

# Ardrossan Disc Golf Course Proposal

Prepared by Kym Stone with RAD for the Yorke Peninsula Council





# Disc Golf Course Proposal

This document written by Kym Stone with assistance from RAD, is a proposal to Yorke Peninsula Council to consider the installation of a disc golf course facility at Ardrossan. The proposal of such a facility is driven by the need to diversify the recreational opportunities available and provide the local community with an engaging way to enjoy exercising in the outdoors together with friends. Access to a disc golf course will enable the formation of a local club and provide the opportunity for it to grow a membership base and create a space where meaningful relationships can be formed in the community.





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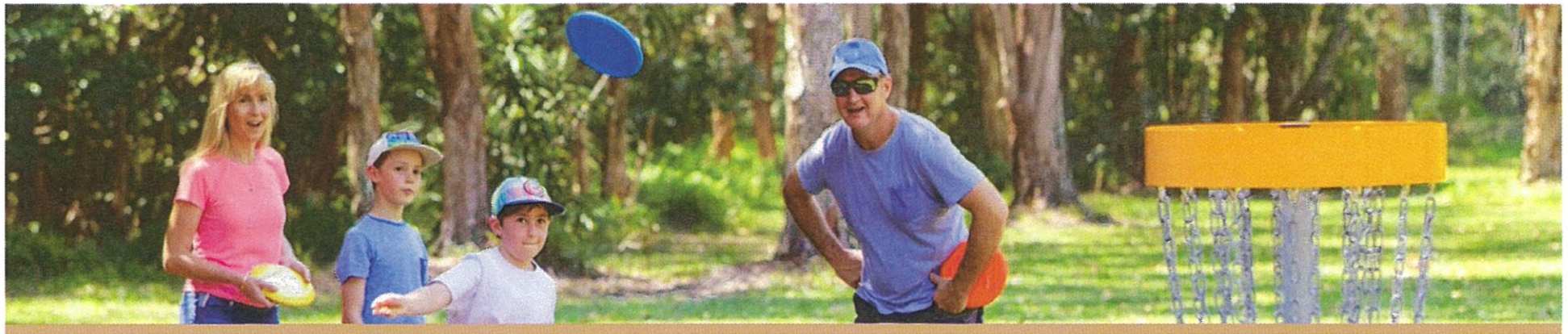




# What is Disc Golf and How Does It Benefit The Community

Disc golf is one of the fastest growing sports in the world, with over 8000 courses now found in more than 30 countries! The sport is played with similar rules to traditional golf, except instead of hitting a ball into a hole, players throw special golf discs from a tee area into an elevated target basket.

Disc golf is a passive sport which provides low impact, aerobic exercise - all whilst connecting people with nature. As a sport suitable for all ages and socio-economic backgrounds, disc golf helps diversify the recreational opportunities available for local communities. It takes only one hour to learn, but a lifetime to master!





## Key insights on how a disc golf can benefit communities:

- An ideal way to help build communities through participation
- Engage the student community in a healthy, outdoor activity
- Activate underutilised space with a safe, self-directed activity
- Diversify recreational opportunities with a unique sport
- Foster the growth of a local disc golf club with a lifetime sport
- Increase participation rates with a facility that safely supports dozens of participants
- Connect people with nature through a sport that is inexpensive to play

Disc golf is a healthy, lifetime sport perfectly suited for people of all ages and abilities. It can be enjoyed both individually in competition and played casually with family and friends.

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### How Does A Disc Golf Work?

Disc golf courses are permanent, self-sustaining facilities found in many locations including public parks and reserves, camps, schools and on golf courses. Participants bring their own discs or hire them locally and play together with family, friends or individually at a time that suits them. Generally courses are free to play, although pay-to-play venues can be found helping support local businesses.



## Connecting people with nature

Environmentally friendly and free to play, disc golf is a unique and fun way for the community to experience our beautiful parks and turn a simple walk with friends and family into a fun activity. The community is provided the opportunity to socialise and enjoy exercising through a self directed, low impact sport that is aligned with the promotion of many healthy living initiatives.





## Creating safe environments

Disc golf courses do not require any clearing of trees or changes to the landscape and once installed are virtually maintenance free. Professional disc golf course designers place a strong emphasis on the consideration of other activities when creating a facility, ensuring the safety of participants and other park users.

