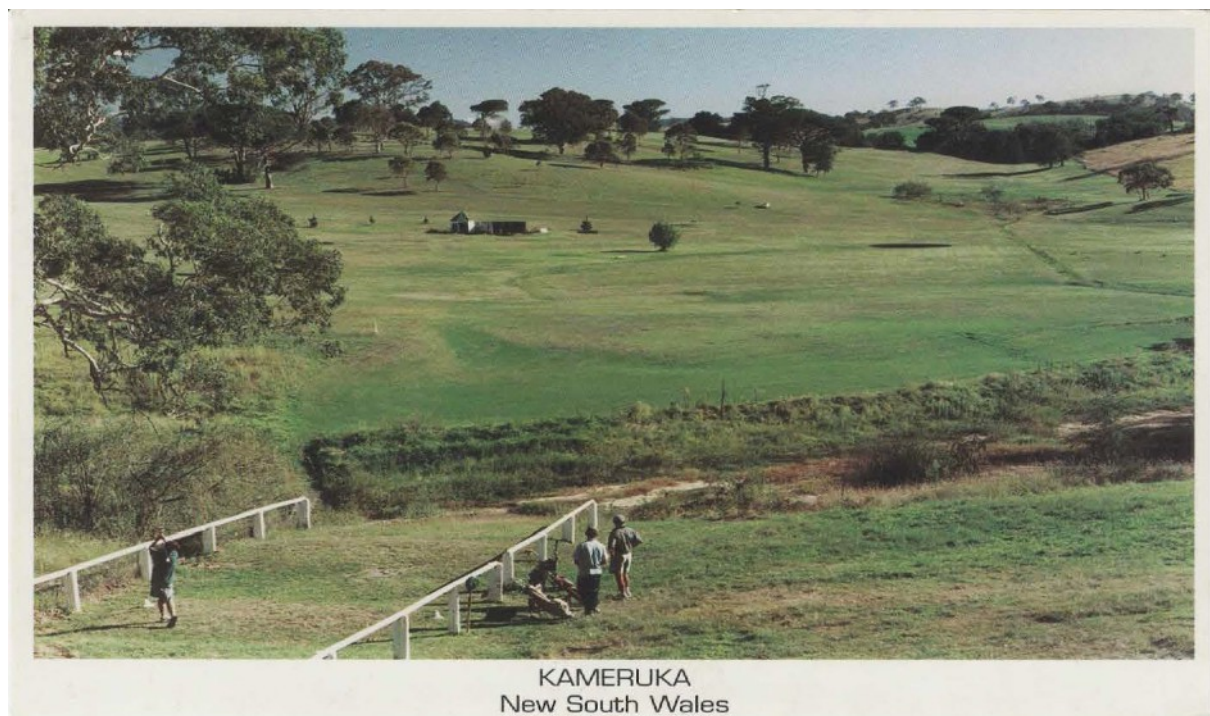


# KAMERUKA GOLF COURSE

## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE + PROPOSED BVSC LEP HERITAGE LISTING TO RETAIN AND RESTORE A COMMUNITY ASSET



ABOVE: 'KAMERUKA NEW SOUTH WALES', POSTCARD SHOWING THE OPENING KAMERUKA GOLF COURSE HOLE NO. 1, HITTING ACROSS THE CANDELO CREEK. POSTCARD (NOT DATED).

# KAMERUKA GOLF COURSE

PREPARED BY PETER FREEMAN CONSERVATION ARCHITECTS + PLANNERS MARCH 2021

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## **PART 1: ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: KAMERUKA GOLF COURSE<sup>1</sup>**

### **1.1 THE ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

#### **ASSESSING HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE<sup>2</sup>**

Before making decisions about the future of a heritage item it is first necessary to understand its heritage values. This leads to decisions that will retain these values in the future.

#### **STATEMENTS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The main aim in assessing significance is to produce a succinct statement of significance, which summarises an item's heritage values. The statement is the basis for policies and management structures that will affect the item's future.

#### **WHEN TO ASSESS SIGNIFICANCE**

The assessment of significance, and the statement that it produces, is the basis for all good heritage decisions. It is a process that should be used as part of the management of all heritage items because it clarifies why the item is important. There are a range of situations when assessment is needed.

This assessment involves the consideration of an item for listing on the State Heritage Register and / or on the schedule of heritage items in the Bega Valley Council Local Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule.

#### **STEPS IN ASSESSING HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

Summary of what is known about the item.

Description of the previous and current uses of the item, its associations with individuals or groups and its meaning for those people.

Assessment of significance using the NSW heritage assessment criteria; Prepare a sound analysis of the item's heritage significance; and

Submit proposed entry into the Bega Valley Council Local Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule.

<sup>1</sup> The header to this report is an illustrated 1915 plan of the Golf Course, provided by Harley Kruse 2021.

<sup>2</sup> The following assessment criteria, and the resultant potentials of entry in the Bega Valley Shire LEP have been taken from *Assessing Heritage Significance*, NSW Heritage Manual, NSW Heritage, 2001; the header plan is by the golf course designer Ernest Banks, c. 1913.



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## 1.2 NSW HERITAGE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

### CRITERION A

An item or place is important in the course, or pattern, of the local area's cultural or natural history.

Guidelines for inclusion shows evidence of a significant human activity; is associated with a significant activity or historical phase; and / or maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity.

Guidelines for exclusion; has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes; provides evidence of activities or processes that are of dubious historical importance; and / or has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association.

### CRITERION B

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area.

Guidelines for inclusion; shows evidence of a significant human occupation; and/or is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons

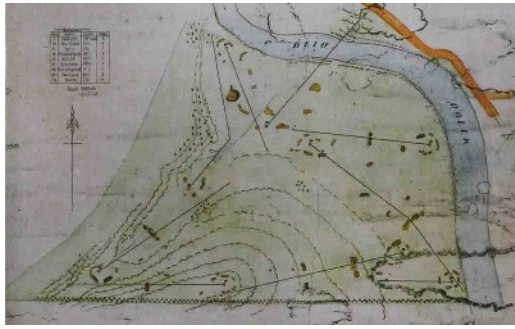
Guidelines for exclusion; has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events; provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance and / or has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association.

### CRITERION C

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area.

Guidelines for inclusion; shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement; is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement is aesthetically distinctive; has landmark qualities; and/or exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology.

Guidelines for exclusion; is not a major work by an important designer or artist; has lost its design or technical integrity; its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded; and/or has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement.



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#### **CRITERION D**

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area.

Guidelines for inclusion; is important for its associations with an identifiable group; and/or is important to a community's sense of place.

Guidelines for exclusion; is only important to the community for amenity reasons and/or is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative

#### **CRITERION E**

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the area's cultural or natural history, of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area.

Guidelines for inclusion; has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information; is an important benchmark or reference site or type and/or provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere.

Guidelines for exclusion; the knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture; has little archaeological or research potential and/or only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites.

#### **CRITERION F**

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the area's cultural or natural history, of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area.

Guidelines for inclusion; provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost; shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity; is the only example of its type; demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest and/or shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community.

Guidelines for exclusion; is not rare and/or is numerous but under threat.

#### **CRITERION G**

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the area's cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments.

Guidelines for inclusion; is a fine example of its type; has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items; has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity; is a significant variation to a class of items; is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type; is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size and/or is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held.

Guidelines for exclusion; is a poor example of its type; does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type and/or does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type.



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At completion of this assessment of heritage significance of the Kameruka Golf Course, a draft submission of the proposed entry for that place to the Bega Valley Council Local Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule has been undertaken.

Part 3 of this document provides the draft submission for heritage listing.





### 1.3 CURRENT ZONING

The zoning of the land, the former Kameruka Golf Course, is currently zoned RU1 (Primary Production), which is a 120 hectare minimum lot size.



The relevant NSW legislation for the current zoning of this land is as follows

#### 1 OBJECTIVES OF ZONING

To encourage sustainable primary industry production by maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base.

To encourage diversity in primary industry enterprises and systems appropriate for the area.

To minimise the fragmentation and alienation of resource lands.

To minimise conflict between land uses within this zone and land uses within adjoining zones.

To encourage development for tourism-related activities and other development that is compatible with agricultural activities, which will not adversely affect the environmental and cultural amenity of the locality.

To maintain and protect the scenic value and rural landscape characteristics of land in the zone.



## 2 PERMITTED WITHOUT CONSENT UNDER CURRENT ZONING

Environmental protection works; Extensive agriculture; Forestry; Home businesses; Home industries; Home occupations.

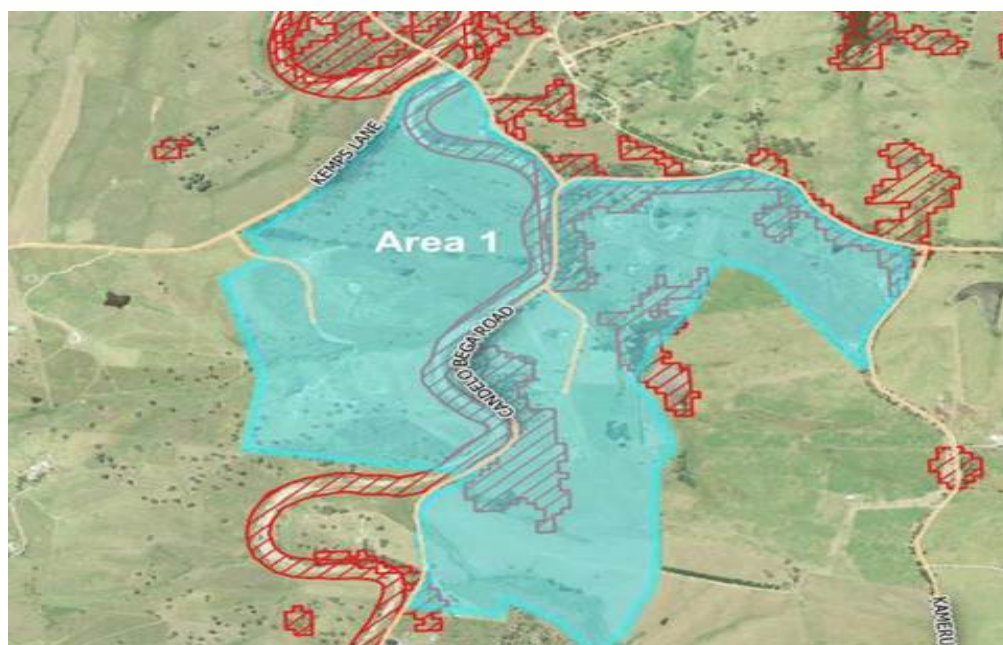
## 3 PERMITTED WITH CONSENT UNDER CURRENT ZONING

Agriculture; Airstrips; Animal boarding or training establishments; Aquaculture; Bed and breakfast accommodation; Boat launching ramps; Building identification signs; Business identification signs; Camping grounds; Cellar door premises; Charter and tourism boating facilities; Community facilities; Correctional centres; Depots; Dual occupancies; Dwelling houses; Eco-tourist facilities; Environmental facilities; Extractive industries; Farm buildings; Farm stay accommodation; Flood mitigation works; Freight transport facilities; Function centres; Garden centres; Hardware and building supplies; Heavy industrial storage establishments; Helipads; Home-based child care; Industries; Information and education facilities; Intensive livestock agriculture; Intensive plant agriculture; Jetties; Landscaping material supplies; Open cutmining; Places of worship; Plant nurseries; Recreation areas; Recreation facilities (major); Recreation facilities (outdoor); Restaurants or cafes; Roads; Roadside stalls; Rural industries; Rural workers' dwellings; Storage premises; Vehicle body repair workshops; Vehicle repair stations; Veterinary hospitals; Water recreation structures; Water supply systems; Wholesale supplies.

## 4 PROHIBITED UNDER CURRENT ZONING

Any development not specified in item 2 or 3.

**HOWEVER**, although there is no provision for subdivision in the current zoning, the golf course site has been identified as future rural residential living in Area 1 in the Rural Residential Strategy 2020. This suggests future opportunities to rezone land as the land is marked as 'Future Rural Residential'. Such rezoning would require a Planning Proposal to be put forward to the Department of Planning by the owner of the land.







