



6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

# Yamba Golf Club

Course Report

Report prepared by: Martyn Black



PROJECT OVERVIEW	<p>Yamba Golf Club          Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018          Course Report</p>
IN ATTENDANCE	<p>Tony Moran – President          Luke Stephenson – CEO          Mark Ryan – Course Super          Martyn Black – Golf NSW</p>
INTRODUCTION	<p>Course review to discuss the clubs practices with regard to dealing with recycled water and its impacts on turf quality and course presentation.</p>
OBSERVATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In general terms the course is in excellent condition, the vast percentage of turf areas were of the highest quality. Those areas that were struggling were a result of the recent drought and insufficient water being available to certain sections of fairways. The fact that the club uses recycled water which is high in sodium exacerbated the drought issue and puts further stress on the turf.</li>   <li>• The putting surfaces in particular were very good, and the renovation programme developed by Mark Ryan is responsible for this result, despite the difficulty of dealing with high sodium in the clubs water supply and the lack of natural rainfall in recent months to provide the essential “leaching” of the salt through the soil profile.          The course Superintendent has used a combination of hallow tyning and scarification of the greens to reduce the impact of the damaging sodium (salt) build up.          It should be noted that if these sometimes disruptive procedures were not allowed and supported, turf loss and badly affected areas could be the result.</li>   <li>• Problem greens that exist in “micro-climate” areas, will often struggle to perform as well as those in more open situations that enjoy higher levels of sunlight and air movement. The worst of these at Yamba is the 12<sup>th</sup> green which exhibits all the problems listed above.          Constant monitoring of shade encroachment is essential as is root pruning of the surrounds periodically.          Mark Ryan is well versed in these areas and has done some tree work precariously. Coincidentally, the famous 12<sup>th</sup> green at Augusta is in a “micro-climate” area on that famous course and has all the “horns and whistles” to address the problems.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Underground heating and cooling options</li> <li>- Fans to create air-movement</li> <li>- Subsurface air injection</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>Needless to say these systems are beyond the reach of most Australian golf clubs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p>Apart from the putting surfaces, tees and fairways need to be monitored for excessive shade and root encroachment.</p> <p>A case in point would be the surrounds of the 13<sup>th</sup> green, where several Norfolk Island Pines will begin to shade the green in coming years and it would be easier to remove whilst they are at their current girth and height than wait until they become the size of those below the Pacific Hotel.</p> <p>Removal of mature trees can be an emotive issue at golf clubs, and should this be the case at Yamba, the planting of a new copse in another area of the course can often help reduce the stigma.</p> </li> <li> <p>It was noted that the re-alignment of the 1<sup>st</sup> tee was nearing completion and the new location should help reduce the number of balls entering the new housing development.</p> <p>The quality of workmanship was excellent, and it was obvious the ground staff take great pride in the course, and it would appear that the board and management have a good rapport with the staff and the golf professional who is also vitally involved in the course; this bodes well for the future of Yamba Golf Club.</p> </li> <li> <p>Consideration could be given to creating a more subtle finish to any dish drains which are created across fairway areas so as to provide a smoother ride for carts and course equipment.</p> </li> </ul>
<p>NOTES</p>	<p>In summary, Yamba Golf Club is a fine golf course both in layout and current condition with the ground staff providing the best possible surfaces with the resources available to them.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to visit and I wish all concerned the best for the future.</p>

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