



Ballarat Golf Club – Bunker Restoration

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Background

After our initial visit to the Ballarat Golf Club on November 23rd 2015, our priorities in response to the bunker issues raised are as follows -

1. Safety of golfers
2. Playability of the golf course
3. Aesthetics of the golf course
4. Course difficulty
5. Lost balls

A number of solutions will be required as a single blanket approach will not work. These solutions include the following -

1. Rebuilding the bunker faces
2. Heavy topdressing/ filling the settlement areas
3. Removal of fescue fringes where appropriate
4. Close mowing of fescue fringe adjacent to the greens.
5. Do nothing

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Summary

A follow up course inspection was made on February 18, 2016.

Overall, our impression of the bunkers were that they were great looking complexes and have the potential to be enhanced with some minor works. We were very pleased with the entrances, playability and general condition.

The biggest concern is behind some of the bunker faces where balls are not clearing the rough area and ending up between clumps of fescue making shots extremely difficult.

As a consequence of poor rainfall, the rough areas are very sparse and dry at present, with some sand in the profile slightly hydrophobic which is not conducive to maintain quality turf.

The proposed recommendations contained in this report will enhance the bunker complexes and compliment the golf course landscape.

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Apart from inspecting the bunkering we were also very interested in the general state of the flora and fauna around the course. Overall there is a great deal of improvement required and believe the landscape needs as much attention as the bunkering.

All the great golf courses of the world have landscapes that tie in naturally with the golf and the bunkering. The BCG has the framework to be one of the best golf courses in regional Victoria, and the potential to break into the Top 100 courses of Australia.

Ballarat as an established regional city and community has a reputation as one of the great cultural landscapes and clean environments within the country. An improved landscape will do much to enhance and frame the course - a course that golfers and non golfers can be proud of.

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Thomson Perrett's design philosophy for The Ballarat Golf Club was to embrace the concept of 'fair' ground and 'foul' ground as exemplified by the great courses of the Melbourne Sandbelt and the London Heathland. In other words, the majority of the course was to present as fair playable ground whereas the balance of the course was to have various degrees of playability, including some 'foul' ground.

Royal Melbourne and Kingston Heath are great examples of courses that transition beautifully from the bunkers into the natural rough and landscape. Both courses allow players plenty of room to play their golf on 'fair' ground which is balanced by the 'foul' ground.

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An improved landscape will do much to enhance and frame the course. The Club should undertake to have a Landscape Masterplan prepared which will identify areas for further planting including -

- boundary planting
- rough and native grass areas
- tee surrounds

In addition the Landscape Masterplan should address the location and design of cart paths and maintenance tracks.

Thomson Perrett are keen to see the Ballarat Golf Club reach its full potential and are well credentialed to prepare the Landscape Masterplan for the Club.

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Great examples of the bunker edge transition from fairway to rough at Kingston Heath GC, This is the type of look which will enhance the bunkering at the Ballarat Golf Club.



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Hole by Hole notes

- every bunker has been assessed and recommendations made for their restoration.
- The following pages represent our views on the current bunkering.

