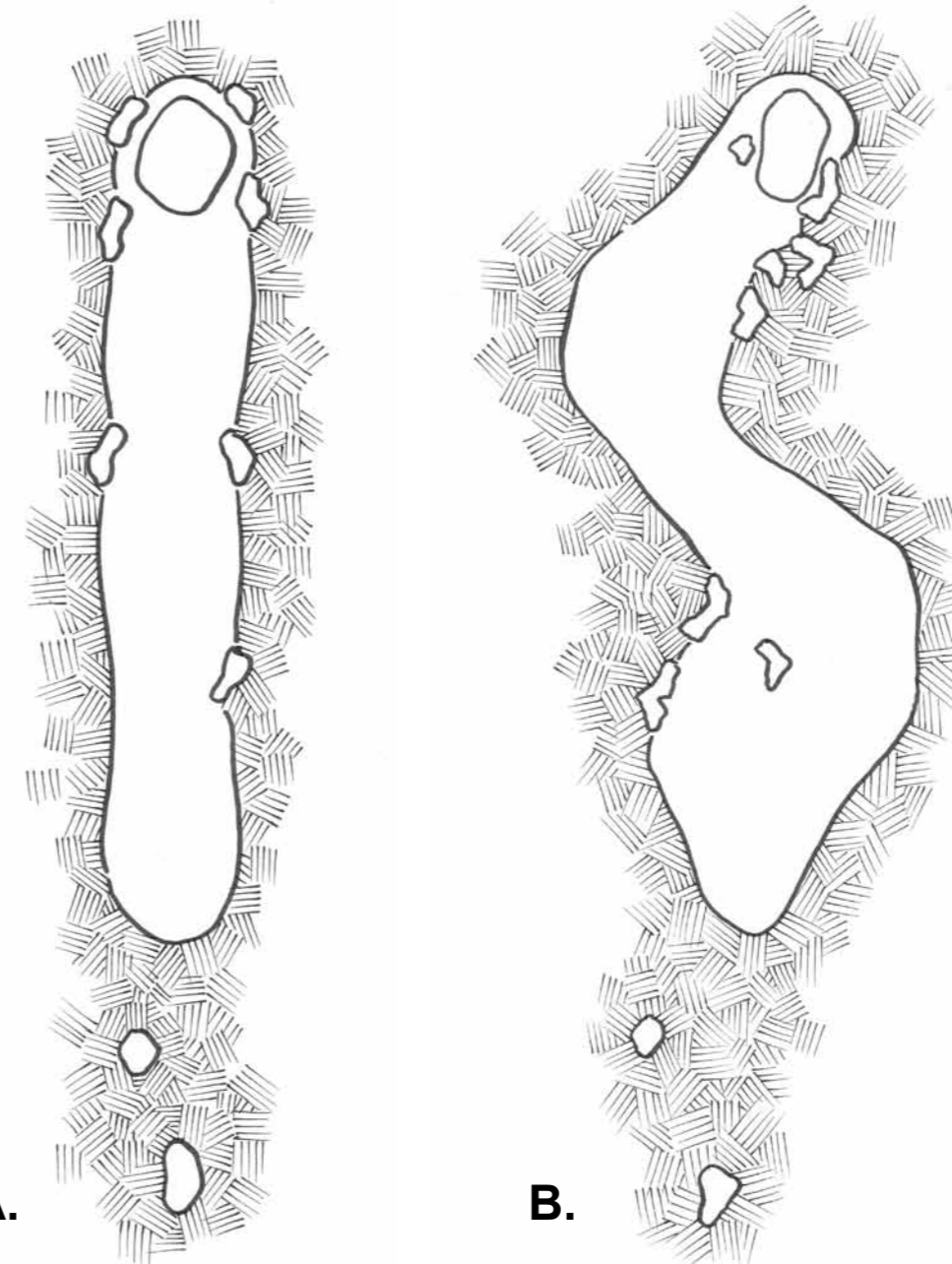
Historically there are many brilliant wide courses, including Royal Melbourne and Barnbougle Dunes in Australia, The Old Course at St. Andrews and Golden Age Masterpieces in America including San Francisco GC, Los Angeles Country Club, Riviera, The National Golf Links of America (NGLA) and Augusta. In every instance wonderful green complexes were offset by strategically placed hazards and wide fairways promoting imaginative play and numerous options.

Short fairway grass is also useful in making tight areas appear much bigger than they actually are. In many places at Bonnie Doon we suggest linking fairways which are close to one another to encourage this feeling of space.

Fortunately, little tree removal is required in order to widen the fairways. The distance from tree line to tree line is quite wide. In

many instances the fairways are narrow because of the current mowing lines and the inability of the current irrigation system to spread the water further.

Whilst there is an increase in the amount of short fairway grass to help offset the additional water requirements, we suggest there is significantly less maintained (irrigated) rough. The roughs will be made up of a combination of the ESBS heathland style vegetation, and longer wispy grasses. One advantage of encouraging wider fairways is that they allow for areas of more natural rough which may otherwise be deemed too penal.



Hole A

Provides an example of a narrow hole with little to no strategy. The green is poorly defended and there is no reward or punishment for playing to one side of the fairway or the other – irrespective of where the pin is located.

Hole B

Has all the elements of a classic, strategic hole. The fairway is wide but there is a clear advantage to those who can keep their ball as far left as possible. Players will need to decide whether to try and hit in between the bunkers, over them or attempt to draw the ball around them. There is no trouble to the right of the fairway but from here the second shot becomes increasingly more difficult.

The Rough

The quality of the roughs has a significant influence on the look and feel of the course. The ESBS heathland style plants should form the basis for the plantings, and should become a feature Bonnie Doon is renowned for.

There is always a fine balancing act between the aesthetics of rough and its playability. Whilst it may look fantastic to have all the areas outside of fairways and greens allowed to grow wild, experience suggests this is unlikely to be enduringly popular. One of the important tasks in devising a strategy for the roughs and for the vegetation is to decide which areas can be left a little longer and which will need to be maintained at a playable length.

Quality roughs do a wonderful job of framing holes by giving definition to fairways and hazards and they will only enhance the natural feel we are trying to create at Bonnie Doon. The type of grasses used is critical. Our early thoughts are to trial a combination of grasses, with couch providing a base. It is able to withstand heat and extended droughts and should be mixed with a cooler season grass such as vulpia, (right) which is used for its textural characteristics. It throws an attractive seed head in spring and in the summer it will create a unique look to the areas off the fairway. The vulpia has a tendency to remain fairly sparse so that playability is not so much of an issue.



