

# ROTORUA GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOL 3 : ISSUE 7: AUGUST 2021



Arikikapakapa  
The Love of  
ROTORUA GOLF

# DELTA



Are there  
darker times  
ahead?



August 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Greetings Golfers of RGC

**Times such as Lock-down give time for much reflection.**

Just prior to Lock down however, Brett and I had been reviewing the past year or two (or three) at RGC during which time I invited Brett to share his thoughts via the President's Newsletter .

I would like to take the opportunity too, to acknowledge the significant input, the energy, angst and **'Let's do it'** from both Brett and Vlasta to support the Board in a great **"Leap of Faith"** over recent times. The 'big' things are obvious, the behind-the-scenes not so. It would be hard to put a monetary value on all of that. **Thank you, very much.**



## From Brett

I recall some three years ago when I first entered the Clubhouse, I had the perception that it would be special. Unfortunately, it did not live up to my expectation. It reminded me of the times I had spent many an hour at the local rugby club in the seventies. So often, if you are continually doing the same thing or spending your time in the same place a fresh pair of eyes can offer a different view or opinion.



Ali Painter

This was not to say it was wrong but I felt we could do better.

Our opportunity came in March of 2020 with Covid. We were locked down and could not trade. So with no disruption to members, the Board agreed this was the ideal time. I gave them confidence but there was one stipulation and that was, there was no money to come from the bank account.

Some were subtle, like cleaning all the lamp shades, painting the interior of the Pukaki room (which incidentally took 100 litres of paint) to balancing the Honours Boards, and venturing into Mary Browne's Archives room to re-hang a lot of the old historical pictures on the walls.

The bigger items were the disabled ramps, disabled bathrooms, giving the ladies an internal entrance to their bathrooms, creating the Library and of course totally re-glazing the windows in that room.

Next was the Boardroom and then of course the deck. In addition to this, we wall-papered, installed new lights in the foyer, Kanuka cafe, balcony, the Library and Boardroom.

*-continued*



There was new carpet for the Ladies Bathroom and the Boardroom, and a floral arrangement was added to the entrance way.

We now have funding for the painting of the exterior of the Clubhouse which I believe will really bring it to life and if we do a little bit of landscaping at the front, the Clubhouse will certainly be far more appealing from the road.

Other items of course have been the Greenkeeper's Cottage and the upgrade of the Clubhouse flat.

***Having spent 40 years in hospitality and 30 years along with Vlasta totally transforming the Princes Gate Hotel from a 2-star establishment to a 5-star very successful business, the Clubhouse seemed an ideal challenge. It has been both good, bad and interesting.***

In any retail shop, the front window is the most important as is the case in a restaurant or a hotel lobby. ***That first impression always matters.***

This especially applies if you are endeavouring to attract new members or visitors to enjoy wonderful surroundings. It was with this in mind that we introduced fresh flowers to the tables and created flower arrangements around the Clubhouse. I might add, these are all from our garden or from Shannan Park's.

One thing I personally dislike are long straight lines. It reminds me of a

boarding school dining room. I thought I would change these long tables where people can only communicate with people on either side or directly in front of them with a series of square tables with four seats on each side creating great conversation pits.

However, each day I would go back and the tables would be put back as long tables and the flowers would be put back nicely somewhere else. We brought music into the Clubhouse. This was very often turned off.

I remember placing the scoreboard where the TV is now and was told this wasn't acceptable and to put it back. It was quite funny when the TV broke down some time later, the same people pressed to find out when it was going to be fixed.

***Another pertinent point that I think is worthy of note . . . does membership stop at a subscription, and what makes a good member?***

To me the reality of life is, you only get back what you put in and my philosophy is don't complain without a solution.

The Club has strong liquor licensing regulations to follow i.e. we are not a BYO, you cannot for instance open a bottle of wine you have won in a raffle, you cannot bring your own alcohol onto the course and we of course, cannot sell alcohol to an intoxicated

*-continued*

NAIRN FISHER ACCOUNTANTS



PH 07-343 1002



member. We also must at all times have food available if we are selling alcohol which is another good reason why you should always eat something if you are going to have more than one glass of wine or beer.

We do have to have a licensed person on site at all times and they have strict criteria to follow within their license. They have consequences if they step outside these boundaries, as does the Club. ***It is important therefore that all members appreciate their wisdom behind the bar.***

My "mine host responsibilities" include: always be welcoming, always pursue the common courtesy of a smile or an acknowledgement, always look after your fellow member, and be especially welcoming to a new visitor or member. I know our service team are always working on this. Bad language in a public environment is also not acceptable.

