

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026



FROM THE CLUB

Hello everyone,

We are now well over halfway through the year, and we have been incredibly fortunate with the weather up until the recent few weeks. We welcome all new members that have recently joined. We look forward to seeing you all out there playing and joining in the weekly club competitions. If you are interested in joining any of these regular competitions but not sure how, call into the office and we can go through all the options with you.

Please take note of, and acknowledge the rules, with the new red-staked zone between the 1st and 8th fairways. Neville explains this further in his course convener report.

As usual, we would like to acknowledge the effort of our Course Superintendent, Dom Squatriti and his dedicated team of volunteers. Their hard work and commitment behind the scenes ensure our course continues to be presented to a high standard for everyone to enjoy.

We truly appreciate all our volunteers who continually help around the club. Your assistance doesn't ever go unnoticed.

Volunteer Contributions

- mowing fairways, rough, tees, greens, surrounds and aprons
- weed-whacking areas inaccessible to mowers
- trimming concrete distance markers and pathways
- weeding and maintaining gardens across the course
- collecting rubbish around the course
- spraying weeds and fertilizing greens
- assisting in the office

A special thought goes out to our life member and long-time volunteer gardener Noreen and her family. We wish her all the best with her recovery.



We are considering promoting our clubrooms as a function venue. We are still in the early stages of planning so this is very much a work in progress. If you have any events coming up that might suit our space, please get in touch with us.

We have just bought a toastie machine for the club to add some variety to the Wednesday Haggie lunch, so will soon have toasties on the menu.

A big thank you to our new sponsors for their generous support of the club: Flow Rehabilitation, Lifecycle Nutrition, Bella Strade Ltd, CBR, Auld, Brewer, Mazengarb and McEwen.

We would also like to acknowledge the Toi Foundation for their generous annual grant which is a great help at this time of the year.

Membership Subscriptions & Renewals

Thanks to everyone who are up to date with their subs. We still have a few members who are behind in payment, please get in touch with the office to sort this out. A reminder for those on fortnightly payment plans to make sure your payments are going through as arranged.

New Greenkeepers Shed Update

Construction of our new 18 m x 12 m Greenkeeper's Shed is now progressing well after a few unexpected delays. Many members will have noticed the new building taking shape alongside the existing Greenkeeper's Shed, and it's exciting to see this important project moving ahead.

Unfortunately, the severe windstorm last month caused damage to the building frame before construction was completed, temporarily halting progress. Our builder, Nick Childs of Newstyle Homes, promptly replaced all affected structural components, including the necessary superstructure members and base plates, to ensure the shed met the original engineering specifications. For added assurance, Alistair Nairn, Structural Engineer from BCD Group, carried out an independent visual inspection of the framework. His report confirmed that, following the remedial work, the structure has the same strength and structural capacity as originally designed.

This project would not have been possible without the generous support of New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT) and Toi Foundation, and the Club extends its sincere thanks to both organisations for their significant financial contributions towards the construction of our new Greenkeeper's Shed.

NZCT has returned millions of dollars to communities throughout New Zealand, supporting sport, community organisations, youth development, rescue services, arts and cultural initiatives.



Toi Foundation partners with communities to help build a thriving, inclusive and equitable Taranaki through strategic community funding.

We sincerely appreciate their support in helping bring this important project to fruition and thank both organisations for investing in this valuable asset that will support the maintenance and presentation of our golf course for many years to come.



Presidents Note - Denis Avison

Thanks to everyone who has been supporting our Club, whether it be by playing in competitions, boosting bar profits, helping with work around the course and clubhouse, or by being an enthusiastic employee. Our Club flourishes on the help given by you all!

Volunteers - If anybody has a few free hours each month and would enjoy working with our current volunteer team, please contact me on 0274-812199 - I'd love to hear from you!



On behalf of the Club, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Kris White and her partner Greg Roper, from Site Development Co. Ltd who generously donated their time, labour and machinery to complete the earthworks for the project. Contributions such as these make a significant difference to our Club, and we are incredibly grateful for their generosity and support.

Men's Club Captain Report - Alan Bennett

The six month trial of the Saturday joint competition has now been going for a couple of months. Although it's still early days, we have some ladies who are enjoying the competition. We'd love to see more women join in, as it's a great way to mix with other members. Everyone is welcome, so if you've been thinking about giving it a go, we'd love to see you there! We will seeking feedback at the end of the trial.

The annual GolfZone 2BBB competition went extremely well in May with the weather holding out for us once again. Ladies winners on the day were Annie Frame and Diane Jones with runners up, Anne-Marie Siciliano and Joanne Cathie (Manukorihi) and mens winners being Travis Stewart and Zachary Lewis, with runners up Keiran Cowie and Jay Green.

The 2026 Club Matchplay competition has been completed with 48 entries, which was up by 50% from 2025. We had a very strong Senior field with 4 men playing off scratch or better. Thanks to all who entered. Congratulations to:

- Joseph Doyle – Senior Matchplay Champion
- Peter Grylls – Intermediate Matchplay Champion
- Horry Hubbard – Junior Matchplay Champion
- Norman Lofthouse – Limit Matchplay Champion



The Kaitake Mixed Pairs Ambrose on Sunday 14th June was won by Kurt Hikaka & Lina Tung. It was successful day generously sponsored by Vaughan at Oakura Meats. We had 35 pairs entered, again a substantial increase from 2025 entries.

Upcoming events for your Calendars

The Kaitake club mid-winter competition is Sunday 26th July and is open for club members only. The competition is Canadian Foursomes, and we encourage mixed pair teams. If you're wanting to play but don't have a partner let us know and we will make something work as we don't want to turn anyone away.