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## **1.4 AUTHORSHIP + APPENDICES**

This assessment and submission for heritage listing have been prepared by Peter Freeman OAM, managing director of Peter Freeman Conservation Architects + Planners PL, with assistance from Liz McIntyre, Paul Carter, Rob Owen, Adrian Logue, Harley Kruse and Vicki Small. The appendices provide an understanding over time of the personnel and changes to the Kameruka Golf Course, and includes books and texts provided by professional specialist historians, architects and those intimately involved with the Kameruka Golf Course over time.

### **APPENDIX A: NEWSPAPERS**

This document has relied heavily on the newspaper information related to the Kameruka Golf Course. Each of the newspaper and Kameruka Estate cuttings included here have been modified to WORD format, primarily by Liz McIntyre of Bega (2021). The date references have been included with each of the newspaper cuttings.

### **APPENDIX B: JOURNALS**

This document has also relied on journals containing articles related to the Kameruka Golf Course. Each of the journal extracts included here have been provided in PDF format, by Rob Owen (2019), Harley Kruse (2021) and Adrian Logue (2021). The date references have been included with the front page of the journal extracts.



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## PART 2: NSW HERITAGE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

### 2.1 CRITERION A

**An item or place is found to be important in the course or pattern of the cultural or natural history of the local area.**

#### THE BACKGROUND

The Kameruka Golf Course is an integral part in the development and cultural significance of the Kameruka Estate. Parts of the Kameruka Estate currently have been designated as being of heritage significance. This document addresses the Golf Course which should also be afforded heritage significance and listing.

The Kameruka Estate was the creation originally of the Imlay Brothers and the Walker brothers.

However, the development of the Kameruka Estate as we know it today was primarily the work of Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth (1844-1915).

Sir Robert was born on 7 December 1844 in Sydney, eldest son of Edwin Tooth and his wife Sarah, née Lucas. He was educated in England at Eton and in 1863 rowed in the college eight. In December he returned to Sydney, joined R. and F. Tooth & Co. and became active in the management of one of the largest breweries in Sydney, the Kent Brewery, brewing and distributing Tooth's beer throughout NSW. In 1868 Robert became a partner.

Sir Robert had purchased the Kameruka estate near Bega from his uncle Frederick in 1864. Between 1868 and 1871 the property shrank from 75,000 acres (30,352 hectares) of leasehold to 22,000 acres (8903 hectares) of freehold land. He put into practice there his own humanitarian social ideas, providing his tenant farmers with 6 roomed cottages, a school, a church, a meeting hall, store and post office.<sup>1</sup>

In November 1871, the special correspondent of the *Australasian Town & Country Journal* made a visit to the Kameruka Estate, and observed of the 22,000 acreage that:

Kameruka is a splendid property, owned by RL [Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth] Tooth, Esq. It is about two hours ride from Bega, and consists altogether of about 22,000 acres of land, principally undulating country, well-watered by the Benbooka River, and numerous smaller streams.

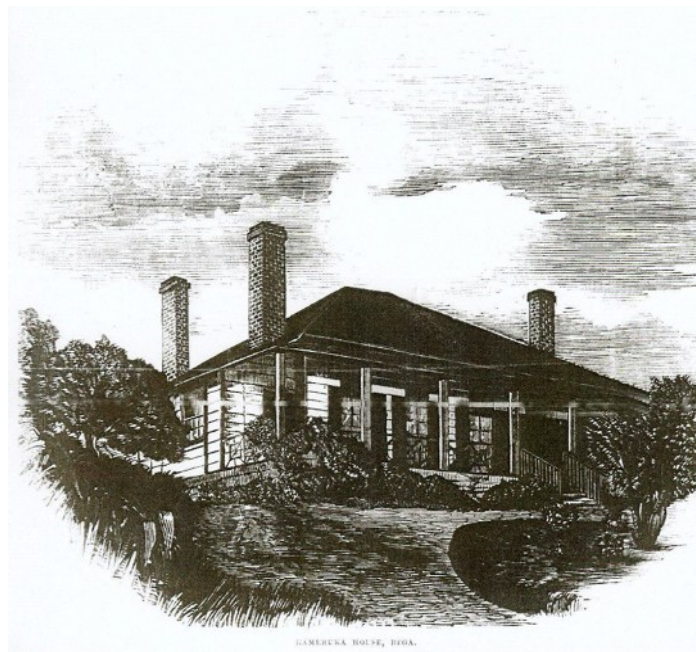
A great portion is sown with prairie and other grasses, which grow famously ... Kameruka House is built on a commanding position, overlooking many miles of country. It is situated at the junction of the Candelo Creek with the Tantara River. Bordering these streams, for some distance approaching the junction, are a row of stately willow trees, perhaps the finest plantation of willows in the colony. They half conceal the river, over which they spread their streaming foliage '... and dip their pendant boughs, stooping, as if to drink'.

<sup>1</sup> Martha Rutledge, 'Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth, (1844-1915)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 6, Melbourne University Press, 1976, pp. 286-287.



The house is a fine commodious structure, built of brick, and partially surrounded by verandahs. In front is a well-kept shrubbery, which is reached by a flight of steps from the residence. The shrubbery, amongst other novelties in this district, contains a splendid bunya-bunya. It is growing vigorously, just in front of the house, and numerous laurels [English], Acacias, Spireas, Box, Lauristinas, etc., are all luxuriating in a wonderful manner. To the left of the residence is an aviary, containing golden pheasants in their glorious plumage, and other fine birds. Out buildings, men's quarters, and a good store and post-office, [under the charge of Mr. Hinton] at the rear, give the grounds the appearance of a small township, while Kameruka House itself, viewed from the distance particularly, is a good resemblance of 'the squire's house on the hill' of many of the landed gentry of England.<sup>2</sup>

In 1871 the Kameruka Estate headquarters was, in effect, centred on a small village, with a vast pastoral and dairying area surrounding the estate.



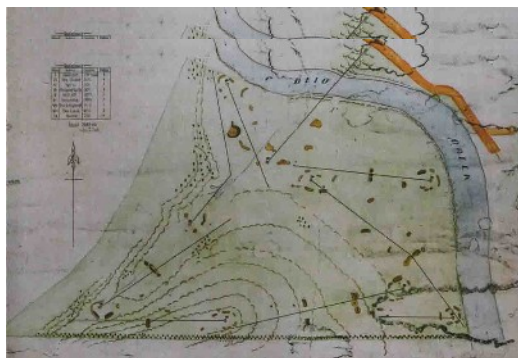
'Kameruka House, Bega, *Australasian Town & Country Journal*, 18 November 1871, p. 664.

Six years later, in 1877, the *Australasian Town & Country Journal* special correspondent returned to the Estate and observed that:

Following the course of the creek along a fair road, in about two miles is reached Kameruka station, belonging to Mr. Tooth, and managed by Mr. H. Wren. A pretty villa

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<sup>2</sup> 'A Journey to the South' by our special correspondent, *Australasian Town & Country Journal*, 18 November 1871, p. 664.



residence, with flower-garden attached and all the usual out-offices, with a neat Episcopal Church on a rise, help to make up a *coup d'oeil* in this apparently lonely spot. Kameruka has long been noted for its grazing and dairying lands. Mr. Wren kindly showed me over some portions, and the first visit was to the neat little church, the grounds surrounding, which have been planted with Elms, Firs, Oaks, and several other foreign trees, all looking healthy and thriving rapidly. There are several small plantations fenced in on the estate devoted to the rearing of these trees and ornamental shrubs, besides a considerable number planted around the paddock, which in course of time will make the estate more resemble a gentleman's park than an Australian station ... After spending an enjoyable day and partaking of the kind hospitality of Mr. Wren I took my departure.<sup>3</sup>

Three years later the *Australasian Town & Country Journal* special correspondent returned once again to the Estate and noted:

The outbuildings at Kameruka comprise all those necessary for the conduct of a large establishment: stores, stables, barns, hay-sheds, barracks for bachelor guests and in fact all proper surroundings, but this being, as I said before, one of the oldest places in the country, the buildings have rather a struggling appearance, showing them to have been built piecemeal, at several different times, and in as many divers styles of architecture; but hospitality meets you at the door, and waits on the guest, be he gentle or simple, so long as he chooses to shelter himself under the shadow of the paternal and protecting roof-tree. A church and school are here, as they are sure to be on any establishment owned by Mr. Tooth, and managed by Mr. Wren, and in fact the place has more the appearance and pretension of a village than a station.<sup>4</sup>

The English cricket team came to Australia in the summer of 1884-1885. On 12 January 1885 the team came to the Kameruka Estate and played a two-day match against a local team of twenty-two on a flat piece of land next to Candelo Creek with a rising hill that well availed the several hundred spectators a view of the game. The match attracted an attendance of at least 2,000 spectators. The land on which the match was played was later to become holes 2 and 3 of the Kameruka Golf Course. The English won the match by an innings and 12 runs.

Inspired by the success of the cricket match Sir Robert then went on to build the *Lords View* cricket field on the Kameruka property. It remains one of the oldest cricket grounds in Australia, which over the years has played host to many notable matches. In 1985 a Centenary match celebrating the original 1885 match on the golf course land was played, and the participants included many luminaries of Australian and international cricket.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> 'A Journey to the South' by our special correspondent, *Australasian Town & Country Journal*, 1877, p. 591.

<sup>4</sup> 'A Journey to the South' by our special correspondent, *Australasian Town & Country Journal*, 1880, p. 306.

<sup>5</sup> Harley Kruse, *Kameruka Golf Club*, January 2021, p. 2; the *Lords View* cricket field built later on the Kameruka Estate.





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At around this time in the very early 1900s Sir Robert Tooth decided to encourage visitors to the Kameruka area by building a large Hostel, not unlike the Brighton Pavilion in its grandeur and by embarking on the creation of a golf course for his visitors to play on. However, it was not until 1913, that the Kameruka Golf Course was commenced on the directions of Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth. In that year, while living in London, Sir Robert had devised a plan which was to be executed by his manager, Arthur Champneys, back at Kameruka Estate. This would include his ideas for the construction of a hostel (within the Estate proper) to attract holiday makers and the added attraction of a nine-hole golf course designed by Laurie Auchterlonie.<sup>6</sup>

The above commentary that suggests that Laurie Auchterlonie was involved in the design of the Kameruka course is widely spread. Laurie, of the famed St Andrews Auchterlonie family, was the 1902 US Open champion, and his brother Willie was the 1893 Open Champion at Prestwick.

While Tooth was based in London, he may have indeed met Laurie Auchterlonie and asked him to design the Kameruka course, and perhaps endorse the course as part of promoting the Kameruka Estate. Alternatively, he may even have sought Auchterlonie's advice on design matters, or on the introduction of a golfing expert and services. It may have been that Auchterlonie advised Tooth to commission Ernest Banks to build the course. So far there has been no concrete evidence of Auchterlonie's exact involvement with Kameruka.<sup>7</sup>

Sir Robert soon put into action the plan that had emerged. In 1914 he dispatched an English golf professional named Ernest Banks to Kameruka to implement the 'Auchterlonie' design. The construction of the Kameruka Golf Course commenced in August 1914, which ominously coincided with the outbreak of World War1:

According to the periodic reports to Sir Robert from the manager of Kameruka Estate, Arthur Champneys, work had started on building the course by November 1914. A Mr [Ernest] Banks had been sent out to Australia by Sir Robert to supervise its construction following the Auchterlonie plan

'... The excavation work of making the bunkers was started by a gang of men kept busy carting loam with horses and carts. Mr. Banks was employed to lay out the course, and an immense amount of work was done, not only on the course itself, but on the approaches, gates, fences, foot bridges and the building of a kiosk ... the whole turnout being very pleasing and attractive'.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Adrian Logue, 'Finding Kameruka', *Golf Australia*, March 2021, pp. 42-49; Laurie Auchterlonie was a renowned golf course designer in Great Britain and the USA.

<sup>7</sup> Harley Kruse, *Kameruka Golf Club*, January 2021, p. 3.

<sup>8</sup> Rob Owen, 'Kameruka Estate and the Lucas-Tooth Family', *The Valley Genealogist*, October 2019



Most unfortunately the construction of the golf course on the Tooth Estate at Kameruka was beset by a huge personal tragedy that Sir Robert was experiencing at the same time on the other side of the world.