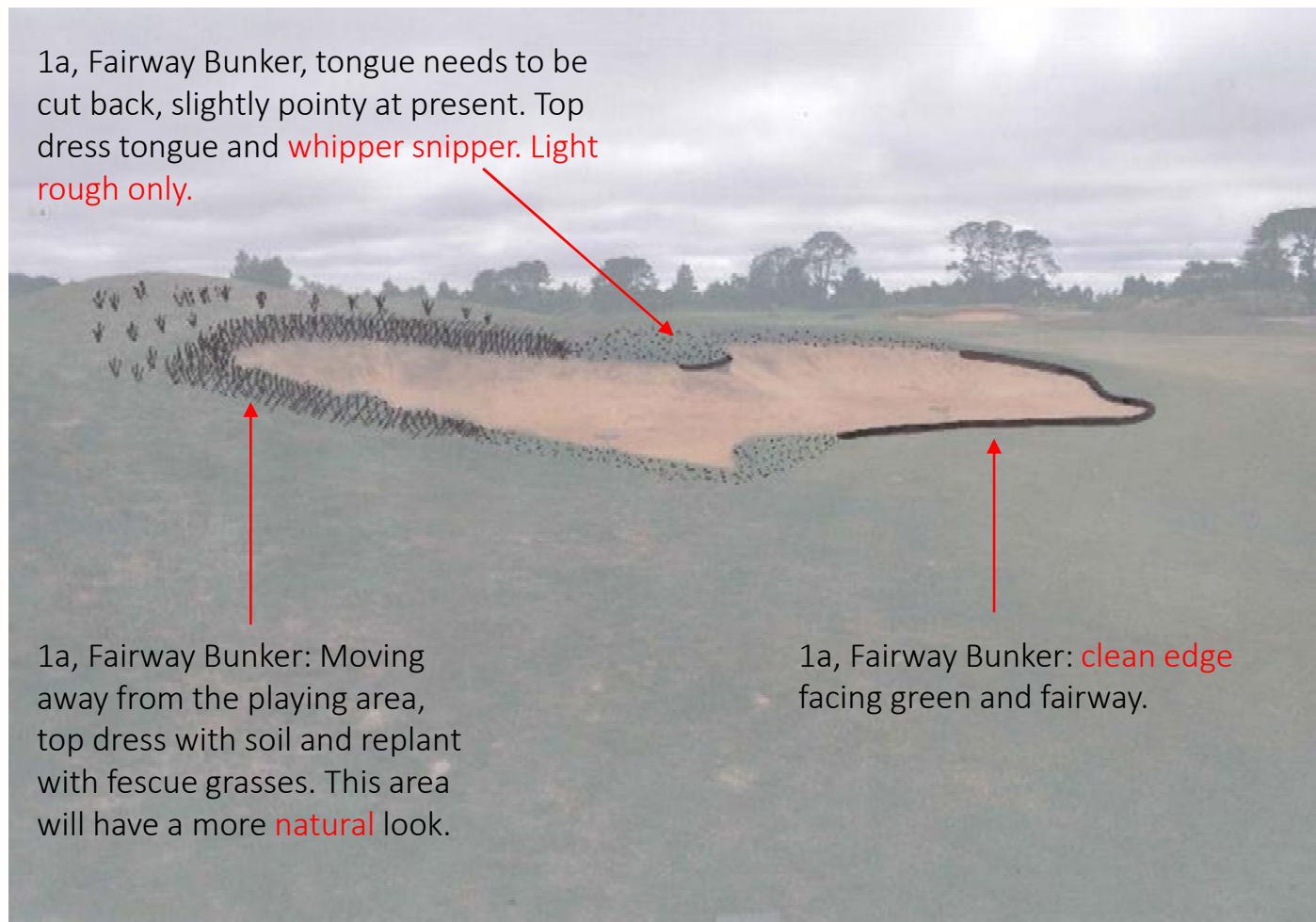
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Hole 1, 369m Par 4.



1a, Fairway Bunker, tongue needs to be cut back, slightly pointy at present. Top dress tongue and **whipper snipper**. **Light rough only**.



1a, Fairway Bunker: Moving away from the playing area, top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. This area will have a more **natural** look.

