Trafalgar Golf Club Tree and Native Vegetation Management Plan
August 2015

Trafalgar Golf Club Native Vegetation Management Plan Proposal
June 2015

Environmental responsibility is a core value of The Trafalgar Golf Club and we are committed to developing and managing an ecologically sustainable golf course, integrating continual improvement into all our operations. The club is also committed to providing a safe and affordable, high quality golfing experience to members and visitors as well as a safe workplace for its staff and volunteer workers.

This report outlines a programme of works and actions proposed to manage the indigenous and native plant vegetation species within the golf course in line with Baw Baw Shire and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries requirements as well as meeting our obligations to Occupational health and Safety and Duty of Care to patrons and visitors. The works outlined in this proposal will form part of a holistic environment management plan that the club intends to develop and deliver over the next ??? years to ensure an ecologically sustainable and safe golf course.

The works and actions proposed will form the basis for a long term planning permit (10 years), to enable the Trafalgar Golf Club to address the works and actions as necessary or as resources become available.

Due to the limited financial resources, most of the works proposed will be completed by volunteers and a substantial number of Cedar Wattle and dangerous trees removed will be given to the local Lions Clubs for community fund raising projects.

Native Vegetation Zones

Ten Native Vegetation Zones (refer appendix 1) will be created to preserve and conserve indigenous vegetation and to provide habitat for native flora and fauna. These areas will be assessed to identify the specific indigenous plants and the existing weeds and exotic vegetation species such as coastal wattle, blackberry and Watsonia will be removed to ensure that each zone will sustain the regeneration and development of indigenous species. Once restored, access to these areas will be restricted and a maintenance programme developed as part of the proposed Environment Management Plan to conserve these native vegetation zones.

Removal/Trimming of Dangerous Trees

A number of trees have been identified as presenting an unacceptable risk to the health and safety golfers occupying the playable areas of the course as well as staff and volunteers who maintain the golf course. There are also some trees that present a high risk to property. A number of these trees have been removed or trimmed to mitigate the risk as a result of consultation with the Baw Baw Shire. The risk ranking of individual trees has been determined in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 **Risk Management**.

Management of Weeds and Non Indigenous Vegetation

Non indigenous plant species such as coastal wattles, introduced grasses (other than fairway and greens turf), Watsonia and the like will be progressively eradicated from the course to encourage indigenous plant species to regenerate. Sections of the golf course will be listed as “out of bounds” to golfers to minimise disturbance to regenerating vegetation.

Maintenance of Fairways and Greens

A number of trees included in the Vegetation and Tree Works Schedule present a detrimental impact on fairways and greens through root invasion, shading and the shedding of bark, leaves and branches. These trees will be addressed to minimise the impact which may include removal, Canopy reduction or thinning.

Delivery of the Proposed Works

The works associated with the proposed vegetation and tree works schedule will be undertaken by member volunteers, local service clubs and specialist contractors under the supervision of the Course Superintendant and Grounds Director. The wood salvaged from the removal of trees will be predominantly collected by the service clubs and sold to raise money for community activities and charitable causes. Works will also be conducted on a priority basis with those trees identified as presenting a very high risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers being removed as soon as possible.

Tree Replacement

At least five indigenous trees or plants will be planted for every tree removed.

Tree Management Program

The health and condition of trees within the golf course will be monitored by the Course Superintendent and Course director through monthly inspections. Any tree over hanging or adjacent to a fairway that presents a risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers will be treated to minimise the identified risk which could include trimming or complete removal.

LOCATIONS OF PROPOSED VEGETATION AND TREE WORKS

(Refer to Works Schedule for description of proposed actions)

(Zoom View to 500% for specific detail)

Works Schedule for Vegetation and Tree Works

Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
1	Trim the canopy of the e.nicolii tree on the fairway side	To reduce shading of the fairway to improve turf growth		Low	Low	Low	No immediate action to be taken
2	Remove tree	To protect golfers, staff and volunteer workers from falling limbs as the tree is 80% dead and dead limbs overhang 2nd fairway (refer Risk Assessment 1)		Low	Very High	High (7)	Oct 2015
3	Trim dead and dying limbs from the 2 trees in view	To protect golfers, staff and volunteer workers from falling limbs as dead limbs overhang 2nd fairway (refer Risk Assessment 1)		Low	Very High	High (8)	Dec 2015

Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
4	Remove weeds from this area	To protect and encourage the growth of indigenous plants. **Note:** *The bracken and grass in this area has been slashed to a height which will not impact on low growing indigenous plants. The sedge grasses around the trees adjacent the back of the 8th green and the men's 3rd tee are indigenous species and will be protected. Some Lomandra from around the base of the tree on the fairway has been transplanted into this area.*		Low	Low	Low	On going
5	Remove two native (not indigenous) trees on RHS of fairway.	These trees shed limbs and bark onto the fairway as well as their roots intrude onto the fairway damaging the turf **Note:** *The Blackwood wattle between these two trees will be retained.*		Low	Low	Low	Oct 2015
6	Remove three trees on LHS of fairway	To protect golfers, staff and volunteer workers from falling limbs as dead limbs overhang 3rd fairway (refer Risk Assessment 1)		Low	Very High	High (9)	Sept 2015

Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
7	Remove three trees adjacent to the fairway	To enable suitable indigenous shrubs, small trees and grasses to be planted and the regeneration of existing indigenous flora		Low	Low	Low	On going
8	Remove the tree on the RHS of the fairway approximately 18 m south of the 150m mark	To allow the fairway to be closer to the boundary and the indigenous trees along the boundary to be seen		Low	Low	Low	2016
9	Remove stalks and small leaning trees	To allow a clear fairway to the bunker and 5th green from the Ladies Tee		Low	Low	Low	Nov 2015

Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
10	Remove two leaning trees on RHS of fairway	To enable a clear view of the 5th Green and bunker from the Men's Tee		Low	Low	Low	Nov 2015
11	Remove wattles from the bush area behind the 5th Green	To allow air flow over the Green to promote a healthy turf		Low	Low	Low	2016
12	Cut grass and clean up area and replant with indigenous plants	To reinstate indigenous flora **Note:** *Some replanting has already been done but could be damaged during these works.*		Low	Low	Low	On going

Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
13	Remove a number of indigenous trees near the 6th Green	These trees were damaged during recent storms and are potentially unstable (refer Risk Assessment 2) **Note:** *It is preferable to remove these trees before they rot of become diseased and present a risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers*		Low	High	Medium	Dec 2015
14	Remove 30% of introduced native trees	To improve the quality of the turf on the 6th and 7th fairways (refer Risk Assessment 2) **Note:** *These trees were planted by the club. They are native but not indigenous to the area. They shed large quantities of bark, drop limbs and draw water from the fairways.*		Low	High	Medium	Oct 2015
15	Remove weeds from recently cleared area and plant indigenous plants	To allow indigenous plants to regenerate in this area				Low	On going

Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
16	Remove trees overhanging fairway and replace with appropriate native species that will not present a future health and safety risk or degrade the condition of the fairway	To reduce the risk of injury to golfers, staff and volunteer workers and to improve the quality of the fairway (refer Risk Assessment 2 and 3) **Note:** *These trees are showing signs of stress and may die in the foreseeable future. As they overhang the fairway they will present a high to very high health and safety risk*		Low	Moderate (Current) High to Very High (Potential)	Medium	Dec 2015
17	Remove Cedar Wattles and 3 dead trees	To remove non indigenous trees to enable indigenous plants to regenerate and to reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers (refer Risk Assessment 1)		Low	Very High	High (10)	Dec 2015
18	Remove Blackwood Wattles from edge of fairway	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers (refer Risk Assessment 2) **Note:** *These trees are showing signs of stress and may die in the foreseeable future. As they overhang the fairway they will present a high to very high health and safety risk*		Low	Moderate (Current) High (Potential)	Medium	Nov 2015

Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
19	*Remove dead tree and reduce canopy of live tree in the vicinity of the 9th Green and the adjacent walking track*	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers (refer Risk Assessment 2) **Note:** • *These trees are dead or showing signs of stress. As they overhang the fairway and walking track they will present a very high health and safety risk* • *Another tree in this area has already been removed with Council permission due to its dangerous condition*	 	Low	High	Medium	Nov 2015

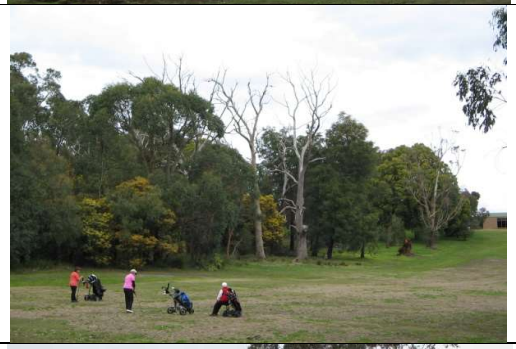
Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
20	Remove Mahogany Gum	This trees shed limbs and bark onto the fairway as well as their roots intrude onto the fairway damaging the turf **Note:** *Two other Mahogany Gum in this area has already been removed with Council permission due to its dangerous condition*		Low	Moderate	Medium	Aug 2015
21	Remove 2 trees with base rot and trunk damage	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers (refer Risk Assessment 1) **Note:** *There was originally 5 threes in this area in similar condition3 of which have fallen in the last 2 years during wind storms*		Low	Very High	High (1)	Aug 2015
22	Create a Native Vegetation Offset Zone on the northern side of the 11th Green	To provide an area to plant indigenous plants to off et trees removed		Low	Low	Low	On going

Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
23	Remove 4 dead trees adjacent to fairway	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers (refer Risk Assessment 1)		Low	Very High	High (2)	Sept 2015
24	Remove 3 trees adjacent to the 11th Tee	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers (refer Risk Assessment 1)		Low	High	High (6)	Nov 2015
25	Remove Wattles adjacent to fairway and replant with indigenous trees	To improve the quality of the fairway turf		Low	Low	Low	Summer 2015/16

Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
26	Remove Blackwood Wattle	Tree is dying and has the potential to present a risk injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers		Low	High	Medium	Dec 2015
27	Reduce canopy of trees overhanging the fairway	To improve the quality of the fairway turf		Low	Low	Low	During 2016
28	Remove Cypress pines	To improve the quality of the fairway turf and rough areas		Low	Low	Low	Summer 2015/16

Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
29	Reduce canopies of 10 trees overhanging the green	To improve the quality of the 14th Green		Low	Low	Low	Summer 2015/16
30	Remove 5 dead trees near 15th Green bunker	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers		Low	Very High	High (1A)	August 2015
31	Remove dead tree overhanging 16th Ladies Tee and remove wattles and weeds in the adjacent area	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers and to encourage indigenous flora to regenerate		Low	High	Medium	December 2015

Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
32	Remove the dead tree on RHS of fairway just prior to the Green	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers		Low	High	Medium	During 2016
33	Remove trees on RHS of fairway just prior to the 17th Green	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers		Low	High	Medium	During 2016
34	Thin out the trees adjacent to 17th Green	To increase the sunlight exposure to the Green to improve the turf and to dry the area out		Low	Low	Low	Summer 2015/16

Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
35	Remove dying tree adjacent to fairway	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers		Low	High	Medium	During 2016
36	Remove Dead tree overhanging the fairway	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers		Low	High	Medium	During 2016
37	Remove trees and vegetation surrounding the Workshops and Fuel Storage Tank	To minimise the risk of damage to the buildings in the event of a severe storm and to reduce the fire hazard		High	Moderate	High (12)	Aug 2015

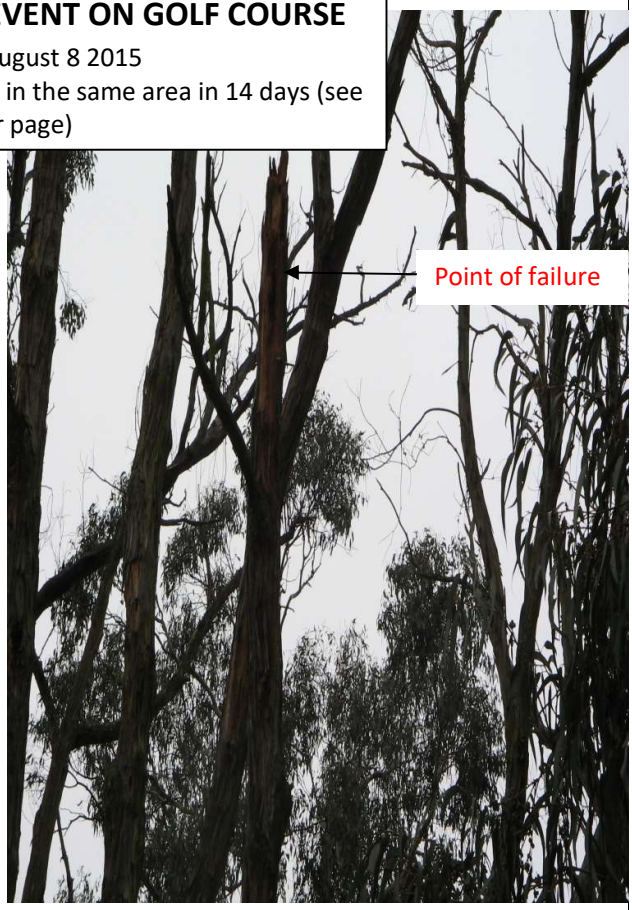
Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
38	Remove dead tree adjacent to the 9th Green and opposite the Workshops	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers and to minimise the risk of damage to the buildings and plant/equipment from falling limbs		Very High	Very High	High (4)	Oct 2015
39	Remove dead tree adjacent to and overhanging Ladies Tee	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers		Low	Very High	High (5)	Nov 2015
40	Remove Dead Trees adjacent and overhanging fairway	To reduce the injury risk to golfers, staff and volunteer workers		Low	High	Medium	During 2016

Ref	Works Description	Reason	Photograph	Risk Ratings		Priority	To be completed by:
				Property	Health & Safety		
41	Remove trees along boundary fence lines that present a threat to the integrity of the fence	To ensure that cattle are retained on the adjacent property		High	Low		On going

TYPICAL TREE HAZARD EVENT ON GOLF COURSE

Occurred August 8 2015

This is the second similar event in the same area in 14 days (see cover page)



Appendix 1

TRAFALGAR GOLF COURSE NATIVE VEGETATION ZONES