Sir Robert's three sons were all enlisted in the British Army when World War 1 broke out in August 1914. They all served on the Western Front in France. The second eldest son, Captain Douglas Keith Lucas-Tooth had already been decorated for his service in the Boer War. When World War 1 broke out Douglas, was an officer in a British cavalry unit and was killed on 14th September 1914 in the Battle of Aisne, in a German artillery bombardment after his unit sheltered in a French farmhouse. The eldest son, Captain Selwyn Lucas Tooth, was killed by a German sniper during a trench battle on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1914, during the first battle of Ypres.

The Golf Course was not completed until July 1915. Tragically however Sir Robert had died of a cerebral haemorrhage on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1915 at his English residence 'Holme Lacy' an estate near Hereford, some five months before. Some say his death was from a broken heart from the loss of his sons. Unfortunately, Sir Robert was never to see his completed Golf Course, nor his 'The Hostel', nor his 'Bungalow'.

Sir Robert Tooth was survived by his wife, his remaining youngest son and three daughters who were to succeed him. However, in a further tragedy, the youngest son Archibald, a major in the artillery, was also killed while on active duty in France in 1918, after contracting the Spanish Flu, which was sweeping the battlefield trenches.

The tragedy that Sir Robert and the Tooth family had suffered during World War 1 is strongly evident on the whole of the Kameruka estate including its golf course.

The Kameruka estate has several remembrances of the tragedy of World War 1 had on the whole of the local area. It was profound. The main Community Hall within the Kameruka estate displays a variety of honour boards to the local sons and daughters who fell as well as wartime memorabilia such as a WW1 machine gun.

The Kameruka Golf Course exhibits similarly strongly remembrances of the events and those that fell during World War 1

There is a strong First Australian Imperial Force connection with the Kameruka, Candelo and Bega area as so many of the young men enlisted and many being killed in World War 1. It was devastating to so many families in the local area. The World War 1 connection was made explicitly clear with the subsequent naming of each of the nine holes of the Golf Course. World War 1 was a defining cultural event for the Bega community and was captured in a golf course whose names bear its horrific battles.<sup>9</sup>

Each of the holes on the Kameruka Golf Course has an identifying name with 7 of the 9 holes of the golf course are named after the notable World War 1 battles and events.

<sup>90</sup> Martha Rutledge, 'Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth, (1844 - 1915)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 6, Melbourne University Press, 1976, pp. 286-287. There is high interest from the local Returned Services League, and also interest from the National War Memorial both because of the connection to local Bega youth serving in WW1 and the golf holes commemorating the WW1 battlefields



### Kameruka Scorecard

Hole	Name	Length
I	Gallipoli	294
II	The Crater	217
III	Ypres	335
IV	Shrapnel Gully	307
V	Hill 60	307
VI	Salonika	391
VII	The Labyrinth	141
VIII	The Kiosk	421
IX	Home	270

**2683**

The scorecard for Kameruka using Roman numerals and names of WWI battlegrounds for holes 1 -7

### BACKGROUND TO THE NAMES OF THE KAMERUKA GOLF HOLES

A snapshot of the background of the Australian World War1 involvement around the names of the various golf holes provides a poignant insight into how closely connected the Kameruka Golf Course was to the tragedy of that war:

**Hole 1: Gallipoli** Probably the seminal event in Australian nationalism where the first Australian Imperial Force fought in an unsuccessful attempt by the Allied Powers to cut off war supplies to Turkey by controlling the sea route from Europe to Russia.

**Hole 2: The Crater** A reference to the Lochnagar mine crater on the 1916 Somme battlefield in France. It was the largest man-made mine crater created by underground explosion on the Western Front.

**Hole 3: Ypres** In the course of the First World War, five major battles were fought around the Belgian town of Ypres. All five Australian divisions took part in the Third Battle of Ypres, which was in fact a series of battles culminating in the Battles of Passchendaele. The eldest Tooth son, Selwyn, was killed in the first battle of Ypres.

**Hole 4: Shrapnel Gully** Following the landing at Anzac Cove in April 1915, Shrapnel Valley (or Shrapnel Gully) became the main route for Allied troops and supplies between the beach and the frontline in the Anzac sector.

**Hole 5: Hill 60** This was the finest hour of the Australian Mining Corps during the third Battle of Ypres. They exploded 19 mines at Hill 60, south of Ypres, with devastating effect and an impact that, some said, was felt in London.

**Hole 6: Salonika** In October 1915 the Allies sent an expeditionary force to Salonika in the Balkans to support Serbia against an invasion by Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria. The Australian involvement was largely medical and nursing support.

**Hole 7: The Labyrinth** This hole refers to the famous underground fortress at Arras south of Ypres where several brutal hand-to-hand battles were fought in the dark with knives.



After the end of World War 1 the Kameruka Golf Course experienced a life quite different to that envisaged by Sir Robert Lucas Tooth.

In the late 1920s, as a result of the untimely death of Sir Robert and his sons, and the lingering bitter aftermath of World War 1 there was relative disinterest by the Kameruka Estate management in the Golf Course and the related Hostel and Bungalow.

Major changes were made. The Hostel and Bungalow were demolished in 1927 in order to use the bricks in the construction of the Estate Hall and the building of brick granaries.

The continual disinterest of the Estate management led to a situation, in the early 1930s, which allowed the residents of the surrounding area to form the semi-independent Candelo-Kameruka Golf Club, which took over the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the Course.

In 1932, following the receipt of a letter from the management of the Kameruka Estate granting the use of the Kameruka [Golf] Links on conditions to be incorporated in an agreement to be drawn up later, an inaugural meeting of the Candelo-Kameruka Golf Club was held on 23 May 1932.

At the meeting it was determined that '... a club be formed, to be known as the Candelo / Kameruka Golf Club' ... At the second meeting [of the Club] it was determined that an Opening Tournament should be held on 16 and 17 July of that year. The tournament was reported in *The Southern Record* on 22 July 1932:

.... last weekend the Kameruka Golf Links woke as a giant refreshed after seven years of quiescence and became the scene of bustling activity. Visitors attended [the Golf Club] in force from Bega, Narooma and Merimbula.<sup>10</sup>

A Golf Club house was officially opened on 29 October 1939. A rabbit-proof gate was constructed and erected in March 1944, in order to give access from Kemp's Lane onto the Course. The Course footbridge [over the creek] was replaced in 1965 by a seventy five metre long suspension bridge across Candela Creek. Unfortunately, it was washed away in the 1971 flood. The floods that year and in 1972 were disastrous.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Rob Owen, 'Kameruka Estate and the Lucas-Tooth Family', *The Valley Genealogist*, October 2019; the Pambula-Merimbula Golf Course was not constructed until the late 1960s.

<sup>11</sup> Rob Owen, *The Valley Genealogist*, October 2019.





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## HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Kameruka Golf Course, as a 'heritage place', has clear connections with the Kameruka Estate and its 'village buildings'. The connection, between the Estate and the Golf Course, is significant in its own right. The Course is primarily significant as the oldest golf course layout in Australia in its original design form, as well as being the only intact example of the 'Penal School of Architecture'.

The 'cultural event' of placing a golf course adjacent to the Kameruka Estate and the pastoral and dairying pastoral areas, is, and has been, an important item / place within the course of the Kameruka / Candelo history. The Kameruka Golf Course still clearly shows the archaeological and structural evidence of the unique nine-hole construction and its associated elements. The Course is profoundly associated with the 1884-1985 cricket oval, which later became the Kameruka Golf Course; the tragic beginnings of WW1 and the resultant deaths of the sons of Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth; and the death of Sir Robert in 1915.

The on-going maintenance and use of the Course by the Candelo and Kameruka residents, in the period between 1932 and the latter years of the C20th, was a remarkable achievement, and '... maintained or showed the continuity of a historical process or activity'.<sup>12</sup>

The features of the Course remain and can be clearly identified, thus in an archaeological and historical sense, the Course and its associations are of singular significance and '... maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity'.<sup>13</sup>

The eminent golf course architect Harley Kruse has observed, in 2021, the heritage significance of the Course:

**...the hand-built course at Kameruka is like nothing else in Australia, it was created completely independently of those with the ideas and skills that had been forming the golf holes of the evolving Melbourne and Sydney golfing landscapes. Many hundreds of miles away [from these cities] Kameruka has been untouched and locked away in place and time ... It needs to be preserved. It is most worthy of bringing back to life, not only as a unique and historic piece of golfing architecture in this country, but for the truly fun and relevant golf experience some 105 years after its making'.<sup>14</sup>**

There are no reasonable guidelines for exclusion.

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<sup>12</sup> CRITERION A

<sup>13</sup> CRITERION A

<sup>14</sup> Adrian Logue, 'Finding Kameruka', *Golf Australia*, March 2021, pp. 42-49.



## 2.2 CRITERION B

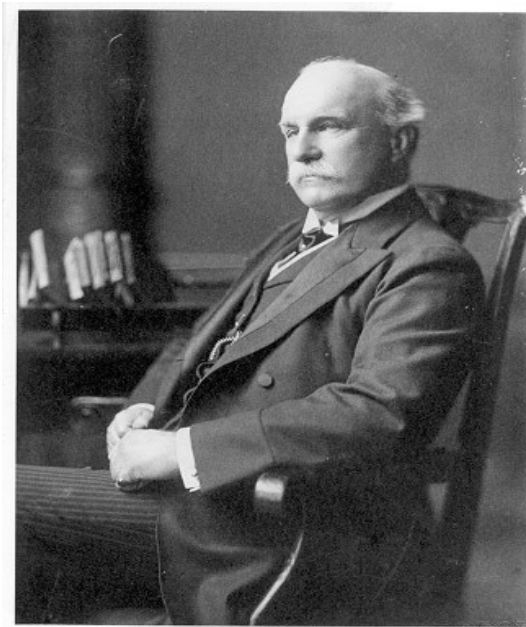
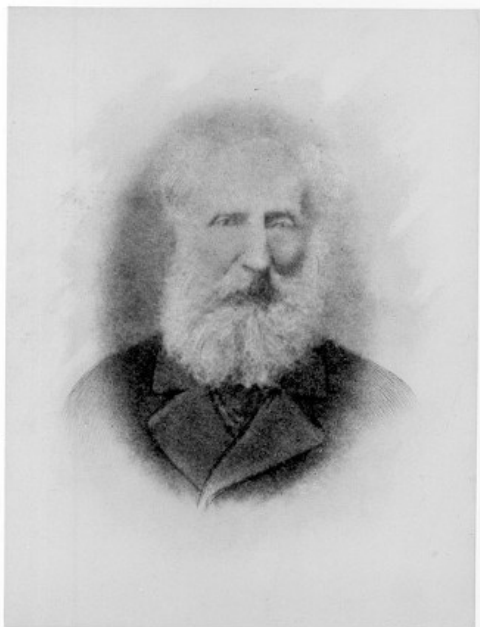
An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area.<sup>15</sup>

### THE BACKGROUND

There have been several persons and groups who have had a strong and special association with the Kameruka Estate and the Golf Course.

The Imlay brothers, Peter and George, were the first Europeans to settle on Kameruka in the 1830s. While George Imlay managed the whaling operations in Twofold Bay at Eden, Peter had two ship's carpenters build a house by the river between the current sites of Candelo and Kameruka, and began breeding horses, sheep and cattle on that property.

Bushfires and drought in the summer of 1839-1840 nearly ruined the brothers and they borrowed from the Walker brothers in Sydney, who then took over and made Kameruka their head station, and eventually sold their runs in 1851 to the Twofold Bay Pastoral Association, which included uncles of Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth.