Examples of fine rough management at Old Sandwich Golf Club, Massachusetts, USA

The Bunkers & Hazards

The bunkers at Bonnie Doon are a mixture of styles, featuring some older ‘pot’ style hazards as well as some newer more elaborate varieties.

We try and build hazards which are unique to a particular golf course and suit the soil, climate, vegetation, property size and scale of the property.

Bonnie Doon is relatively small and quite tight and the style of the bunkering should be reflective of this. Whilst there may be the scope to create some large hazards in certain areas (e.g to the right of the new 5th or into either hill at the 9th or 14th), overall the bunkers will be of small to medium size.

Our preference is to create natural looking hazards and at Bonnie Doon there is a wonderful opportunity to incorporate the ESBS vegetation into these. This is reminiscent of the bunkers in the heathland of London and the sandbelt of Melbourne. The pictures to the right are reflective of the proposed style and feel of the bunkers.

The local sand won’t quite allow for the same ‘flashed sand’ appearance of some of the sandbelt examples, but a slightly altered version will still achieve an excellent look.

Right
Kingston Heath, Melbourne

Far Right
Swinley Forest, London

Below
Royal Melbourne, Melbourne

The bunkers of the Melbourne sandbelt and heathland in England provide us with inspiration for the bunkering style at Bonnie Doon.



The Vegetation

The remnant pockets of ESBS (Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub) at Bonnie Doon are a wonderful asset for the golf course. They give an insight into the way the land was before European settlement and development and they are the model for any future planting to be undertaken.

It is to the detriment of the course that these areas are generally out of play in contrast to the heathland courses of London or the sandbelt courses of Melbourne where the vegetation is integrated into the golf holes. If expanded upon, this has the potential to create a unique playing experience. Appendix A shows the extent of the proposed revegetation. Smaller heathland style plants could be used in place of more formal roughs as well as tying it into the edges of the bunkers.

Abel Ecology's Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the site, recommends the removal of weed species in favour of species characteristic of the ESBS zones. Refer to Appendix B for a plan showing these areas of proposed removal. There is not a great number of trees that need to be removed from a design perspective but rather the Pines (*Pinus radiata*, *Pinus panasta*), New Zealand Christmas Bush and many of the *Melaleuca* species, planted over the last 60 years are not locally indigenous and should be replaced by plants that are better suited to the site – and which encourage a more

natural feel. This is not to suggest there will not be some large trees on the course. There are a number of beautiful trees which form part of the ESBS classification including the magnificent *Angophora*'s and the local *Banksia*.

We propose the revegetated areas are integrated into the golf holes at Bonnie Doon, so the golfer enjoys the thrill of playing around (and sometimes over) such a unique and natural environment. There are few better examples in Australia of this than on the Melbourne sandbelt – the example opposite (below) being the 6th West at Royal Melbourne where players have the option of taking an aggressive line over the heathland and bunkers, or a more conservative line around.



The Practice Facilities

The practice fairway can be widened marginally toward the Eastlake Golf Club, allowing for the construction of a quality pitching area, that will provide golfers with an area to practice the type of chip, pitch and bunker shots they will confront on the golf course.

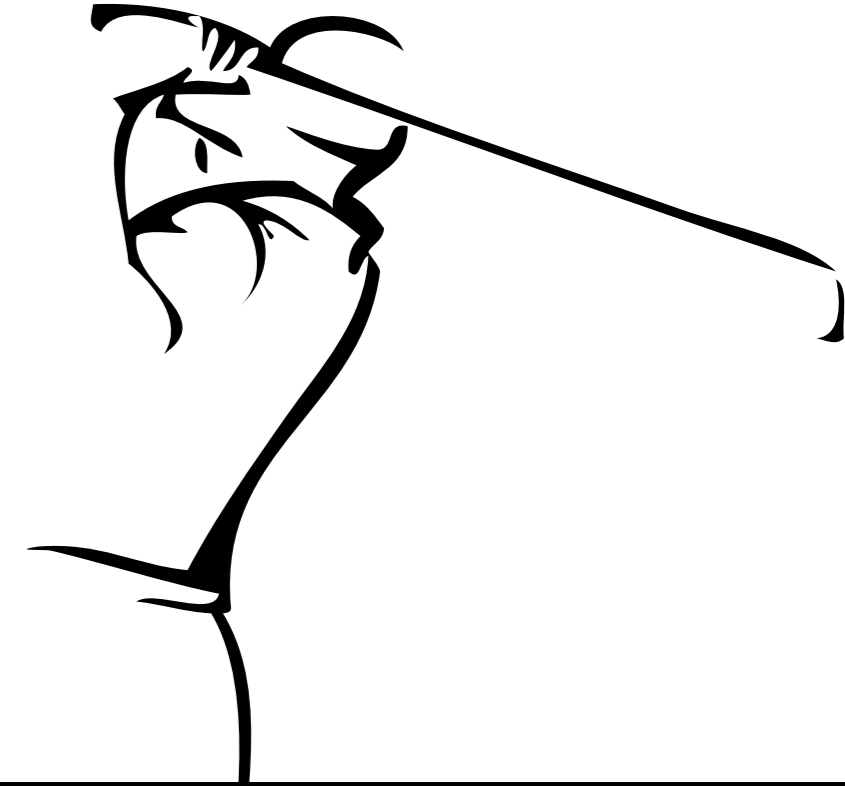
The range itself should have a new practice tee constructed as part of the redevelopment, which will be moved as far back as possible in order to maximise the area available. Overall the driving range will be of comparable size to its current length and width.

A new practice putting green is necessary as a result of the clubhouse redevelopment and our suggestion is that this be made as large as possible (minimum 1000m²) and that its contours are similar to those found on the course. It should be located close to the existing 9th tee and easternmost practice putting green.



Quality short game facilities are an important part of any first class practice area. These photos are taken from Peninsula Country Golf Club, where we built an area where golfers can practice every shot imaginable up to 80 metres.





PART TWO - THE HOLES

Bonnie Doon Golf Club - Course Masterplan September 2010



1st

The First

Men 415m par 4, Women 362m par 4

This is a terrific piece of ground to play over and it should be one of the more interesting opening holes in Australia. Very few of the opening holes on the top 20 courses play on land as interesting and unique.

The expanded car park means the tee needs to move forward a little – probably enough to see the hole play as a par four – and at just over 440 metres it is in reality a par four for scratch players and they have always been the measure of the par of a hole and a course. Here the green is one typical of the rest of the course. Aside from being in need of rebuilding for agronomic reasons it is hardly a feature of the hole. The best courses in the country are not rated so highly because they are in perfect condition or they are pretty. They are there because they feature brilliant holes and a vital part of a brilliant hole is a first-class greens complex.

