

R. J. Lang.

Tai Tapu Golf Club (Inc.)

50th Jubilee

1933-1983



EDITOR'S NOTES

This document was assembled from the copy of the original booklet once owned by Mrs Ruth Lang – as seen by the signature on the cover. It was scanned to images some of which were then converted to text using Optical Character Recognition. This version is a mixture of the scans and that text. The content is mostly complete, but the format has changed. Any errors and omissions are solely ours:

John Rogers
Club Secretary

Brian Williamson
Club Secretary Emeritus

October 2015

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Any recording of history must be a selection, with an endeavour to capture the main historical events and something of the flavour of earlier times.

Our Tai Tapu Golf Club has had a very rich history, with many outstanding personalities, and many significant changes to the course and facilities.

Though some events are lost in the passage of time, many are remembered and the more meaningful and colourful are here faithfully recorded. One very important function of the booklet is the ensuring of a written base of the Club's history.

Space does not allow mention of all who have contributed to the compiling of this booklet, but on behalf of the Jubilee Committee I wish to acknowledge a deep debt of gratitude to some of the very early members of the Club for the information they were able to give and to the members of the Jubilee Committee for their many hours towards making this Jubilee a success. My sincere thanks to Mr Denis Dwyer for the excellent way he has edited this booklet — his professional help made our job so much easier.

i wish also to acknowledge the splendid work that many committees have done over the last fifty years. It is through their dedication and the support of all members that the Club has one of the best nine hole golf courses in New Zealand.

And so, may I, on behalf of the fiftieth Jubilee Committee extend a very cordial welcome to all past and present members at these celebrations and trust that in the old surroundings they will re-live happy days, and renew many friendships.

F.R. Miller
Chairman
Jubilee Committee

**TAI TAPU GOLF CLUB (INC.)
1983 JUBILEE COMMITTEE**



Front left to right: Mrs M. Wheeler, S. Miller, R. Lang, D. Thompson, J. Fiecken, P. Rennell (Secretary).

Standing left to right: F. Milne, G. Stowell, O. Erikson, K. Rennell, G. Ware, R. Miller (Chairman), G. Fowler, A. Strez, B. Miller.

Absent: B. McKendry, B. Mulqueen.



Gerald Ware



Gerald ready to go, 1938



Sir Robert Heaton Rhodes, first patron of the Tai Tapu Golf Club and the donor of land which came to be used for the golf club.

Heaton Rhodes was born in 1861 at Purau. He was educated at Oxford University, and called to the Bar of the Inner Temple in London. In 1888 he returned to New Zealand and was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Christchurch Supreme Court but was soon to turn to farming and politics.

He married an Australian girl, Jessie Clark, in 1891. From 1893 he began to accumulate a considerable holding at Tai Tapu and before long had increased his property to about 2024 hectares. His 28 -roomed homestead, Otahuna, was built in 1895. Heaton Rhodes represented Ellesmere in Parliament from 1899 to 1925. 'Ellesmere,' it was said, 'succumbed to the personal charm' of Heaton Rhodes, 'one of the most popular men who ever sat in Parliament'.

Between 1912 and 1925 he held various ministerial portfolios including State Forestry, Defence, and Public Health. He was knighted in 1920 and appointed to the Legislative Council in 1925.

The regard in which he was held by the local people is reflected in a contemporary description of the arrival of Sir Heaton and Lady Rhodes at Tai Tapu township, on his withdrawal from politics in 1925 and retirement to Otahuna.

Their way to the township was barred by a line of children with linked hands stretched across the road. They were forced to leave their car and enter their old coach which was drawn by a team of 26 children; J. Jones, 'Jockey', coachman and chauffeur for over 30 years, mounted the box, took possession of the red, white, and blue reins and drove them to the Hall amid cheers and patriotic songs.

Sir Heaton died in 1956. His wife Jessie had died suddenly in 1929.

He had been a benefactor to the Tai Tapu Golf Club with many gifts and other support. He was the squire of Otahuna who gave liberally of his time and wealth to further the interests of the community among which he lived for over half a century.

TAI TAPU GOLF CLUB INC.

The first meeting to form the Tai Tapu Golf Club was held in the Tai Tapu Hall on Monday 26 June, 1933. Some very prominent Canterbury people were involved. The Chairman was Mr. W.G. Macartney, who had taken over his father's farm "Waitaha" on his return from the First World War and was a Director of the Tai Tapu Dairy Company. The guest speaker was Mr. A.R. Blank, one of the best known men in Canterbury golf. He considered there could be a very fine 9 hole golf course and spoke very optimistically of the club's future.

The elected Patron was Sir Robert Heaton Rhodes, the benevolent country squire of Tai Tapu who had held various important portfolios before he retired from politics in 1925. The Rhodes family once owned all the land around the Tai Tapu township and in 1921 Sir Heaton had presented the local council with the land to be used for a Domain. It was on this land that the golf course was to be constructed.

Mr Macartney was elected President, Mr J. Bain Captain and Mr A Thompson Secretary. Mrs Macartney was elected Ladies' Club Captain and Mrs G Turnbull the Ladies' Secretary. All ladies of the club were members of the Ladies' Committee

The Annual subscription was set at 10/6d. There was no question about the name — Tai Tapu Golf Club, The Maoris had given the name of Tai Tapu to the lower reaches of the Halswell, which meanders through the district and this name was soon given to the whole area. Its origin is disputed — according to one authority Tai Tapu means Sacred Water, to another it is an obsolete term for Boundary.

Mr Macartney spoke on the desirability of having part of the proposed course on the Rhodes Park Domains Board area leased as a farm property to raise revenue for the Board. The meeting resolved that a deputation discuss this matter with the Domains Board and the lessee of the farm area, Mr Branthwaite, and to discuss with the Board possible financial and other assistance.