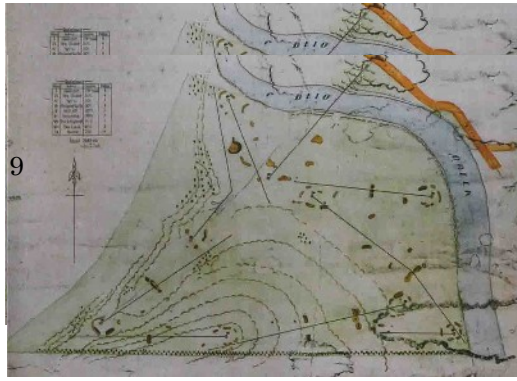
[above] Peter Imlay and Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth

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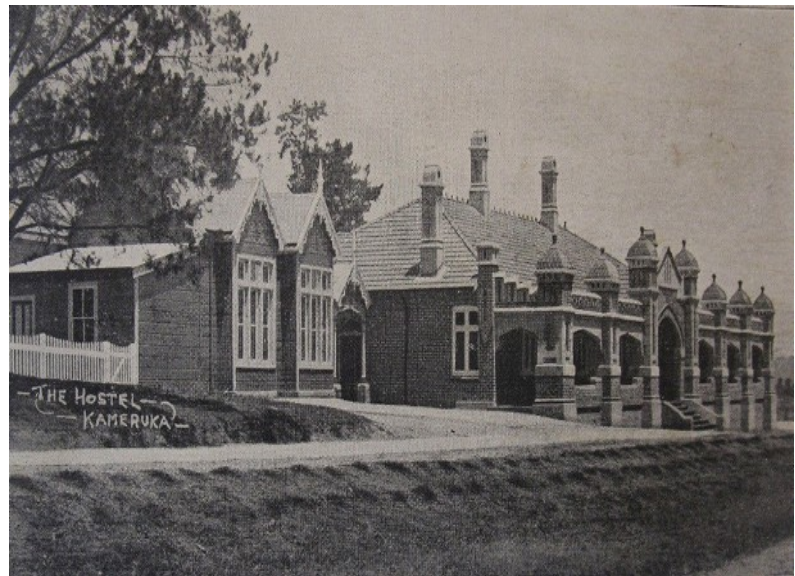
### 15 CRITERION B

Guidelines for inclusion; shows evidence of a significant human occupation; and/or is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons

Guidelines for exclusion; has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events; provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance; and/or has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association.



The strongest association of any person with the Kameruka Estate and with the construction of the Course, and its ancillary structures, was that of Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth. Lucas-Tooth's involvement in the Estate and the Course is a major consideration for this criteria



[above] Lady Tooth c. 1908, and the Bungalow, in which Ernest Banks and his wife stayed in the 1914-1916 period, and the adjoining Hostel. Source: NLA collection.

The impact on the local area of Sir Robert's development of the Kameruka Estate cannot be understated. The Kameruka Estate with its attendant buildings and facilities was the overwhelming economic and social force in the local area.

The Kameruka Estate and in particular the Kameruka Golf Course, may have been Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth's most enduring and personal legacy, given the time it was commissioned, its unique golf architectural style and the fact that it is the oldest unaltered layout of any golf course in Australia. The Golf Course provides reminders of the personal and Australian tragedies from WW1. Even Sir Robert's last words of '... continue my work' were surely in large part referencing the Golf Course and The Hostel which were the current 'projects' he was working on at the time of his death.

The physical creator of the golf course, Ernest Banks, is himself an important person of history. Upon devising the planned Golf Course while in London in 1913, Sir Robert sought professional services for the design and construction of his course. He commissioned the English golf professional Ernest Banks to travel to Australia, to complete the design layout and build the Course.

Banks had previously plied his golf trade at the Dover Golf Club, England. Banks and his wife made the long boat journey to Australia, which saw them disembark from the *Ceramic* in Sydney in September 1914. They promptly made their way south to the Kameruka Estate. Ernest Banks went quickly to work:





The impact of Banks' arrival was recorded as:

During the week [November 1914] a number of our townspeople have been initiated in the game of golf and have been enthusiastically following the ball about the riverbank. The strange appearance is inspired by the presence in our midst of Mr. [Ernest] Banks and his wife, who arrived from England last week, and are staying at the Candelo Hotel. Mr. Banks is a professional golfer and is specially sent out here by Sir Robert Lucas Tooth to set down links and establish golf on the Kameruka Estate ...The links will be situated, we understand, on the western side of Candelo river, opposite the cross-roads.<sup>16</sup>

Another very important group of persons, particularly in the mid to latter C20th were the members of Candelo / Kameruka Golf. The 'Far South Coast News' segment of the *Canberra Times*, reported in October 1984 that '... big fields in the recent, ever popular Candelo-Kameruka Golf Club Open forced the organisers to reduce the 27 hole men's event to 18 holes. The difficult nine-hole sand-green course compromised many grass-green golfers, most of whom enjoyed the traditional hospitality'.<sup>17</sup>

A very popular event at golf course was the Country Week Competition. The event saw people from all parts of NSW come to play the course, and fields in the hundreds were not uncommon for this event.

In summary there can be no dispute that Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth was the most incredibly important figure in the local area's history. Although there was no one more important, Peter Imlay, Ernest Banks and the many local residents of the Candelo / Kameruka Golf Club also played an extensive role in the development and maintenance of the golf course.

## HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Kameruka Golf Course has strong and special associations with the life and / or works of Peter Imlay, the Tooth family and Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth, [probably] Laurie Auchterlonie and Ernest Banks, the managers and workers of the Kameruka Estate, and in the latter part of the C20th the groups of local persons attached to the Candelo-Kameruka Golf Club, all of whom were of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area. The Kameruka Course criteria match the guidelines for inclusion. It shows evidence of a significant human occupation, and/or is associated with significant events, persons, and groups of persons.

There are no reasonable guidelines for exclusion

<sup>16</sup> 'Golf for Kameruka', *Southern Record and Advertiser*, Saturday 21 November 1914, p. 1.

<sup>17</sup> 'Far South Coast News', *Canberra Times*, Sunday 28 October 1984, p. 10.





## 2.3 CRITERION C

**An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area.**

### THE BACKGROUND

The Kameruka Golf Course property shows, or is associated with, creative and technical innovations in a number of ways.

Firstly, the Kameruka Golf Course is Australia's only remaining example of the 'penal school of golf course architecture' over a complete golf course.

There are three styles of Golf Course Architecture

- Strategic – where hazards on part of the fairway are included in the design but provision is made for the golfer to be able to navigate around the hazards
- Penal – where hazards across the whole fairway are included in the design and the only way for the golfer to navigate them is to go over them
- Heroic – where hazards are included in the design and the golfer is offered a risk/reward choice to either go around or to go over them – a combination of strategic and penal

Kameruka Golf Course is the classic example of the Penal style of golf architecture

Harley Kruse (President of the Australian Society of Golf Course Architects), in his 2021 commentary, explains this golf course architecture, as carried out at Kameruka, and how it was previously carried out in the original 1901-1931 Sandringham Course in Melbourne (now part of Royal Melbourne Golf Course), which exhibited a similar penal school of golf course architecture. Harley Kruse wrote:

What is striking about the Kameruka course is its old school penal style of course architecture. I remain unaware of another example, let alone a better one existing anywhere in Australia today.

Penal architecture employs hazards which must be carried with no alternate safe route the green. Candelo Creek on hole 1, and the cross bunkering and ridge formations on holes 4, 6, 8, 9 are fine examples of this penal architecture.

That the Kameruka course was built in complete isolation sees a vernacular arising out of essentially one British professional golfing man's ideas and hands as he rendered a golfing ground on his own and according to the game and course design as he knew it. Kameruka represents the only remaining specimen of this branch of golf course architecture in Australia. It took root in this one isolated community



Plan of the original 1901-1931 Sandringham Course in Melbourne showing a similar penal school of golf course architecture as was developed at the Kameruka Golf Course. Source: Harley Kruse 2021.

Secondly the Kameruka Golf Course is in all likelihood the oldest course in Australia in its original layout. The original 1914 design of the golf course remains virtually intact today.

There are older courses in Australia, but it is almost certain that none have retained their original layouts as has the Kameruka Golf Course. The Golf Course exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology, guided in the early 20th century by Robert Lucas-Tooth; [probably] Auchterlonie; Ernest Banks and the Candelo-Kameruka Golf Club, which was to follow.

The Candelo-based *Southern Record and Advertiser* observed in 1933 that ‘... those visitors who have used the Kameruka course cannot speak too highly of its natural beauty and general layout’.<sup>18</sup>

Harley Kruse has observed eight years later that the ‘Kameruka Golf Course is perhaps the Rarest of Australian Golfing Gems that waits for us to return’.

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<sup>18</sup> ‘Candelo-Kameruka Golf Club, *Southern Record and Advertiser*, Friday 10 March 1933, p. 1





The unchanged layout of the Kameruka Golf Course over the last 106 years is apparent in the photos below



Above: A photo of the “as built” design of the golf course circa 1915



Above: A recent aerial photo of the golf course land overlaid with the golf holes (the location of the holes depicted in the original design are clearly visible)



Again the unchanged layout of the course is shown in these photos of the 4<sup>th</sup> hole



Top - Old photo of sheep grazing on hole number four, 'Shrapnel Gully', with cross bunkering in the foreground;  
 Below - Current photo of hole number four in 2020;  
 Source: Harley Kruse, *Kameruka Golf*, 2021 and Adrian Logue, 'Finding Kameruka', *Golf Australia*, March 2021





Thirdly, the Kameruka Golf Course represents one of the very early examples in Australia of the integrations for tourism of a golf course and associated accommodation facilities.

In his original planning, implemented just prior to his death, Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth had decided that the golf course would be built in conjunction with the construction of The Hostel and The Bungalow. These buildings were to be used as accommodation by the golf players, relatives and friends. He also arranged, through his manager Arthur Champneys and the designer Ernest Banks for the setting out of the course to include the construction of an access bridge across the Candelo Creek, and the provision of a small kiosk for the golf players, much of which still remains.

In 1913, while living in London, Sir Robert had devised a plan which was to be executed by his manager, Arthur Champneys, back at Kameruka Estate. This would include the construction of a hostel to attract holiday makers and the added attraction of a nine-hole course designed by Laurie Auchterlonie ....<sup>19</sup>



Above - 2020 photograph of the original six-sided kiosk for serving refreshments.

<sup>19</sup> Adrian Logue, 'Finding Kameruka', Golf Australia, March 2021, pp. 42-49.

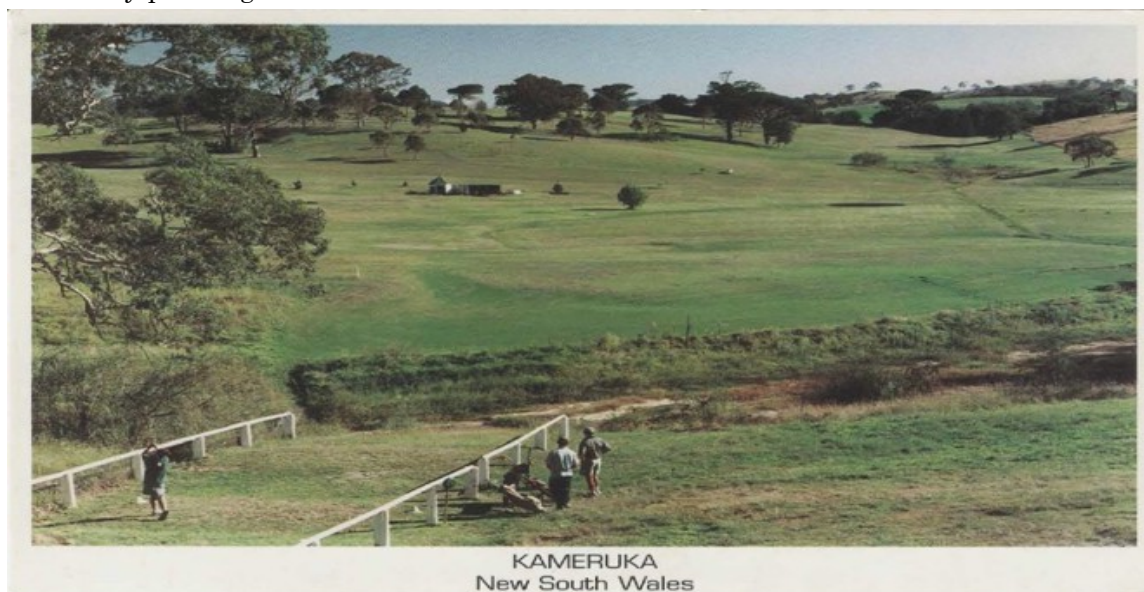


Fourthly, the provision of innovative ancilliary facilities on and around Kameruka Golf Course property shows an inspiration for creative and / or technical innovation derived from its unique terrain. Some of these innovations can still be seen today within the Golf Course property.

