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Daily Telegraph

Eastern suburbs' signature golf holes at The Lakes, The Australian, New South Wales, Bonnie Doon and St Michael's

Where it comes to golf in Sydney, it doesn't get much better than courses in the eastern suburbs, being home to some of the most breathtaking holes in the country.

With the likes of The Lakes at Mascot, Royal Sydney at Rose Bay, New South Wales at La Perouse, Bonnie Doon at Pagewood, St Michael's at Little Bay and The Australian at Rosebery, the eastern suburbs courses are the pinnacle of golf in Sydney.

We've compiled a list of some of the best and most challenging holes in the eastern suburbs.

Jarrod Bunch
@JarrodBunch88 | Updated March 23rd, 2020 | Southern Cross

0 COMMENTS

Hole 6 at The Lakes golf course in Mascot. Photo: Facebook

The Lakes Golf Club:

HOLE 1

Hole 1 at The Lakes golf course in Mascot. Photo: Facebook

Scott Pinoy celebrating his Honda Classic victory at The Lakes in Mascot. Photo: Facebook

Golfing great turned course designer Jack Nicklaus once said the Sydney hole should allow players to ease into their round. But, The Lakes takes a completely different approach, offering golfers equally the toughest starting hole in Australia.

Club life member Gary O'Rourke said there were a number of elements which made the hole so great.

"[It] gets in your face straight away ... it's very strategic," O'Rourke said.

"There's a dress element because you could go straight across that water ... or that you've only got a little shot [into the green].

"That all depends on the wind and how confident you are, it's a brilliant looking hole.

"But it's a difficult hole. And certainly if there's a southerly and there's always wind out there ... it could be as much as a club or more harder than on a day when the wind is helping you.

"You just don't know what you're up for until you stand on the tee."

Hole 11:

Hole 11 at The Lakes golf course in Mascot. Photo: Facebook

Like many holes at The Lakes, this hole has a constant water threat for golfers and while it's picturesque, it's one of the more daunting par 3s in the country.

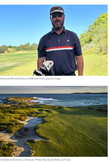
"When a par-3 stands on that tee ... he knows it's worthwhile going after it," O'Rourke said.

"If you get short it, he's then gun that to the green for two shots, but the [second] shot to the green is very intimidating. Assume the green is right up against the water."

O'Rourke recounted a conversation he had with Australian golf legend Greg Norry about John Daly who infamously hit about five balls into the water during an Australian Open.

"People said he just kept reloading and being an idiot, [but Norry said] the shots were anything the green but they were flaring right ... it's a tough like it was a big dummy shot."

Hole 14:



Hole 14 at The Lakes golf course in Mascot. Photo: Facebook

O'Rourke said similar to the first hole, it all depends on the wind.

He referenced an Australian Open when tournament organisers changed it to a par 4 and it was so contentious because there was a somebody everyday and players couldn't even get close enough to reach the water".

But when the wind is blowing a hurricane, players like John Daly would be being smashed and it wouldn't be an issue.

"It's huge, I think it's 350plus in as a ... it's very, very daunting and although it's massive, it's actually in for a very high-scoring," O'Rourke said.

New South Wales Golf Club

Scott Pinoy celebrating his Honda Classic victory at The Lakes. Photo: Facebook

Hole 1 at New South Wales Golf Club in Coogee. Photo: New South Wales Golf Club

One for the "big hitters", according to New South Wales head professional Warwick Dean.

"If you can carry it and get it down the hill, you've got a short iron in to a par 5," Dean said.

"But it's very risky, remember. It's a tight drive and if it runs the wrong, it's a genuine three shots hole. If it's down wind, and you want to take it on ... you can get rewarded.

"When you get to the top of the hill, you get that great view, looking down over the ocean and over Bonnie Doo."

Hole 6:

Hole 6 at New South Wales Golf Club in Coogee. Photo: New South Wales Golf Club

One of the most picturesque par 3s in the country, featuring a vet shot from Cape Banks headland and into the ocean.

"It's a visually daunting hole, we had some Americans out here the other day, and they said it sounds liberal of Dale Hill at Cypress Point," Dean said.

"It's probably one of the more photographed spots in Australian golf ... it's just a magic location, it's a different world out there."

Hole 13:

Hole 13 at New South Wales Golf Club in Coogee. Photo: New South Wales Golf Club

The dogleg par 5 is another risk, reward type hole at New South Wales. It sits a tight-handed player with a draw, and despite hitting an excellent drive, what awaits you at the green can be intimidating.

"It's a very challenging hole, we had some Americans out here the other day, and they said it sounds liberal of Dale Hill at Cypress Point," Dean said.

"It's probably one of the more photographed spots in Australian golf ... it's just a magic location, it's a different world out there."