Events moved rapidly for the fledgling club The Domains Board granted the club use of part of its area and Mr Branthwaite gave the club the right to establish holes on the two public reserves leased by him, with the club granting him 3 guineas as compensation.

The second club meeting on Saturday 8 July, decided to hold a working bee on the following Tuesday and requested fencing materials, a hole cutter, sand tins, flag standards and a lawn mower. Relief workers were to be present. In this mid 1933, New Zealand was still in the depths of a depression and indeed, on the very day of the club's first meeting "The Press" published an 'Open Letter' to the people of Christchurch from the Citizens' Relief of Distress Committee setting itself to raise £25,000 to distribute 'amongst the unemployed, amongst their wives and their little boys and girls'.

Happily better days were soon ahead, before the country was plunged at the end of the decade into the Second World War.

Golf had for many years been very strong in Canterbury, both in town and country, and the popularity of the sport was captured in this excerpt from "The Press" of Saturday 28 July 1933:

"Golf? the physician said with a sigh, Golf, or more correctly, golficitis, might be designated the fourth dementia. Golficitis is a permanent addition to English manias and is attracting the attention of thinking alienists. This mania differs from others and is incurable. Its symptoms are a loathing for legitimate business, an abnormal disposition to copious profanity and nervous irritation, a passion for giddy and eccentric garments, a profound contempt for truth, a hatred of domestic restraint, accompanied by flushed face and a depraved love of out of doors.

That Saturday afternoon the opening ceremony of the Tai Tapu Golf Club's course took place at Rhodes Park.

Mr W G Macartney regretted that illness had prevented Sir Heaton Rhodes from being present. He welcomed visiting golfers and asked them not to be too critical of the golf course as the committee had only a short time in which to get it ready. It was not quite according to Mr A R Blank's plan He asked club members to obey the wishes of the Domains Board for it was owing to its co-operation that they were able to charge the fees. He hoped as the year passed, they would thoroughly enjoy their games. He called on Mr R. M. Morten, a member of another family identified with the Tai Tapu district, to declare the course open for play.

Mr Morten said that it was owing to Sir Heaton's generosity that Tai Tapu had such a beautiful park Tai Tapu farmers produced champion stock at the shows and Tai Tapu also produced a world's champion sculler and he hoped it would produce a champion golfer. He had been instructed not to use the golf club as a gorse-grubber, nor as a cricket bat. In declaring the course open for play, he drove off a ball.

A foursome was played during the afternoon, the winners were Mr W.G. Macartney and Mrs E.J Cooke. Afternoon tea was served in the pavilion, the hostesses being the two ladies who had convened the first meeting of the club, Mrs W.G Macartney and Mrs J. Bain.

So, the Tai Tapu Golf Club had been established efficiently and rapidly and with some flair. Its local roots were deep, it had the heart of its future course and strong leadership. Most future meetings would be concerned with the details involved in the happy functioning of any sports club - membership fees, matches, maintenance, fund-raising, ground developments and social activities

A meeting on 3 August authorised the secretary to purchase 2 dozen Pin Hi Balls to retail to members. Two or three nets were to be made for the recovery of balls from the river. Green fees for members of clubs affiliated with the New Zealand Golf Council were 2/6d and for visitors introduced by club members 1/-. By 28 September, there was a credit balance of £6.4 0. The meeting on this date decided to purchase a suitable lawn mower for a price not to exceed £10 A deposit of £5 was to be made, with the balance as arranged. The Links Committee was instructed to apply for relief labour to assist with laying down of greens for the next season.

Within months of its formation, the club was looking to expand its course. The area on the domain was quite limited and the club wanted complete control of the farm area leased by Mr Branthwaite. On 9 January 1934 it applied to the Domains Board to take over the lease on similar terms to those of Mr Branthwaite. The Domains Board, however, was not prepared to make more land available until the expiration of the lease of the farm area.

The club decided to cast its eye wider and on 8 March set up a sub - committee to see if there was any suitable land elsewhere in the Tai Tapu district for a 9 hole course. They were to look in particular at Waihora Domain. Fortunately such a major change was not necessary. Mr Branthwaite agreed to the golf course being extended through his leasehold property as far as the end of the Willows from which point the club intended to cross the river into Mr J. Mackenzie's property. Mr Mackenzie was the publican of the Ellesmere Arms Hotel. He had generously agreed to the use of part of his property The alterations to the course were to be made before the opening of the 1934 season.

Although this course lacked length, it was described as being 'of a sporting nature' and was to serve the club until 1942 when it went into recess for the remainder of the Second World War.

At a meeting on 21 March 1934, the annual subscriptions were set at £1 1 0 for men 15/- for ladies and 5/- for juniors. Soon after it was decided to admit Lincoln College students at a special fee of 5/-.



Closing Day, presentation of trophies. Looking towards Otahuna in early years.



The early pavilion in the Domain. Note Sam Hamilton's car.



Closing Day 1933. Presentation of trophies.



A familiar sight from the old golf course — the weedcutter, with the master sitting up high guiding the cutter from side to side of the river with a long pole.

The club was undoubtedly adding to the richness of the district's social life. It was one of the major local bases of activity. It added another club social activity on 3 May, holding a dance in the Tai Tapu Hall to raise funds for the club. The dance was such a success that the club extended the facilities of the course to the leader of the orchestra, Mr Seymour, and his colleagues.

Relationships were being established with other clubs. Members of the Kaituna Golf Club were invited to use the course while their own links were under reconstruction; the Rakaia Club was invited to play a match; there was an invitation from the Malvern Golf Club to attend the Annual Ball and another from the Templeton Country Club; the Akaroa Golf Club and the Hagley Golf Club invited members also to play.