For instance, white railing was constructed at the first tee, and some other tees, in order to ensure that the golfers were not obstructed, and the onlookers were not in any danger from golf balls. The first tee still retains the white railed fence around it on three sides. The reason for this is quite inscrutable but it is also a handsome looking structure. From there you are presented with a thrilling, elevated tee shot that must carry over Candela Creek into a beautiful big open playing field. A 100-year-old kiosk is set in the base of the hill near the intersection of the first and eighth greens and where a suspension bridge once spanned the creek but got washed away in a big flood.. ....<sup>20</sup>

The Kameruka manager, Arthur Champneys, also observed in 1915 that

‘... an immense amount of work has been done not only in the formation of the course but also approaches, gates, paths, foot-bridges, cleaning up etc., and the whole turnout is very pleasing and attractive’.



‘Kameruka NSW’, postcard showing the opening hole hitting across the Candelo creek, not dated. The white timber railing was constructed at the tees in order to keep curious spectators away from the tee itself. Source: Harley Kruse, *Kameruka Golf*, 2021.

## HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Golf Course shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement; is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement is aesthetically distinctive; has landmark qualities; and/or exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology.

There are no reasonable guidelines for exclusion.



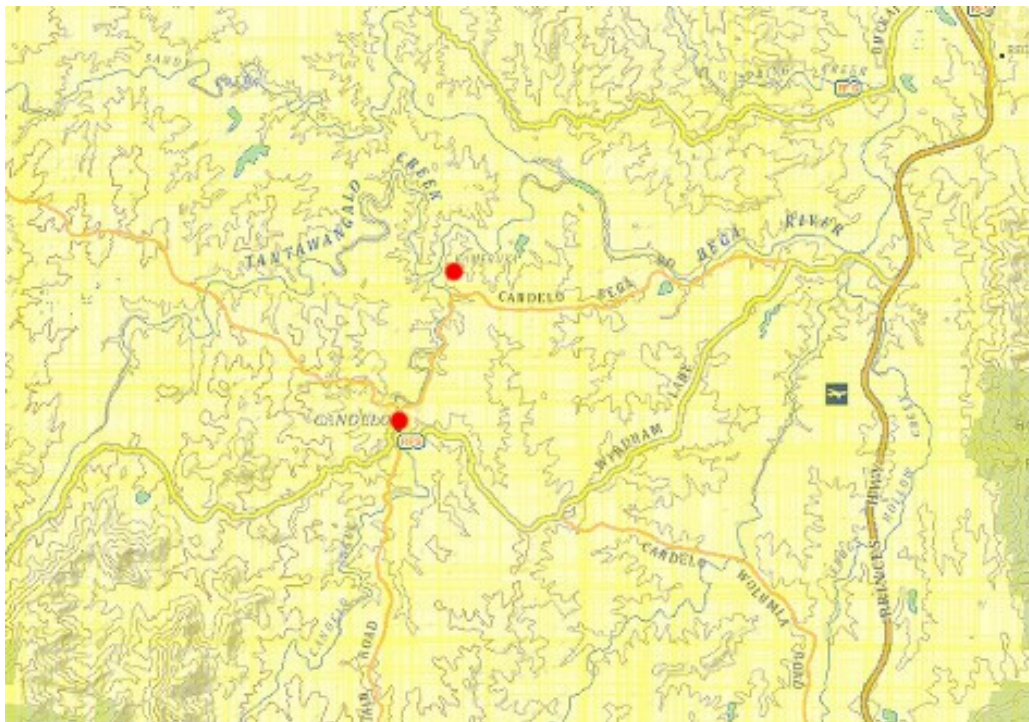
## 2.4 CRITERION D

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area.<sup>21</sup>

### THE BACKGROUND

The Kameruka Golf Course is historically important for its associations with a number of clearly identifiable groups. Those groups have included

- the occupants of the Kameruka Estate;
- the occupants of the nearby Candelo township, which has historically had a close relationship with the Kameruka Estate managers and occupants;
- the local golf organisations, particularly the historical Candelo-Kameruka Golf Club; and
- the many Australian golf specialists, players, historians, architects and aficionados who have been interested in the heritage listing and restoration of the Golf Course.



A 1957 map of the Candelo township and the Kameruka Estate (red dots), showing the relative proximity of the two historical site and the avenue connection between the two places s. Source: NSW Historical Imagery

The Kameruka Golf Course has been historically important to the Kameruka Estate, the Candelo township and the Bega Valley's community sense of place.

**The purpose of this application for heritage listing of the Kameruka Golf Course is to retain for those communities an important communal asset which will be then able to be restored to its former glories for their benefits.**

<sup>21</sup> CRITERIA D - Guidelines for inclusion; is important for its associations with an identifiable group; and/or is important to a community's sense of place.

Guidelines for exclusion; is only important to the community for amenity reasons and/or is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative.





**As Candelo and the other communities in the Bega Valley grow into the future the need for major community assets such as the Kameruka Golf Course will only increase – particularly those with such historic importance.**

The close continuing connection over 106 years (1915-2021 between the Estate, the golf course and the Candelo township can clearly be seen in the ongoing evidence of the Course itself). As evidence of this fact the aerial photo below in 1989 clearly shows the original design layout being by the Candelo Kameruka Golf Club and a 2020 aerial showing the original outline structure still very much intact



#### **HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The Golf Course is important for its associations with the occupants of the Kameruka Estate; the residents of the nearby Candelo township; the local golf organisations, particularly the historical Candelo-Kameruka Golf Club; and the many Australian golf specialists, players, historians, architects and aficionados who have been interested in the reconstruction of the Golf Course. The Golf Course is important to these community's sense of place.

There are no reasonable guidelines for exclusion.





## 2.5 CRITERION E

The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the area's cultural or natural history, of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area.<sup>22</sup>

### THE BACKGROUND

The archaeology of the Golf Course and the archaeological remains of the Estate demolished structures, which were constructed as a component of the Course, are of great importance.

Firstly, the very embellished and ornate brick Hostel, and the less flamboyant Bungalow, both designed and built as an adjunct to the Course, were demolished in 1927, for use in more utilitarian ways. There will be, however, potential of the sites of these two buildings to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of that period of the Estate and the Course.

Secondly, the Golf Course will, over time, tell its own archaeological story:

The [1914-1915] excavation work of making the bunkers was started by a gang of men kept busy carting loam with horses and carts. Mr [Ernest] Banks was employed to lay out the course, and an immense amount of work was done, not only on the course itself, but on the approaches, gates, fences, foot bridges and the building of a kiosk ... the whole turnout being very pleasing and attractive.<sup>23</sup>



**The Hostel, Kameruka.**

The Hostel Kameruka', the exterior looking down the landscaped road to the Golf Course

<sup>22</sup> CRITERIA E - Guidelines for inclusion; has the potential to yield new or further substantial and/or archaeological information; is important benchmark or reference site or type and/or provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere.

Guidelines for exclusion; the knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture; has little archaeological or research potential and/or contains information that is readily available from other sources or archaeological sites

<sup>23</sup> Rob Owen, 'Kameruka Estate and the Lucas-Tooth Family', The Valley Genealogist, October 2019.



As is the case with every golf course the works involved in the construction of the golf course would have been unique to the location.

This would have been particularly the case at Kameruka where there were no surrounding golf courses or people with the expertise to build golf courses.

All the knowledge about the construction techniques came from Ernest Banks but the implementation of those techniques in the Kameruka setting would have had many a story to tell.

Adapting farm equipment and staff straining would have commenced from ground zero



A view from the Hostel balcony; and the entrance to 'The Hostel'. Source: NLA collection



Although there have been minor changes made to the Course over the last 106 years, but the design, structure, alignments and the Course itself has not changed to a noticeable extent. Where original structures or features are no longer visible, it would be useful to undertake archaeology of those sites.



## HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Golf Course and the now demolished Estate buildings have the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information.

The Golf Course is an important benchmark or reference site of early 20th century golf courses, as it is the only course in Australia, whose golf architecture is in the penal style and which has retained its original configuration and its original archaeology.

There are no reasonable guidelines for exclusion.





## 2.6 CRITERION F

**A place possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the area's cultural or natural history, of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area.<sup>5</sup>**

### THE BACKGROUND

Firstly, the Lucas-Tooth Kameruka property and the Thomas Mort Bodalla property further to the north, shared many attributes and connections. One of those uncommon, rare and / or endangered aspects was the creation by both owners of a 'private village' as the central focus of the Estate. The Kameruka Estate, the adjoining Golf Course, and the Bodalla 'village' provide evidence of this now defunct function and demonstrates a 'process' that is now in danger of becoming lost.

The businessmen Thomas Mort, and Robert and Edward Lucas Tooth were initially amongst the seven Sydney businessmen who formed the Twofold Bay Pastoral Association in 1853-1853. Threatened by the moves of the proposed land reforms, they all took as much land as possible in their own names, then they disbanded the Association in 1860. The other members of this small commercial elite were Sir William Montagu Manning, John Edy Manning, James Alexander Manning, and Joh Croft. The Association had held over 4000,000 acres [over 161,876 hectares] in three stations on the Monaro, and three in the Bega district including the central estate of Kameruka. James Manning lived on Kameruka from 1854 as managing partner.<sup>24</sup>

Thomas Mort had decided to create a 'private village' at Bodalla, and the 'pretty little orderly village of Bodalla' was well established by the early 1880s. One correspondent observed that '... more taste has been exercised in the erection of the various buildings than is normally the case in a small Australian township'.<sup>25</sup>



'Bodalla Village', *Sydney Mail and New South Advertiser*, Saturday 21 March 1891, p. 648.

<sup>24</sup> Suzanne Edgar, 'James Alexander Manning', ADB, vol. 5, 1974.

<sup>25</sup> *Town and Country Journal*, 31 March 1883, p. 602.





The nearest villages to the Mort 'private village' were Bergalia to the north, and Eurobodalla to the south. In 1886, Bodalla could boast two churches, a store where 'everything the people want is kept, of good quality, and sold at moderate rates', a post and telegraph office, estate offices, public school, doctor's residence, a butcher, baker, blacksmith, a public house still run by Mrs Hoyle under the strict guidelines laid down by Thomas Mort, the Friendly Society's Hall, and residences of various employees. Every building, apart from the school, was the property of the Estate. The hotel was enlarged with the 'accommodation house' sometime between 1886 and 1888. Between 400 and 500 people lived on the Estate at that time, of which 200 to 250 were employees. The employees lived in 52 cottages either in the village or near the six large dairying establishments and everybody, except for the post and telegraph master, was employed by the Estate.

Lucas-Tooth's Kameruka village was a parallel to Mort's Bodalla village:

Under Henry Wren's [1817-1898] managership of the Estate slowly began to take shape and while many practical buildings were erected, to ensure the smooth running of business, Luca-Tooth also invested a great deal of money into what, by even today's standards, could only be called luxuries for a country farm. Several small areas were devoted to the rearing of trees and ornamental shrubs, and the grounds were planted with elms, firs, and oaks. The Homestead was surrounded by a large garden filled with numerous flowering shrubs, English and Chinese elms, laurels, acacias, box, cypress and pines. By 1880 Kameruka resembled a gentleman's park rather than an Australian station with one journalist of the day remarking '... that this property may be said to stand alone'.<sup>26</sup>



Kameruka High Street, c. 1920, and Henry Wren [1817-1898]. NLA collection

<sup>26</sup> Vicky Small, *Kameruka*, published by Kameruka Estates, 1989, pp. 22-23.





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## HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Kameruka Golf Course and its linkage to the Kameruka private village, associates both elements to a now defunct custom, that is a custom based on village and cooperative living, and on self-sufficiency. The Kameruka 'village' still retains many remnants of the original, which include the Social Hall, the Church, the clearly defined roads and lanes which provide access to the Course, and the remnant Wolumla and Niagra cheese factories. Some of the 'private villages' of the C19th still remain within the State, but villages such as Bodalla, for instance, have now succumbed to reconstruction due to highways and commercial interests. The Bodalla village buildings are held privately but operate commercially.

