

Jamberoo Golf Club

Tree Management Plan 11/7/2021

History/Background

Just over 200 years ago Jamberoo Golf Course would have been covered with sub-tropical rainforest as was all the surrounding farmland (from the escarpment to the sea). That now lost environment is evidenced by the small patches of remnant rainforest in some of the wet gullies, the escarpment shadow areas, and the widespread remaining Cabbage Tree Palms (*Livistona Australis*) that dot the surrounding hillside. Significantly, there are also Casuarinas along the bank of the Minnamurra River that are hundreds of years old that were part of that former rainforest environment.

The current area that is the golf course like the surrounding countryside was progressively transformed to cleared farmland.

Jamberoo Golf Club was founded in 1981. The timelapse aerial photographs (1979, 1984, 1993, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2016 and 2021) depict the evolution, post its rainforest beginnings, from cleared farmland when virtually the only trees on the course comprised the thin band of riparian trees and associated vegetation along the banks of Minnamurra River, into the reasonably well vegetated and timbered golf course environment that it is today.

A mixture of native and introduced trees and shrubs were generally planted along the boundaries of each fairway and in otherwise non playing areas of the course. Trees and shrubs would have been selected for a variety of reasons (aesthetics, fairway definition, player protection in congregation areas such as tees and greens, neighbour property protection, shade etc). Fast growing trees would have been preferred in many areas so as to quickly establish the course, player safety or neighbour protection (e.g., the 5th hole neighbours).

Many of the trees and shrubs selected were suitable for achieving those immediate needs but may not necessarily have been good selections longer term either as the best option environmentally, for course maintenance and management, playability, or other criteria.

The course is bordered by the Minnamurra River and divided by Hyams Creek. Both are important for their respective environmental values, and it is recognised that a zone 40 metres either side of these two waterways is highly protected land under the *Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948*. Vegetation along these water courses provide important bank stabilisation and native fish related habitat. The existence of golf course infrastructure above and below ground within those 40 metre zones (greens, tees, cart paths, irrigation equipment, bridges etc.) and the need to maintain, protect and replace these course assets over time is implicit in this plan.

The Golf Course is zoned R2 and is dedicated for the purpose of playing golf. It is implicit in that approved use that vegetation that encroaches into zones of play, or interferes with course infrastructure (greens, tees, fairways, irrigation systems and playing surfaces) must be managed by cost effective means. Within this plan minimum fairway widths, minimum tee shutes, and tree root free zones for greens, tees, and irrigation equipment lines as described for each hole are essential to the function of the golf course for its dedicated purpose and should be exempt of the need for further approvals should this plan be approved by Kiama Council.

Key Premises

Our club has a duty of care to provide a safe and healthy environment for anyone using our facilities.

Protecting native flora and fauna is important to provide the course with an added dimension to the golfing experience of all members and visitors to the course.

Keeping trees and gardens both healthy and well maintained helps protect habitat for birds and other fauna as well as other primary goals of this plan. Namely, ensuring trees are suitable for the golf course environment, cost effective in terms of maintenance, visually or aesthetically pleasing, safe for purposes of

public recreation.

Commitment

In order to protect and maintain healthy and safe trees, shrubs, and garden beds throughout the property the Club will consult Subject Matter Experts (e.g., private arborists, government, and community organisations) as well as interested golfing and community members as appropriate prior to all future removal and/or planting of on-course vegetation.

Plan implementation

Safety of course staff, volunteers, members, and visitors

- Lower regrowth branches of trees growing in rough to be maintained at a minimum height of 2m to allow safe passage of all vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- Pruning to recognise the importance of tree health and structure
- Following storm and/or flood damage, fallen/broken tree trunks and limbs to be removed and replaced where possible with appropriate newly planted vegetation. Fallen trees and limbs that do not adversely affect course maintenance, player safety or playability should be considered for their potential in situ habitat value.

Environmental issues

- protect existing healthy remnant vegetation.
- remove dangerous and/or diseased vegetation.
- encourage regeneration of remnant vegetation as much as possible.
- Preference in planting replacement or new and additional trees and vegetation will be for native species endemic to the Jamberoo area.
- develop long-term soil erosion prevention/minimisation strategies.
- encourage the preservation/protection/promotion of wildlife habitat.

Protection of playing surfaces

- shading of tees and greens. Selective and approved pruning to be undertaken to maximise natural light exposure and allow healthy air movement.
- root damage. Remedial measures to be taken to minimise/remove damage caused by root encroachment of vegetation surrounding tees and greens.

Protection of Drainage and Irrigation Infrastructure

- vegetation growth in drains and natural waterways must be continuously monitored and controlled in order to allow an appropriate level of stormwater to flow freely across and from the course.
- vegetation growth throughout the course must also be continuously monitored and controlled in order to protect pipes/valves/sprinklers etc from either above-ground or subterranean intrusion and subsequent damage.

Playability and aesthetic course presentation.

- tee to fairway corridors. Minimum fairway widths (at narrowest point) to be maintained at 20m.
- Native vegetation to be used in all new plantings, with full and prior consultation and agreement between the Greens Committee (on behalf of the Board) and the Head Greenkeeper.
- All species for new plantings to be selected after considering on-course safety for all staff and users, compatibility with native flora and fauna, playability, as well as impacts on the general environment and overall visual experience of year-round course users.