In May a part-time greenkeeper was appointed at 10/- a day. Mr S. Hamilton was also to be paid 3d for each ball he found in his own time, such balls to become the property of the club. It was suggested, balls found by members could be placed in a box which was to be provided and erected at the new bridge. Registered balls could be bought back by the owner of such registered brand at 3d each. No doubt the greenkeeper was pleased by the ruling at this time that no high heeled shoes were to be worn, because of the damage to the greens.

The range of club services and facilities was increasing rapidly. Coaching was made available to members on Saturday afternoon and any evening except Friday; Mr Clements charged 2/6d for half an hour. Trophies were made available, some donated, some purchased. Drainage was improved by a system of pipes being laid and the Domains Board helped by having several willows removed.

At the meeting on 6 September 1934, a significant moment in the club's history was recorded in the Minutes — the first hole -in -one and who more appropriate to achieve it but the President, Mr W.G. Macartney.

The desire to protect the club's local identity and the interests of local people, while at the same time allowing some members from further afield, was reflected in a ruling at the 2nd Annual General Meeting, held on 27 March 1935. Membership was made open to persons residing in the Tai Tapu and immediate surrounding country districts, provided the Executive Committee had the power to admit to membership, persons from outside the boundaries as defined, to a number not exceeding 50% of the total number of local members, such elected members to have no voting power, nor be entitled to hold office.

Membership was now 51 and there was 'a quite satisfactory' credit balance of £18.2.0. The Ladies' Committee were to have the power to elect lady members.

The subject was raised of the club's one major shortcoming — rooms of its own. It was moved that the club consider establishing Club Rooms and that the committee be empowered to negotiate with Mr Mackenzie about leasing a portion of his cottage. Mr Mackenzie, as always, was generous and allowed the use of his cottage as a Clubhouse. His generosity did not end there — he requested that instead of paying rent, the club should set aside, during the tenancy, a sum towards the establishment of a Club -house fund.

Mr Mackenzie and his Ellesmere Arms played another role for the club in May, when members of visiting teams from the Kaituna and Hagley Clubs lunched at the hotel, 'so the Ladies' Committee might be relieved of this duty'. Club members and visitors were indeed on rich fare, in this May of 1935 — there was a gift of a turkey and a dressed pig, and something unheard of today — deflation of food prices. The cost of afternoon tea was reduced to twopence.

In 1936 and 1937 the subjects of land and club -house were prominent. The lease of the 9 acre farm area held by Mr Branthwaite came up for reconsideration and was acquired by the club on terms of 4 1/2 acres at £2.10.0 per acre and 4 1/2 acres free. In October 1936, Mr M. Mackenzie was given the grazing rights at £5.5.0 per annum. In May 1936 the committee resolved to build a club -house to the value of £100 and the Domains Board agreed to a site near the Apiary. On further consideration, however, ideas changed. At a meeting in June, Mr W.G. Macartney said that the nucleus or Common Room of the club -house, worthy of the club, would cost approximately £200. The Treasurer said the club had a credit balance of about £80 with promise of a further £20 from the ladies. It was decided to write to the Domains Board for the loan of £150 free of interest or at a low rate. It was moved that the club first build only a Common Room, 34' by 18' out of the club's finance and if more funds became available, then a kitchen, and finally a verandah.

In January 1937, developments further afield brought club -house plans to a full stop. It was reported that the Domains Board was building a combined Sports Pavilion in the near future, so the matter of a club -house was deferred until the suitability of the combined pavilion from the Golf Club's point of view could be ascertained.

In these early years of the club, each Spring all members attended working bees firstly to cut the hay on the course, followed by hours of work with anything that would cut grass, to prepare for the season's golf.

From the beginning, catering was always organised and donated by the ladies. The Pavilion was duly built in 1937 and shared with other local sports bodies, but there was no power point, so the ladies organised the then greenkeeper, Mr Sam Hamilton and his son Ron, to boil up a copper for their hot water needs. The ladies brought their own cutlery and crockery.

There was much month to month business. It was recorded that the club's appointments had been interfered with by picnickers; the President thanked the retiring Honorary Secretary and presented him with an 8 day bedroom clock; it was decided to abolish the present Crossways hole (No. 3) and construct a new green by the Apiary, this to be the 5th hole; the club was to purchase a Lespedeza Bar, with 2 knives, an extra finger and ledger plate, at a cost of £11.14.0 (there was, literally, two horse power to pull the bar); owing to a charge at "The Press" of 3/6d per inch the club would not in future be able to advertise in "The Press"; no concession in fees was henceforth to be made to students of Lincoln Agricultural College; the green -keeper's wages were raised from 10/- to 12/6d per day; the greens were fenced to keep off the sheep; members now paid 3d each afternoon for tea and biscuits; the ball could be placed within 6" not nearer the hole provided it was on the cut portion of the fairway of the hole being played; a dance committee of 14 members was formed; green fee charges were raised to half a crown for every day in the week.

In 1939 it was mooted that an Open Tournament be run by the club. Mr B.G. Dalgety offered to donate a cup valued at 15 guineas. The offer was accepted, and in August arrangements for the tournament were finalised and the Secretary was instructed to procure 50 programmes and 200 entry forms from the "Guardian". Entry was 7/6d.

The lease of the farm area became once more a subject for discussion, when in October 1 939 the Domains Board advised they had decided to offer the lease to public tender. Some time in April 1940, this being 12 months before the expiration of the present lease, The Park wrote to the Board suggesting the Park be let for no more than a 12 month period and that the club have the chance to negotiate privately at the end of the War. The Domains Board accepted these suggestions. The club's committee members agreed they would not tender for the farm area for the duration of the War.

The events in Europe affected the club almost immediately in other ways as well. There were 12 resignations, mainly due to petrol restrictions. Members of the club who were called away for war service, were to be granted honorary membership for the war period. A mixed fourball tournament was held in aid of the Red Cross Fund and £20 was raised.