August is Top Dog month with the first round starting Saturday 8th with the final on Saturday 29th. This is played as a pair using the 4BBB Match Play format. Entry form is now in the office.

Ladies Club Captain Report - Julie Yardley

Kia ora from the Kaitake Ladies

Winter has finally come and although we have had to cancel some club days we are still managing to get in plenty of golf.

Each year our ladies enter into the Home Links National Competitions as set out by Taranaki Golf. These tournaments are district wide - for 18 hole players the Aotearoa Cup, Coronation Medal, Veterans Cup, Best Gross Cup and Nancy MacCormick Memorial Foursomes. In the 9 hole home links, there is the Sue Bunt Salver. The competitions are played at the club to find our finalists who go on to compete with the clubs in the district. A huge congratulations to those players who made it through to the finals. - We are thrilled to announce that Kaitake Ladies featured on the podium with some great rankings – well done to all who placed.

- Brenda Duffy and Lorraine Julian took out the 1st place in the Nancy MacCormack Memorial Foursomes
- Jeanette Maw was 1st equal in the Sue Bunt Salver
- Mary Pettigrew was 2nd in the Veterans Cup and 3rd in the Aotearoa Cup
- Debra Johnson was 6th in the Coronation Medal and 8th in the Best Gross Cup

In May Kim Woodward hosted a fundraising pink ribbon lunch for members and non-members at the club. With some helpers in the kitchen and on the raffle table - a truly veritable feast was enjoyed by all. Our club members enjoyed a quick round of golf, winning some “pink-ribbon” merchandise before tasting the pink treats and having a catch up.

Breast cancer is the most diagnosed female cancer; nearly nine women are diagnosed everyday (3500 annually). However, this cancer is not limited to women, with twenty-five men diagnosed annually in New Zealand, so it was great to be able to be part of this fundraiser.

With the many raffles, meal donations and merchandise, Kim managed to raise over \$2000 for this worthy cause - a great effort.



A big thank you to Nicola Avery who has run a successful Quick Six programme for 2026. Different club members have assisted Nic through out the programme giving a day here and there with some support from the golfing community as well. Thank you to Paul at GolfZone who also supported the programme with some time on the simulator, and Chris from Taranaki Golf was very helpful with some lessons and advice.

Usually the programme runs for 6 weeks (6 games of 6 holes over 6 weeks) but Nic has given her support to the participants for as long as they need it. They have a time booked on Friday afternoons (3.00pm – 5.00pm) for a game or practice. If you can spare the odd bit of time on a Friday all assistance welcome, come along and meet or have a game with our sixers.

To mark the “end” of the programme, Nic organised a 9-hole Ambrose tournament for the players (new player partnering with a weekend lady), followed by a prize giving and a basic rules and etiquette session.

Nic had 12 players attend the Quick Six, and as a result of the programme, 7 of the attendees are now fully-fledged Kaitake members.

Course Convenor - Neville Jans

From the course...

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped in the clean up after the last storm; there were many branches down!

The bank area between the 1st and the 8th fairways is now a pegged red penalty area and has been marked accordingly. If you lose your ball in this area, you can take a drop (one shot penalty) at the closest point to where you think your ball entered the penalty area. If you find your ball, you can still play the ball as it lies within the hazard with no penalty. This change to the course was made to speed up play as previously a lost ball in this area meant a walk back to the respective tee.

The red pegged penalty area just above the garden and path on the 6th fairways have now been better defined. The garden, path and stone area are a free drop, not closer to the hole.

The installation of the watering system to the 1st & 10th tees will be started shortly and will be ready in time for summer watering.

Greenkeepers Report - Dom Squatriti

As winter settles in, I'd like to thank everyone for their continued support in helping look after our golf course. After the extremely hot and dry conditions earlier this year, it's great to see the recent rainfall bringing the course back to life, with good grass cover returning across many areas.

Greenkeeping is one of the most misunderstood roles in golf. While golfers often judge a course by its greens, fairways and bunkers, what they don't see is the daily balancing act behind the scenes - managing weather, turf health, machinery, budgets, staffing and member expectations, all while protecting the long-term health of the course. I'd also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank our wonderful volunteers, who continue to generously give their time to assist with projects around the course. Your support is genuinely appreciated and makes a real difference to what we are able to achieve.

As we move through winter, please remember that if there is a frost, play should not commence before 9.00 am. While we don't experience many frosts, playing on frozen turf can cause lasting damage to the grass. A little patience on frosty mornings goes a long way towards protecting the course for everyone.

I'd also like to remind members that entering any of the course lakes or ponds is strictly prohibited. Foot traffic damages the pond banks, contributes to ongoing leakage issues and creates safety risks due to the electrical equipment associated with our irrigation system. Golf balls may be retrieved without entering the water, and we ask that everyone respects this.

There are also a few simple course care practices that make a significant difference. Please avoid removing your golf ball from the hole using your putter, as this damages the edge of the cup. If your approach shot leaves a pitch mark on the green, please take a moment to repair it. Likewise, remember to replace and repair your divots. Pitch marks and divots repaired immediately recover much more quickly, helping to maintain the quality of our greens and fairways for everyone to enjoy.

Looking ahead, the first load of topdressing sand for the greens was delivered over the weekend and is now stored in the bins beside the 12th tee. This sand will be applied once temperatures begin to rise and grass growth becomes more consistent. Regular topdressing helps smooth the putting surfaces, improve turf health and, hopefully, make your putting just a little easier!

Thank you once again for doing your part to help keep our course in the best possible condition throughout winter. Every small action, from repairing a pitch mark to respecting course policies, helps ensure we can all enjoy a well-presented course throughout the year.



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