Disc golf can help to activate space that may be under-utilised, making use of areas with little to no foot traffic and adding value to any park. With an increase in human presence to the area throughout the day, a course also can help to deter possible unsavoury behaviour, returning a sense of safety to the community.





### How Do You Play Disc Golf?

Golf discs are not like your regular Frisbees, but instead are made from durable plastics in a myriad of model types, engineered for different purposes. Participants use drivers, mid-range discs and putters when playing, selecting a particular disc depending on the challenge of the hole design and the conditions of the environment.





# Disc Golf and Tourism

Disc golf will provide tourists with another badly needed activity in Ardrossan potentially lengthening their stay and money spend in the community.

Given that there are only 4 recognised courses in South Australia we would also have the potential to host competitions bringing people from all over the state and interstate.



## Local Schools and Community Groups

Local schools in the area will benefit from access to a free-to-play disc golf course facility by providing students of all ages and abilities with an exciting way to experience the outdoors. The facility will provide teachers and group leaders with the ability to add value to their programs by expanding the recreational opportunities on offer.

A course will provide groups the ability to increase participation rates with a low impact activity that safely supports dozens of students at any given time. As disc golf is a free-to-play, self-directed activity, it requires very little supervision - helping to reduce the staffing costs associated with excursions for schools and youth groups.

A disc golf course will also provide the local community and youth groups with a venue to host events that offer participants a unique, low impact activity that is aligned with the promotion of activating space and other healthy living initiatives.



## Economic Vibrancy

Local businesses will enjoy the economic benefits offered through the increased visitation to the area. Local businesses can help promote the course through issuing scorecards to participants, whilst also creating profits from retailing Frisbees and other disc golf associated products.

Clubs and community groups who wish to run events at the course can also collaborate with local businesses through sponsorship, helping to promote the facility and the economic vibrancy of the area.





## Local and International Disc Golf Bodies

Participation in disc golf is continually increasing, with new clubs forming around courses each year in Australia. Almost all States have multiple incorporated disc golf clubs operating, with dedicated volunteers running a plethora of leagues and promotional come and try events to help grow the sport and increase participation.





## Local and International Disc Golf Bodies

Whilst casual play and grassroots disc golf is extremely popular, it is also a professional sport with players all over Australia regularly competing in Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) sanctioned tournaments. Such events form part of the Australian Disc Golf Tour, an annual series managed by the sport's peak body Australian Disc Golf. It is the local clubs in each State who host the events through the work of club volunteers.



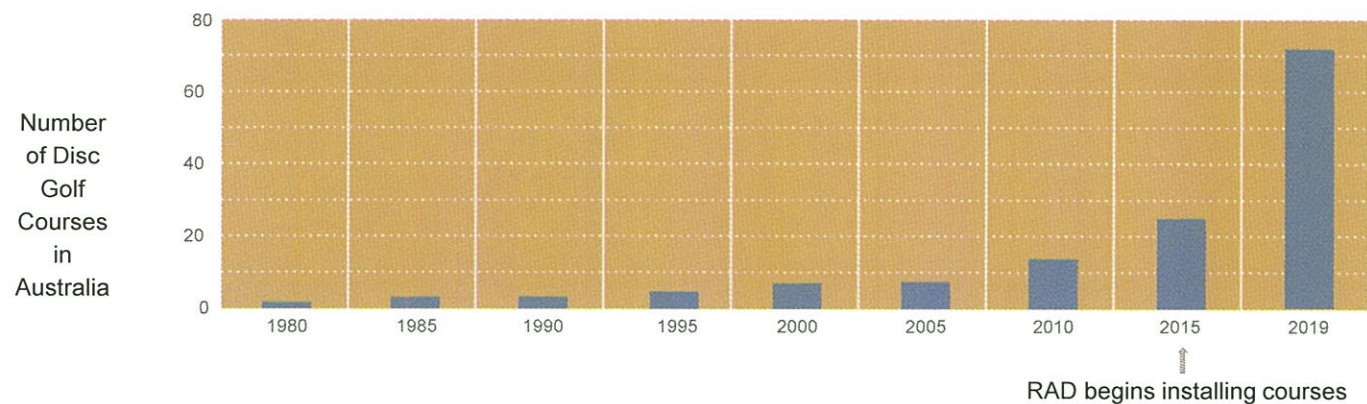


# Participation Rates and Growth in Australia

Disc golf is not new to Australia. In fact, the first courses were installed in the early 1980's. After its introduction to Australia, the sport initially grew fast. However, progress plateaued throughout the country, mainly attributed to the lack of courses accessible to the community. Until as recent as 2012, there were only approximately 20 courses in Australia - moderate growth of less than one course per year.