In July 1940 there was a successful deputation to the Domains Board about the taking over of an additional area of the Park known as the Beehive Section. The Crossways hole was now extended about 60 yards and a new hole was formed to take the place of the Poplars hole. Several holes were renamed — Willows to Waitaha, the new short hole replacing Poplars to Ahuriri and the Rushes to Waihora.

After a game of golf and a social, a well known farmer arrived at the course with his hack and took aspiring lady jockeys for treks down the no. 1 fairway. The farmer then returned to the club-house, but not alone — his horse followed. The loyal steed went through the front doors, proceeded through the lounge, and endeavoured to exit through the men's dressing room doors, where it became stuck!

* * * * *

As the battles in Europe intensified, the club was increasingly affected. The Secretary resigned as he was commencing Air Force training. The Home Guard were using half the Pavilion.

In April 1942 the club went into recess for the remainder of the War.

A meeting on 24 October 1945 decided to re -open the club in March of the following year and to approach the Domains Board with the view to securing the farm area, so the golf course could be extended. These subjects were pursued at the November meeting. Mr Macartney produced several well drawn up' plans for the proposed course and members were satisfied there would be a greatly improved course if the farm area were obtained. At the same time, members considered that if the club could not lease the farm area, the club might not be able to continue, as members could not be given the improved golfing conditions which were necessary to avoid the existing wet conditions.

The formation of the Lincoln Club was also discussed. Members agreed there was sufficient demand for the two clubs to function, but there was a degree of concern at the division of interest among some present members. At the January 1946 meeting, two delegates from Lincoln were present to put the case for Tai Tapu to amalgamate with Lincoln. They bore, however, a rather different proposal back to their members. Mr Macartney reported that Tai Tapu had been successful in obtaining a 5 years lease on the farm area from 1 May 1946, at £83 per year and strongly affirmed the club's commitment to its members. The Lincoln delegates were asked to convey to their club the proposal of amalgamation with Tai Tapu, as Tai Tapu was already stabilised and appeared likely to have a better course than Lincoln.

Discussion of the course dominated meetings through 1946. It was decided to increase the number of sheep grazing on the farm; the horse-drawn fairway mower was to be adapted so it could be drawn by tractor; it was decided to have no interclub games this season as the condition of the course was not attractive enough to warrant such games; Mr Macartney produced several well prepared plans for the permanent course and after members had discussed each plan in turn it was decided to adopt plan No. 8 and to finalise the layout on the course itself; the club was to purchase a further 400' of piping so there would be a permanent watering scheme for the greens; the December meeting chose the names for the holes of the new course, from the many names suggested. The course had been made from land crossed with a maze of gorse and wire fences.

The club was making excellent progress. Expenditure had been heavy, but grazing, farming and rent left the club in a very satisfactory financial position. At the meeting on 8 April 1947, Mr J.H. Mackenzie spoke of the untiring work and leadership of Mr Macartney during the past year, when the new course was being planned and formed. At all times, he said, Mr Macartney had been an inspiration to other committee members and members present were unanimous in their appreciation of his efforts to re-establish the club to pre-war standards. A vote of thanks was carried by all.

Tree planting now received great attention. Mr McCaskill of Lincoln College was asked to plan future tree planting on the course and club members were unanimous in their praise of his report. Mr Macartney planned a scheme of planting whereby members could plant and care for their own trees.

The meeting of 24 July 1948 decided on a major administrative change. As the present rules of the club did not comply with the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act they were repealed and a new set of rules was adopted. The club would now apply for registration as an Incorporated Body under the Incorporated Societies Act.

The Ladies' Section of the club looked wider afield and at this time joined the New Zealand Ladies' Golf Union.



Putting at the 'Willows' on the old course (now no. 3 Ahuriri).

On 1 March 1949, there was an increase in subscriptions — men's was increased from 2 guineas to 3 guineas and ladies from £1.10.0 to 2 guineas. Also in this year, a fairway mower was purchased for £374 by interest free loans subscribed by members and lent to the club for a period up to 5 years; a hole-in-one fund was formed and the club was granted a Standard Scratch Score of 74 by the New Zealand Golf Council.

In 1950 there was an intriguing subject being investigated. Delegates to the Provincial Golf Association were asked to make enquiries about "films on the 9 bad shots of golf!" There is another intriguing subject in June 1952 — it was decided "that the dog collecting balls be kept off the course!" This same month there was one ball the dog had little chance to collect. It was played by Mr W.D. Robinson at Ahuriri, No. 12 on 29 June — the perfect shot and the first hole-in-one since the new course was established. As the men played their competitions on a Sunday, the ladies organised a mixed bogey match for the Saturday, charging 6d a round and choosing their own partners. A golf ball was given to the pair who had the best card.

Subscriptions were on the move. In February 1953 they were increased to 5 guineas for men and 3 guineas for women. Green fees on Saturday were increased to 5/-, the same as on Sunday and mid-week remained at 3/-.

All the sports bodies which used the Domain shared a common pavilion but in 1954 this was burnt down. The club decided to erect a new club-house. In the meantime, part of the house of Mr Davison, the greenkeeper, was to be used as a clubhouse.

With the new clubhouse in the pipeline, the ladies opened up an account to raise money for furnishings. They held a tea-dance in the club-house between 7-9 p.m., tickets being 10/- each. Committee members supplied the supper and a "fruit-punch" was organised for refreshments by Mr N. Withell. They also held dances in Mr & Mrs Turrell's wool shed, ladies supplying suppers, which were also very successful money makers. With the money raised they were able to help pay for the paint for the club-house, have the floor sanded and used a treated sawdust to broom across the floorboards to give an attractive brown shade.

