



Wilding Pine Removal and Replacement Planting

Introduction / Background

ORC's *Otago Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-29*, established under the Biosecurity Act (1993), requires that "occupiers" of land are responsible for the control of pests, including Wilding Pines, on land that they control or occupy. The Arrowtown Golf Club (AGC) has worked with the Whakatipu Wilding Control Group (WCG) to locate and identify wilding pines on the Golf Club Land. This work has identified approximately 143 Larch, 44 Douglas fir, plus a clump of spreading white pine, that need to be removed. WCG has provided a map of the location of the trees identified for removal, which is included as Attachment 1 to this document.

WCG has access to an 80% National Wilding Programme subsidy for the wilding control work only, and are required to first request a landowner contribution of 20% from AGC for the trees removed on leasehold and freehold land. Whilst final cost estimates are not yet available, and subject to final approval of the Tree Removal Application from QLDC, the removal of these trees by WCG and AGC has been "pencilled in" for the period 22nd May - 5th June 2023. The work is to be broken down into two parts over this period; River 9 holes - 22/05/2023 until 26/05/2023, and the Valley 9 holes from 29/05/2023 until 02/06/2023.

The Club has made plans to close the affected 9's for each 5-day period, including temporary suspension of tee bookings for both Members and Visitors. Visitors typically make bookings several weeks or months ahead, so this has meant that we have already needed to publish future tee booking sheets that reflect these restrictions (and conversely, mean that it is not a simple process to change dates at short notice).

This document describes Arrowtown Golf Club's proposed replanting plan to replace the wilding species removed, and describes the key factors influencing this plan. These factors include;

- The Club's recently adopted Long Term Course Plan,
- Our ability to resource the replanting programme, in terms of cost, resources available, and ability to ensure that new trees planted can receive the care needed to ensure their survival.
- The special character of the parts of the Course that are part of one of the main entrance-ways into Arrowtown.
- QLDC's Tree Policy which requires two trees planted for each one removed on QLDC land. (AGC has a long-term rental agreement with QLDC in respect of our "River 9" - the part of the golf course located north-east of Centennial Avenue, across to the Arrow River).

AGC Wilding Pine Removal - Replanting Plan

The Proposed Replanting Plan is included as Attachment 2 to this document. It should be noted that the proposed plan is a high-level plan that represents the Club's firm intentions, based on the guidance of our Long Term Course Plan. Species selection and precise planting locations may vary slightly in specific locations on the Course as the replanting programme proceeds.

AGC Long Term Course Development Plan

In 2022 the Club commissioned and adopted a Long Term Course Plan (LTCP) as the guiding reference document for all aspects of future course development, including Course Architecture, Design and Landscape. Key objectives for the LTCP include;

- *To ensure that the Club's very unique terrain and topography is respected, incorporated and enhanced in any future renovation work on the golf course.*
- *To ensure that the safety of the golfer is paramount in the Club's planning.*
- *To ensure that the course is developed and maintained in a sustainable way by minimising inputs eg water/ fertiliser without compromising the quality of the golf course.*
- *To enable the Arrowtown Golf Club to be recognised within New Zealand as providing a complete and exceptional golfing experience for both members and visitors alike.*
- *To ensure that all ongoing maintenance, course preparation, golf course improvements and redesign is considered in relation to the golf course's unique character.*

The proposed Tree Replanting Plan is informed by, and consistent with, our LTCP.

The LTCP coverage includes the 'soft landscape' of trees, planted areas and areas of native shrubland on the golf course. It is underpinned by the general principle that soft landscape should relate to the character of the wider area/region and the character of the golf course.

Landscape on the golf course;

- Should be mostly 'out of play', on the outside of the golfing topography,
- Have a purpose; eg, screening neighbouring property, providing habitat, providing safety, frame a golf hole or a view, or provide shade.
- Have minimal maintenance, so that it does not become a distraction and consume scarce greenkeeping resources.

Small trees planted 30+ years ago may now cast shadow, have roots which invade a tee or green, or affect the playable golf corridor. Trees on a golf course can have a 'use-by' date, more so if they are in the wrong place.

The LTCP includes a Plant Schedule for any tree planting that specifies suitable species which align with and support the aesthetic of the LTCP's vision for the Course.

AGC Wilding Pine Removal - Replanting Plan

It includes mostly New Zealand native species, but also recognises the wider Arrowtown-area aesthetic by including some exotic species.

Species and locations for the proposed replanting plan are selected in accordance with this Schedule, and the overall principles of the LTCP. A copy of the LTCP Plant Schedule is included as Attachment 3 to this document.