However, in the past 5 years, participation in the sport of disc golf has skyrocketed. The amount of courses has tripled, with now over 70 courses found in most states across the country. With more public access to disc golf courses in new areas, participation in the sport has also risen, with a steady increase in participation rates of 30% each year.

A comprehensive list of courses throughout Australia can be found on the RAD [website](#).



The RAD team are always busy working on new course projects. An example of such a project can be seen in Rockingham, WA.

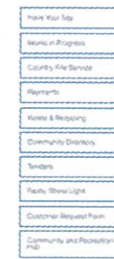
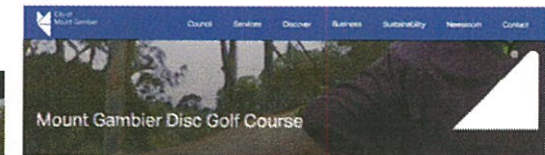
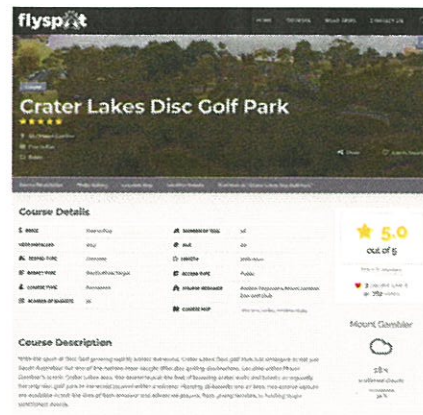
For more information about this new facility and others, please see their [course projects](#).





# World Class Facility

In 2018 RAD worked with the City of Mount Gambier and the local disc golf community to deliver a new disc golf course. In the short time since the installation the profile of the sport has risen to new heights. The local Mount Gambier Disc Golf Club is growing its membership base and the course is regularly being utilised for events and by visitors to the city. With its professional course design and equipment, the standard of the disc golf facility is second to none. Its recognition as a world-class facility is also evident, with the club's recent successful bid to host the 2019 Australian Disc Golf Championships at the venue. This article released by the local Council discusses how the project came about in Mount Gambier.



Mount Gambier Disc Golf Club President Hugh McPhillip and Vice President Nicole McPhillip

Disc Golf continues to get steadily through the region as Mount Gambier now boasts its permanent resident. With its professional course design and equipment, the standard of the disc golf facility is second to none. Its recognition as a world-class facility is also evident, with the club's recent successful bid to host the 2019 Australian Disc Golf Championships at the venue. This article released by the local Council discusses how the project came about in Mount Gambier.

Disc Golf is a fun, fast-paced sport that is growing in popularity across the world. It is a sport that can be played by anyone, regardless of age or fitness level. The Mount Gambier Disc Golf Club has been a leading force in the development of the sport in the region, and its success has inspired other clubs to follow suit.

The club's success is due to a number of factors, including its professional course design and equipment, its commitment to providing a high-quality experience for its members, and its active involvement in the local community. The club has been instrumental in promoting the sport and attracting new players to the area.

The club's success is also a testament to the power of community and teamwork. The club's members have worked together to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all players, and this has been a key factor in the club's growth and success.

The club's success is also a testament to the power of local government support. The local Council has provided the club with the resources and support it needs to succeed, and this has been a key factor in the club's success.

The club's success is also a testament to the power of the sport itself. Disc Golf is a sport that is fun, fast-paced, and challenging. It is a sport that can be played by anyone, regardless of age or fitness level. The Mount Gambier Disc Golf Club has been a leading force in the development of the sport in the region, and its success has inspired other clubs to follow suit.

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# Case Study: Chichester Park - City of Joondalup

When investigating the increase of participation rates in disc golf across Australia, Western Australia provides a telling example. Since 2014, there have been 13 new disc golf facilities installation throughout the state. The majority of these facilities are located in the Perth metro area in public parks. However some can also be found on golf courses and operating in resorts.