8 July 1956 was a great day for the Tai Tapu Golf Club (Inc.), with the opening of the new clubhouse. Set against a backdrop of Otahuna, it commanded an excellent view of the course. It was insured against fire for £2,300.

In 1957 the Canterbury District Ladies' Golf Union was formed and from the beginning, its meetings were attended by delegates of the Tai Tapu Ladies' Golf Section.

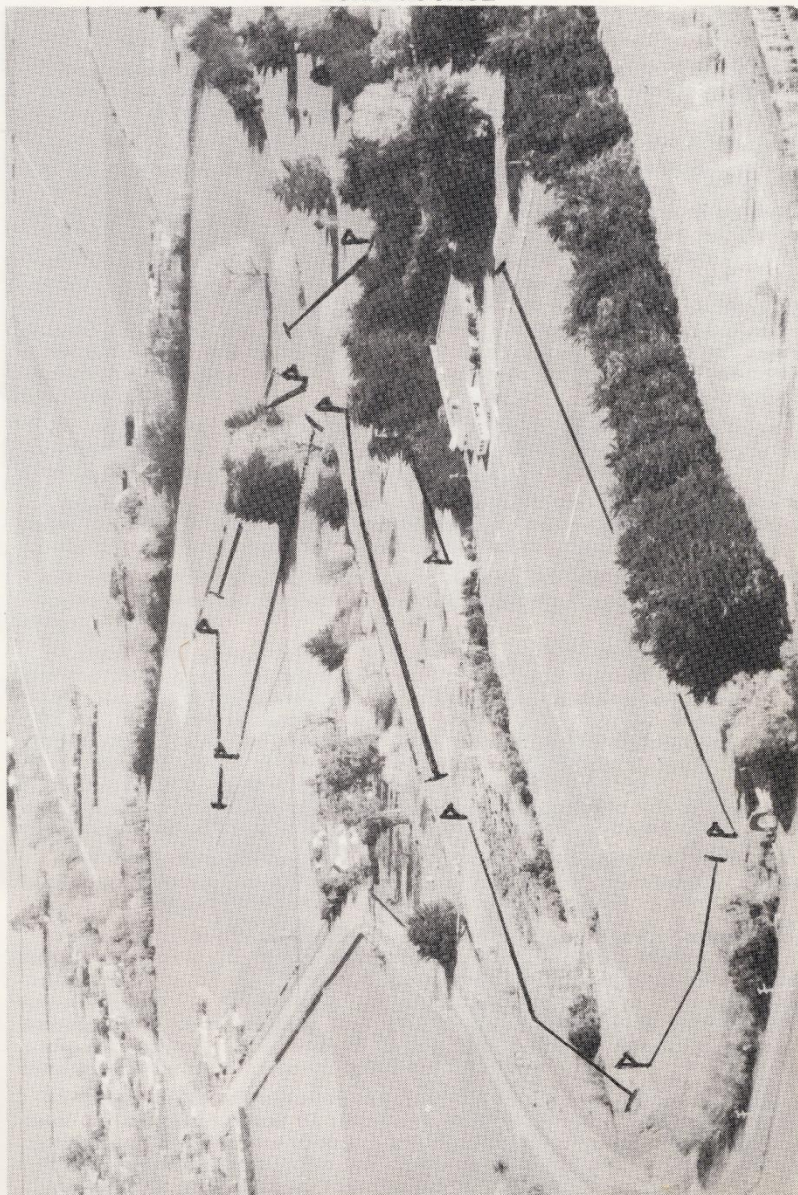
Messrs Withell and Macartney opening clubhouse, 1958



Opening Day, 1958



OLD COURSE



NEW COURSE



This year the club entered the Ladies' inter-club Pennant matches for the first time, as the matches were changed from 36 holes to 18 holes, with both seniors and juniors eligible to play, and so it was possible for the club to find enough players.

The clubhouse was a great point of pride for Queen's Birthday weekend of 1958, when the 25th Jubilee was celebrated. The programme included a golf match between past and present members, a dinner in the club-house and an Invitation Tournament. Present at the jubilee celebrations were several members who attended the club's inaugural meeting, including two members recently elected Life Members — Mr G.O. Templeton, the Treasurer for 20 years and Mr Macartney, the President for 16 years and the present Patron (57-76).

Facilities continued to improve and the club was in good heart. The ladies handed the men a cheque for £207.13.2 to help pay for interior decorating and furnishings; the groundsman's wages were raised to 5/9 1/2 d per hour; permission was granted to personnel of H.M.S. Royalist, with partners, to use the course; the ladies were raising funds for a piano; a trundler house was erected at a cost of £60 for materials and £15 for labour; tree planting was carried out.

The club's meeting of 15 September 1960 was visited by a Domains Board delegation. The club agreed in principle to the Domains Board's proposal to give preference to residents in the Tai Tapu/Halswell area, should membership be full and a vacancy occur.

A valuable asset was gained in 1961 when Mr Templeton funded an Honours Board for the names of the Club's Ladies' and Men's Senior Champions. The next year, authority was given for a 20' Guards van to be acquired for an additional trundler house.

Membership was steadily increasing and by June of 1963 there were 131 men, 96 women and 12 juniors and intermediates. It was decided that 150 would be the maximum for men and 110 for ladies.

In October .1963 a new green-keeper, Mr Clancy started; in 1964 the rules of play were confirmed as those of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, except as varied by the local rules of the club and the club's colours were stated to be chocolate and old gold; in 1965 it was decided that in future when fairways were wet or under water, notices were to be erected where required, marking a lateral water hazard, with the ball to be dropped without penalty; in 1966 authority was given to purchase a new Rotomower at £209, a second-hand Ferguson tractor at £230 and a trailer for £50; in 1966 also, it was decided that in future the flag would not be permitted to be held while on the green — it was either to be left or removed and the ladies were to be advised.