In essence the Kameruka village and Golf Course exemplify a significant human activity, and great importance to the communities within and beyond Kameruka, such as Candelo, Cobargo and Bega.

There are no reasonable guidelines for exclusion.

## 2.7 CRITERION G

**An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the area's cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments.<sup>30</sup>**

## HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

These criteria are deemed to be relevant, since although the Kameruka Estate has lost its characteristics as a 'private village', the Kameruka Golf Course adjacent the Estate has retained its characteristics as a golf course open to the local residents and others. The golf course has not operated since late in 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the archaeology of the place remains, and the reconstruction of the place could quite feasibly be achieved.

There are no reasonable guidelines for exclusion.

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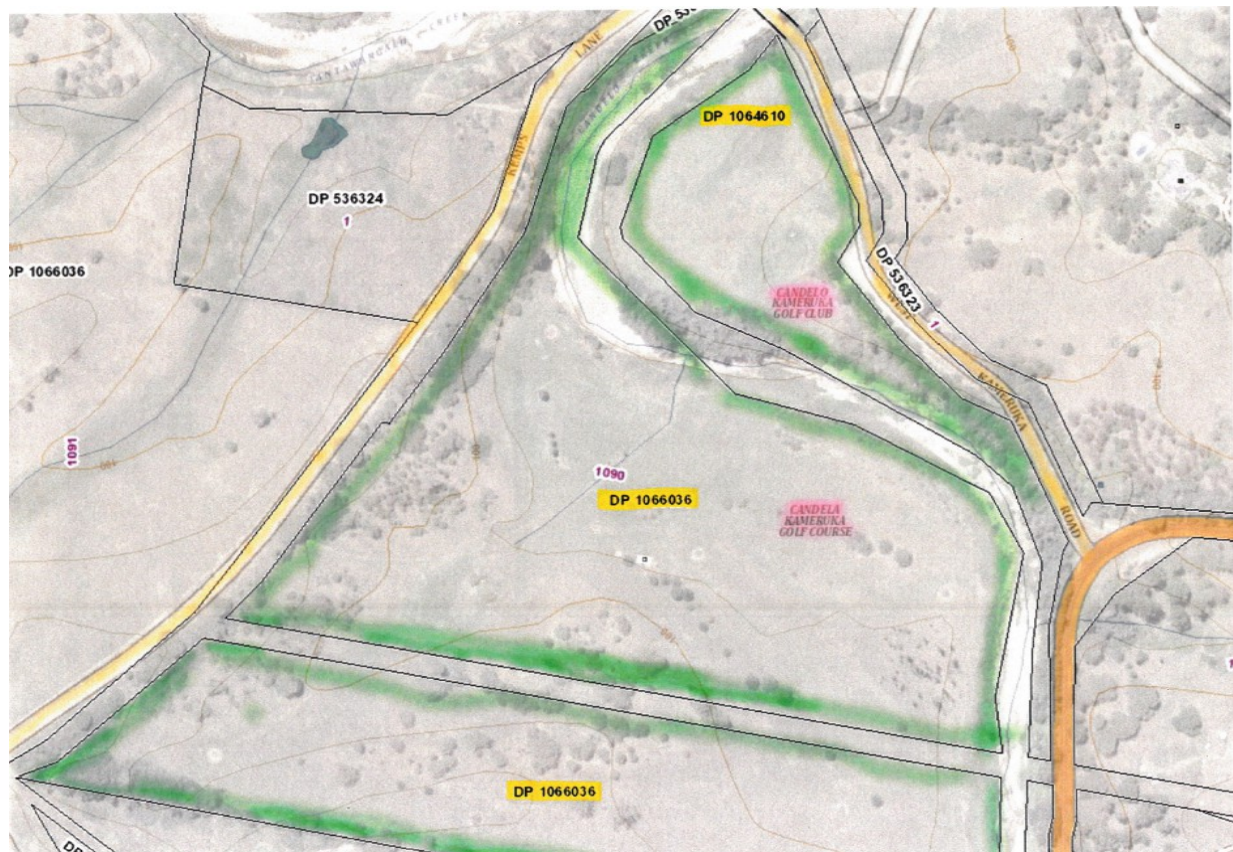




## PART 3: PROPOSED BVSC LEP HERITAGE LISTING

### 3.1 PROPERTY DETAILS

The golf course land and the adjacent clubhouse land included in  
 Part of DP 1064610 and DP 1066036  
 PRIMARY ADDRESS: WEST Kameruka Road Kameruka, NSW 2550  
 PARISH: Candelo  
 COUNTY: Auckland  
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Bega Valley Shire Council



Lot 1 is the Main paddock with golf holes on the west side of the Candelo Creek: DP 1066036 (the lot title for the main Kameruka Estate); Lot 2 is the land between the road and Candelo Creek (Clubhouse and first hole tees): DP 1064610.

**EXISTING HERITAGE LISTING DETAILS OF OTHER PARTS OF THE KAMERUKA ESTATE ,**  
 which have already been heritage listed within the BVSC LEP in 2013 are as follows:

**Heritage Listing:** Local Environmental Plan

**Listing Title:** Bega Valley Shire Council Local Environmental Plan 2013

**Listing Number:** I 138

**Gazette date:** 02 August 2013 **Number** 408 **Page:** 103





### 3.2 PROPOSED BVSC LEP HERITAGE LISTING: KAMERUKA GOLF COURSE

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Kameruka Golf Course, as a 'heritage place', has clear connections with the Kameruka Estate and its original 'village buildings'. The connection, between the Estate and the Golf Course, is significant. The Course is primarily significant as the oldest golf course layout in NSW and possibly Australia. Its original design form remains undisturbed from its original completion in 1915. It is the only example of a complete golf course in the Penal Golf Architecture style in Australia.

The 'cultural event' of placing a golf course adjacent to the Kameruka Estate and the pastoral and dairying pastoral areas, is, and has been, an important item / place within the course of the Kameruka and Candelo history. The Course is profoundly associated with the January 1885 England versus Australia cricket game, a match played on the area of golf holes 2 and 3, which led to the *Lord's View* cricket oval on the main portion of the Kameruka Estate, which remains today.

The timing of the golf course construction integrally coincided with the beginnings of World War 1 with the young men of the local area going off to war and the tragedies which befell not only the local families of those men who never returned but also the Tooth family who would lose all 3 of its sons along with subsequent death of a broken hearted Sir Robert Lucas Tooth himself in 1915. As a way of paying respect to the Tooth family and the local families whose sons fought in WW1 the golf course had seven of its original nine holes named after WW1 battles.<sup>1</sup>

The Kameruka Golf Course has strong and special associations with the Tooth family and Sir Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth, and with its golf architect the world-famous Laurie Auchterlonie, and with its builder the English Golfing Professional Ernest Banks respectively, as well as the managers and workers of the Kameruka Estate, and in the latter part of the C20th the groups of local persons attached to the Candelo-Kameruka Golf Club, all of whom were of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area. The Kameruka Golf Course shows evidence of a significant human occupation, and/or is associated with significant events, persons, and groups of persons.<sup>1</sup>

The Golf Course shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement; is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement is aesthetically distinctive; has landmark qualities; and/or exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology.<sup>2</sup>

The Golf Course is important for its associations with the occupants of the Kameruka Estate; the residents of the nearby Candelo township; the local golf organisations, particularly the historical Candelo-Kameruka Golf Club; and the many Australian golf specialists, players, historians, architects and aficionados who have been interested in the reconstruction of the Golf Course. The Golf Course is important to these community's sense of place.<sup>3</sup>



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The Golf Course and the now demolished Hostel and Bungalow ‘estate’ buildings have the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information. The Golf Course is an important benchmark or reference site of early C20th golf courses, as it is the only course in Australia, which has retained its original configuration and its original archaeology.<sup>4</sup>

The Kameruka Golf Course and its linkage to the Kameruka private village, associates both elements to a now defunct custom, that is a custom based on village and cooperative living, and on self-sufficiency. The Kameruka ‘village’ still retains many remnants of the original, which include the Social Hall, the Church, the clearly defined roads and lanes which provide access to the Course, and the remnant Wolumla and Niagra cheese factories. Some of the ‘private villages’ of the C19th still remain relatively intact in NSW, but villages such as Bodalla, for instance, have now succumbed to reconstruction due to highways and commercial interests. In essence the Kameruka village and Golf Course exemplify a significant human activity, and great importance to the communities within and beyond Kameruka, such as Candelo, Cobargo and Bega.<sup>5</sup>

Finally, although the Kameruka Estate has lost its characteristics as a ‘private village’, the Kameruka Golf Course adjacent the Estate has retained its characteristics as a golf course open to the local residents and others. The golf course has not operated since the last C20th, but the archaeology of the place remains, and the reconstruction of the place could quite feasibly be achieved.<sup>6</sup>

#### **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Kameruka Golf Course still clearly shows the archaeological and structural evidence of the unique nine-hole construction and its associated elements as depicted in the as-built map of 1915. The on-going maintenance and use of the course by the Candelo and Kameruka residents, for almost 80 years after 1932, was a remarkable achievement, and ‘... maintained or showed the continuity of a historical process or activity’. The features of the Course remain and can be clearly identified, thus in an archaeological and historical sense, the Course and its associations are of singular significance and ‘... maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity’

**Physical condition and/or Archaeological potential:** Generally good

**Date condition updated:** March 2021

**Modifications and dates:** 1930s to late 1980s

**Current use:** Former Golf Course, currently not in use.

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## HISTORICAL NOTES:

Kameruka is an Aboriginal word meaning ‘... wait until I return’.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth, seeking to develop Kameruka on the model of a grand English country estate, took on an enormous building program at the Kameruka property, most of which can still be seen today: these buildings include the Holy Trinity Church, three Cheese factories, the Clock Tower, Village Store and Butcher’s shop, the Village Hall, dairies, some thirty houses for the employees as well as schools for the children, **a golf course** and a cricket oval for the enjoyment of staff friends and visitors.

With the planting of English and European trees the surrounding land around the Kameruka village’ was also designed in an English parkland style which included a truly tranquil oriental lake. In the early C20<sup>th</sup> Robert Lucas Lucas-Tooth split the estate into three with a view to leaving the estate to his three sons, but alas this was not to be, as two of his sons were killed early during WW1, and Robert himself died in 1915 after his return to England. Leonard Lucas-Tooth inherited the estate after his father’s death, but he too died of pneumonia in 1918 on active service in France. Leonard had two daughters and the estate was left in trust for one of them, who later in life became Mrs Christine Foster. Christine Foster was based in Great Britain, however her youngest son came to live on, and run, Kameruka in 1975. He was a resident on the property until 2007.

Kameruka passed out of the Tooth Family in 2007 when a new owner was found for the property. Giles Pritchard-Gordon purchased Kameruka in its entirety taking on numerous enterprises including a Merino flock as well as adding a Black Angus beef herd. Giles opened a new chapter for the estate, taking the property into the C21<sup>st</sup> with a major staged development program. Giles sadly passed away in 2011 and the estate passed into the hands of his wife Lou Pritchard-Gordon and their four daughters who continued to run it from England, visiting the beautiful and historic Kameruka as often as possible. In 2019 the Moffitt family of dairy farmers purchased the Kameruka property.

The hand-built golf course at Kameruka has been observed by the architect and golf historian, Harley Kruse in 2021, as:

Like nothing else in Australia, it was created completely independently of those with the ideas and skills that had been forming the golf holes of the evolving Melbourne and Sydney golfing landscapes. Many hundreds of miles away [from these cities] Kameruka has been untouched and locked away in place and time ... **It needs to be preserved. It is most worthy of bringing back to life, not only as a unique and historic piece of golfing architecture in this country, but for the truly fun and relevant golf experience some 105 years after its making’.**



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## PART 4: APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A: NEWSPAPERS + ABC NATIONAL RADIO

This document has relied heavily on the newspaper information related to the Kameruka Golf Course. Each of the newspaper and Kameruka Estate cuttings included here have been modified to WORD format, and the date references have been included with each of the newspaper cuttings.





