



STILL SWINGING AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST EXISTING GOLF CLUB

Roman emperors, 15th century Dutchmen on frozen canals, the Belgian and French on cross-country courses, and 17th century American colonials discovered the passion of using a club shaped stick to drive a small ball. The Scots embraced the game despite its ban in Scotland in 1457. The Scots braved Parliament and the Church, to fight to establish the right to play golf.

Scotland would become the cradle of modern golf, where the first formal golf club was established in Edinburgh in 1744. Initially called the Company of Gentlemen Golfers, it was renamed the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers. It codified the first set of rules. Ten years later, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St Andrews became the first ruling organisation of golf. Its Rules Committee, together with the United States Golf Association, still governs the sport.

From these historic beginnings, golf has spread worldwide from Britain to Europe, the United States, Japan and Australia. Moore Park Golf Club, which is part of Centennial Parklands and Moore Park Trust, would become the "people's home of golf", embracing Australian values of democracy and the love of sport.

Moore Park Golf Club was built on the traditional homelands of the Dhurag-speaking Eora indigenous people. Proclaimed as the Sydney Common in 1811 by Governor Macquarie, it had a chequered and turbulent history in the pursuit of a public golf course for Sydney. In 1866, the Mayor of Sydney, Charles Moore, created Moore Park by setting aside 378 acres of the Common for recreational use including golf. The Royal Agricultural Society Showground and the first course of the Australian Golf Club in 1882 were established here. However it was an elitist sport. This would change when in the early 1900s two young Scottish immigrants, brothers Duncan and Charlie, fought for the development of a people's golf course. Their dream became a reality in 1913 when the first seeds of the nine holes of what would become known as Moore Park Municipal Golf Links were laid.

It officially opened in May 1913 and Moore Park Golf became the first public access golf course in NSW. The Hughenden, located at the Woollahra Gates of Centennial Parklands, is just a short drive from the Moore Park grounds.

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