

Royal Wellington Golf Club officially opens its new Championship Course.

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Scott Macpherson holds plans for the redesigned championship course.

The Royal Wellington Golf Club was founded in 1895 and moved to its current location at Heretaunga in 1908. The club has hosted 7 New Zealand Opens and is widely regarded as one of the most senior golf clubs in New Zealand.

In 2004 the club was conferred the royal title by Her Majesty The Queen. In response to this treasured accolade, the club commissioned Wellington born, UK based golf course architect Scott Macpherson and New Zealand golf professional Greg Turner to redesign the golf course to championship standards.



During the official opening of the redesigned Championship Course at the Royal Wellington Golf Club, Sir Bob Charles putts from off the 4th green on the 443m, par 5 Lake Hole. Captain of the Royal Wellington Golf Club, Robert Bryden, watches on.

Work on the redesign commenced in February 2011 and Macpherson and Turner altered the routing, creating 13 new holes, rebuilt every green, tee and bunker. The new design has created a strategic layout that rewards intelligent placement of shots. The result is a par 72 parkland course measuring 6,601m (7,219 yards).



New Zealand Prime Minister John Key delivers a speech at the Gala Evening to celebrate the opening of the new course.

The course is notable for its numerous streams and lakes, distinctive native trees and captivating greens. A strong front nine is balanced by an intriguing back-nine and attractive finishing hole playing directly towards the historic wooden clubhouse.

The course was officially opened on 12 February 2014 by the Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Sandy Dawson. He said of the course "The Championship Course at Heretaunga has been totally redesigned by Scott Macpherson and Greg Turner. It is full of interest and challenge and all the holes sit beautifully in the landscape. It is now clearly one of the very top courses in Australia and New Zealand."

The opening was part of a 3-day celebration featuring such notable guests as New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, John Hopkins, Chairman of Golf Australia, Paul Fyfe, Chairman of New Zealand Golf and Sir Bob Charles, 1963 Open Champion. The Chief Executive of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews also attended the event and said of the course; "I was delighted to have the opportunity to play the Heretaunga Course at Royal Wellington during its official opening celebrations. Greg Turner and Scott Macpherson have done a magnificent job in producing a very



As the official party watch on, a traditional Maori ceremony is performed to guests during the opening of the new golf course.

challenging layout which easily meets the standards required for hosting professional or elite amateur events while at the same time accommodating the needs of normal member and visitor play. I'm sure we will hear much more about this golf course in the years ahead."