***I remember my father always saying to me, "manners make's the man".***

**Let's be a great team that makes Arikikapakapa, the home of Rotorua Golf, not only a great place to play but a great place to entertain and the most welcoming place in Rotorua.**

### **President's footnote**

We can't currently book playing slots on Dot Golf but we might like to browse the very informative NZ Golf site which has posted the 2012 Club Member survey results. This information is used to inform LOVE Golf, with a specific focus on belonging within the club environment.

The three 'drivers' with the highest level of satisfaction are:

- Value for money
- Being friendly and welcoming
- Ease of accessing the golf course

Closely followed by well maintained course conditions as a recommendation to join and you have pretty much what we at Arikikapakapa aspire to.

*Yours in Golf*  
-Ali Painter



**LOOK AT ALL THIS  
DRY FIREWOOD STILL FOR SALE!**

**\$70** per cubic metre

*An additional \$25 for delivery (optional)*



Don Blackledge

**By the time you read this we would have moved to Level-3 and hopefully have more of an idea of when we get to go to Level-2 or back to where we were.**

Lockdown is never easy but we are a resilient bunch and will come through this in a positive manner. Do I sound like Jacinda? Oh no.

## **MEN'S GOLF SEPT 2021**

**WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER**

**Level 3 Golf**

**SATURDAY 4 SEPTEMBER**

**Level 3 Golf**

**WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER**

**Level 3 Golf**

**SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER**

**Level 3 Golf**

**WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER**

**To be Confirmed**

**SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER**

**To be Confirmed**

**MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER**

**Vets 3-Day Tournament**

**To be Confirmed**

**TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER**

**Vets 3-Day Tournament**

**To be Confirmed**

**WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER**

**Vets 3-Day Tournament**

**To be Confirmed**

**THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER**

**Rotorua Vets. To be confirmed.**

**SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER**

**To be confirmed.**

**WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER**

**To be confirmed.**

Congratulations to **Tony Gibson** for his Hole-in-One at the 14th hole on the Wednesday before lockdown. I was fortunate to be playing with Tony and while we all saw that it was a well hit shot, we were not 100% sure it went in until we got to the green. **Well done Tony.**



The **LA Warner Match Play** is now at the finals stage. This should be completed when we finally return to golf.

The **Leslie Cup** will now be re-programmed so look for communication of the new dates.

**Depending upon when we can get back to normal there will be other programme changes and these will be communicated when we are able.**

The **Cambridge Inter-club** will be re-scheduled once things return to normal and both clubs can find a suitable date.

*-continued*



Due to the unknown around Covid levels, and the fact that a number of players from around the Auckland area play in the **3 Day Vets Tournament** and the **Open Tournament**, no decision has been made yet as to whether these will proceed.

***Look for communication that will bring you up to date.***

In these trying times, it is important that we, as members, support the club in any way we can. The club's income is reliant on our support and we can do this through the Golf Shop, Cafe, and Bar areas. If you have any ideas of how these areas can be improved your feedback would be greatly appreciated.

***Stay safe . . . good Golfing when you can.***



## **-OBITUARY-**

### **FRANCIS GARDNER**

**A service to celebrate the life of FRANCIS GARDNER took place on Monday, 16 August 2021 at Osbornes Funeral Chapel.**

Francie, as she was known, joined the Rotorua Golf Club with her husband David in 1976 and both served on Committee while members. Francie played golf until she hit the 90's resigning her membership in 2016.

She served on the Ladies Committee in 1978/79 when Leon Turnbull, her good friend, was Ladies Captain. The Tasman Cup Tournament was the highlight of the 1978 season. This tournament was held at the end of September and was the culmination of months of intensive preparation by both the Ladies and Mens club members.

Francie was a 'no fuss' lady but I was able to talk her into attending a 90th birthday celebration at the Club. She had attended birthday celebrations for golfing friends in previous years and was delighted when her family joined her, plus other past and present members, for the occasion.

My happiest memories of Francie were not only at golf but also during our 'Adopt a Garden' scheme we ran for over twenty years. Francie would often walk over from her home and work on the 'Chasm' garden at the 9th Tee not only when we held working bees but often when she felt the area required her attention.