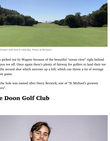
Hole 15:

Hole 15 at New South Wales Golf Club in Coogee. Photo: New South Wales Golf Club

The "imposter" hole called the Oasis can be a challenging par 3 for players to navigate. Depending on the wind, players can hit a driver or a wedge, but they must hit through a chute of all bushes south and over a cute sandy area to reach the green.

It can range from 150m to 210m, meaning each time you play the hole it can offer a different set of challenges.

Hole 11:



Hole 11 at St Michael's Golf Club in Little Bay. Photo: St Michael's

Despite an intimidating tee shot to a 3-dog leg fairway, Wagner said the most difficult hole "even more intimidating". The longer fairway holes are then second shot over sandbush needs, to an elevated green.

Although there is plenty of fairway for players to drive, an errant shot could force golfers to grab a second ball, or much searching through surrounding native bush.

Hole 17:

Hole 17 at St Michael's Golf Club in Little Bay. Photo: St Michael's

The hole was picked out by Wagner because of the beautiful "ocean view" right behind the golfer as you tee off. Once again there's plenty of fairway for golfers to land their second shot, but a second shot which traverses up a hill, which can force a lot of average golfers off their game.

Wagner said the hole was named after Harry Beswick, one of "St Michael's greatest amateur golfers".

Bonnie Doon Golf Club

Hole 12:

Hole 12 at Bonnie Doon Golf Club in Pagewood. Photo: Facebook

This short par 4 is one for the big hitters, Bonnie Doon amateur golfer Jonno Comerford said "I'd write a letter every time".

While there was plenty of opportunity for golfers to take advantage of the hole, Comerford said it was "probably the best view" he's seen, overlooking the whole city.

Similar to the next signature hole – the 16th – it gives golfers the chance to make up for lost shots or better their score, but there is still danger present at all times.

Hole 16:

Hole 16 at Bonnie Doon Golf Club in Pagewood. Photo: Facebook

This "super short" par 3 is "deceiving", despite Comerford regularly playing under par, he said he still "can't get out of the rotation at Bonnie Doon, like "it's probably the hole I struggle with the most".

"It'll trick you," Comerford said. "It's got a massive green and if you miss it to the wrong spot, it will completely [mess] you up."

Hole 16: Photo: Facebook

Hole 16 at Bonnie Doon Golf Club in Pagewood. Photo: Facebook

According to Comerford this hole was best described as "risk/reward". With out of bounds on the right, bush on the left, and a faraway bunker covering most of the right side, a perfect drive is needed.

Again, the big hitters can have a go at the green and be rewarded, as long as their is "no wind".

"It's not a guaranteed up and down just because it's such a shallow green," Comerford said.

"But it's just a good hole, it gives you a good opportunity to get the green, but it does bring a lot of trouble with it. If you hit a good shot, you're probably going to make birdie. If you miss it, it's hard to make a par."

The Australian Golf Club

Hole 9:

Hole 9 at The Australian Golf Club in Rosebery. Photo: Facebook

Australian Golf Club general manager Steven Bonacci said such holes as the Jack Nicklaus-designed course was remodelled in 1998.

But Bonacci pointed to the finishing hole on the front nine as one of the best three at the club, which features a tee shot overlooking the Sydney skyline, a fairway that "meanders" you's a ground with a gallery of spectators, and the clubhouse in the background.

Players have issues all up the left hand side and Bonacci said he's seen players "make big mistakes" due to long putts on the right side. If you're not great off the tee, he said "you're definitely going to struggle" with this hole.

Hole 15:

Hole 15 at The Australian Golf Club in Rosebery. Photo: Facebook

Bonacci's "favourite" hole on the course "by far". He said the best bonus of the hole was "it's extremely well bunkered" and that it is in position on the course, "you've never really sure where the wind is coming from".

"From a percentage perspective, there's nice either to chase in the corner of the course ... and it's probably the toughest par three on the course," he said.

Hole 17:

Hole 17 at The Australian Golf Club in Rosebery. Photo: Facebook

Bonacci said a golfer must be "precise" to set

Remaining on a difficult slice in the green, the

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further said it better suited players with a right to left shot.

There's plenty of undulations in the green, making it a "very, very" hard two putt.

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R • 4 days ago

My club at Randwick golf course, at Malabar beach, on the same bit of coast line as NSW, The Coast, and St Michaels won't cost you an arm and a leg to play, or to join. A great 18 hole course for the average golfer, which is most of us. I have been told it is the only course in Australia that has ocean views from every hole. I love it.

Reply

David • 5 days ago

It's a shame The Coast doesn't get a mention; there are some great holes requiring strategically placed tee shots. When you compare the views and the green fees to the other courses mentioned in the article, it's great value for your money.

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