Till the 1960's the club's catering was entirely donated by the ladies, but from this time it began to be paid for from club funds, with lesser amounts being donated. The catering, however, was still done by the ladies and always to a very high standard.

Extensive improvements to the course were carried out in 1966 by the club's links Committee, with the enthusiastic aid of members. A club official told the local paper, the "Hilton Press" that it had been decided to make the links into a 'model course'. The cost came largely from funds originally earmarked for a two-hole extension to the links, which subsequently proved impossible. Small trees, mostly evergreen, were planted at many places and an extensive programme of rejuvenation of greens and rebuilding of tees took place. Most of the trees were bought and planted by members.

The clubhouse also claimed attention in 1966. A meeting on 2 August, decided to go ahead with extensions to cost £2,374. The architect, Mr G. Austin, was to supervise the contract and later choose the colour scheme, flooring, drapes and other appointments. In 1967 a telephone was installed. The main extension was an addition to the members' lounge. Three years later, there was a new Store Room.

In 1967 the Patron and Past President of the club, Mr W.G. Macartney was honoured for his contributions to his country, by the award of O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List. Born and raised in Tai Tapu, Mr Macartney had served in France and Gallipoli in the First World War, been a Major in command of the Banks Peninsula Home Guard Battalion in the Second World War, served on New Zealand's Dairy Products Marketing Commission 1947-59 and was present Chairman of the Tai Tapu Central Dairy Co. and Director of the New Zealand Farmer's Co-operative Association

In 1967 the Domains Board approved the extension of the No. 4 tee back over the fence; in 1968 the Domains Board and the Catchment Board verbally approved a bridge over the river, should this be required in the future; in 1969 the No. 2 green was extended back to the fence.

The club was not without its problems — it was reported on 7 February, 1967 that there were mice in the cupboards. They could well have wrecked havoc on supplies, for, in the same paragraph the ladies are requested to provide extra food for Opening Day! There was a more serious problem in December 1969, when the rotary mower caught on fire and a yet more serious problem in January 1970 when the rotary mower and the new Morrison Golf master mower were stolen.

In 1974 there were major advances in facilities. A new watering system was installed, with water being obtained from a well sunk on the course. Previously, water was pumped from the river. The clubhouse kitchen and bar were enlarged, and shower and toilets improved.

On 27 February 1977 a re-union of Foundation and long-standing members was held in the clubhouse. Invitations were issued to as many members from 1933-55 as could be located and some 60 people attended. In the early afternoon, many younger 'Golden Oldies' played 9 holes of golf, turning in very creditable cards. Later the visitors were welcomed by Mr G. Lethaby, President, who spoke in appreciation of those whose foresight and hard work in the past had made it possible for present members to have the well-groomed, picturesque course of that day. The club patron, Mr Morten, recalled early days, from which he said, the club had prospered and grown to the present full membership of 200 men and 140 women players. Mr J. McKenzie and Mr Sheldon replied on behalf of the visitors and thanked the club for arranging such an enjoyable re-union. Entertainment included a Singelongs, led by Mrs Morrow on the piano. Special thanks were expressed to Mrs R. Lang, the Ladies' Captain and Mr W. Eastlake, the Club Captain, for instigating the function.

The drainage of the course was greatly improved in 1979 with the laying of new pipes, after levels had been taken over the area. The levels showed that Waitaha had a 10' fall to the river and from Midfield through to Cottage the variation was from 4'6" to 2'6".

Matters of the clubhouse, rules, fees and course were settled — in 1977 and 1978 a grant of \$2,000 was received from the Tai Tapu Association towards alterations to the club; in 1979 the bunker in Cottage fairway was filled in; also in 1979 a local rule was passed stating that when putting, golfers were to leave the balls in the cup till the last person had putted out, so as to preserve the greens; in November the bunker at Ahuriri was filled in and shifted back; in December the men's subscription was increased to \$60 and the ladies to \$50.

In May 1980 Mr R. Rennell set a Course Record of 69 and in July Mr S. Parker set a Best Score of 67 — it was not a club record, as it was not played in an official competition. The Course Record has been equalled twice since it was set in 1980, once by Mr D. McLean in April 1982 and by Mr A. Sisson in April 1983. (The record before the present course was modified was 70 held by Mr E.J. Gallen)

In 1981 it was reported at the April meeting that the new green on Roadside was up to expectation; in October, the offer of a pool table was accepted; in November a Cafe Bar was purchased; in February 1982 permission was given to run a raffle with the funds to be used to install a colour T.V. in the clubhouse; in October 1982 it was decided that the hole-in-one payment be \$50 and in March 1983 it was passed that the name would be recorded on the Hole-in-One Board of any member who had a hole-in-one at Tai Tapu, at any time, having completed 18 holes and had his card signed by the marker.

The Canterbury Provincial Golf Association in 1982, notified the club that the course rating was now 68. 1982 also saw the 25th Anniversary of the Canterbury District Ladies' Golf Association and seven Tai Tapu lady members who had served on the executive of the club over the years, were invited by the CDLGA to attend a very enjoyable dinner at the Russley Golf Club, where they caught up with old acquaintances and friends of earlier years.

Incidentally, the Ladies' Committee must have had a very cordial meeting in 1982, for the Club Minutes of that month record on the ladies' behalf, simply 'Ladies Committee. Happy!'

Today the club fields 4 teams in Ladies' Inter -club Pennant matches: 36 hole Silver and Bronze, an 18 hole and an 18 hole weekend team.

The club is also fortunate to have so many good mixed matches on a Sunday, playing for cups and golf balls. From 1981 the ladies had equal prizes on a Sunday with the men.

Throughout the club's history, the liaison between the Ladies' and Men's Sections of the club has been exceptional; the importance of this liaison is recognised by the presence of the Ladies' Club Captain and the Secretary, at all the General Committee Meetings each month, during the season.