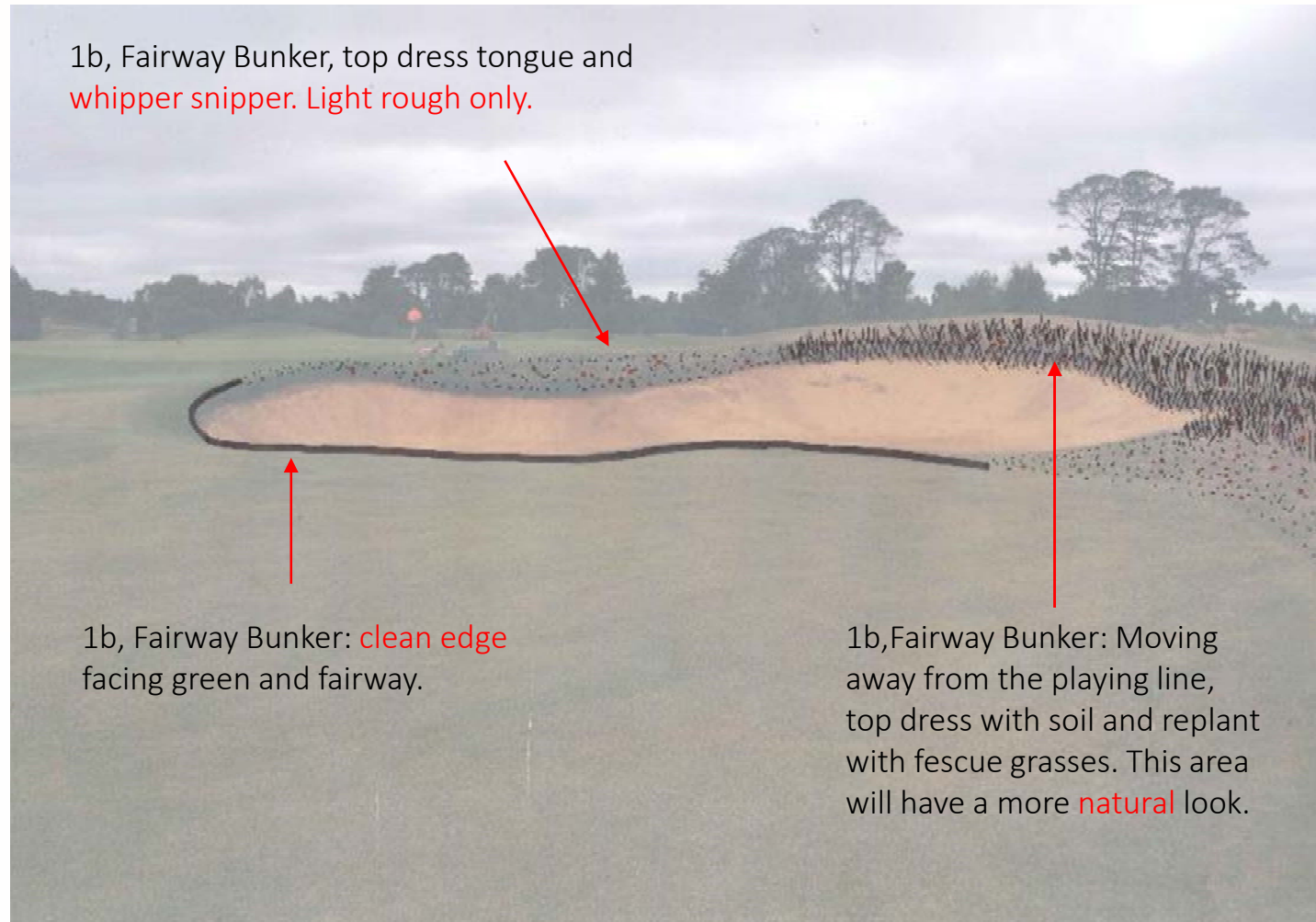
1a, Fairway Bunker: **clean edge** facing green and fairway.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 1 Bunker Restoration

Hole 1, 369m Par 4.



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1b, Fairway Bunker, top dress tongue and
whipper snipper. Light rough only.

1b, Fairway Bunker: clean edge
facing green and fairway.

1b, Fairway Bunker: Moving
away from the playing line,
top dress with soil and replant
with fescue grasses. This area
will have a more natural look.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 1 Bunker Restoration

Hole 1, 369m Par 4.



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1c, Greenside Bunker, top dress tongue and **whipper snipper**. **Light rough only**.

1c, Greenside Bunker: The face of the bunker has slipped and needs to be re cut. This edge will be kept **clean**.

1c, Greenside Bunker: Moving away from the playing area, top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. This area will have a more **natural** look.

1c, Greenside Bunker: **clean edge** facing green and fairway.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 1 Bunker Restoration



2c; Fairway Bunker, Moving away from the playing line, top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. This area will have a more **natural** look.



2d; Fairway Bunker; fairway **tongues** need to be cut back, a little busy at present. Transition from fairway, semi rough to rough. **Clean** fairway edge.



2a & 2b; Fairway Bunker, Moving away from the playing line, top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. This area will have a more **natural** look.



2b; Fairway Bunker, top dress tongue and **whipper snipper**. **Light rough only**.

2a & 2b; Fairway Bunker, **clean edge** facing green and fairway.