There is an opportunity to take advantage of the small ridge 20 metres in front of the green to create a diagonal line of bunkers running from left to long right. This arrangement of hazards is reminiscent of the great 12th hole at Sunningdale, London (see picture right) which rewards players who have driven to the left side of the fairway.



2nd

The Second - (current Fifth)

Men 162m par 3, Women 108m par 3

It is here that the club and we as the designers must confront the situation that the golf course now features holes of completely different architectural styles. The green, bunkers and mounding at this hole, the current 8th, 9th, 10th and 18th holes, and all of the land across the road distinctly contrast with the untouched holes including the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th and 17th.

Both the old and the 'new' holes can be improved but we have a distinct preference for the feel and look of the original, simpler work. The newer holes look at odds with a course built over 70 years ago (1937). This plan advances the proposition that Bonnie Doon should feel like an old fashioned, rustic golf course bearing more of a resemblance to the original style of Sydney golf architecture. Big mounds were a fashion of the nineteen-eighties and nineties and it is difficult in the extreme to make any sort of unnatural mounding blend seamlessly into the landscape.

At the 2nd hole there is a chance to build a classic looking sandbelt par three – a short hole resembling the best of the one-shotters that have made Melbourne the home of some of the most admired short holes in the world.



3rd

The Third - (current Second)

Men 288m par 4, Women 257m par 4

Here at the beginning of the plan we come to the critical question of the length of the course and what sort of holes could be made to stand out and become a feature. The current 2nd, 6th, 7th and 17th holes are short par fours that are in the right conditions drivable for the longest hitters. Bonnie Doon is never going to be a long golf course and our view is that it should not be stretched simply to put extra metres on the scorecard. It is these four holes that play over unique and outstanding land that can be a real signature of the golf course.

The best short fours are fun holes that confront players with choices and decisions and the answers vary from day to day depending on circumstance and conditions. The 3rd at Royal Adelaide is a beauty as are the 14th at Lake Karingup, the 15th at Victoria, the 10th West at Royal Melbourne, the 4th at Barnbogle Dunes and the slightly longer 14th hole at La Perouse.

All four of Bonnie Doon's short par fours play over outstanding ground – the equal of any of the aforementioned holes – and they could be brought up to the same standards – standards to equal some of the finest holes of their type in the world. The key ingredients of a great short four are well-placed hazards including bunkers, heath or hollows that give players the choice of taking a serious risk to drive close to the green and a green that rewards accurate power but also the

conservative player who has played safely to a particular part of the fairway.



4th

The Fourth - (current Third)

Men 179m par 3, Women 157m par 3

This is a unique hole in Australian golf – only Bob Harrison’s 13th hole on the Moonah Course at The National is similarly blind and we have an affection for this unusual principle. It is not something to repeat too often but it most definitely has a place.

The best blind green in Australia is at the 17th hole at Kingston Heath. It is almost perfectly round, there are no surrounding bunkers and the green is quite undulating – something that makes the putting difficult. The green at the current 3rd in contrast is small, essentially flat and dull. A replication of the principles of the Kingston Heath green would make for a fantastic hole.

The other feature of that green is that the club uses an unusually long flagstick so players can clearly see the top of flag from back on the fairway and that principle should be replicated here.



Above: An aerial view looking backward down the 17th at Kingston Heath.



5th

The Fifth - (new hole)

Men 493m par 5, Women 404m par 5

This new hole plays from North to South and out into the 'new land' beyond the driving range. There are two main tees - one not far from the previous green and the other alongside the driving range practice tee - and the plan opposite clearly shows the type of questions we would like the hole to ask.

We are not great believers in holes that simply ask players to drive straight. We do not think that golf should be a straight hitting contest. The game is much better arranged when it is played to wider expanses of fairway and the player has to decide for him – or her – self where best to play. This principle is the basis of the golf at The Old Course at St Andrews and it was perfectly adapted to inland sites like Augusta National and Royal Melbourne by the great architect, Alister MacKenzie.

Perhaps the ultimate strategic long hole is the amazing 14th hole at St Andrews where players are confronted by The Beardies in the middle of the fairway at driving distance, Hell Bunker that must be carried with the long second and a boundary fence running all the way along the right of the tee shot.

Whilst there is no wish to simply copy this great hole there is no reason why its principles cannot be replicated. There is the space

and the width to build a really interesting par five here – something the current course desperately lacks.



6th

The Sixth - (new hole)

Men 132m par 3, Women 88m par 3

The second of the two new holes is an uphill par three playing from the west to a green set below the current 2nd tee. Good par three holes are simply about first-class green complexes. Spectacular views help elevate holes like the famous 6th at La Perouse but any hole on that piece of land would be judged as world-class. There are a number of fine holes on the Melbourne sandbelt that are laid out over particularly uninspiring bits of land. It is quite simply the quality of the man-made construction that makes them such fine holes.

Here at the new 6th there is a significant rise upwards to the green but it is not so steep to produce a hole freakish in nature. Once the land is cleared we think this green site will prove to be very good and one highlighted by the backdrop of Angophora's and grass trees. There is also an opportunity to plant significant amounts of heathland both beyond and in front of the green. This pair of new holes is an important part of the plan because they allow for some freeing up of the northern holes and the elimination of the par three 16th hole – something that has a couple of important benefits for the group of holes at the southern end of the course.



Above: The 2nd North at Peninsula provides an excellent model for Bonnie Doon's 6th.



7th

The Seventh - (current Sixth)

Men 301m par 4, Women 286m par 4

This short par four is a poor hole if the standard of the best sub 300 metre holes in Australia is the measure. It is also an important part of our vision for the course because it is these short fours – the current 2nd, 6th, 7th and 17th holes – that can form an important and integral part of the character of the course.

The game is always better when it is played over hazards on the ground as opposed to hazards in the air i.e. trees. Trees discriminate against those who cannot hit the ball high in the air and they ask longer hitters to play up and over to unseen ground. There is not one acknowledged great short par four in the country where this principle is applied. All the great holes of this length are organized strategically around hazards on the ground – generally bunkers – and greens that are designed to favour an approach from a particular part of the fairway. The 10th at Royal Melbourne is the finest example of a hole based on this simple principle. The 4th at Barnboughle Dunes is another and our redesigned 7th hole on the South Course at Peninsula shows what is possible at Bonnie Doon's (current) 6th hole. The traditional organizational principle of any dogleg hole is to protect the inside corner of the hole because it is guarding the shortest and most direct line to the hole. Players ought to be given "plenty of room to hang themselves" (Bobby Jones) out to the wider and unprotected parts of the fairway but that approach from the safe outside part of

the hole is usually more complicated because of the placement of the greenside hazards.