The longest active playing lady members and still very good golfers, are Mrs Jessie Fiecken and Mrs Dorothy Thompson, who joined in 1952 and Mrs Ruth Lang who joined in 1955. Mrs Fiecken and Mrs Lang, both Life Members, present the trophies each year with marked grace and dignity.

The Ladies' Section has an Honorary Member, Mrs Betty Beckett, who joined the club in 1958. The Ladies' Best Gross score is held by a former member, Mrs Sue Haydon, with a 73 Gross, two over par.

The longest playing man, and present Greenkeeper, is Mr Gerald Ware, who joined in 1938.

In this year of the Golden Jubilee, the Tai Tapu Golf Club (Inc.) is strong in membership, finance and enthusiasm and this is perhaps the best testimony to those hundreds of people who, through 50 years, have worked for the betterment of the club.

50th Golden Jubilee Celebrations Labour Weekend 21-24 October 1983

PROGRAMME:

- Friday 21st** 7.30-10pm. In club -house. Get together. Snacks served.
- Saturday 22nd** 10.30 am Club house. 18 holes golf, 11 am start. Afternoon tea.
- Saturday 22nd** Evening. Tai Tapu Hall. Cocktail hour 6-7 p.m. Sit-down buffet dinner. Dance to follow. Good band, refreshments and supper.
- Sunday 23rd** 12 noon Club-house 18 holes golf, 12.30 pm start. Speeches and unveiling of Honours Board etc. Afternoon tea.
- Monday 24th** 10.30 a.m. Club-house. Labour Day Closed Tournament, 18 holes Golf, 11 a.m. start. Afternoon tea.

LADIES' HONOUR ACHIEVEMENTS

The Tai Tapu Ladies won the Inter-club Silver Pennant in 1969, defeating the Christchurch Club, were co-winners for the Silver Pennant in 1971 with Greendale and were Silver Pennant runners-up to Christchurch in 1981. Many times the teams have been very close to winning their zones.

MEN'S HONOUR ACHIEVEMENTS

In 1960 a team of players from the Tai Tapu Golf Club (Inc.) took part in the newly formed Patterson Cup Competition. This competition was played for in two sections, Peninsula Zone consisting of Richmond Hill, Charteris Bay, Kaituna, Tai Tapu, Akaroa, and Little River Golf Clubs; Selwyn Zone consisting of Lincoln, Weedons, Burnham, Ellesmere, Greendale and Hororata Golf Clubs. The teams for this competition consisted of eight players with a combined handicap total of not less than 115. The winners of each section played off for the Patterson Cup. The eventual winner then played the winner of a similar competition in North Canterbury for the Ashby Bergh Trophy. In 1970 the Little River Golf Club went into recession and the Tai Tapu Golf Club then fielded two teams to keep the competition even. Tai Tapu Golf Club's record in this competition is as follows:

- 1961 Won both Patterson Cup and Ashby Bergh Trophy.
- 1965 Won both Patterson Cup and Ashby Bergh Trophy.
- 1969 Won both Patterson Cup and Ashby Bergh Trophy.
- 1973 "A" Side Won both Patterson Cup and Ashby Bergh Trophy.
- 1974 "B" Side Won both Patterson Cup and Ashby Bergh Trophy.
- 1977 "B" Side Won Patterson Cup.
- 1979 "A" Side Won Patterson Cup.
- 1980 "B" Side Won both Patterson Cup and Ashby Bergh Trophy.
- 1981 "B" Side Won Patterson Cup.

In 1964 Tai Tapu also won the Norton Francis Cup, which is played for at Christchurch Golf Club's Shirley Links between all golf clubs in Canterbury by invitation. The winning team consisted of four players — M.K. Lohrey, S. Suckling, J.R. Gleeson, and G.H. Ware.

Since 1978 three Tai Tapu men golfers; R. Sisson, A. Sisson and R. Rennell, have been selected to play for Country Seniors against town, and two, I. Fowler and R. Fowler, have been selected for the Junior Section.

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Probably the most decisive action witnessed on the course was the local electrician's on hole no. 5, Jimmy's Track. With great attention to preparations each time, he hooked 5 balls out of bounds. The 5th ball happened to be his last. One by one he took his clubs from his bag, threw them over the fence into the trees, and walked off the course never to return.

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One of the most amazing shots in the club's history was a tee shot of Mr Stan Ogg also at Jimmy's Track. Struck by his wood, the ball curved high over the road, eventually returning to the course, bounced here and there several times, landed on the green and dribbled into the hole. Hole in One!

At this point in the original booklet there were lists of past club officers and champions – which can be obtained from the Honours boards in the Clubhouse. Then followed pages of autographs that Mrs. Lang collected at the celebrations and the minutes of the meeting on July 8, 1933 that established the Club.

JUNIOR MEN

- 1949 I.C. Gray
- 1950 W.D. Robinson
- 1951 W.D. Robinson
- 1952 G.H. Ware
- 1953 T.F. Carter
- 1954 G.A. Rawstron
- 1955 M.J. McKay
- 1956 M.J. McKay
- 1957 L.R. Withell
- 1958 I.B. Barnes
- 1959 J.N. Hartnell
- 1960 H.J. Kostello
- 1961 F. Creighton
- 1962 G.R. Lethaby
- 1963 L.R. Withell
- 1964 R.B. Manson
- 1965 A.D. Jennings
- 1966 A.D. Jennings
- 1967 M.C. Burke
- 1968 A.D. Jennings
- 1969 R.M. Manson
- 1970 A.D. Jennings
- 1971 G. Stowell
- 1972 E. Jones
- 1973 W. Fiecken
- 1974 G. Penny
- 1975 M. Hatchard
- 1976 G. Penny
- 1977 S. Wilson
- 1978 B.W. Barnhill
- 1979 R. Kinzett
- 1980 F. Pierson
- 1981 J. McIntyre
- 1982 J.R. Gleeson

