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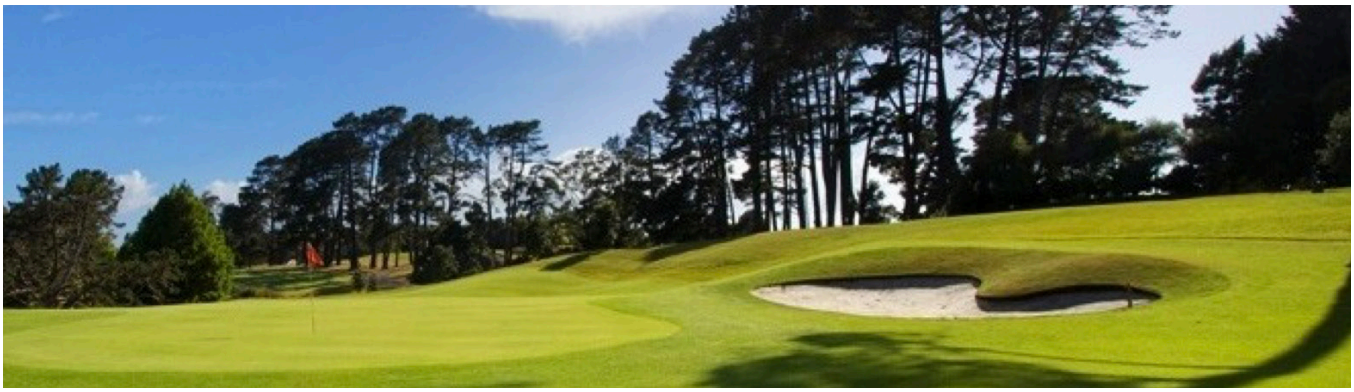
Remuera Golf Club



Remuera Golf Club was established in 1934 and was the first golf club in New Zealand to achieve GEO Certification. This case study illustrates the opportunities for incorporating nature-based solutions to enhance the overall amenity of spaces and places, but also to provide positive impacts for the surrounding community.

Client/Location:

Remuera Golf Club
Auckland

Case Study Stage:

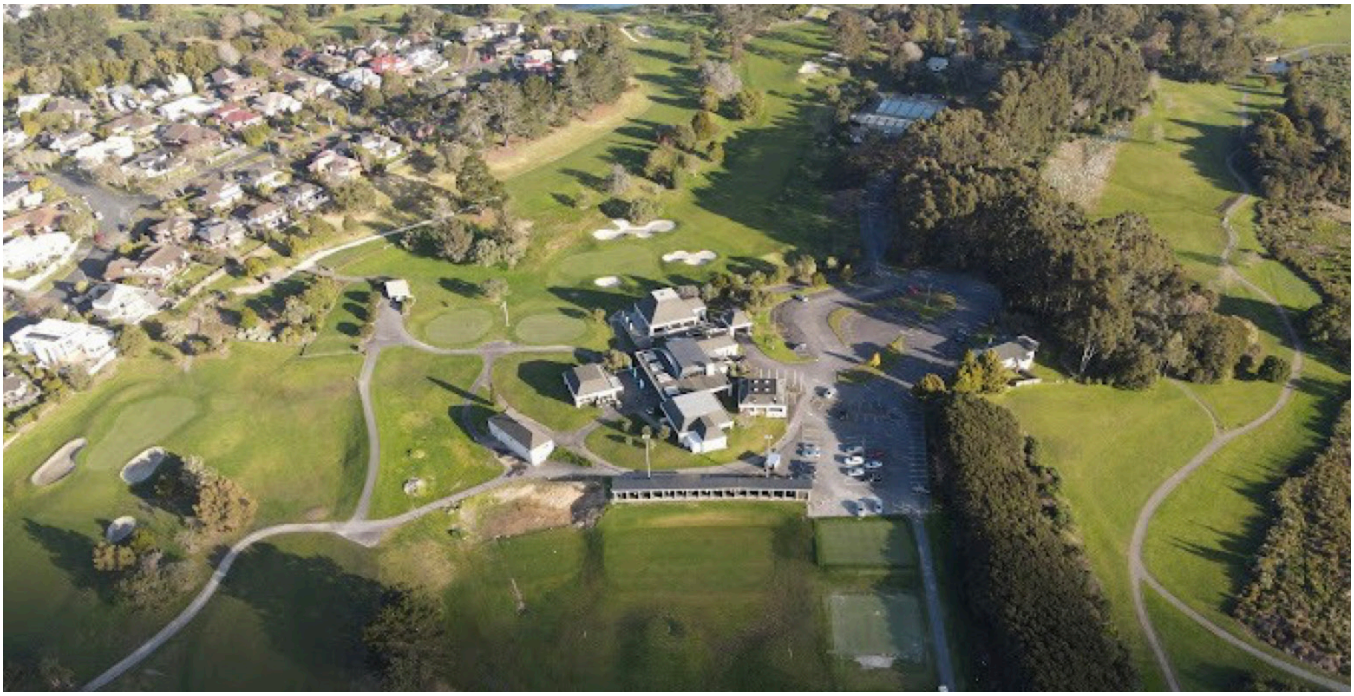
GEO certified 2016, renewed 2019 & 2022

Construction Value:

Approx. N/A

Features:

- 18-hole, par 72 course
- 200 car parking spaces
- Clubhouse facilities
- 72 ha woodland park reserve



Sustainability:

Biodiversity:

- Native tree planting & removal of exotics.
- Pest trapping carried out (for unwanted animals, plants and insects).
- Bee hives on course (harvest and sell honey produced on-site).
- Nesting boxes installed around the course.
- Use of specific fish species to control aquatic weeds.

Water:

- Change of turf plant species to low irrigation and high disease tolerance.
- Regular water quality testing (1-2 x per yr).
- Use of recycled water from Stonelands (nearby development).
- Use of Nano-bubble oxygenated water.
- Use of locally sourced organic fertilisers.

Energy:

- EVs replacing petrol and/or diesel vehicles.
- Changed to renewable power suppliers (carbon zero).
- PV panels installed late 2023 to cover 100% electricity needs.
- 14T reduction in carbon emissions between 2018 and 2021.

Community:

- Workshops to upskill and inform other courses, with involvement from
- Auckland Council and DOC.
- Neighbours engaged on planting days and pest trapping.
- School children visit site with formal outdoor classrooms to learn about sustainability.
- Locals invited to walk the course during Covid-19 lock-downs.

Key metrics:

Climate Zone: 1

Floor Area: 72 ha total site area

Key Information

The holistic approach to turf management resulted in benefits spread across a range of golf course elements. For example, the change in turf species meant that fertiliser demands were lower. An efficient irrigation system that altered the pH of the water to ensure neutrality, means that soil conditions are optimised for plant growth and nutrient uptake. The use of slow-release organic fertilisers means that fertiliser applications are less frequent, resulting in carbon savings through the use of less fuel; fuel use dropped by 4,000 litres between 2018 and 2021.

Biodiversity improvements have resulted in sightings of native kākā on the course; a bird typically found only in native forests. The bellbird/korimako has been spotted on the course for first time in 100 years. The brown teal/pāteke is now nesting on site and throughout the period of GEO certification, over 1 ha of new woodland habitat has been created and over 6 ha of unmanaged rough created.

Since the first GEO certification, alterations at the course now means that all drainage water is being diverted to on-site storage ponds. The holistic turf management approach has resulted in improved water quality, as evidenced by ongoing water tests. The tests show lower pH, reduced e-coli coliforms and reduced bacterial load. Testing of the downstream catchment shows that the water quality of nearby wetlands has also improved. This capture of all drainage water and improved water quality means that no town supply water is used for course management.