3c; Greenside Bunker, a **clean** edge around this bunker, removing the **kikuyu**. Changing the mowing pattern of the apron, will give this bunker and green complex a better look.



3b; Fairway Bunker, Top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. The entrance to the bunker will be **clean**. Moving away from the playing line the fescue will blend with the landscape giving the area a more **natural** look.

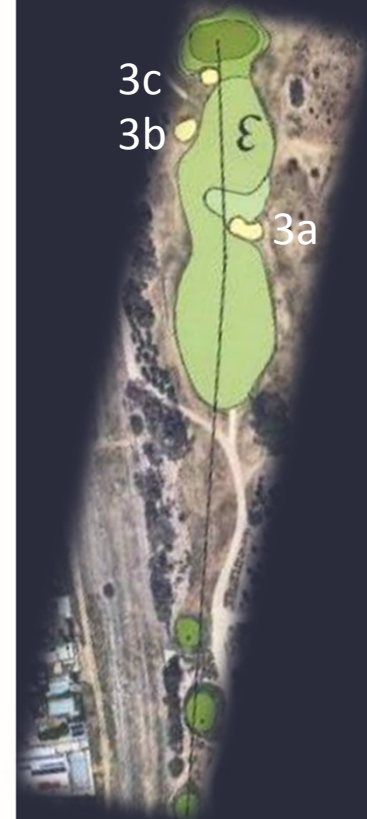


3a; Fairway Bunker, The face of the bunker needs to be top dressed with soil and replant with fescue grasses. The fescue light rough that feeds into the fairway, needs to be roped off regularly as carts/ traffic have compacted the area not allowing the turf to prosper in the manner it was designed. This area will have a natural shaggy look, similar to the twelfth hole. Again some traffic management is required to the right of the bunker.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 3 Bunker Restoration



Hole 3, 316m Par 4.



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4a; Fairway Bunker, Top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. The entrance to the bunker will be **clean**. Moving away from the playing line, the fescue will blend with the landscape giving the area a more **natural** look. The tongue also needs to be **trimmed** back. At present the surround of the bunker has been invaded with **couch** and should be **avoided** throughout the course bunkering.

The photo below is of the 5th hole at Royal Melbourne Golf Club and shows the clean edges and the natural transition from the bunker in the landscape.



Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 4 Bunker Restoration



Hole 4, 355m Par 4.

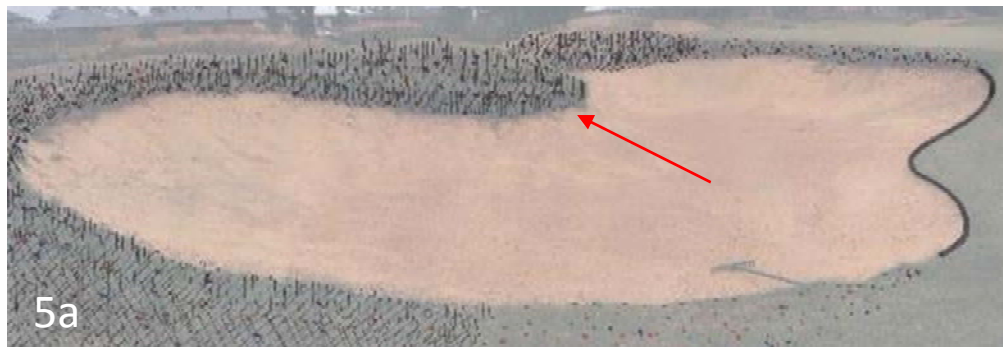


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5c; Fairway Bunker, Top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. The entrance to the bunker will be **clean**. Moving away from the playing line the fescue will blend with the landscape giving the area a more **natural** look.