Here at Bonnie Doon the green is set to make the shot from the outside corner easier and the shot from the inside corner more difficult because of the position of the front right greenside bunker. This makes no strategic sense. The remedy here is simple. The trees should be removed from the right and the green rebuilt and orientated to favour the player who has played close to a guarding hazard on the right – a hazard to replace the trees. The further this tee can move to the left the better the tee shot becomes, although this is subject to the final position of the new 2nd (current 5th) green.

There is some perfect ground movement in the fairway which further emphasises the strategy of the hole. When approaching from the left – and away from the hazards – shots are semi blind to the green due to the rise in the fairway. Only from a thin strip along the right can you see the target and this principle should be retained in the new hole.





Before (far left) and after (left) views of the 7th South at Peninsula, where we replaced trees on the corner of the dogleg with a large ground hazard. Players can now see the target from the tee and can decide how much, if any, they wish to carry.

Below: the great 10th West at Royal Melbourne



8th

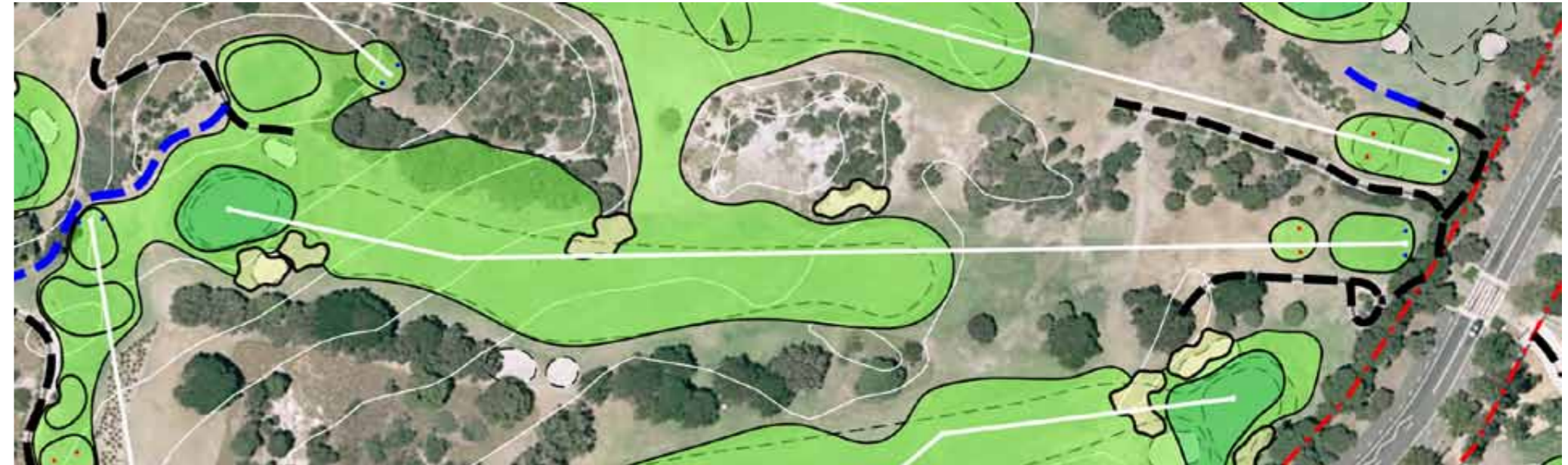
The Eighth - (current Seventh)

Men 287m par 4, Women 262m par 4

Here is another potentially standout short par four. The land of this hole is perfectly set to create a brilliant hole and there is the opportunity to create a number of strategic options by removing the trees planted to the right of the fairway.

The principles of the best short par fours can easily be applied here and one vital key to creating a fine hole is an interesting green complex that rewards play from the right corner of the fairway.

The most exciting and demanding tee shot is the one fired along the edge of the dune into the land now covered in paperbarks and transforming that ground into fairway is the key to making a brilliant – and fun hole.



9th

The Ninth - (new hole)

Men 440m par 5, Women 384m par 5

One of the issues with the current layout is the sameness of the 1st and 4th holes. The undulation they play over is almost identical and that they are so close together makes this feature more noticeable. It would have been possible to design the two holes so they played quite differently. One fairway could be bunkered on the left of the drive and the other on the right. The greens could be completely different. They would be orientated to favour shots from over by the fairway hazards. One could be big and undulating and the other small and with subtle undulations. The pars could be altered to make one a five and the other a long four. One could be bunkered at the front to demand an undulating approach and the other could favour a running approach.

The proposed hole plays from a tee behind the current 4th green, back up the fairway to a green just in front of the current 4th tee. The further back the tee can move the better as the hole is only just long enough to be a par five, however care will need to be taken to protect the surrounding ESBS zone. There is an opportunity to build a dramatic tee shot hazard and with views of the City beyond this may be the most dramatic tee shot on the course. Whilst the hole could also play as a strong par four we believe it will be more interesting as a short, strategic five, plus it balances with the new 5th by playing in the opposite direction. An important part of the plan to use the new land (west of 2 and 3) is to find enough sand on site to sand-cap the new land. The current undulations at the 4th hole do not quite work

if the hole were simply reversed. It needs re-sculpturing in order to make the hole playable for the majority (currently the undulations make the tee shot carry too long for most to earn a view of the green) and the necessary works should produce a large part of the sand needed to cap the new land, plus produce potentially one of the best holes on the course.

Reversing the direction of the two holes means that when one is into the wind the other will be downwind – and the fact they currently play in the same direction makes their sameness only more noticeable. The proposed extension of the car park will further shorten the opening hole and making a par five here is an important part of the plan.

The large feature hollow right of the current 4th tee could be made into a significant and natural looking hazard that could be used as a feature at the new 4th and 9th greens.



10th

The Tenth - (new hole)

Option One: Men 157m par 3, Women 104m par 3
Option Two: Men 411m par 4, Women 354m par 4

There are a number of ways to manage the strip of land along the eastern boundary. The road to the left is an obvious problem and it would be an advantage to move the fairway corridors further to the west (right). Our plan suggests the current 8th hole becomes the 18th and that frees up the current 18th fairway for use.

One option (top right) is to play a medium length par three (160m) from close to the clubhouse to a green set on the ridge in the 18th fairway. Some may have an issue with there being four short holes in the first ten. Others may not like the idea of a busy course starting with the 10th as a short hole but there is precedent for this arrangement. We do not have a problem with either five par threes or having four in the first ten holes. Our view is that so long as the holes themselves stand up members will enjoy playing them and the course, and there are any number of courses with really quirky sequences of holes. The Old Course at St Andrews has only two par threes and two par fives. Cypress Point has back to back fives at the 5th and 6th and four par fives – 2, 5, 6 and 10 – in the first ten holes. Merion, the site of David Graham’s 1981 US Open triumph, has only two par fives – the 2nd and the 4th. Any committee confronted with a routing that suggested these idiosyncrasies would question the architect (The Old Course did not, of course, have an architect) but all three courses are in our top five or six courses in the world. The key is to build holes

that ask for different shots and present different challenges.