Proposed Replanting Plan

The proposed replanting plan recognises the visual impact, particularly in relation to the parts of the Course that are part of the entrance to Arrowtown. Our proposed plan includes the planting of 45 Golden Ashes (or similar deciduous species with equivalent vibrant autumn colour) to form an "Avenue" along Centennial Avenue on the approaches to Arrowtown.



② = Fraxinus Excelsior : Golden Ash



These trees are in harmony with and accentuate Arrowtown's famous autumn palette. We are proposing to plant advanced trees up to 2.0-3.0 metres tall so that the sense of "avenue" is maintained, despite the removal of the predominantly Larch trees currently adjacent to Centennial Avenue.

Golden Ash is also proposed on our western "Valley's 9" (on land owned by the Club), between our 12th and 13th fairways. Whilst player safety from errant balls is the primary purpose of these plantings, the "dash of autumn colour" on the prominent ridge between these two fairways will be visible from many areas of the western side of the Course and the surrounding roads.

Native species will be primarily used for the main parts of the Course, in accordance with the LTCP Schedule.

Kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*) and Mountain Flax (*Phormium cookianum*) will be clustered around our internal water storage ponds and drainage channels, providing great food sources for native birds, as well as seasonal colour.

Around 40 Mountain Beech (*Fuscopora cliffortioides*) trees are proposed to replace the mainly wilding pines currently growing alongside the Arrow River on the eastern boundary of the Course. These hardy, evergreen medium sized trees will provide a green backdrop to our Course as it abuts the river, against the slopes leading up to Tobins Track.

AGC Wilding Pine Removal - Replanting Plan

In golfing terms, the Arrowtown Course can be described as somewhat of an “inland links course”, with narrow fairways separated by rocky ridges and more muted, subtle shapes, with the occasional large rock formation. Arrowtown is a true representation of ‘Central Otago golf’ - wild and rugged.

The LTCP specifies that plantings on the majority of the Course harmonise with this Central Otago aesthetic. In support of this, the proposed plantings on much of the interior of the Course are a mix of fast growing native shrubs and trees. Roadside boundary mounding is a mix of native grasses and shrubs (eg, *Chionochloa rubra*, *Coprosma Propinqua*, *Discaria Toumatou*, and *Olearia Lineata*), due to the incompatibility of taller species and the power-lines along these boundaries.

Timing

The proposed planting schedule is spaced out over three years, to both spread the cost to the Club, and also availability of resources to undertake and maintain the planting of new trees.

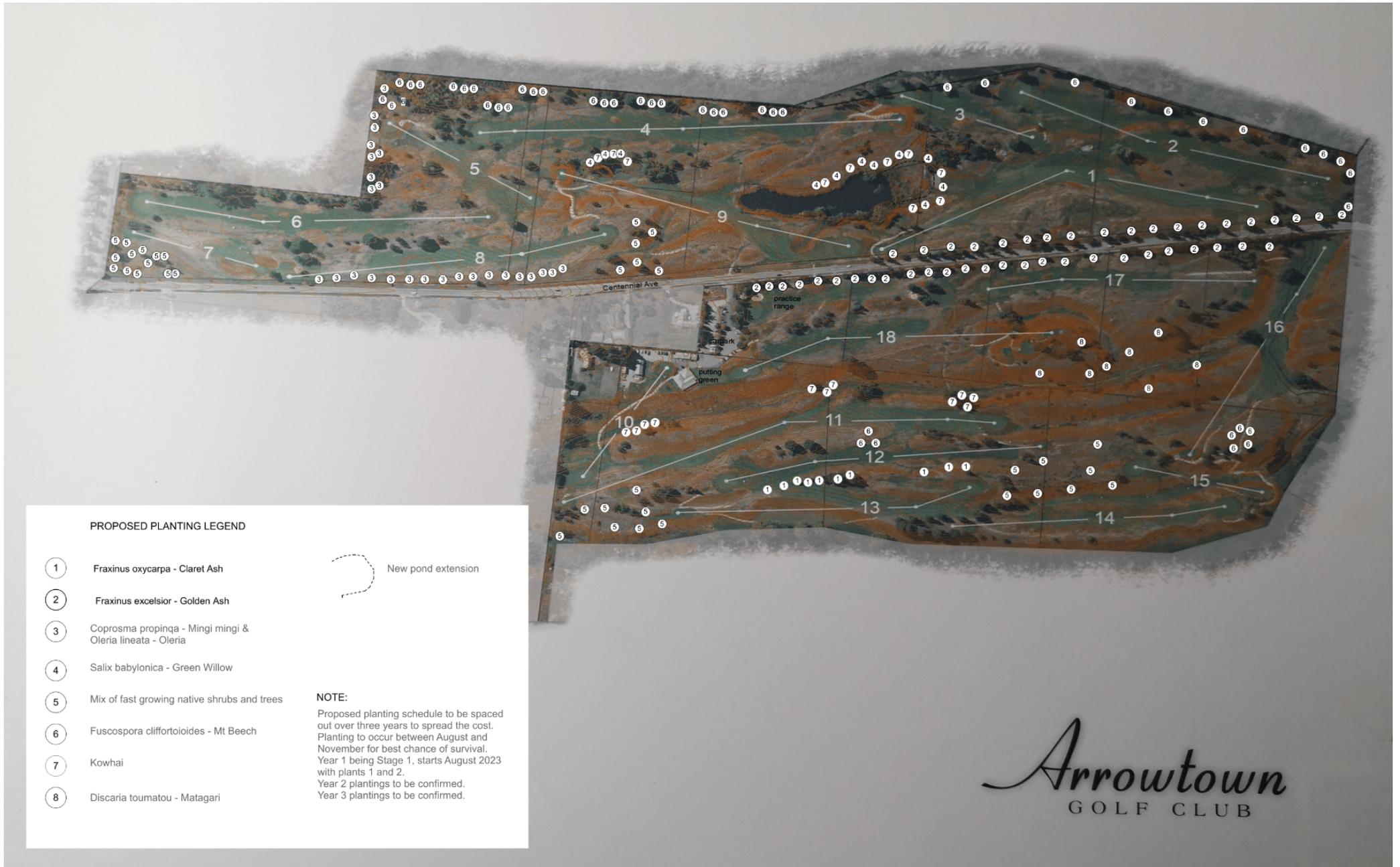
Planting is to occur between August and November in each year, for best chance of survival of the newly planted trees.