**-Mary Browne**

## from the Nine-Hole Ladies

It is very pleasing to see our numbers increasing as more ladies join us for the fun and frustrations of golf.

**Welcome to Anne O, Jo, and Pam.**

**Damn COVID!** We had only ONE MORE COMPETITION ROUND then we were on to the fun stuff for a while.

We have the last round of Victory Trophy Stableford to play as soon as we are able to return to the course. Mid September we play two rounds, one



7

Sue Mahar

Back 9, one Front 9, of Strokeplay to find our champions.

**Hope to see you all back on the course soon.**

**Heading out?  
Take your face covering**

Unite  
against  
COVID-19

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government



## 94th Annual Veterans' Tournament

This annual event will be held at the Rotorua Golf Club's Course at Arikikapakapa on 20-21-22 September 2021. Open to all amateurs 55 of age or over for men and 50 for ladies who are financial members of an affiliated Golf Club and a Veteran Golfers Society. The tournament is Match Play, made up of flights of 8 seeded by handicap.

Entries are steadily coming in and we are looking forward very much to receiving a good field. Veteran golfers come to our event from all parts of the North Island and many of the players return year after year. This year it is heartening to see a great entry from the ladies.

We receive very nice compliments on the way the tournament is run and that there is always a very friendly atmosphere. Special thanks to our **Secretary Mary Browne** who is well known to our visitors; she always does a superb job compiling the entry list, collating handicaps, organising the draw and is very much hands-on during the tournament.

The Tournament goes back a long way. First played in 1928 our veterans' tournament is one of the foundation tournaments of veterans golf in New Zealand. Coupled with the tournament is the New Zealand Veterans Cup (first played for in 1928) which is contested

for in Group 1. There are also trophies for Men's Group 2, 3, & 4 and the Spicer's Cup for Ladies.

*On behalf of our committee I would like to thank the support we receive from the club. The facilities provided, café, bar and a great golf course all go towards making this a memorable event for our visitors.*

**-James Comber**  
Chairman, Organising Committee



## Bay of Plenty Veterans' Golf Assn.

The BOP Veterans Golf Association (Men) is well known for perhaps the best run and organised veteran golf in New Zealand. With an annual calendar of 20 tournaments played on 15 of Bay of Plenty's well known golf courses, we are indeed privileged to have this opportunity. The 15 clubs all put whole-hearted effort into making every event (when it is their turn) an enjoyable occasion for up to 130 veteran golfers.

-continued

Ant Barkley  
Brand and Territory Owner

Ant Barkley | REAL ESTATE



There is a pennants competition run through the year with each club entering a team of three.

It is pleasing to report that our club is now well represented at all of the tournaments, and with a pool of over 12 veterans we are always able to more than fill our allocated number. ***Rotorua will host their next tournament on 14 February 2022.***

**Ian Hayes** is the delegate for our BOP Veterans group and doing a great job communicating regularly with us, advising tournament dates, organising entries and coordinating transport arrangements. ***Thank you to Ian.***

To learn more about BOP Veterans golf Ian will be more than pleased to talk to any club member about it.

### **Rotorua District Veterans' Golf Society**

Four local clubs, **Rotorua, Springfield, Lake View** and **Reporoa** participate weekly (every Thursday) by rotation in a Stableford competition. The weekly events are combined Men and Ladies. There are Stableford prizes, special prizes, two's and raffles. There is a pennants competition (8 rounds) run each year (team of 3) with a team winner each round and an overall winner with the highest combined total.

Like the BOP Veterans, the District Veterans' fixtures are always played in a very friendly atmosphere which always makes for a great day on the fairways.

This year Rotorua is the host club with the President also from our club, **Marilyn Field**. Marilyn is doing a great job and she is also a delegate for our club. Although Mary Browne has not been able to play in recent times, she is always present when it is our turn to host a weekly fixture and diligently looks after compiling the results.

Mary also looks after the Health and Wellbeing of Districts Vets. Also thank you to **Marinus van den Hoek** who is always at our day to provide me with assistance with entries, raffles and to get the day underway. Club veteran members are always on hand to give help and is very much appreciated.

