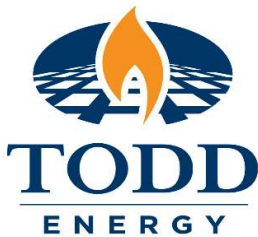


PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



MANUKORIHI GOLF CLUB



President's Annual Report 2023

I am pleased to present my fourth 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, but in particular to Ian Titter, who put his hand up to again take on and execute the vital Treasurer role, ably assisted by Peter Pearce.

Secondly, I wish to acknowledge the hard-working efforts of Marie Rayner in administering our ladies golf and, with husband John, serving on the main committee for many years. Marie and John have decided to take a break from the committee next year.

Apart from naming these four volunteers, I am generally not going to try and name the Club's numerous other great volunteers, to whom all members owe a huge vote of thanks for their dedication and outstanding efforts both on and off the golf course during the year. We have tried to acknowledge many of these volunteers in newsletters throughout the year, so members should broadly know who they are. Whilst volunteers working out on the golf course might be more visible, there are many important time-consuming administrative tasks carried out behind the scenes. It goes without saying that our Club would not be in such good heart if it were not for our volunteers across so many areas. After a false start last year due to weather, we are planning to hold a thank-you day for volunteers this Sunday, with some golf and a barbecue.

Our Course Superintendent Karl Stratton left at the end of April after two years in the job, and we were pleased to employ Brent Stevens who started in early May. Brent is well organised and very experienced in turf management, and was quick to make his mark on our course. Unfortunately however he was hampered in course improvement endeavours by another very wet Spring, which also impacted on several of our planned golf events. Brent has worked hard on greens rejuvenation and player feedback to date indicates that he is being successful. He is also working to optimise the greens sprinkler system. The new Redexim verti-drain/coring unit arrived late last year and is delivering on its objectives, eliminating annual contractor operating expenditure of up to \$10,000.

Following completion of the carpark sealing project last year, other "front of house" improvement projects have been progressed. The fence between our campground area and our neighbour partly collapsed in high winds early in the year. After some negotiation, the Club's offer to the neighbour to provide the labour to deconstruct the old fence and build the new one, if the neighbour funded the significant cost of materials, was accepted. The project was successfully completed by a small team of Club volunteers. Also, the campground site power outlets were all upgraded by one of our trade-qualified volunteers to meet current electrical safety standards, and were inspected and certified by an independent electrical inspector.

A further significant project in the clubhouse implemented just two weeks ago was the installation of a new chiller unit to increase chilling capacity and efficiency, with the previous fridge system having proved inadequate at times of high demand.

Garden upkeep on and off the course continues to be managed mainly by the ladies, with some input from the men on the gardens by the reservoir and in particular beside the 7th tee.

Various other projects have also been progressed on the course this year, including some returfing, notably around the 1st tee area. Cutting and splitting of fallen tree timber into firewood for sale again demanded significant, heavy duty volunteer effort during the year. Two other projects implemented were the installation of birdboxes on the fences along the 1st and 2nd fairways and provision of smart new sand boxes on the par-3 tees.

One particular area of activity deserving special mention is that of course equipment maintenance, where Ivan Rangitonga leads a small team of volunteers who save the Club thousands of dollars each year.

The Club held a number of successful tournaments throughout the year, once again due in no small part to our volunteers who put in so much time and effort to run these events. In particular, our mid-monthly competition has proven very popular. For the first time in the tournament's 42 year history, Manukorihi hosted the very successful Eagles Under-17 Boys and Girls Golf Championship of New Zealand in early October. A total of 60 talented young players from 15 provinces all over the country took part, and many were very complimentary about our course, with the whole event enhancing our Club's reputation. It was gratifying to receive a framed certificate of acknowledgement from NZ Eagles and a very positive letter of thanks from the Taranaki Eagles president.

The 100 Club proved a successful addition to our Club's activities this year, with many participants winning cash back from the numerous draws and a healthy profit made for the Club's coffers.

Another new initiative introduced this year was Sunday morning junior golf coaching, which commenced last month - an activity that occurred in the past but which has been dormant for far too long. We must thank Esther White for her initiative on this.

Twilight golf continued strongly 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. Thanks go to sponsor Tasman Toyota and to our organisers for their great work.

On the subject of sponsorship, the Club remains fortunate to have a number of generous sponsors, led again by principal sponsor Todd Energy. Unfortunately however, the current economic climate has led Todd Energy to rationalise its significant community sponsorships throughout Taranaki. As a result, for the next three years Todd Energy has reduced its annual sponsorship of our Club from the level of \$10,000 excl. GST that it has been for the last 10 years to \$5,000 excl. GST. All sponsors are of course 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.

In October a grant application was lodged with the Taranaki Electricity Trust for the sum of \$55,000 towards the purchase cost of a new greens mower. Pleasingly this was essentially successful with the sum of \$50,000 being granted, and the order for a new Toro Greensmaster 3250-D greens mower costing \$79,491 excl. GST was placed on 21 November. This is expected to arrive during March or April next year, with the grant sum able to be uplifted only on presentation of the invoice.

One issue being capably led by Brian Rattenbury for the committee involves negotiations with Taranaki Regional Council and Otaraua Hapu to renew our resource consent to take limited volumes of water from the stream at the back of the course for irrigation purposes: this issue has been rather drawn out through the year but is nearing resolution.

The Club's finances remain in good heart with healthy reserves in the way of term deposits and the asset care account. However with increased operating costs across the board in this higher inflation climate, a tight rein on operating expenditure will continue to be required.

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. One particular achievement was that of Jo Broadmore who won the Taranaki Champion of Champions Bronze 2 division, something not achieved by a Manukorihi member since 1975. Congratulations also to all who participated in the Club Championships, and in particular to all winners, as well as those who achieved a hole-in-one on our course during the year.

The Club's membership level has seen gains and losses this year, with some members leaving following the increase to subscriptions this year and regrettably a few others considering leaving due to the continued frustration that we are all experiencing with the traffic delays at the SH3 intersection. Membership averages around the 250 mark, comprising 200 men and 50 women.

The Club's weekly newsletter continues to be a very effective communication medium, delivering a consistently colourful and interesting product week after week – we must thank Martin Nobbs for this. For those who access it, Facebook is a useful tool to stay in touch with various Club activities and events.

Caterer Rochelle Coleman has again proven a valuable resource for the Club, delivering food of a high standard which has been most appreciated by all. Unfortunately however, Rochelle gave a month's notice on 25 November so we are on the lookout for a replacement caterer for next year.

Finally, after some reflection I have decided to offer myself for re-election as President for one more year in order to consolidate the progress made over the last four years, and I look forward to a successful 2024 with a keen and active committee.

Best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year. Thank you.

Richard Crowe

4 December 2023