



Maleny Golf Club

Design Philosophy

December 2020



A photograph of two men standing in a grassy field. The man on the left is older, with white hair, wearing a dark blue polo shirt and white trousers, holding a map. The man on the right is younger, wearing a dark blue shirt, dark trousers, and a wide-brimmed hat. In the background, there are several brown cows grazing in the field, and a dense line of green trees under a clear blue sky.

Brief History and Design Philosophy

► Undulating green pastures long-owned by the Armstrong and Porter families were purchased by Sunshine Coast Council between 1995 and 2005 to create the 128-hectare Maleny Community Precinct, incorporating our 18-hole golf course.



Course layout

artwork: *Sarah Harding*

Brief History and Design Philosophy



- A cart path and footbridge approaching the first green is named the *Steve Porter Crossing*, forever celebrating these historic links with the pioneering past.



Brief History and Design Philosophy

► Course construction started in early 2014. The first 9 holes opened in June 2015 and the second nine holes in February 2020, thanks to a massive volunteer effort under the guidance of the club's award-winning Superintendent **Mick McCombe**.





Brief History and Design Philosophy

► In May 2020 Australia's 2013 Masters Champion and world number six-ranked golfer at the time, Adam Scott, enjoyed playing the completed course socially several times and rated it very highly.





Brief History and Design Philosophy

► Maleny Golf Club has since continued to evolve as an attractive destination for players of all abilities seeking a unique new golfing challenge and some good old-fashioned country hospitality.



Design Philosophy

- ▶ The Management Committee's (MC) intent was to lay out Maleny's "links-style" golf course over the existing terrain with minimal disturbance to the natural landscape.
- ▶ Significant earthworks were to be confined to the greens and tees, with the fairways mown over the existing contours. In other words, just like "golf as it began".



Design Philosophy

► The unique nature of links courses necessitates a distinct style of play dictated by both topography – uneven open fairways, thick rough long grass and undulating greens with deep revetted bunkers – and climate - windy and often wet conditions which Maleny can present similar to coastal Scotland.











Design Philosophy

- ▶ The MC decided the greens would be of a high standard with the tees built using the natural red soil and existing kikuyu on site.
- ▶ A minimalist approach was adopted to retain a strong relationship between the natural and built environments while cost-effectively blending the course into the surrounding landscape. This environmentally friendly golf course was consequently also to be less expensive to construct and maintain, and more aesthetically pleasing to the eye.



Scottish inspiration

► The Machrihanish Dunes golf course in Scotland provided the MC with a fine and timely example of this minimalist approach, sharing much in common with Maleny Golf Club's aspirations and regulatory constraints.

► Like Maleny, it was being built over old pastureland with a small construction budget and faced some of the toughest environmental regulations within the European Union due its sensitive coastal location.

Promotionally positioned as “the way golf began”, Machrihanish Dunes opened in 2009 and is now rated regularly as one of Scotland's better golf courses. This minimalist approach to course design and construction was then adopted by the MC.





Scottish inspiration

► That same year the MC commissioned golf course architect Graham Papworth of GNP Golf Design Pty Ltd to first create a master plan and then detailed drawings of the first nine “links-style” greens which were designed with deep revetted bunkers.



Scottish inspiration

► To complement the minimalist approach, the MC agreed to retain the natural openness of the course by not planting trees between fairways.

This decision aimed to provide golfers with more playing options while securing longer term savings on maintenance.

Our unique point of difference

- ▶ As nearly all golf courses on the Sunshine Coast are “parkland-style” or “resort” courses, Maleny offers the regional golfing market a unique “slice of Scotland” playing experience.
- ▶ Graham Papworth’s minimalist design requires both playing strategy and skill, but also gives the average player a chance of making par or better.



Our unique point of difference

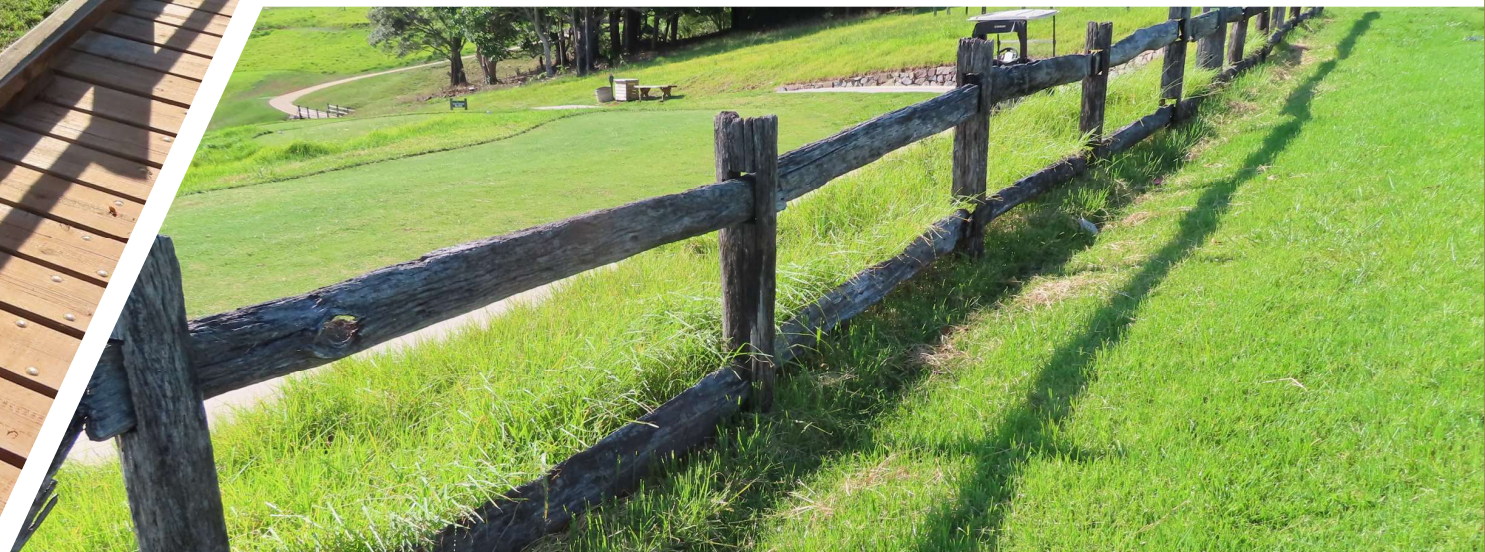
► The natural beauty of the golf course has been preserved, natural hazards have been utilised and anything artificial has been kept to a minimum - resulting in a rustic golf course which looks as if it was created by nature.





Our unique point of difference

► Just like playing the original Scottish golf courses built on old coastal pastures, you won't always get good bounces, good lies and true putts at Maleny either. But your golfing creativity will be challenged.





- As the old saying goes: “the fairways aren’t always fair and the greens aren’t always green, but the game is golf”, so grab your clubs and discover golf as it was meant to be.



Maleny
Golf Club

Open