Option Two (bottom right) would see a par four essentially playing backwards up the current 18th fairway. This could be a fantastic hole and in all likelihood better than Option One, the proposed par three. There is enough width to create some really interesting decisions off the tee, and there is a terrific green site against the hill where the current ladies 18th tee is positioned.

Whilst practice facilities should never be prioritised ahead of the golf course, an added feature of Option Two is the provision for an additional short game facility, which could be built instead of, or as well as the proposed area adjacent to the driving range.

The decision of playing the 10th as a par three or par four has no affect on the front nine holes and, therefore, this is a decision that the Club can make in the future and after the completion of the front nine.



11th

The Eleventh - (new hole)

Option One: Men 547m par 5, Women 459m par 5
Option Two: Men 316m par 4, Women 233m par 4

Under Option One, the par three 10th would be followed by a par five played down to a green close to the current 10th green (top right). The reader will have gleaned something of our philosophies by this point in the plan and again the key here is to build a hole that asks stimulating questions. The 12th at Kingston Heath is one of the best long holes in the country and a fine example of a hole where players are never simply asked to hit the ball straight and forward.

In order to help solve the boundary problem, the tee shot plays well away to the right of the existing fairway – with the middle of the fairway at around 70 m from the boundary compared with 40 m for the current hole. With much of the fairway being blind over the gentle rise, it doesn't suit building bunkers at driving distance, so other than a couple of short hazards on the left, the tee shot will be fairly uncomplicated.

From the fairway the ideal line will be to play over the hill covered with heath and bunkers or more conservatively short and to the left. This is still a long way from the fence line and once we have revegetated and mounded around and in front of the old 10th tees, we do not see the boundary posing a problem for the second shots.

The green here opens up from the right of the hole so there is an

incentive to play as far right and away from the fence as possible.

Option Two would see a short par four played as the 11th, from a tee back and right of the current 10th tees and played to the same green site as Option One - just forward of the current green (bottom right). This could be a good hole, but not the equal of the par five, and just like Option One adds a fifth par three to the course, this option adds a fifth short par four.

We do not have a preference for either option as they each present strengths and weaknesses. The two outstanding holes are the par four 10th (Option One) and the par five 11th (Option Two), but of course it is not possible to build both. We will be interested in the members' opinions regarding these two options.



12th

The Twelfth - (current Fourteenth)

Men 371m par 4, Women 325m par 4

The southern paddock is a place where the golf course needs to come together seamlessly in style, look and feel. Currently the 11th to the 16th holes have a distinctly different look and feel and it is to the detriment of the golf course. The first point to make is that we have a real dislike for the long walk past the maintenance shed to the 11th tee. The boundary problem here suggests that the only way to solve the issue is to move the tee forward and left to get players to hit from a significantly lower height and playing away from the fence as much as possible. However, moving this tee would make an onerous walk even longer and to that end we are suggesting that the current 14th hole becomes the new 12th. The order of the southern holes would be current 14th followed by the 15th, 11th, 12th and 13th – with the 16th hole being eliminated.

The 12th is one of the stronger par fours on the course and the second shot up the steep hill is difficult – and long for the majority of players. The key to the work out on the Southern paddock is to make these holes indistinguishable from those on the clubhouse side of the course. That means reducing the influence of the artificial mounding down the sides of the fairways that presumably were constructed to 'separate' the holes.

The logical thing to do with this hole and the one following is to

ensure the two holes ask different strategic questions. One could, for example favour a tee shot down the left side of the fairway and the green at the other hole could be orientated to favour a shot from the right. Obviously the advantage the current 14th and 15th holes have is that they play in opposite directions meaning that although they are quite close to each other in terms of distance that can play quite differently depending on the direction of the wind.

Our plan suggests creating some common bunkering up the left of the fairway and bunkering the large hill to the right of the green, with some putting surface wrapping behind these bunkers, further rewarding play to the correct side of the fairway.



13th

The Thirteenth - (current Fifteenth)

Men 403m par 4, Women 312m par 4

Fundamentally this hole is very sound. The green is orientated to advantage an approach from the right and that is a logical strategy.

There's an opportunity to gain a little extra length here if the club desired, helping make up for the loss of length in other parts of the course. The green can move back and right about 10 metres with the 16th hole no longer being played, and this would potentially give the course another interesting green site, set high on top of the dune. The putting surface could be quite large with the possibility of some interesting contour.

The green could be made to sit at the highest point of the hill to create a skyline green and they can make for dramatic shots where players cannot be unaware of the visual threat of going over, although the punishment for playing long should always look more threatening than it is.



The skyline green 10th at Barnbougale Dunes, Tasmania



14th

The Fourteenth - (current Eleventh)

Men 408m par 4, Women 343m par 4

This par five is a poor hole – a result of the tee being jammed between the boundary fence on the left and the artificial mounds on the right. The real issue is the problem with the boundary down the left and as we have already noted the best way to reduce the number of balls flying left is to move the tee well forward and aim players away from the boundary.

With no shortage of par fives to this point in the round there is no need to continue with this hole as a long one and it can be made to play as a medium to long par four. With the number of short fours already on the course (current 2, 6, 7 and 17) our feeling is that this hole should be made as long as possible – bearing in mind the need to reduce to an absolute minimum the problems with the boundary.

There is the possibility of closing off the fairway at around 230 metres off the tee, using vegetation and a bunker. Some may be familiar with the new 4th at The Lakes which has successfully solved their boundary issue and whilst the concept here is by no means as extreme, it nevertheless uses the same idea of taking a driver out of most players' hands. There is a section of remnant ESBS which juts out in the fairway in the correct location – our plan would involve improving the existing area and extending it right across the fairway. The carry over the heath would only be 10 or 15 metres.

As an alternative, a section of heathland could be extended out on either side of the fairway. It would be slightly offset so from the tee it gives the impression that there is no break. There would be a section of fairway through which people can walk and even play if the carry is beyond their capabilities.

The green site, located in a natural bowl to the right of the current green, is very good as well as being further from the fence. The bunkers short will be retained and act as a central hazard creating an interesting dilemma for approach shots.