***Delegates James Comber and Marilyn Field are more than happy to talk to any club member who wishes to know more about District Veterans Golf.***

*"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.*

*- George Bernard Shaw*



**PLEASE NOTE:** Our opening hours are now, 8.00am to 10.00am and 4.00pm to 5.30pm

**PLEASE NOTE:** Dogs can't stay in our kennels if they are excessive barkers.

***Thank you for supporting locally owned and operated businesses.***

-Phil

***Another month has gone by. Leading into August everything has been falling into place. Cart hire booming and shop sales slowly rising. With some slight changes happening around the club it looks like things are heading in the right direction.***

Obviously COVID has made its appearance again which has thrown a halt on all things golf but we can only start again and work together to continue trending in the right direction.

On a good note I am glad to hear that Paul Hartstone is hanging around and going to be passing on his astounding golfing knowledge in a coaching role here at Arikikapakapa. Since working alongside Paul I have noticed great movements in members speaking highly of Paul's dedication to improve each individuals game, which we all love to see.

On a personal note, ***I would like to thank Paul*** for all he has done. It has been a great pleasure working with him and learning from his knowledge and experience. For me, moving forward this will be a great help.

As we transition into our new roles we are as always, here to provide only the best service we can for all our members and visitors, so please never hesitate to talk to us in regards to anything golf. ***We are here to help.***

We still have certain things to be organised for the shop - clubs, repair gear and a couple other things. But this it just a matter of patience under the current climate.

We still do have access to everything, so please just ask, and we can get it organised.

*-Raoul Piggott  
Shop Manager*

**DUE TO THE PANDEMIC,  
THE GEYSER CLASSIC  
THAT WAS TO BE HELD ON  
SATURDAY-SUNDAY  
4-5 SEPTEMBER 2021  
HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**



**Marinus has been a member of the Rotorua Golf Club for 18 years.**

Prior to making his home in Rotorua, Marinus lived and worked in Hawkes Bay for 40 plus years. In his work capacity he travelled widely around the North Island and when he came to Rotorua he would sometimes play golf at Arikikapakapa, so he knew the golf course well before settling here.

Marinus has had some health issues over the years. However, even though he is getting on in years we give him great credit for his tremendous staying ability. He has been a great supporter and loyal member of our club. Marinus plays regularly every Saturday and enters many of the club's competitions, plays in the men's scramble on Wednesday, is a keen veteran golfer, supporting BOP Veterans, District Veterans and also volunteers his time to assist where he can.



*Marinus driving from the 16th tee Arikikapakapa July 2021*



**TREMAINS**

**PAKŃSAVE**  
OUR POLICY: NZ'S LOWEST FOOD PRICES

*He aha te mea nui o te Ao?  
He tangata he tangata he  
tangata he tangata!*

**What is the most important thing  
in the world?**

**It is the people, the people, the  
people.**

In the meantime we watch the briefings by the Prime Minister and Health Director, especially today in the light of a change in levels.

It's almost a certainty that Auckland will remain at Level-4, isolated from the rest of the country but we'll see what message is delivered to us later today.

Come what may, hopefully the majority will continue to respect the direction from government and play their part in the community so we can get back to chatting with our mates, and oh . . . enjoying golf!

### **IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE!**

Throughout the winter we have missed our weekly fix mainly through the rain, rain, rain, but bridge and majong have contributed to the camaraderie and fun in the clubhouse instead of on the course!

I congratulated the ladies for being such wonderful and supportive ambassadors and hostesses for our club during the tournaments we have had so far this year. We do get a good percentage of return golfers and some faces are becoming very familiar.



Tiwaka Anaru-Iles

I contribute this to the hospitality, the friendship and fun, the quality of the sponsorship, the overall atmosphere in the clubhouse and our unique environment.

### **IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE!**



The ladies forums have been very informative giving the members a chance to listen to Ali and Wendy about the changes happening (new staff, course developments etc), and also was an opportunity to ask questions. Getting updates from informed sources is appreciated, and important.

There has been a pleasing response to the news that coaching sessions will remain in place. Paul has had support from the ladies, and already there has been a growing membership of 9 holers who have been introduced through the 9 hole coaching sessions. From the 18-holers who have attended, the comments are very positive.

### **IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE!**

*-continued*



I must mention that we have a relaxed and friendly system in place now for our club days when it comes to results and the distribution of golf balls for our prizes.

**Now what will we be going back to . . . when we are allowed . . .**

There will be some minor reshuffling to our programme, no big deal, and we'll have a new Club Manager.

It will be great to see you all.

