



## 1. THE ESSENCE OF DROUIN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Drouin is unique as it is the only 27 hole golf course in the Gippsland region.

The course presents three differing layouts to members and visitors combining both links and parkland type challenges.

Situated in West Gippsland just 100 kilometres along the Princes Freeway from Melbourne's CBD the course provides some spectacular views across to the Dandenong Ranges and Mt Baw Baw.

Drouin's individuality is defined by its location partly within Matthew Bennett Park with some holes being inside the Drouin Racecourse and on club owned property.

## 2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

This policy has been created to ensure the essential character of the Drouin Golf & Country Club is retained and developed for future generations.

Set out are the guidelines for course maintenance and developmental work which need to be reviewed by the Course Development Committee on an annual basis.

Taking into account seasonal and weather conditions, and necessary maintenance, the course should be presented for play in the best possible condition that provides a challenge for golfers of all abilities.

It is also important future development work takes into account the recommendations contained in this report.

### 3. DESIGN CHANGES

It must be recognised change will occur over time. Trees will grow, many will die and there will be storm damage. Weeds and turf diseases can badly affect fairways and bunkers can change over time with weather and maintenance.

Other than minor renovations changes proposed to the course must have the approval of the Management Committee and be consistent with the Course Strategy Plan. Major changes in scope or cost should be put to members for approval.

### 4. PRINCIPLES & STANDARDS

The principles set out below are to be maintained for all areas of the golf course:

#### 4.1 Greens

- A firm and true bent grass surface is to be maintained free of encroaching kikuyu
- Management methods must ensure that maximum strength and vigour is maintained.
- Turf must be resilient enough to keep ball marking to a minimum.
- Putting speeds should be kept to measured “Stimpmeter” speeds between 8ft and 12ft.

#### 4.2 Green Surrounds

- Approach areas approximately 5 to 10 metres in front of greens to be maintained as a firm surface consisting of couch/fine fescue and free of kikuyu and other weeds. Mowing should be close and suit the contours of the ground.
- A 2 metre collar is to be maintained around each green. It should consist of a fine fescue/bent grass mix free of kikuyu and other weeds. It should be closely mown to avoid a “lip” around the green.
- The side areas approximately 4-8 metres outside the collar should consist of a fine fescue/bent grass mix mown to fairway height and maintained free of kikuyu and other weeds.

### 4.3 Tees

- All tees to consist of firm and level weed free turf with an allowable drainage slope of 1%.
- A mix of santa ana couch and fine fescue is desirable for the climatic conditions of this area.
- An area of 2-5 metres of the same turf is to be maintained surrounding each tee and is to be closely mown.

### 4.4 Fairways

- Existing kikuyu fairways on hole 21 and parts of holes 23 and 25 are to be maintained in pure form.
- Other fairways, excepting on short par 3 holes, are to be maintained in santa ana couch and kept to recommended mowing height of 10-12mm during the warm growing season. Mowing heights may be raised just prior to santa ana entering dormancy.
- Herbicide and fertilising management procedures be adopted that ensures santa ana fairways are weed free with no bare patches. Climatic and under foot conditions will need to be considered during winter months.
- Fairway shaping to be adopted so that longer hitters are playing to narrower areas and short hitters and higher handicap players are playing to wider and more forgiving sections of fairways.

### 4.5 Bunkers

- “Sod stack” to ensure surface run off from heavy rain or greens watering be introduced to all existing or proposed bunkers. Will reduce the incidence of water pooling.
- Bunkers to have a vertical lip of no more than 15-20cms at the front, sides and rear with the slope of the faces sufficient for a ball to roll to a flat floor.
- Bunker floors, front, sides and rear slopes to be hand raked on regular basis to ensure an even and consistent spread of sand.
- Entry and exit points to be regularly checked to prevent a build up sand created by inexperienced player raking.

## **4.6 Rough**

- Primary cut of rough from the fairway edge to about 4 metres is to be mown at 50mm so that an undue penalty is not incurred.
- In the absence of suitable native grasses in this area a fine fescue mix is to be introduced.
- Primary rough area extending to 50 metres from the men's tees be established on all holes.
- Other areas of the course to be treated as secondary rough with mowing on an infrequent basis but balanced between golfers incurring sufficient penalty for being off line and the searching for lost balls.

## **4.7 Tree Planting & Garden Beds**

- To be undertaken in a way that enhances the playing of golf. Species native to the local area and where practical stands, or plantations, established to encourage local fauna.
- Dead, storm damaged or dangerous trees shall be removed unless there is a demonstrable habitat value, and replaced with appropriate native species.
- Where established garden beds are to be maintained to a high standard.

## **4.8 Irrigation & Water Supply**

- To be applied only to greens and greens surrounds. Sprinkler heads must be placed to ensure water is distributed as evenly as possible.
- Irrigation system maintenance is to be carried out by suitably trained ground maintenance staff except where specialist expertise is required.
- Service and checking of pumps to be undertaken prior to the summer watering period.

## **4.9 Nurseries**

- Santa ana turf be established on the practice fairway that will provide both a nursery facility to replace damaged or diseased sections of fairways and tees, an appropriate practise area for members and a suitable teaching area for the resident professional.

- A 500 square metre area of bent grass to replace damaged or diseased sections of greens rather than over sowing and barricading parts of affected greens.
- A 500 square metre area of bent grass/fine fescue mix to repair or replace parts of greens surrounds affected by disease, damage or invasive grass types.

#### **4.10 Cart Paths**

- Cart paths should be kept to a minimum but located in known wet areas and concentrated traffic areas near greens where compaction problems are known to occur.
- They will be constructed of an appropriate hard material.