15th

The Fifteenth - (current Twelfth)

Men 154m par 3, Women 121m par 3

Uphill short holes are difficult to make well. The surface of the green is often blind and uphill shots are usually more difficult than equivalent shots on downhill par threes. This hole is a necessary part of the course. It makes more sense to us to retain it rather than eliminate it and keep the current 16th. Losing the 16th opens up the possibility of rerouting the current southern holes (important in our opinion) and taking the current 13th green back to make a par five.

The most important thing here is to build a good, interesting green with attractive surrounding bunkers and to make a hole that asks for a fine shot. It is not a particularly long hole and coming toward the end of a round it should ask a real question. The rebuilt 14th hole at Victoria shows what is possible on uphill short holes. The changes there were largely cosmetic but they transformed the look and feel of that hole entirely.

Before (top right) and after (bottom right) views of the 14th at Victoria Golf Club which we recently reconstructed. Played over a remarkably similar piece of ground, it provides an excellent model for Bonnie Doon.



16th

The Sixteenth - (current Thirteenth)

Men 447m par 5, Women 399m par 5

There is an opportunity to create a very different yet very good, short par five here, played from the current tees down the hill and then up and over the old green site and onto the current 16th green. Players standing back on the fairway will have a clear option of whether to lay-up short of the top of the hill or whether to play blind to the green beyond.

There are a few examples of similar holes like this around the world and of key importance is to ensure the opening to the green lies open and relatively free of trouble. Nothing is more unpopular than playing a great shot to a green over the hill (sighted by the top of the flagstick) only to find your ball in a hazard right in front of the putting surface.



One of the more famous blind second shot par fives – the 4th hole at Lahinch in Ireland. This is the view players have for their second shots – the middle of the green is over the white stone in the hill. Unlike this hole, at Bonnie Doon players will be able to see the top of the flagstick.



17th

The Seventeenth

Men 300m par 4, Women 281m par 4

This is already a good hole but one that we are convinced can be one of the very best sub-300 metre holes in the country. The land over which it plays is that good – and there is ample space to introduce the most interesting of strategies.

The current green is too small. It has too much slope and needs to be rebuilt as do the surrounding bunkers which are not particularly well constructed. There is an opportunity to wrap the green around the base of the large dune on the left, favouring play from the right, as opposed to the left where views of the flag will be obscured by the slope.

In conjunction with this we suggest some reshaping of the ground around the 18th tees and across the fairway at driving distance resulting in a large hollow off the right side of the hole. This will make it more difficult to play to the perfect position up the right, and will tempt many to steer to the safe left side of the fairway – but leave an infinitely more difficult approach.

Just because there are no bunkers on the hole does not mean is without its defences. They will be more subtle and this hole, allied with the short fours on the front nine, will form an important part of the character – and reputation - of Bonnie Doon.



18th

The Eighteenth - (current Eighth)

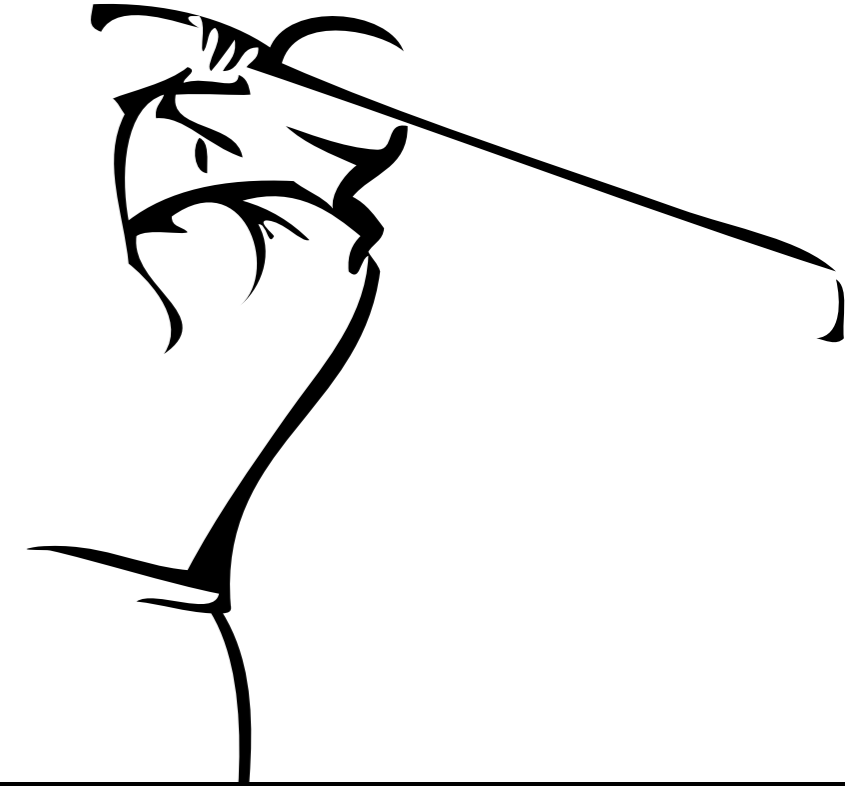
Men 419m par 4, Women 327m par 4

The final part of the jigsaw is the closing hole and this plan advances the argument that the current 8th hole can play the role more than admirably.

Again the 'new' hole needs to match the work of the rest of the course because it is the sense of continuity that will take Bonnie Doon to a different level as a golf course.

This is a fine piece of land for a finishing hole and whilst it should be no more important as any other hole there is something admirable about a course that finishes with an excellent hole.





PART THREE - THE RECONSTRUCTION

Bonnie Doon Golf Club - Course Masterplan September 2010



Sand Capping

As discussed previously we believe there are considerable benefits in developing the spare land, however any development of this area brings with it its own problems. There are restrictions on reshaping the existing ground due to its previous use as a tip site and due to the poor soils in the area, sufficient sand will be need to ensure optimum turf growth. Additionally we place a very high importance on making this land feel as though it has always belonged to the golf course as there is nothing more unpopular than new holes which forever feel 'new'. To overcome these issues, it is important sufficient sand is available to mirror the same type of undulations of the rest of the course, enabling the growth of fine turf and vegetation and without the possibility of future drainage problems.

We estimate that around 45,000m³ of sand will be required to 'cap' the spare land and that this be mined from two areas. The major one is the high ground running across the clubhouse end of the 1st, 4th and 8th holes. A number of sources are being investigated for the remainder including near the existing 18th tees, however in the interests of minimising disruption to play during construction some other areas are also being looked at.

Importantly the mining of the sand will not compromise the course. It

should in fact improve each of these holes, by creating an interesting diagonal hazard at the 17th and alleviating the blind nature of approach shots on the 1st, the 8th as well as the new 9th.

