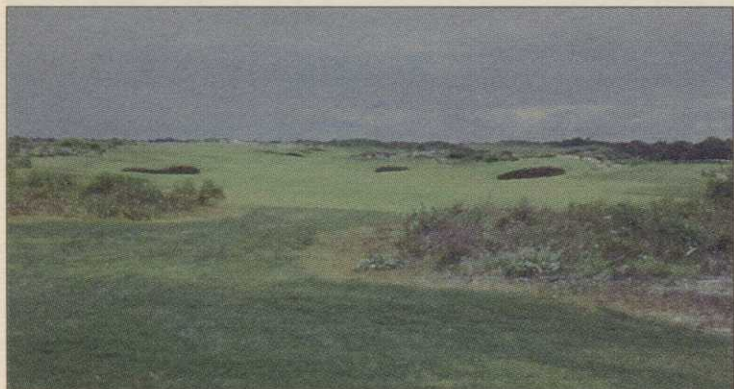


Coate designs 'true links' in Australia



The 458-yard 5th hole at Kennedy Bay oozes the traditional links feel.

ROCKINGHAM, Near Perth, Western Australia — The soon to be completed Kennedy Bay Resort on the West Coast of Australia has afforded Australian architects Michael Coate and Associates the opportunity to design and build two classical links courses in the purist style.

The first course, the private

Baker-Finch, Mackay pitch in on project

track, is complete with the public course about to be started.

"We have had the great fortune to be able to construct the course on a pure links site and to be able to route the course as we

wished between the dune ridges without the need to compromise holes for the sake of houses," said Coate. "Thus, a golfer could walk many of the holes without the impression of the existence of anyone else."

Professional golfers Roger Mackay and Ian Baker-Finch are working in conjunction with Coate, with the latter stating publicly that "The course should become one of the top courses in the country in a very short time."

Superintendent Trevor Strachan is overseeing tees and fairways have been stolonized with Windsorgreen Bermuda-grass which is currently knitting in very well. The greens are of 1019 bentgrass which, under the watchful eye of superintendent Trevor Strachan, formerly of The Vines, will be kept firm and fast in the best links tradition.

The earthforming work was able to be carried out by Coate's own shaping team with local irrigation company, Total Eden, installing the Toro Irrigation system.

A total of 70,000 cubic meters of soil was moved, which might strike the casual observer as rather a lot, given the natural site which Coate was presented with. However, when you consider that this figure also includes the construction of an irrigation lake, a driving range and the creation of two greens and a tee in the least undulating portion of the course, it becomes apparent that Coate has every right to be confident.

"You may rest assured that in the main, the golf course has been 'hung off' the marvelous natural features," said Coate.

The course has been created in the British ideal, with revetted bunkers and a very natural relationship with the surrounding formations. Allied to this is a temperate climate and regular high wind speeds, (frequently reaching 20-25 knots).

"The golf course reminds me of an amalgam of British links courses," said Coate. "The 6th hole is reminiscent of the 6th at Turnberry and the 5th and 7th greens are shared to form a double green which has the feel of St. Andrews. But, in general, the course has its own links character with every hole having its individual identity."

The local fauna is, however, likely to remind golfers of their location. The site has approximately 30 kangaroos.

Heading up the project is the joint venture company, Kennedy Bay Resorts, which is an amalgam of two Western Australians — Gary Sheehan and Richard Lukin — and an Indonesian syndicate.

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