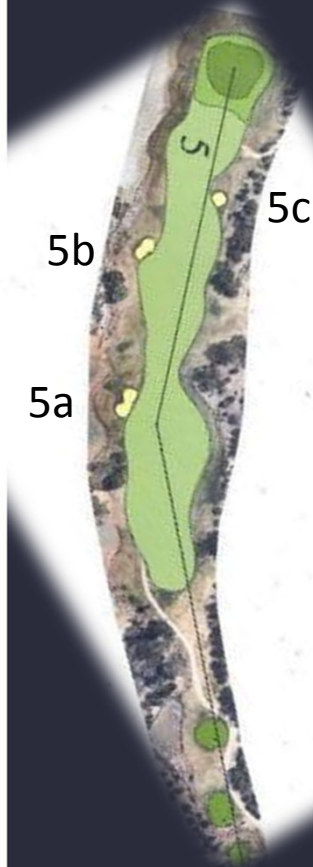
5b; Fairway Bunker, Top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. The entrance to the bunker will be **clean**. Moving away from the playing line the fescue will blend with the landscape giving the area a more **natural** look.



5a; Fairway Bunker, Top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. The entrance to the bunker will be **clean**. Moving away from the playing line the fescue will blend with the landscape giving the area a more **natural** look.



Hole 5, 414m Par 4.



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Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 5 Bunker Restoration



A good example of the landscape behind this bunker. However the fore ground could be improved with more ground covers and native grasses connected with the back of the bunker.



A poor example of landscaping behind the green. This hole could be one of the best holes at the Ballarat Golf Club with some attention given to framing the green and fairway.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 5 Bunker Restoration



Hole 5, 414m Par 4.



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6b; Greenside Bunker, The face of the bunker needs to be **trimmed** slightly. Slight rough should be left on the tongue with light rough between both bunkers. The transition from the bunker rough to the landscape should be enhanced.

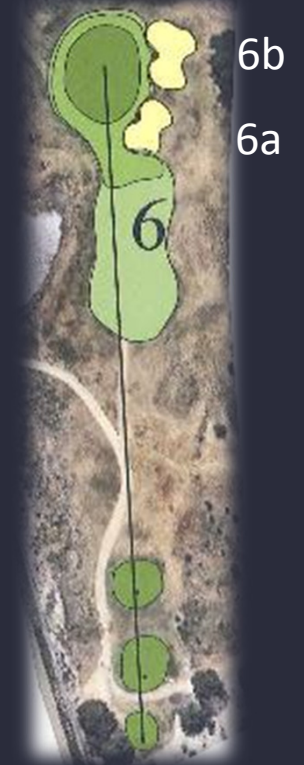


6a; Greenside Bunker, The entrance to the bunker will be kept **clean**. The face of the bunker needs to be **trimmed** slightly. Slight rough should be left on the tongue with light rough between both bunkers.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 6 Bunker Restoration



Hole 6, 194m Par 4.



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7e; Greenside Bunker, The face of the bunker needs to be **trimmed** slightly. Slight rough should be left on the tongue, this area needs to be top dressed. The transition from the bunker rough to the landscape should be enhanced.



7a,b,c,d; Fairway Bunker, Top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. The entrance to the bunker will be **clean**. Moving away from the playing line the fescue will blend with the landscape giving the area a more **natural** look. At present a natural couch has developed in this area, again our preference is for fescue grasses to frame the bunkers.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 7 Bunker Restoration



Hole 7, 490m Par 5.



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8b; Greenside Bunker, The **tongue** of the bunker needs to be trimmed slightly. Slight rough should be left on the tongue and also to be top dressed. The walk in and playing area will have a **clean** edge. The **back left shoulder** of the bunker to transition into **rough grasses**.



8a; Greenside Bunker, The **tongue** of the bunker needs to be trimmed slightly. Slight rough should be left on the tongue and also to be top dressed. A **clean** edge surrounds the remainder of the bunker.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 8 Bunker Restoration



Hole 8, 138m Par 3.



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9b

9b; Greenside Bunker, The entrance to the bunker will be kept **clean**. The face of the bunker needs to be trimmed slightly. Top dress tongue and **whipper snipper**.



