



Murrumbidgee Country Club

MCC Policy on Memorial Items and Tree Plantings

Introduction

Throughout the 30 years Murrumbidgee Country Club has occupied its present site it has sought to develop a course that is in harmony with its surroundings. There should be no change to that objective. However, in the interests of providing a golf course of the highest quality, care must be taken to preserve the delicate balance between creating excellent playing surfaces and maintaining a viable native woodland setting.

MCC's location and surroundings should always be key considerations in any tree planting and management program. In selecting course trees, consideration must be given to their ultimate size and form. Trees can dramatically affect the way a course plays by creating shade, reducing air circulation, and causing root encroachment around greens, tees and fairways. The ultimate height and canopy form of trees should be understood to ensure that they will not grow out into the clear air space above fairways.

It is important to preserve the established woodland character of the golf course and not to obstruct the views from the clubhouse, certain elevated fairways, tees, and greens.

Memorials

During the 2023 survey of MCC golf course, it was noted that 3 trees were planted as memorials to former club members, at the 9th hole, the 13th hole and 15th holes. One former planting on the 8th has since failed with the tree and plaque removed. Two of the memorial trees highlight the potential problems outlined above - one is showing signs of neglect while the other is planted in an inappropriate site and causing root encroachment.

Bench seats have also been installed in memory of former Club members. Unfortunately, they all differ in size, style and construction material, which does not enhance the presentation of the course. The Club is not responsible for the costs of maintaining these benches.

The Club has never had a policy governing the planting of memorial trees and installation memorial benches. This has led to the problems outlined above and presents a risk to our objective of presenting a course that sits in harmony with its native woodland setting.

The Policy

In future no new Memorials (e.g. plaques, benches or trees) will be added to the course. The scattering of ashes will be acceptable, once the timing of any ceremony is approved by the General Manager and/or the Board.

As approved by the Board July 2024.