

Ross Watson



With 25 years experience, fifty courses internationally, and a reputation for crafting exciting and visually spectacular courses, Ross Watson has few peers. Those in the know agree that if you want to simultaneously challenge the champion and mesmerize the social player, then Ross Watson is the man for the job. This exacting art draws upon Ross's technical training, highly pertinent civil planning experience and a passion for the game.

Ross's love of golf was discovered at 14 and he quickly dropped to a 3 - handicap to become a club champion in western Sydney. His early career path as a road designer with the Department of Main Roads and later with Burchill & Partners Civil Engineers on the Gold Coast bestowed in him the ideal skills for what was going to become his passion and art.

As a project manager he gained valuable experience in designing and maximizing the opportunities in large scale real estate developments before his skill and zeal inevitably swung toward course design. His talent broadened to include golf/real estate integration, project management and the master-planning of entire estates.

In 1979, Ross started his own Golf Course Architecture business. His earliest commissioned work included Clifton Golf Course near Toowoomba and Gold Coast Burleigh Golf Course. In 1985 he began work on the Gold Coast's renowned Palm Meadows Resort. The following year, Ross and touring professional Graham Marsh formed well-known Marsh Watson Pty Ltd, with Ross in charge of design. Their imprint spread through designs with household names like The Vines, Terrey Hills, Horizons and Paradise Palms. Their skills also enriched many courses in Japan, Thailand, Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia.

In 1990, Ross was instrumental in forming the Society of Australian Golf Course Architects (SAGCA) and was elected foundation president, reinforcing the respect and bond he enjoys with industry colleagues.

In 1992, after six years together, Marsh and Watson parted and pursued individual career paths. Ross again set up his own business, focusing on South-East Asia where golf was booming, and among many courses there to carry his stamp are A'Famosa, Kota Permai, Impian and Lido Lakes.

Ross's philosophy to create unique courses using the existing environment and natural terrain to stimulate design is highly sought after here in Australia. Local work includes the major renovation of Concord, Ryde-Parramatta, Bonnie Doon, Avondale and Royal Sydney.

Wonderful new designs include Pacific Harbour on Bribie Island, as well as Kooindah Waters, and the visually spectacular Magenta Shores on NSW's central coast.

Ross's technical knowledge of biodiversity, environmental sustainability, soil degradation, water resource management and land rehabilitation is of great value to developers and course owners alike. With these attributes and enthusiasm for excellence Ross is constantly redefining possibilities for his clients.