Based on the above, the following table outlines the proposed planting schedule.

Stage	Location	Plant Types (refer attached Replanting Plan Map)
1. August-November 2023	Adjacent to Centennial Avenue	2 (Golden Ash, or similar)
2. August-November 2024	Various, to be confirmed	1-8, per Planting Plan
3. August-November 2025	Balance, to be confirmed	1-8, per Planting Plan

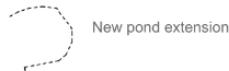
The Club is committed to completing the re-planting plan by the end of 2025.

Attachment 2 - Proposed Replanting Plan



PROPOSED PLANTING LEGEND

- ① Fraxinus oxycarpa - Claret Ash
- ② Fraxinus excelsior - Golden Ash
- ③ Coprosma propinqua - Mingi mingi & Oleria lineata - Oleria
- ④ Salix babylonica - Green Willow
- ⑤ Mix of fast growing native shrubs and trees
- ⑥ Fuscospora cliffortioides - Mt Beech
- ⑦ Kowhai
- ⑧ Discaria toumatou - Matagari



New pond extension

NOTE:

Proposed planting schedule to be spaced out over three years to spread the cost. Planting to occur between August and November for best chance of survival. Year 1 being Stage 1, starts August 2023 with plants 1 and 2. Year 2 plantings to be confirmed. Year 3 plantings to be confirmed.

Arrowtown
GOLF CLUB

AGC Wilding Pine Removal - Replanting Plan

Attachment 3 - LTCP Appendix B - Draft Plant Schedule

Appendix B Draft Plant Schedule

NB. An overall landscape planting plan needs to be prepared as a guide for long term planning.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Native/ Exotic	Notes
Grey Shrubland			
Chionochloa rubra	Red Tussock	Native	Revegetation species.
Coprosma propinqua	Mingi mingi	Native	Mass planting on mounds along road boundaries
Discaria toumatou	Matagouri	Native	Mass planting on mounds along road boundaries
Oleria lineata	Oleria	Native	Mass planting on mounds along road boundaries
Pond/ Wetland			
Carex Secta	Carex	Native	Plant along pond edge in swathes
Phormium cookianum	Mt Flax	Native	Great for birds
Salix babylonica	Green Willow	Exotic	Plant in groups near pond extension. Use sparingly. Use to replace 'crack willow'
Sophora microphylla	Kowhai		Plant by new pond. Great for birds, plant in groups.
Trees			
Fraxinus excelsior	Golden Ash	Exotic	Medium sized tree. Autumn colour.
Fraxinus oxycarpa 'raywoodi'	Claret Ash	Exotic	Medium sized tree. Autumn colour in a few locations on the course eg between 6th & 7th
Fuscospora cliffortioides	Mt Beech	Native	Plant in groups. Plant for screening. Plant sparingly. Will need water for establishment



Chionochloa rubra



Coprosma propinqua



Discaria toumatou



Oleria lineata



Fraxinus oxycarpa



Fraxinus excelsior



Fuscospora cliffortioides



Carex secta



Phormium cookianum



Salix babylonica



Sophora microphylla