



Thursday Thoughts

MANGAWHAI GOLF CLUB

Y'ALL COME BACK NOW

While you've all been swanning around beaches, baches and BBQ's (not to mention bottles) we here at your favourite unbeatable golf course have been under siege from a poultice of visitors, individuals and groups, wanting to get out onto our course. Consequently it's looking a bit burnt – from the fast-moving foot traffic rather than any lack of rain – but we can assure our valued membership that it will be of highly playable shape for the upcoming return of our regular midweek and weekend playing groups. You've all spent countless hours scanning your new “2017 Programme” and are fully aware of the various dates, but for the slower readers (and the very odd non-readers) here's a brief summation:

- **Monday Men** have their first outing on Monday (how coincidental is that??) **16 January**.
 - **Tuesday Women's Summer Golf** starts **Tuesday 17 January**.
- **Wednesday Morning Vets & Wednesday Mavericks** are back on **Wednesday 18 January**.
 - **Twilight** recommences on **Friday 20 January**.

Until then, if you want to play at any time you'll have to make a booking and mix with the rabble who so positively spend greenfees, gear and grog money with us so we can keep our greenfees so splendidly reasonable. Thank you all.

A MARRIAGE MADE IN MANGAWHAI?



As Prince Harry's relationship with actress Meghan Markle continues to blossom, plans are already being put in place for the next royal wedding and it looks like it could be coming to Mangawhai.

Both Buckingham Palace and Downing Street are understood to be keen to move some big show piece events away from the south east of England to strengthen ties with the loyal colonies, and the wedding of Prince Harry is being seen as the first big test of the policy.

An insider told us “*Prince Harry has already been consulted about a possible venue. He was a big fan of Romper Room as a child – him and William used to drive the Queen mad with their playful routines – and he knew it was made somewhere near Mangawhai, so thought that would be as good a place as any. When he was shown a picture of the Domain, that sealed it,*”

A number of local pubs, & restaurants have reported receiving enquiries about hosting “a big sit down do” sometime within the next 18 months. “*This real posh bloke rang up*” said Di Admin-Rous, a well-known bar personality at the Golf Club “*I thought it were a bit funny when he didn't ask about chicken nuggets for the kids, or the price of Speights.*”

Your humble correspondent understands that Harry's brother and best man Prince William intends to do a recce when he visits the town on 4th March to watch his next-favourite team, The Blues, take on the Tomarata Tornados at The Activity Zone. “*His Royal Highness will be travelling over for the game.*” revealed a Royal source. “*He's taking his reconnaissance duties very seriously and will therefore be not getting tanked up on the plane as usual.*”

NOTE: This pre-emptive press release is totally confidential and we swear you all to absolute secrecy, or your heads will all be chopped off.

AND SPEAKING OF THE DOMAIN

The recently highly successful and heavily patronised Gala Day (January 2 for the very few of you didn't attend) keeps Mangawhai on the Festive map and was put together by a very hard-working team of volunteers who deserve great credit for their efforts. This is the Domain's sole source of income (apart from a few hires through the year) and the organising committee would like to thank everyone for their generous support. A special mention goes to our Monday Men who volunteer as traffic controllers and treasure assistants. In the words of the indefatigable Di (and who would dare question her?) they are “absolutely fabulous, and the day couldn't work with them.” So, special thanks for their outstanding community contribution to :

Ernest Hurley, Ron Horsfall, Ray McIntyre, Pete Southee, Jim Fountain, Bill Mabey, Puke Taylor, Mike Robinson, Campbell Rae, Wayne Watts, Grant Salmon and Dave Foster.

CASINO NIGHT GAMBLE PAYS OFF



The Casino Night held here on the night of Wednesday 28 December proved to be a very positive fundraising event and the organisers are recovering from the efforts while still doing a final count-up of what came in to boost our coffers. As you'd expect, the hardcore core were all there and we, as a club, were well represented in the Final Big Deal as the big winners showed when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em.

Spider takes a steady slurp of sedative, the Black Russian plots his next evil move while Ray Mac quietly considers his options (while sagely ignoring the uninformed advice of the Woodsman), happy in the knowledge that he's a perennial winner and these other patsies are there for the taking.

WHO LETT THEM ON THE COURSE?

Having endured the site of our club hierarchy grovelling and glorying in the recent visit of the then-PM to our clubhouse not so long ago, we now bring you news of others of our membership hobnobbing with the high and mighty. The lanky fella (second from left) was enjoying a fairly pedestrian round at some Hawaiian back-water course – we can't reveal the military location without having to shoot you – when the group behind asked to play through.

Obviously having a lot of spare time on his hands, he agreed very democratically, requesting only that the much-travelled Letts allowed themselves to be photographed with him, to which they graciously agreed.

Carol's comment was that he'd obviously grow into his role (*"He didn't look that tall when he stood for office"*) while David suggested that he might bring his mate-in-retirement John over for a game some time.

So perhaps we've started something – who have you famously been photographed with in recent times? Send us your best shot and we can recognise anyone in it we might deign to publish it.

For International Day people, the Letts are winging their here sometime soon to join our other migrants for a brief spell in the win and sun (and, wouldn't it be nice? rain) here in unbeatable Mangawhai.



NEWCOMERS & GIRLS TRYING GOLF AGAIN

Starts 10:30am, 8 January 2017 - Mangawhai Golf Club, 221 Moteworth Drive, Mangawhai Heads

Grab your friends and come give golf a go with 4 weeks of lessons followed by coffee and cakes in the clubhouse! Only \$20 per session.

For more info or to register contact Geraldine Speed on 027 492 4583 or email speed5n@gmail.com



A NEW BIG GIG

Girls Into Golf is back in business, with Geraldine Speed at the helm. Starting this Sunday (8 January) we have 2 groups of Newcomer Women having first lesson of 4 over next 4 Sundays. Starting this Sunday we have 2 groups of Newcomer Women having first lesson of 4 over next 4 Sundays.

This programme has been very successful over the last couple of years, introducing women to the game of golf and to our club.

If you know anyone who would enjoy programme, contact Geraldine and she'll give the full background to how wonderfully well it all works.

COMING UP

This weekend (on Saturday 7 January) we host our annual New World Food & Wine Day, thanks to the very generous support of Jeremy Ross and his team at Warkworth New World. Two start times, a shotgun at 8am and another at 1pm (please check in here at least 30 minutes before these times) and field are almost fully booked. If you want to play you'll need to book in the Golf Shop very quickly, there'll be no "jus roll up" slots available.

Then on **Sunday 29 January** we'll be holding the **TimberWorld Mixed Open**, sponsored by **John Merrick and TimberWorld**. Booking sheets are now open in the Golf Shop, \$30 for Members and \$45 for Visitors, and as usual we'll have shotgun starts in the morning and afternoon.

Happy New Year to you all! Don't sweat too much on good intentions and the changing of habits. Remember - "A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other."