Chichester Park in Woodvale, WA (City of Joondalup) is a great example in demonstrating how disc golf can be successfully implemented in a public park to help to increase visitation. Since the installation of disc golf in the reserve, park use has not only increased through use of the facility, but the visitors have diversified with a wider demographic engaging together in the activity.





## Case Study cont.

The course layout also illustrates how disc golf can be designed with full consideration given to existing park facilities, avoiding potential conflicts and improving overall park connectivity. Chichester Park is an off-lead dog park with a playground, walking track and sporting ovals - including cricket nets and soccer fields. A primary school also borders the park along with two fenced native flora areas.



### Case Study cont.

The Chichester course has hosted numerous events organised by local clubs, including free community 'come and try' clinics run by touring professional players. The course has also served to host government-led active living initiatives, including programs aimed specifically at engaging the local senior citizens. Most recently in July 2018, the Woodvale Fathering Project was hosted at Chichester course, attracting over 100 local family members to try the sport for the first time.





Case Study cont.

## Participation Rates

Conservative estimates put disc golf participation rates at Chichester Park at approximately 10-15 users per day. The demographic of these participants varies greatly, with ages ranging from 5 to 85+ years in both female and males users. In the first 12 months since it's installation in July 2016, it's estimated that over 5,000 rounds of disc golf were played by local and visiting community members - with approximately one quarter of these participants completely new to the sport.

# 10-15

Number of participants play  
disc golf at Chichester  
Reserve each day

# 5 to 85+

The age range of participants  
who regularly visit Chichester  
Disc Golf Course

# 5,000

The estimated amount of rounds  
of disc golf played at Chichester  
Reserve in its first year





# How much space does a disc golf course require?



Courses can be found everywhere from public parks and reserves to schools, and camps, and on existing golf courses. Most disc golf courses are usually made up of 9 or 18 holes and range from short courses with an average hole length of 60-100 metres, right through to longer courses with some holes reaching over 200 metres in length.



A disc golf course can be installed in parks of all shapes and sizes. Disc golf efficiently activates park space, but doesn't require exclusive use of the space. Instead a course can integrate with existing activities in the area other passive park users, helping to connect the park facilities and encourage visitors to explore the area.



The average 9-hole disc golf course utilises as little 5-10 hectares and doesn't require any particular area shape. A facility is custom designed for each park space which can vary from long and narrow, through to a basic square or rectangular shape. Changes in elevation, even subtle undulation can be a great addition to disc golf, as it adds another dimension to the challenge for participants.

More information about disc golf course design in parks can be found in the Site Suitability Criteria section.

## Use vs. Cost

A disc golf course offers much more than your typical park recreational facilities. For example, skate parks and playgrounds are predominantly suitable only for youth engagement. Disc golf's accessibility and appeal to participants of all ages and abilities broaden its use deep within the community. Matched with its low installation and maintenance costs, disc golf provides a high return on community benefit relative to its modest investment.





# Maintenance



Once installed, a disc golf course is virtually maintenance free. The activity is played in the air, so unlike some traditional sports such as football, cricket and ball golf, disc golf does not require manicured ovals and greens.

No additional upkeep is required for a new disc golf course. Instead, the regular scheduled mowing of a park is all that is required to ensure the course remains playable year round. Tee signs and baskets share a similar size to small rubbish bins or park sign posts, so can be easily maintained in the same way. The tee in disc golf is the point at which the participant begins each hole. The tee is usually constructed of a small concrete pad (1.5m x 2.5m) which provides a stable surface from which to throw and helps avoid erosion in this high use area.



Course infrastructure is constructed from strong, durable materials. Galvanised steel disc catching targets and UV protected/graffiti resistant signage both help to create a facility which will weather the elements, prevent vandalism and safely serve your community for many years.

