

Mount Martha Public Golf Course Strategic Review



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Mount Martha Public Golf Course?

The Mount Martha Public Golf Course is a Council-owned golf course located at Forest Drive, Mount Martha.

The course was established in 1977, and includes 18 holes, a Pro Shop, licenced bar and deck area, a social indoor lounge, free BBQs, and offers golf carts, buggies and clubs for hire.

The Mount Martha Public Golf Course is home to the Mount Martha Golf Club, a family-oriented club founded in 1980 with over 230 members, most of who are local.

To learn more about the golf course visit: mtmarthapublicgc.com.au

What is the Mount Martha Public Golf Course Strategic Plan?

The plan will prepare:

- a “State of Play” report about the golf course’s management and performance as a golf course and as a regional open space.
- an “Issues and Options” discussion paper will follow, assessing the future development opportunities and desirable facilities
- a “Long Term Plan” for the site in line with the Council’s vision, plans and relevant legislation.

The plan will take input from the community and key stakeholders to develop the vision and plan.

What is the history of the Mount Martha Public Golf Course? ¹

Boon Wurrung of the Kulin nation were the first people to occupy lands on the Mornington Peninsula, and inhabited land along Port Philip Bay and Westernport, from Werribee to Wilson's Promontory. ²

The Mount Martha Golf Course is situated on land, that after European settlement was the former Greenlaw Estate, a 722-acre farm estate owned by Sir George Fairbairn, who was senator for Victoria 1917-23. He raised Suffolk sheep there from 1906. The Greenlaw Estate was adjacent to Mount Martha House, which was built in 1890. The house operated as a holiday and golfing destination for Melbourne’s wealthy. The golfing and country club with a 9-hole golf course was semi-private, located on the adjacent Greenlaw estate. The course covered what is now Irvine Avenue, Leggat Crescent and Prescott Avenue. Prescott Avenue was previously known as Golf Links Road.

Several remnant Monterey pines on the current Mount Martha Golf Course are from the Greenlaw farm. The Greenlaw Estate was developed for housing in 1958. Development proposals provided for a private, 9-hole course adjacent to the Greenlaw homestead, however this was deemed as unsatisfactory. It was instead suggested that 125 acres of the estate be made available to Council, provided Council developed a full golf course. The suggestion was

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adopted, the developer agreed to donate the land, and the land was rezoned to public open space in late 1967. The golf course was designed in 1974, officially opened in 1977, the pavilion was constructed and completed in 1980, and in the very same year a Club was formed, and the Mount Martha Golf Club hosted its first tournament.

Why is this Strategic Review required?

This strategic review is required to review the course as an open space and its location and proximity to other courses in the area. Before concepts and future works are considered to improve the course, it is necessary to review performance, management, the need for a golf course, the quality and position of the course in relation to others and the role of the land as public open space.

What other golf courses does Council have an interest in?

Mornington Peninsula is home to some 15 golf courses, one of which is managed by Council on behalf of State Government (Devilbend Golf Course) and one (Mount Martha Public Golf Course) is owned and operated by Council.



¹ See more details in the separate document; The History of the Mount Martha Golf Course

² Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges and pays respect to the Bunurong / Boon Wurrung people, the traditional custodians of these lands and waters.