M. J. Withell
J. R. Withell

JUNIOR LADIES

- 1965 Mrs P. Rawstron
- 1966 Mrs R. Neil
- 1967 Mrs B. Hall
- 1968 Mrs R. Rawstron
- 1969 Mrs K. Clime
- 1970 Mrs M. Begg
- 1971 Mrs J. Rendall
- 1972 Mrs B. Prendergast
- 1973 Mrs J. McIntyre
- 1974 Mrs B. Nelson
- 1975 Mrs B. Macale
- 1976 Mrs A. Crossen
- 1977 Mrs O. Lewthwaite
- 1978 Mrs W. Potts
- 1979 Mrs M. Duncan
- 1980 Mrs P. Ryan
- 1981 Mrs J. Fiecken
- 1982 Mrs N. Cullen

Alison DeJoy

Rose Rhodes
Callean Scott
Dot. Rose
Jean Rogers
Alan Rogers
Charlotte Rhodes
to Bruce & Denver
R. I. Stoddard
John W. Adams
S. W. Debra
Kenn Camer
Allyson
Samson
Spilled ink
Bruce Hill
Sandy Miller
Lona Kerby
Bobie Duffin
Margaret Allan
P. J. Henson
J. Paphin
B. H. Ten
M. J. Withell
Kay Sherlock

Pat Rennell
M. G. Yamba
Lay Miller
E. B. Corvis
M. S. Watt
J. Watt
A. D. Anderson
W. A. West
Nola M. Blair
Ron Anderson
Leonie Anderson
Betty Beck
Vonnie McGee
Alister M. Dair
Al. B. Blyden
L. B. Blyden
S. R. Welsh
F. Welsh
Jan Fowler
Quis Beggan
Joan Woods
Maureen Begg
Hebe Willia
Kellie Blackmore

Minutes of Inaugural Meeting
held in the Sai Tapu Hall on 26th June 1933
at 8 pm.

Here were present - Mr & Mrs A. K. Blank, Mr & Mrs W. G. Macartney, Mr J. Macartney (representing Domain Board), Mr & Mrs J. Bain, Mr & Mrs G. Turnbull, Mr & Mrs J. Stoddart, Messrs Sharpe (2) & Welch, N. Morton, Mr & Mrs A. Mackenzie (visitors), Messrs Kacher (2) & Mr Mackenzie & Mr & Mrs Weston.

Chairman: Mr W. G. Macartney was voted to the chair.

Opening Address:

The Chairman explained the purpose for which the meeting had been called - viz to form a Golf Club in the Sai Tapu district. He then called upon Mr A. K. Blank, who had kindly offered to assist in the formation of a Club, to address the meeting.

Mr Blank expressed the opinion that a very fine nine-hole golf course could be obtained on the Domain and displayed a plan of the proposed course. He then outlined the full procedure involved in the formation of a Club.

Formation of Club:

Mr J. Bain moved and Mr G. Turnbull seconded "That a Golf Club entitled The Sai Tapu Golf Club be formed. Its officers shall be a Patron, a President, three Vice Presidents, a Captain, a Secretary & a Treasurer together with a management Committee of six members. The Ladies shall form a separate committee.

The motion was carried.

The meeting then proceeded with the election of officers.

Officers:

Patron : Sir R. Keaton Rhodes.
President : Mr W.G. Macartney.
Captain : Mr J. Bain.
Vice Presidents : Messrs R. H. Morton, J. Sharpe
& D. Morgan.
Hon Secretary : Mr A. Thompson
Hon Treasurer : Mr G. Turnbull

Management Committee:
Messrs J. Mackenzie, S. Stoddart
J. Wallace, A. Parrott & D. Weston.

The following Officers of the Ladies' Section were elected; it having been resolved on the motion of Mr J. Bain, seconded by Mr Thacker, that the Ladies' Committee comprise a Captain, a Hon. Secretary, a Hon. Treasurer and a committee of six members.

Captain : Mrs W.G. Macartney.
Hon Secy. : Mrs G. Turnbull
Hon Treas. : Miss A. Morton.

Management Committee: Messrs S. Stoddart,
Weston, J. Bain, Messrs W. Sharpe,
Welch & T. Hines.

Annual Subscription:

Mr Bain moved - Mr Thacker seconded -
"That the Annual Subscription for Ladies
and Gentlemen be taken." carried
Negotiations with Domain Board with Lessee - Mr Broadwhite

It was resolved that a deputation, comprising
Messrs W.G. Macartney, J. Bain & D. Weston, approach
the Domain Board & Mr Broadwhite re the
difficulties outlined by Mr W.G. Macartney with

regard to the two proposed Gold Holes on Mr. Brantwaite's
Property held by him under lease, and re
possible financial and other assistance from
the Domains Board.

Foundation Members:

The following signed up as inaugural members
W. G. Macartney (Hon) N. Weston (Hon) J. Stoddart. P. Turnbull
W. Hacker. (Miss) A. Welch (Miss) H. Sharp (Miss) H. Sharp.
(Hon) L. Turnbull. (Miss) N. Mootin. (Hon) A. Macartney
(Hon) J. Bain J. Bain. P. Stoddart. H. Mackenzie.
J. Mackenzie. J. W. Weston. J. Wallace. H. Parrott.
Mrs Thompson. A. Thompson.

Thanks:

On the motion of Mr. Bain the meeting
passed a hearty vote of thanks to the
Chair and to Mr. H. Black for his kindly
assistance.

Mr. Black wished the Chairman members
a successful season - happy days
on the Ice Paper Course.

The meeting closed with cheers for Mr. Black.

Read & Confirmed.

W. G. Macartney

8th July 1955