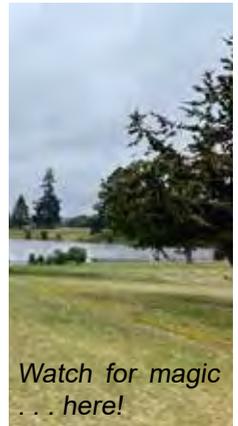
***Kia tupato, keep safe golfing whanau!***

**One very happy Greenkeeper!**



*Kerry is one extremely happy bloke!*

*Look at that new fertiliser spreader!*



*Watch for magic . . . here!*



**Hopefully we are only a couple of weeks away from some Spring growth starting.**

The daffodils are out and the some afternoons are getting quite warm. We are still getting the odd frost which is keeping the soil temperatures in the single digits.



While the country was in Level-4 lockdown we have been rather busy on the course. We have punched some small pencil sized holes into the greens about 40-50mm in depth. This will give us access to the Fairy Ring disease pathogen which lives about this depth.

After years of research we have concluded that this disease is triggering our early onset dry patch in the greens. A key characteristic of this disease is that it is hydrophobic (it repels water), which results in a number of localised dry spots around the greens in early Spring.

This goes a long way to explaining why we seem to get quite a bit of this dry patch in the hollows on our greens, which is very unusual considering this is where the most moisture should be.

The idea is to apply an appropriate fungicide, and wash it into the punch

holes down to the disease location. This will help prevent it activating and causing the early dry damage.

We have finished the restoration of the entrances/exits of our bunkers and the new turf is already putting new roots down into the soil profile. We will periodically fertilise these areas and around all the bunker edges to raise the health of the turf which will make it a lot more hard wearing.

The sinking low spot on the front of the 16th green has been tended to. This involved cutting the old turf off and reshaping the profile to create some fall from the green down through the collar so any excess water can exit the green surface.

The tees have been fertilised just before this latest rain event and once I can get some fertiliser in the shed the fairways will also be done. The timing of this should coincide with the start of Spring growth, and get them off to a great start, with hopefully a long wet Spring.

*Cheers  
-Kerry Smith*





## Arikikapakapa Course depicted in a set of stamps!

In 1993, John Cooper a member of the IPGS – International Philatelic Golfing Society, lobbied the New Zealand Philatelic Bureau, suggesting they issue a New Zealand golf stamp. He considered such a stamp, when used on overseas mailings, would best advertise the receiver that golf courses were here for them to play.

In 1995 a set was issued featuring clockwise from left Waitangi, Northland – 15th hole, par four; New Plymouth –

sixth hole, par three; Arikikapakapa, Rotorua – ninth hole, par three; and Kelvin Heights, Queenstown – fifth hole, par four.

I purchased the first day cover with Arikikapakapa featured and had it framed and hung in the Club Lounge. To me it really depicted what was our 3 par - 14th 'Crater'. We would hit over and sometimes 'out' of it until the 1990's when the crater became the 'environmentally sensitive area' it is now with access forbidden.

*-Mary Browne*





**Arikikapaka**  
*The Love of*  
**ROTORUA GOLF**



## 2021 ProDrive

**MEN'S 72 HOLE STROKE PLAY  
OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP  
MEN'S 54 HOLE STROKE PLAY  
LADIES 54 HOLE STROKE PLAY**

In association with **PRODRIVE ROTORUA**

***All Games Played at the Rotorua Golf Club***

**ROUND FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER Mens and Ladies**  
**ROUND 2 SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER am Mens and Ladies**  
**ROUND 3 SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER pm Mens**  
**ROUND 4 SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER am Mens and Ladies**  
(FOLLOWED BY PRIZE GIVING)

Sanctioned by the **B.O.P. Golf Association**

### **\$10,000 PRIZE TABLE**

(With a full field)

**Tournament Entry Fee**

**Open Championship 4 rounds Blue Tees \$100 (members \$90)**

(Includes Lunch Saturday)

**Men 3 rounds White Tees - \$85 (members \$75)**

**Ladies 3 rounds White Tees \$85 (members \$75)**

**First 96 paid Entries**

Entry forms and enquires to:

Rotorua Golf Club, PO Box 6026, Rotorua.

Phone: 07-348-4051, Email: [rotorua@golf.co.nz](mailto:rotorua@golf.co.nz)

or visit our website.

[www.rotoruaclub.co.nz](http://www.rotoruaclub.co.nz)