## 1914-1916: ARTHUR CHAMPNEYS'S KAMERUKA MANAGEMENT REPORTS

Within the Kameruka's manager Arthur Champneys's report for the week ended 21

November 1914, could be found, for the first time, mention of the Golf Links '*... Ploughing, Corn Scuffling and Formation [of the] Golf Links*'. The report for the week ended 28 November 1914 mentioned '*... Drawing loam and formation [of the] Golf Links*'. Within the Champneys's reports for the week ended 13 February 1915, Ernest Banks was mentioned for the first time '*... Banks transferred to Orchard [Golf Links] ground too hard to work on*'. Two months later in April 1915 '*.... Bunker making on the Golf Course*' had commenced and was to continue until 26 June when the report recorded that '*... Golf Course: Bunkers finished, filling forming and levelling, top dressing greens, raking up*'.

By July 1915 attention had turned to the golf course structures.

Champneys's report for the week ended 10 July 1915 referred, for the first time to the

erection of a kiosk for the ease of serving refreshments. The kiosk was constructed in July 1915 and clad in the same materials as the outbuildings of the new Hall. The 10 July 1915 report referred to '*... erecting Kiosk, top-dressing greens, turfing tees, drawing and filling in bunkers finished, raking up the fairways ... I expect to finish off within a month*'.

By August 1915 the construction of the golf course was coming to a close. Champneys's report for the week ended 7 August 1915 observed that '

*... this long job of making the Golf Course [is] practically finished and Banks can be relieved at any time, the sooner the better, so that alterations and repairs and painting can be proceeded with at the Bungalow*'. The report of the next week, 14 August, observed that '*... Banks employed daily going over the green rolling, dressing etc. Banks arrived in November of last year and was engaged for some time in tentative work in laying out etc*'. The manager also observed that '*... an immense amount of work has been done not only in the formation of the course but also approaches, gates, paths, foot-bridges, cleaning up etc., and the whole turnout is very pleasing and attractive*'.

Attention then turned to the completion and the use of The Hostel. Champneys's report for the week ended 8 April 1916 observed that '*... the hostel received guests and everything worked smoothly and satisfactorily, the fullest appreciation being heard about the comfort and conveniences and charming surroundings*'. The following years saw the consistent use of The Hostel, The Bungalow, the Kiosk, and, of course, the Golf Course. Champneys's report for the week ended 22 July 1916 reported that at The Hostel '*... Guests Nil; Golfers four; Gross earnings four pounds thirteen shillings*'. The reports in the following years related primarily to the up-keep of the Golf Course, the removal of black-berries, and the constant watering and top-dressing of the greens.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Arthur Champney's Kameruka Management Reports, provided by Liz McIntyre, Bega.



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#### 1914: GOLF FOR KAMERUKA

During the week a number of our townspeople have been initiated in the game of golf and have been enthusiastically following the ball about the riverbank. The strange appearance is inspired by the presence in our midst of Mr. Banks and his wife, who arrived from England last week, and are staying at the Candelo Hotel. Mr. Banks is a professional golfer and is specially sent out here by Sir Robert Lucas Tooth to set down links and establish golf on the Kameruka Estate. Mr. Banks reckons on having the links prepared within eight months, though he cannot calculate with any degree of certainty, not yet knowing how suitable grasses will thrive on the soil. The links will be situated, we understand, on the western side of Candelo river, opposite the cross-roads.

Mr. Banks considers the natural advantages of the locality to be admirable and anticipates that it will be among the best and most up-to-date golfing grounds in the State. He will in all probability take up his permanent residence here and being expert in every department of the game, may establish means to manufacture and provide golfers with the requisites of the pastime. The new hostel, now in course of erection, and the proposed links, will add largely to this already attractive centre.<sup>2</sup>

#### 1915: THE GRAND HOSTEL

The grand hostel at Kameruka is nearing completion. When finished it will be a monument to the district. It will be lighted by electricity, hot and cold water laid on to every room, and magnificently appointed generally. A fine new brick social hall and supper room is also in course of erection at the estate. The golf links, another feature of much interest, are beginning to show the result of careful work. When finished all the links will be among the best in the State.<sup>3</sup>

#### 1916: A DAY AT KAMERUKA

The editors of the *Star*, the *Standard*, and the *Southern Record* met under delightful circumstances on Saturday last. At the invitation of Mr. Champneys, we lunched with him and Mr. Scarvell at the grand Hostel, which opened for business on the 1st instant, with Mr. and Mrs. King in charge. Owing to the depression for which the war is responsible, Mr. Champneys dispensed with the formal opening with which it is customary to celebrate important developments of this character. It was the first lunch served in the institution, and it was good. The object of our visit was to see the place, and we were impressed with what we saw.

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<sup>2</sup> 'Golf for Kameruka', *Southern Record and Advertiser*, Saturday 21 November 1914, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Southern Record and Advertiser*, Saturday 21 August 1915, p. 3.



When the building of the Hostel was commenced shortly after the last visit of the late Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth, we had visions of a fine edifice, but the finished work exceeds all anticipations. The last mark he left on the great estate in which he took such pride is truly a befitting monument to the memory of the illustrious old Baron. It is a magnificent bit of masonry, Gothic front, picturesque architecture, and substantially built. As Mr. Champneys says ... It has been planned for posterity. It will accommodate eighteen guests, and the convenience of the place is amazing in its detail. Every fitting has apparently been studiously considered, and the furnishing is exquisite. Nothing has been overlooked. We suspect that Mr. Champneys himself has put a great deal of thought into those details which particularly impress the visitor, but which cannot be described with any facility from a casual inspection, and the result is a credit to him.

At the lower end of the [Hostel] building is an eighteen-foot verandah, part of which is screened off to accommodate six outdoor sleepers. Passing through a door from this open-air dormitory brings you into a toilet room which is delightfully fitted with conveniences for the verandah apartment. There are wardrobes, washing and shaving requirements, etc., all numbered to correspond with the beds outside; baths and lavatories, hot and cold-water taps, everything that contributes to comfort. A beautiful hall divides the building from end to end, and as you pass along there are a succession of dainty bedrooms, tastefully furnished, with a window to each. The ladies are also provided with a toilet room similar to the gents.

Leaving the hostel, the party were motored over the Estate, visiting the golf links, which have been laid out on the site upon which the English cricketers met a district team some 30 years ago. They are an adjunct of the hostel and were laid out by an expert specially sent from England by Sir Robt. Lucas Tooth. We went over the links, which, when the objective Mr. Champneys has in view is attained, will be ideal. The conformation of the ground seems to us to be admirably suited for this game. The different points on the course ... the 'objectives' aimed at by players ... have been appropriately named the names that recent events have made immortal ... Anzac, Gaba Tepe, Sari Bahr, Lone Pine, Hill 60, Shrapnel Gully, the Labyrinth, and so on. When the links are fully developed it is proposed to get prominent golfers to come down and introduce the golf epidemic.

Another point of interest visited was the new Social Hall, which is in course of construction. It is a spacious brick building, in which provision is being made for a cinema plant and other forms of entertainment and social enjoyment. When completed it will be another substantial addition to the development of Kamehameha and to the already extensive privileges enjoyed by the folk on the Estate ... Generally speaking, such a day as we spent is a rare privilege, and its pleasures were enhanced by the courteous, genial companionship of such hosts as Messrs Champneys and Scarvell, who naturally have a keen pride in the loveliness of all that surrounds them there.





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### 1916: A GOLFING BOY WONDER

This course has been laid-out on the estate of Sir Lucas Tooth, near Candelo, by Ernest Banks, formerly professional of the Dover Golf Club, England. The course has a length of 2700 yards and makes a very sporting nine holes. Sir Robert Lucas Tooth, when in England, especially engaged Earnest Banks to go to Australia and lay-out the course, which he has done in very good style ... Excellent accommodation can be obtained at the adjoining hostel, which is considered a residential clubhouse, and a fine place it appears to be.<sup>4</sup>

### 1917: SOUTH COAST GOLF COURSE

A links little known to metropolitan golfers is that at Kameruka, on the South Coast. The course, which is of nine holes, was laid out on Sir Lucas Tooth's estate, and is open to the public for a merely nominal fee. The golf professional, Ernest Banks, was specially engaged by Sir Lucas Tooth when in England to come out and lay out and supervise the construction of the course. The Club House, of which we give an Illustration, ranks with the best in Australia. The course has a length of 2700 yards, and from a golfing point of view Is very sporting Indeed.

At the first hole (310 yards) the carry for the drive Is across a creek and may be considered a really good drive if negotiated. The fairway is bunkered for the pull and slice, and the ground surrounding the green Is also heavily bunkered for the erratic player.

The second hole (220 yards) Is of drive and. chip variety, and accurate driving is required. Otherwise, the approach to the green is a very awkward shot.

The third hole (360 yards) is one of the best of its kind, being [a] dog leg. A good drive Is essential here to open up the approach to the green, as there is a gully running across the line of approach which adds a great deal of charm to this hole. The green, which is undulating, is made fairly secure from indifferent ploy.

The fourth hole (290 yards) Is up a valley. One gets hardly any run on the ball at this hole, so that it may safely be termed the drive and Iron length. There is no room here to pull or slice, as there are trees on both sides of the fairway.

The fifth hole (350 yards) is placed on a rise. The carry for the drive is of good length and may be considered fairly stiff by some; here the 'smiter' has a chance to open his shoulders. The badly pulled shot will Invariably find its penalty by rolling down a slope, making the green impossible to reach with the next stroke. The sliced ball will be among trees or out of bounds If badly sliced. The green is bunkered at sides and back, leaving plenty of room for a straight approach.

The sixth hole (410 yards) Is down a slope, and requires straight play, for there are no less than 12 bunkers (for erratic play) through the fairway and guarding the green.

<sup>4</sup> 'A Day at Kameruka', *Southern Record and Advertiser*, Saturday 8 April 1916, p. 3; 'A Golfing Boy Wonder', *Referee Sydney*, Wednesday 23 August 1916, p. 11.



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The seventh hole (110 yards) Is very appropriately named "Hades." Many bunkers will penalise a poor shot.

At the eighth hole (460 yards) the fairway is slightly on the bend all the way. Long grass guards the sides of the fairway, and there are also bunkers. The carry from the tee is of a very good length, and the green Is well guarded by bunkers.

At the ninth hole (260 yards) the green is of the basin variety. Straight play is necessary, however, or bogey will beat you.

#### 1932: LOCAL AND GENERAL

A meeting of the Candelo-Kameruka Golf Club was held on Tuesday night at the residence of Dr White, Mr FF Bower occupied the chair. The Secretary, Doctor White, reported that the nine new sand greens had been completed, and the surrounding guard fences erected. A considerable amount of work remained to be done on the bunkers and in the final cleaning up of the fairways, but it was expected this would be completed in another couple of weeks.

#### 1932: CANDELO-KAMERUKA GOLF CLUB

Those visitors who have used the Kameruka course cannot speak too highly of its natural beauty and general lay-out. They also agree that to have the use of such links free of charge is an event unique in the annals of golf. Considering that the Club was only formed on the 23rd May last, it was most satisfactory to end the year with a total membership of forty-two members, and this augers well indeed for the future of golf in our district.

#### 1983: SPRING CARNIVAL IN MERIMBULA

City Week of Golf '83 will be an important part of the Spring Festival planned for the Merimbula district. The golf carnival, backed by the National Australia Bank, will be held from November 7 to 11, with competitions at the Eden, Pambula-Merimbula, Tura Beach, Bega and Candelo golf courses. One of the organisers, Lee Cross, said that Candelo was included specifically because few city golfers had the chance to play on a sand-green course.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Local and General', *Southern Record and Advertiser*, Friday 1 July 1932, p. 1; John Hourigan, 'Spring carnival in Merimbula', *Canberra Times*, Wednesday 14 September 1983, p. 38, 'Candelo-Kameruka Golf Club, *Southern Record and Advertiser*, Friday 10 March 1983, p. 1.



