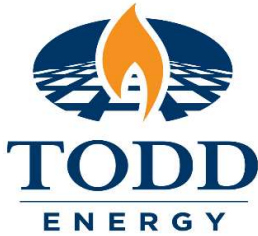


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MANUKORIHI GOLF CLUB



## President's Annual Report 2022

I am pleased to present my third annual report as President of the Manukorihi Golf Club.

Firstly, thanks go to all committee members for their time and contributions to administration of the Club throughout the year, especially Trish Crawford who has proven very capable and efficient as Secretary in her two years in this important role but who has decided not to stand for next year.

Unfortunately, our Treasurer for the last three years, Barry Burns, had to relinquish his key role at the end of September due to ill-health. With no volunteer replacement coming forth from the Club, we retained the services of contract accountant Pat Brosnahan as acting Treasurer on an interim basis. Our sincere thanks go to Barry for his service over the last three years and to Pat for filling in at short notice.

Now to projects, and in particular the major achievement of the long-awaited upgrade and sealing of our carpark. When I joined the Club some 12 years ago, the poor condition of the carpark struck me as giving a negative first impression. After joining the committee a few years later, I was determined that, when finances allowed, I would do my utmost to facilitate upgrading and sealing of the carpark. After a number of years focusing finances on the golf course, it finally became possible last year to address the carpark upgrade and sealing.

Following what proved to be a false start to this project, when our selected contractor increased their price at the last minute to an unacceptable level, we were very pleased to negotiate an acceptable price from contractor Downer, who carried out the preparatory and sealing work in September. Downer proved a pleasure to deal with, demonstrating a cooperative, accommodating, and professional approach. I wish to again thank members for their consideration in the parking work-arounds as the project was executed. With total third-party funding input of over \$60,000 from Toi Foundation, our principal sponsor Todd Energy and a member's donation, the actual direct cost of this project to the Club was just under \$50,000, a very pleasing outcome. Carpark marking is scheduled to be carried out by Downer within the next week or so to complete the project. I am sure all members and visitors are already enjoying the enhanced experience upon arrival with our "front of house" improvements, which are still in progress and include garden and planting upgrades.

Various other projects were also progressed and completed on and off the course during the year, including the Men's amenities upgrade, the new hole signage, the online tee time booking facility and several drainage and sprinkler system improvements requiring much volunteer input. Cutting and splitting of fallen tree timber into firewood for sale also took significant volunteer effort during the year. There always seem to be several large and small improvement projects on the go within our Club!

Pleasingly, the Covid-19 coronavirus impacted much less on the Club's activities this year, with almost all restrictions being removed by the Government some months ago. However, the virus is still active in the community, with several of our members having contracted it recently, and vigilance is still required.

Twilight golf continued strongly early this year, with many visiting players participating and enjoying their nine holes of golf early on a Thursday evening. The positive and friendly social atmosphere in

the clubhouse afterwards is a real credit to our Club. Taranaki Solar sponsored Twilight at the beginning of the year with Tasman Toyota taking over for this summer. The Club also held several successful tournaments throughout the year, with our mid-monthly proving very popular. Many thanks to our great volunteers who put in so much time and effort to organise and run these events, whilst generally being too busy doing so to play themselves.

Regarding sponsorship, the Club is very fortunate to have a number of generous sponsors, led again by principal sponsor Todd Energy. All sponsors are highly valued for their support of the Club and in return members are urged to support them where possible by directing business in their direction.

Congratulations to all players who represented the Club in external competitions, with the usual debt of gratitude going to those who organised our competing teams. Congratulations also to all who participated in the Club Championships, and in particular to all winners and those who achieved a hole-in-one on our course during the year.

The Club's weekly newsletter continues to be a very valuable communication medium, and our thanks go to Sue and Martin Nobbs for their efforts as joint editors, delivering a consistently colourful and interesting product week after week. Thanks also to Mike Letherman for continuing to keep the Club's website up to date. And for those who access it, Facebook continues to prove a useful tool to stay in touch with Club activities and events.

Club handicapper Robert Butler has again carried out his important but understated role in a low key and dedicated fashion throughout the year, and deserves the sincere thanks of all members for time and effort he puts in.

We lost our caterer Jan Laurence early in the year but were fortunate that Rochelle Coleman and her partner stepped in to take over. They have delivered food of a consistently high standard which has been most appreciated by all.

I am pleased to acknowledge the efforts of our contract Course Superintendent Karl Stratton, who in his first year with the Club has brought to the role a welcome degree of professionalism, pride, dedication and proactive communication with members. Unfortunately, however, Karl has been hampered in his recent course improvement endeavours by a very wet Spring, which has also impacted on a significant number of our planned golf events.

During October, Karl experienced two very unfortunate "chemical misadventure" incidents. Firstly, some greens were sprayed for Poa grass while it was in seed and several greens suffered damage from the spray. The unexpected aggression of that spray was not able to be explained by the suppliers after they visited to view the damage. Secondly, the tee blocks were sprayed with a mild pasture spray for control of broadleaf weeds, but apparent unexplained contamination of that spray resulted in tee block grass being killed off and the need for total reconditioning of the tee blocks. Patience and understanding from the overwhelming majority of members in demonstrating a healthy Club spirit has been appreciated as an important part of recovery from these incidents.

In early November our Green Keepers assistant David Soffe left the Club's employment after 15 years' service out on the golf course. We thank David for his service to the Club and wish him well for the future.

A Redexim verti-drain/coring unit costing \$36,500 was ordered from the USA during the year, with the objective of being able to verti-drain and core as and when we wish and eliminating annual contractor operating expenditure of up to \$10,000. This unit is scheduled to arrive later this month.

In October a single page 5 Year Plan for the Club covering 2023-2027 was developed following a local workshop led by Golf NZ. This is a useful document both for the committee to work to and for members to "look inside" the Club's governance principles, and which will be posted on the clubhouse

noticeboard. I would point out that there are necessarily some aspirational aspects to this plan. A 12-month operating plan is also to be prepared.

The Club's finances remain in good heart with healthy financial reserves in the way of term deposits and the asset care account. However, with increasing operating costs across the board in this higher inflation climate, in particular for diesel, fertiliser, sprays, grass seed, electricity and equipment maintenance, a tight rein on operating expenditure will continue to be required. In this light the committee recently reviewed the level of annual membership subscriptions, and our acting Treasurer will address this issue shortly.

We continue to hold in reserve Greymouth Petroleum's generous \$30,000 donation towards the cost of the Club drilling its own water bore, a capital project that could cost up to \$70,000 and which therefore is not expected to proceed for a year or two yet.

Finally, but most importantly, we all owe the Club's team of willing volunteers a huge vote of thanks for their dedication and outstanding efforts both on and off the golf course during the year. Whilst volunteers working out on the golf course are more visible, there are many important administrative tasks carried out behind the scenes.

It goes without saying that our Club would not be in such good health if it were not for our volunteers across so many areas, who certainly enhance Club spirit. We attempted to introduce a thank-you day for volunteers this year with some golf and a social get-together planned for Sunday 20 November but were again thwarted by the weather.

I have decided to offer myself for re-election as President in order to consolidate the progress made over the last three years and look forward to a successful 2023 with a keen and active committee. Thank you.

Richard Crowe

5 December 2022