## Site Suitability Criteria

The investigation and assessment of potential sites for the activity of disc golf, includes the consideration of several factors to help ascertain the suitability of a particular site. These criteria are chosen with the goal of finding the most realistic and safe solution for creating a sustainable disc golf facility, designed to serve participants and enhance the park experience for all users for many years to come. Criteria used to assess a sites suitability include:





## Site Suitability Criteria cont.

### 1. Course Design Layout - Environment

The potential to create a fun and challenging course layout for both beginner and advanced participants is based on the potential to utilise the sites topography - including changes in elevation, diversity in fauna and density of foliage. Such variation enables exciting and challenging course design - providing a rewarding experience for players and helping to ensure return visitation and sustainability of the facility. In order to achieve an accomplished facility, our course layout design process is based on a number of design goals. These include:

- a) Satisfy the design requirements of the people and organisations who approve use of the land and fund the equipment for the course. That includes meeting local, state and federal construction and safety requirements.
- b) Design the course to have sufficient visibility of players, pedestrians and vehicles who may pass near or through it.
- c) Design course with the potential for multiple configurations to serve not only beginners but players with advanced skills; consistent with the budget and design needs in (goal a.) above.
- d) Design a well balanced course with a wide range of hole lengths and a good mixture of holes requiring controlled left, right and straight throws.
- e) Utilise elevation changes and available foliage as well as possible. Take care to minimise potential damage to foliage and reduce the chances for erosion.

\*The designs methods of RAD course designers are based on the systems and procedures as laid out by the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA), the sports global governing body.

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Site Suitability Criteria cont.

**2. Local Community and Neighbourhood School Accessibility**

The sites proximity to local schools and community groups, encouraging student and local resident participation through excursions and after school/work and weekend play at the venue.

**3. Amenities and Parking**

Accessibility BBQ facilities and sufficient parking availability.

**4. Transport Accessibility**

The sites proximity to public transport and local bike path network to improve accessibility for visitors travelling without vehicle access.

**5. Existing Recreation Facilities**

The sites proximity to other recreational facilities and playgrounds, helping to create a hub for leisure activities in the area.





Site Suitability Criteria cont.

#### **6. Park Connectivity**

Potential for utilising disc golf to improve connectivity of existing park facilities and path networks.

#### **7. Club Development, Events and Sustained Participation**

The capacity to deliver an exciting, challenging and sustainable facility design for players of all abilities - leading to consistent participation and the potential for hosting community events by a formalised local club.

#### **8. Safety and Risk Management**

Ability to create a course design layout to meet the required standards and expectations of the client, whilst mitigating potential risks associated to the injury of participants and other park users.



## Proposed Disc Golf Course Site

9 holes with dual tees offering an 18 hole course.

This is an example layout by Kym Stone not RAD.





## Equipment

# Disc Golf Target

The target is the most important component of a Disc Golf Course. Our disc golf targets are the RAD DisCatcher® Pro, which is the world's most popular and most durable basket. All parts are either hot-dipped galvanised or powder-coated to ensure maximum longevity. They also meet all Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) requirements for professional level basket. This highly visible eye-catching target has everything that is needed for the professional level basket and it is constructed to stand the test of time.

- High visibility orange top band.
- All parts, hot dip galvanised.
- 28 chains in two rows.
- Permanent but with a sleeve for removable setup.
- Approved by the PDGA (Professional Disc Golf Association)



# Professional Disc Golf Course Design Services

RAD provide a full turnkey solution for creating disc golf course facilities ready to play. Our products and services include:

- Land evaluation and assessment
- Professional onsite course design and mapping
- Graphic design of course signage and promotional marketing material
- Course equipment; Tee Signs, Main Course Sign and Disc Catcher Target Baskets
- Installation services

\*Tee pads optional.

We have consulted with clients all around Australia including local government, schools and universities, camps, resorts and golf clubs to deliver over 40 professionally designed facilities. More information about our services, please visit our [website](#).





# Indicative Costs Of A Disc Golf Course

In terms of pricing, a disc golf course is very low-cost, especially when compared to other recreational facilities. A ready-to-play 9 hole course is approximately \$15-20K, with a full 18 hole course costing only \$35K. A small investment for a facility that requires virtually no maintenance and can be safely enjoyed by dozens of people at any given time.

A disc golf course package is turn key and includes the following equipment and services:

- Land evaluation and assessment
- Professional onsite course design and mapping
- Graphic design of course signage and promotional marketing material
- Course equipment; Tee Signs, Main Course Sign and Disc Catcher Target Baskets

\*Tee pads optional.

\* Installation services are available from RAD, or local contractors can complete the phase via a supplied course installation guide.

## 9-Hole Disc Golf Course


# 15-20K

**Safely hosts at least  
40 participants at  
any given time**

## 18-Hole Disc Golf Course

# 35K

**Safely hosts over  
70 participants at  
any given time**



Thank you for  
your consideration.