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#### 2014: A SPLIT SECOND OF CLOSENESS: FINDING A FAMILY'S WAR DEAD

One hundred years ago the three heirs to the Tooth brewing dynasty joined the fight in World War I. All three would lose their lives and their father would die, some say of a broken heart, and the dynasty be destroyed. The oldest son was killed in the first few weeks of the war, the second a month later and the last died a month before the war ended. Decades later,

Robert Lucas-Tooth's great-grandson tracked down the sites of their deaths and visited their graves.

Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth was the member for Monaro in the NSW Parliament. He lived in a Sydney mansion, established 'Kameruka', an English-style estate in the Bega Valley and had multiple national and international business interests, including Tooth's brewery. His three sons

were to inherit his vast assets, wealth, and social position. He took them to England to be educated and when World War I broke out they served as officers with the British army. One son, Captain Douglas Lucas-Tooth was a cavalry officer with the 9th Queen's Royal Lancers.

The first few months of the war are regarded as the mobile war, before the opposing armies bogged down in trench warfare. On 14 September 1914, as the German forces closed towards Paris from the north through Belgium, Captain Lucas-Tooth, aged 33, was fatally wounded in an artillery bombardment of his cavalry unit near a farm called 'La Tuillerie'. He died the following day and was buried in the community cemetery in the nearby village of Moulins by the local grave digger who later reported that he had been one of the two first British soldiers to be killed in the area. For some reason, perhaps the chaos of the battle, his grave was marked as that of an Unknown British Officer. It wasn't until his body was exhumed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1935 that he was identified.

The following month, on 20 October 1914, his older brother, Captain Selwyn Lucas-Tooth, aged 35, of the Lancashire Fusiliers was shot [and killed] by a sniper near the Le Touquet Railway Crossing between Armenties in France and Ypres in Belgium.

The following year on 19 February 1915, their father, Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth, died at his home in England.

His great-grandson Frank Foster, who was to later inherit and manage Lucas-Tooth's Kameruka Estate, told the ABC that some say Sir Robert died of a broken heart. Frank added that '... certainly it must have been a terrible blow for any family to lose two sons and little did he know he was going to lose the third as well'.

In the final year of the war, just weeks before it ended, the youngest of the three sons and Mr Foster's grandfather, Major Sir Archibald Lucas-Tooth, an artillery officer, died of pneumonia while on active service in France. He had been caught in the Spanish Influenza epidemic that is said to have begun in the trenches in 1918 and then spread throughout the world, killing between 50 and 100 million people. Frank observed '... that was it. There were three sons and unfortunately none of them made it out of the other end of the war'.





Mr Foster used trench maps and cemetery records to visit the graves of his great-grandfather and great-uncles. On visiting the site of his uncle Selwyn's death, Frank Foster said '... We stood on the very spot within probably 25 yards of where he was killed that day. It was quite a creepy feeling ... It's an eerie feeling. It's an indescribable feeling as though you are actually close to somebody you never knew but who you obviously have an affinity with ... We got to the cemetery where my great-grandfather was buried. It was an extraordinary feeling. It was on a real Western Front day ... damp overcast and drizzling rain. I just went to pieces completely ... I think if you talk to many people who find relatives' graves from wartime they'll say the same thing. It's that little bit of closeness you get for a split second, and then life goes on'.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Bill Brown, 'A SPLIT SECOND OF CLOSENESS: FINDING A FAMILY'S WAR DEAD', *Hindsight*, ABC Radio National, 2014.



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## APPENDIX B: JOURNALS

This document has also relied on journals containing articles related to the Kameruka Golf Course. Each of the journal extracts included here have been provided in PDF format, and the date references have been included with each of the journal extracts.



## KAMERUKA GOLF LINKS, BEGA VALLEY, NSW

Kameruka Estate and the Lucas-Tooth Family

by Rob Owen

Kameruka was originally settled in early 1832 by the pioneers George, Peter and Alexander Imlay. When the family suffered in the 1840s depression, James and William Walker foreclosed on their debts and took control of the 18,600 acre Kameruka horse station. The Walkers operated on a grand scale and planted the English trees as well as building the original brick and wooden shingle-roofed homestead. Frederick Tooth as trustee for Robert Tooth, a minor, (later to become Sir Robert Lucas Tooth) obtained ownership in the early 1860s.

Robert was born in 1844, the eldest son of Edwin and Sarah Tooth. He spent his early years in Tasmania where his father experimented successfully with the growing of a special malting barley used at the Kent Brewery in Sydney. Robert went to England in 1856 for his education. He returned to Australia in 1863 to work at the brewery after his father had died, and developed a passion for Kameruka that he retained throughout his life.

Alfred Shaw brought the Eighth English Cricket Team to Australia in 1885. A memorable highlight of that tour was when Kameruka played host to a match between an English XI and 22 men of Candelero on 12 and 13 January. The location was not Kameruka's Lord's View Oval as many assume it to be, but the 'hay or sheep paddock', which later became the fairway of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> holes of the Kameruka Golf Links. Shaw described the event:

*"The most astounding part of the matter was the attendance - where they came from is a mystery. At least 150 buggies and 600 horsemen and horsewomen, besides foot people, were on the ground - in all at least 2,000 ..... one of the players riding 100 miles through the bush, and another,*



This photograph was taken at Candelero-Kameruka Golf Course shortly after Kameruka Estate was sold in 2007.

From left to right: Frank Foster, great-grandson of the Estate's founder, Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth; Veronica 'Lou' Pritchard-Gordon; Robin Owen, President of Candelero-Kameruka Golf Club; Odille Foster, and Giles Pritchard-Gordon, who had just purchased the Estate.

Photo courtesy Rob Owen

with his wife, driving ninety miles. The ground was a picture".<sup>1</sup>

Although played in scorching weather the English won by an innings and 12 runs. After dining in Bega, the team sailed for Sydney from Tathra wharf.

In 1985, the event was re-enacted on Kameruka Oval, hosting such famous cricketers as Peter Toohey (man of the match), Tony Greig, Bob Simpson, Keith Stackpole, Steve Rixon, Peter Philpott, Len

Pascoe, Derek Taylor and Frank Tyson. Simpson's Australian XI defeated Greig's English XI by 21 runs.

Robert, his wife Helen and their six children left Australia to live in England in 1889, but returned on several occasions and corresponded regularly with the management of Kameruka. He pressed hard for management reform and with capable managers established the famous Kameruka Jersey herd and made many other improvements, including construction of the clock tower, two vast orchards (ruined in later storms), a shearing shed and the Lord's View Oval.

The First World War decimated the family. Two sons, Douglas and Selwyn, were killed in action within a few weeks of each other in 1914. Then, in 1917, Sir Robert passed away at the age of seventy. His son and heir, Sir Leonard, died from influenza sweeping the Allied and German armies in 1918. Kameruka was left in trust to Sir Leonard's infant daughters, Rosemary and Christine, (who married Major Derick Foster). When Kameruka was made a Company, the bulk of the shares were held for the Foster children, John, Madeline and Francis (Frank), with some shares held by Christine Foster. At a joint Board meeting in 1975 it





## Kameruka Golf Course

Perhaps the Rarest of Australian Golfing Gems  
That waits for us to return



There is a little known, but very special place in Australian golf with a wonderful and dramatic story that must be told. This story is about an almost forgotten and nearly lost nine-hole golf course of classical penal golf course architecture. A course that may well be the oldest intact stretch of golf holes in New South Wales, possibly Australia. A course that needs to be brought back to life and preserved.

This is the story of one man's dream, vision and passion for a place he loved, but

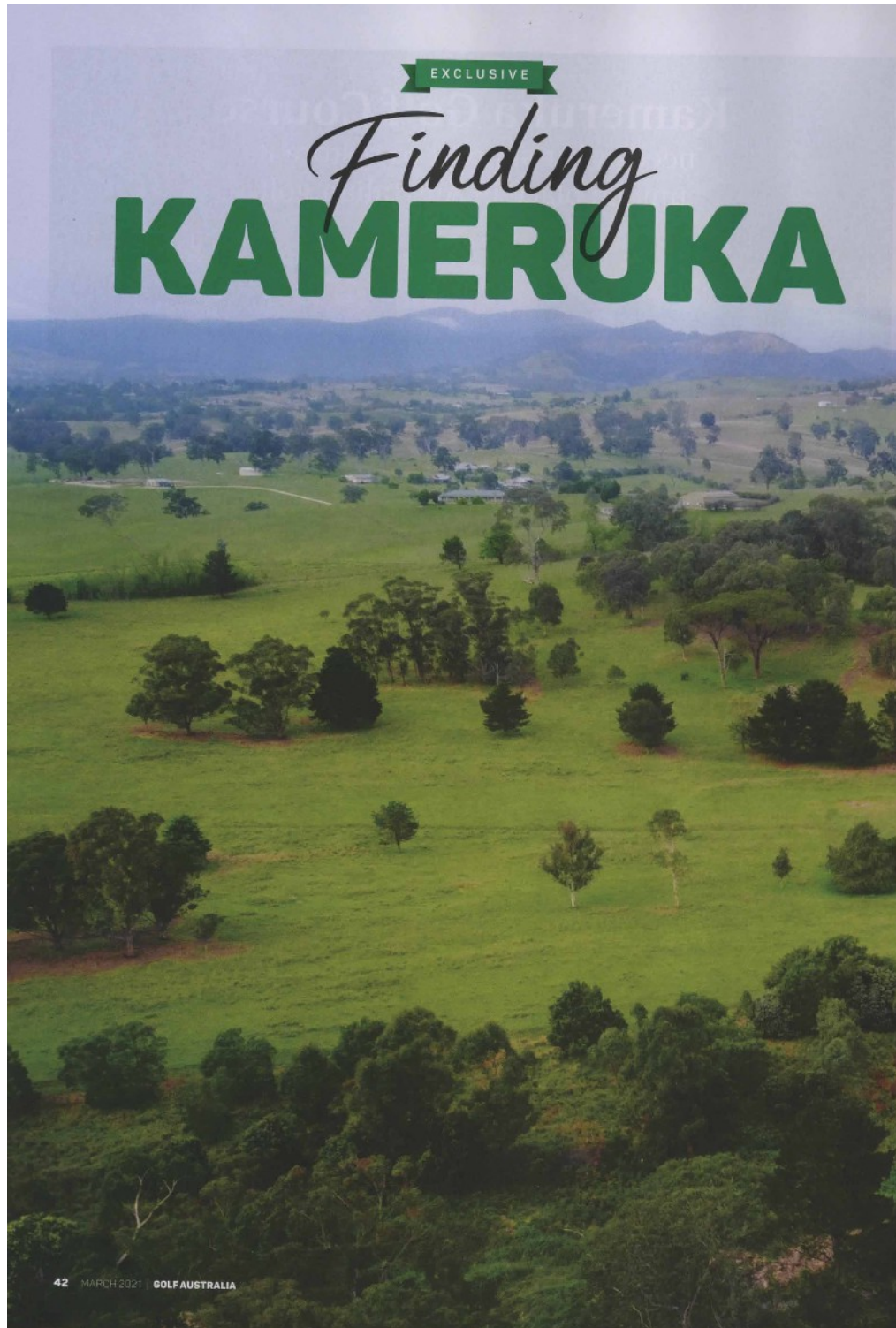
often from afar from his home in England. A story where the tragedy of a world war would play its cruel part and subsequently those who were lost would be deeply respected in the golf course itself.

The story of the golf course is about bringing the still relatively new pastime of golf in Australia to a special piece of farm land near Candelo in the Bega Valley, a short drive inland from the coastal resort town of Merimbula.

The chosen name for the estate with its deep meaning remains the true underlying and deep connecting spirit of the place. In the local Yuin language of the south coastal region of NSW the word kameruka means 'wait until I return'. The pioneering Imlay brothers upon setting out their vast dairy estate in the 1830's at the significant confluence of the Candelo and Santangelo creeks would name their estate "Kameruka".

Advance the story to 1913 and a man named Sir Robert Lucas Tooth. Australian born to the famous Sydney Tooth brewing family and educated at Eton, England. Sir Robert was then living in England where he had moved to in the 1890's to raise his family. His business and property tie back to Australia included his most favourite of places, the Kameruka Estate which his family had acquired in 1860s. A place he would always visit on his return trips to Australia.

prepared HKruse Jan 2021



Adrian Logue, 'Finding Kameruka', *Golf Australia*, March 2021.