Appendix D shows the areas of capping and mining diagrammatically.

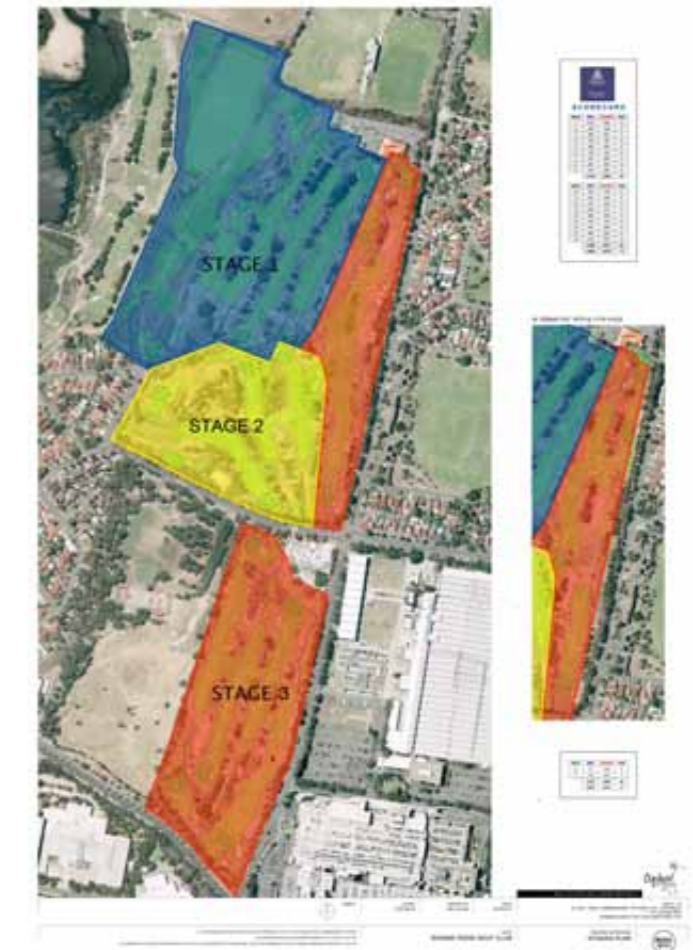
Soil tests will still be required to ensure the sand from these areas is suitable, but based on historical information it would appear very likely at this stage.

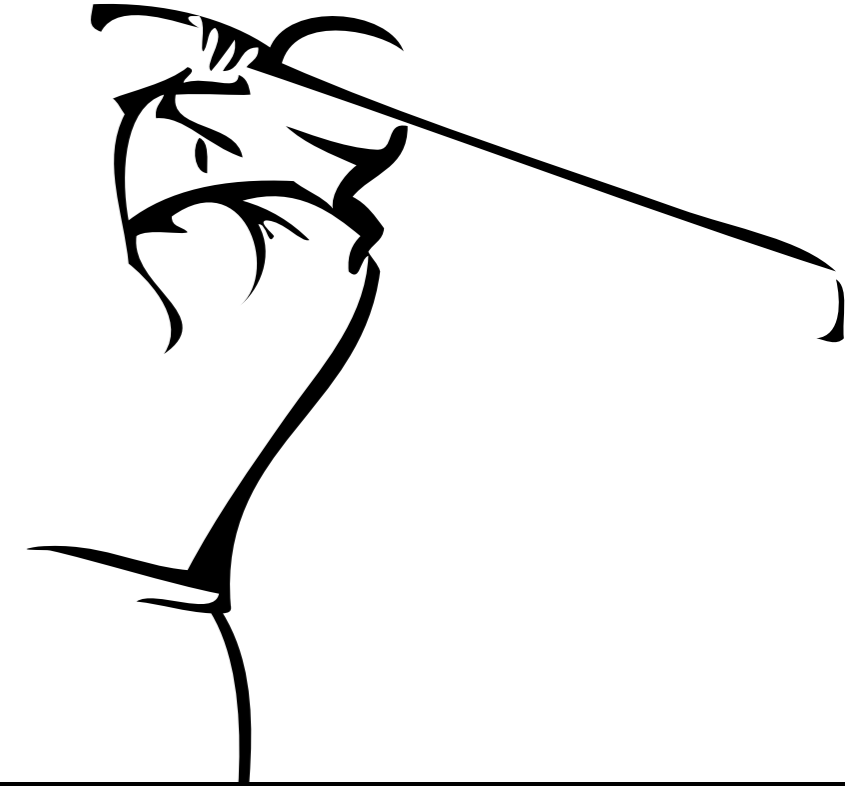
Staging

The implementation of this plan is proposed being undertaken in three stages.

In the first stage new holes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 18 and practice facilities would all get built. Stage Two includes the remainder of the front nine holes (2, 7 and 8) as well as the spare hole and the 17th.

The balance of the holes will leave the new 10th through to the 16th which could be undertaken as one stage or in many parts over a period of years.





APPENDICES

Bonnie Doon Golf Club - Course Masterplan September 2010



APPENDIX A PROPOSED REVEGETATION



SCORECARD

HOLE	NO.	PAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	TOTAL
1	1	3																			
2	2	4																			
3	3	5																			
4	4	4																			
5	5	4																			
6	6	5																			
7	7	4																			
8	8	5																			
9	9	4																			
10	10	4																			
11	11	4																			
12	12	4																			
13	13	5																			
14	14	4																			
15	15	4																			
16	16	4																			
17	17	4																			
18	18	5																			
TOTAL																					



SCORECARD

HOLE	NO.	PAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	TOTAL
1	1	3																			
2	2	4																			
3	3	5																			
4	4	4																			
5	5	4																			
6	6	5																			
7	7	4																			
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12	12	4																			
13	13	5																			
14	14	4																			
15	15	4																			
16	16	4																			
17	17	4																			
18	18	5																			
TOTAL																					

Agility

100000 200000 300000 400000 500000 600000 700000 800000 900000 1000000

REVEGETATION PLAN

BOOK 1001

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REVEGETATION PLAN

BOOK 1001

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REVEGETATION PLAN

BOOK 1001

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REVEGETATION PLAN

BOOK 1001

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REVEGETATION PLAN

BOOK 1001

APPENDIX B PROPOSED VEGETATION REMOVAL



SCORECARD

NO.	HOLE	PAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	TOTAL
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16	16	4																			
17	17	5																			
18	18	4																			



Legend:

Color	Meaning
Green	Proposed Removal
Red	Proposed Removal
Blue	Proposed Removal
Orange	Proposed Removal
Yellow	Proposed Removal
Light Green	Proposed Removal
Dark Green	Proposed Removal
White	Proposed Removal
Grey	Proposed Removal
Black	Proposed Removal