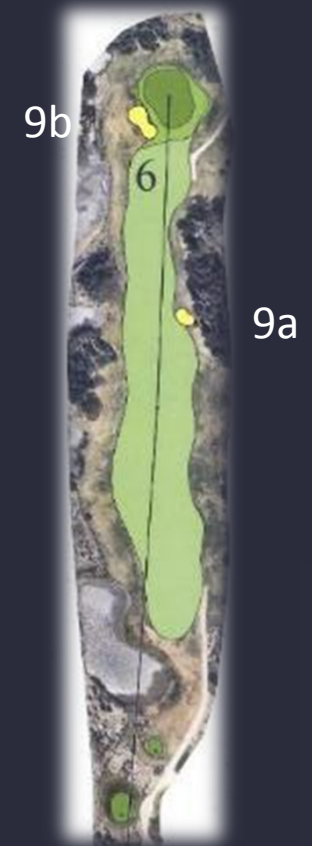
9a

9a; Fairway Bunker, Top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. The entrance to the bunker will be kept **clean**. Moving away from the playing line the fescue will blend with the landscape giving the area a more **natural** look.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 9 Bunker Restoration



Hole 9, 384m Par 4.



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10b Fairway Bunker, **Tongue** requires heavy top dressing and replanted with fescue. The entrance to the bunker will be kept **clean**.



10a Fairway Bunker, Top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. The entrance to the bunker will be kept **clean**. Moving away from the playing line the fescue will blend with the landscape giving the area a more **natural** look.



Hole 10, 471m Par 5.



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Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 10 Bunker Restoration



Clean edge

Tongue

Clean edge



10c. Greenside Bunker, The edge of the bunker has overgrown and is very thatchy. We would like to see a **clean** edge on the playing line. The tongue also needs to be top dressed with soil and replanted with fescue.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 10 Bunker Restoration



Hole 10, 471m Par 5.



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11 Grass Bunker, encourage the grass bunker to join with the fescue to the left of the green. The fescue behind the green is a real feature of the 11th hole and should be enhanced.



The industrial area behind the green detracts from this hole and should be heavily planted to screen the neighbouring buildings.

This hole will could be one of the star attractions at the Ballarat GC, once completed.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 11 Bunker Restoration



Hole 11, 161m Par 3.



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Boundary
planting
required.



Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 12 Bunker Restoration



Hole 12, 298m Par 4.



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13d

13d, Greenside Bunker, The face of the bunkers need to be trimmed slightly. The **tongue** on the right hand side of the bunker is to be **cut away**. The tongue to the left side requires top dressing and to be maintained as light rough. The remaining edge of the bunker will be **clean**.



13c

13a,b,c, Fairway Bunker, Top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. The entrance to the bunker will be **clean**. Moving away from the playing line the fescue will blend with the landscape giving the area a more **natural** look. The **tongue** in bunker 13b needs to be **trimmed** slightly.



13a,b

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 13 Bunker Restoration



Hole 13, 533m Par 5.

13d

13c



13b

13a

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14b, Greenside Bunker: Top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. The **tongue** in this bunker requires some attention to the shape while also top dressing. Away from the playing line the fescue will blend into the **natural** rough areas.



14a, Fairway Bunker, Top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. The entrance to the bunker will be **clean**. Moving away from the playing line the fescue will blend with the landscape giving the area a more **natural** look. At present **kikuyu** has developed in this area, again our preference is for fescue grasses to frame the bunkers.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 14 Bunker Restoration



Hole 14, 417m Par 4.



14b

14a

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15c, Greenside Bunker, The face of the bunkers need to be **trimmed** slightly. Slight rough should be left on the tongue, **native** grasses to be encouraged in out of play areas. Entrances to be kept **clean**.



15a & b; Fairway Bunkers, Moving away from the playing line, top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. This area will have a more **natural** look.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 15 Bunker Restoration



Hole 15, 361m Par 4.



15c

15b
15a

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16a,b,c,d; Fairway and Greenside Bunkers, Moving away from the playing line, top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. This area will have a more **natural** look. The 16th hole has great potential to showcase the Ballarat Golf Club as a genuine top quality course.



Hole 16, 317m Par 4.



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Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 16 Bunker Restoration

Hole 17, 139m Par 3.



17b

17a & b, Greenside Bunkers, The face of the bunkers need to be **trimmed** slightly. Slight rough should be left on the tongue, natural grasses to be encouraged in out of play areas. Entrances to be kept **clean**.



17a

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 17 Bunker Restoration



18c; Fairway Bunker, Moving away from the playing line, top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. This area will have a more **natural** look.



18a & 18b; Fairway Bunker, Moving away from the playing line, top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. This area will have a more **natural** look.