APPENDIX C MASTERPLAN DRAWING



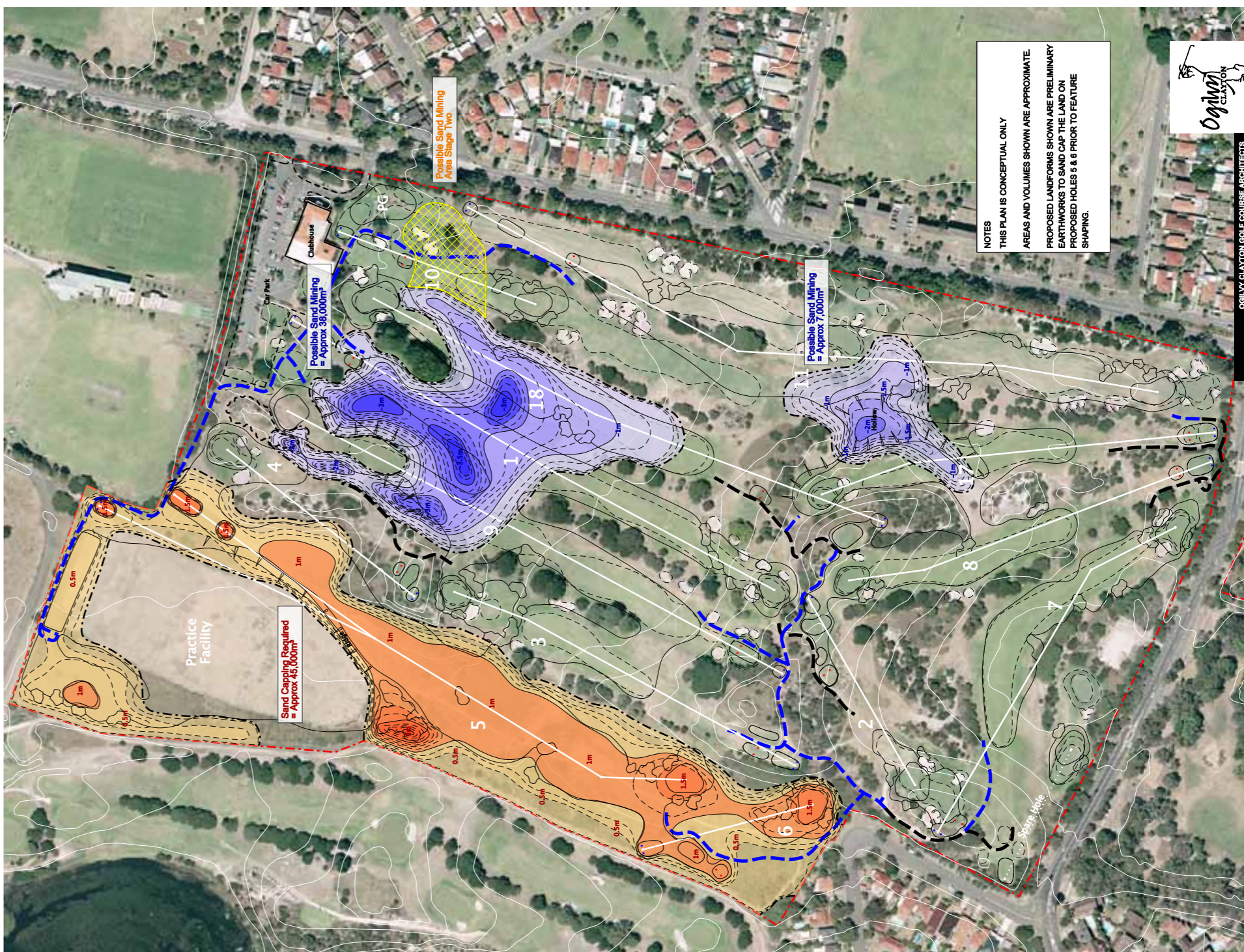
SCORECARD

NO.	HOLE	PAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
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NO.	HOLE	PAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
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48	48	4										
49	49	5		</								

APPENDIX D PROPOSED SAND CAPPING PLAN



NOTES
THIS PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL ONLY
AREAS AND VOLUMES SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE
PROPOSED LANDFORMS SHOWN ARE PRELIMINARY
EARTHWORKS TO SAND CAP THE LAND ON
PROPOSED HOLES 5 & 6 PRIOR TO FEATURE
SHAPING.

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NORTH
SCALE 1:2000 @ A3
DRAWN BY
Mina Coakley
DATE
20.02.2010

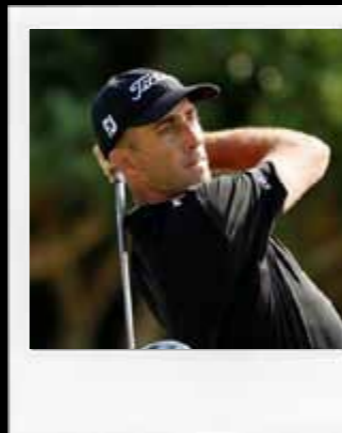
BDGC
SC01

DRAWING & REVISION
SAND CAPPING PLAN

BONNIE DOON GOLF CLUB

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Ogilvy CLAYTON



Geoff Ogilvy

Geoff Ogilvy, the 2006 U.S Open Champion, was exposed first as a caddy and then as a player (as a member of the Victoria Golf Club) to all of the classic courses of the Melbourne sandbelt. Well-known amongst the world's golfing press as the most articulate spokesman of all the current day professional players on questions of design, Geoff is dedicated to a long-term career in golf course architecture.



Mike Clayton

Mike played professionally in Europe and Australia for twenty years and in 1995 he embraced a career in course design as a partner in 'Michael Clayton Golf Design'. Like Geoff, Mike grew up playing the sandbelt (as a member of the Metropolitan Golf club) and for twenty years he has written on the game for The Melbourne Age and both the Golf in Victoria and Golf Australia magazines as well as a weekly column for www.backpagelead.com.au.



Mike Cocking

Like Ogilvy (1997) and Clayton (1977, 1981) Mike won the Victorian Amateur (2000) but rather than take the well-worn road to the professional golf tour he earned a degree in Environmental Engineering (BEng Hons) before starting his design career in 2000. Mike has also gained a reputation for his beautiful hand-drawn renderings and course guides.



Ashley Mead

Ashley began his life in golf raking bunkers and caddying at the mysterious nine hole course in Frankston known as the 'Millionaires Club'. He enjoyed working with a rake so much that he gained qualifications in Turf Management while working at a local club for a decade, following this he moved into a career in design in 2000.