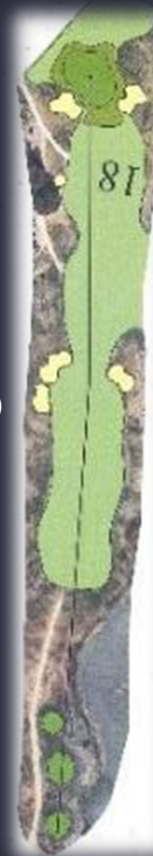


Kingston Heath. **Natural** looking bunkers that transition beautifully from clean edges to the rough into native landscape.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 18 Bunker Restoration



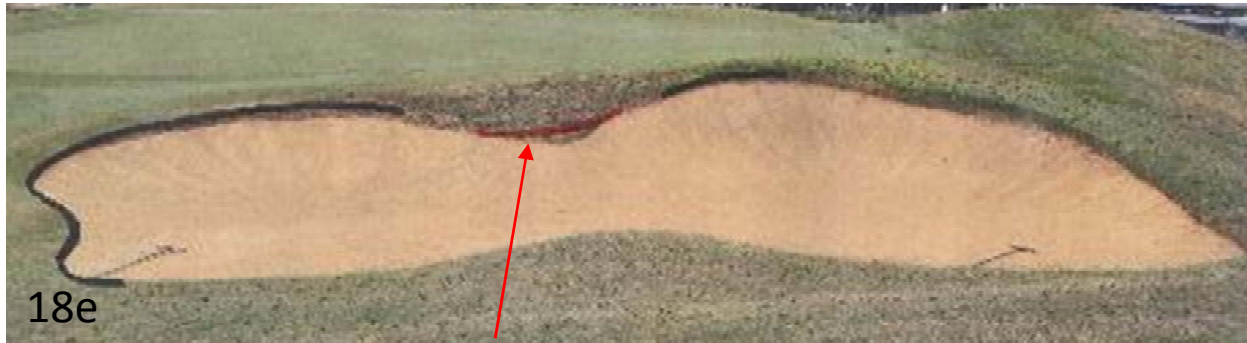
Hole 18, 377m Par 4.



18a
18b

18c

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18e; Greenside Bunker, the **tongue** needs to be trimmed slightly.



18d; Greenside Bunker is a **great example** of the Ballarat Golf Club bunkers and can be used as a template for the majority of bunkers around the course.

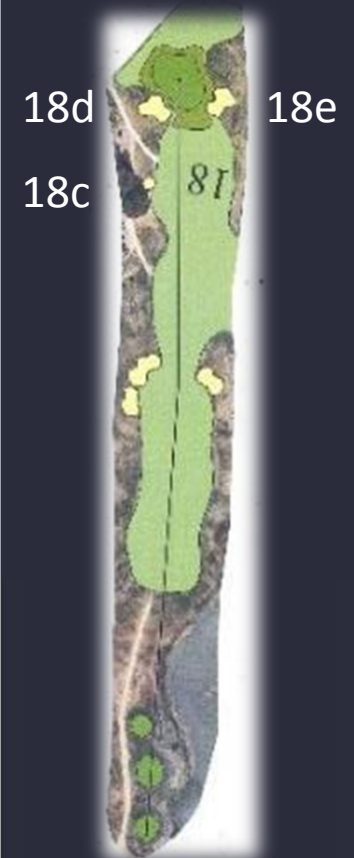


18c; Fairway Bunker, Top dress with soil and replant with fescue grasses. The entrance to the bunker will be kept **clean**. Moving away from the playing line the fescue will blend with the landscape giving the area a more **natural** look.

Ballarat Golf Club – Hole 18 Bunker Restoration



Hole 18, 377m Par 4.



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The desired fescue and natural look we would like to see promoted around the course, similar to the great courses of Surrey, UK.



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Conclusion

TP believes the Ballarat Golf Club will continue to grow in status within the Australian Golf scene providing the above recommendations are taken on board in the spirit in which they are offered.

The Club must remain true to its original vision which was to provide an enjoyable golf experience for golfers of all levels within a classic looking golf environment.

The classic look we were seeking was one that embraces the concept of 'fair' ground and 'foul' ground and presents multi textured playing surface.

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