Pohutukawa Times Coast Times

6 December 2024

Maraetai speedgolfer claims world title in Japan



Liz McKinnon (left) with teammate Amy Linton (right) won the world speedgolf women's team event in Japan. Image source / Japan Speedgolf Association.

Maraetai's Liz McKinnon is the fastest female golfer on

Liz recently competed at the Speedgolf World Championships in Tochigi, Japan, where years of practice and preparation paid off with a win in the women's section. She also won the women's team title alongside fellow Kiwi Amy Linton.

The nine-time national champ took the lead on the first day of the two-day competition, and fended off fierce competition from 13 other women to bag the world title.

Liz describes speed golf as "like normal golf, but where you go as quick as you can."

Liz had played golf as a professional on the Ladies European Tour before taking up the faster version of the sport almost a decade ago. Her full time role working for New Zealand Golf, plus being a mum of two, left little time for exercise and sport, so speed golf was "a way of fitting in a little bit of fitness each week."

"You can do 9 holes in under half an hour," says Liz, "so it's perfect for people who enjoy being out on the golf course, but who are short on time."

Players carry up to seven clubs, either in their hand or in a lightweight bag, and run or walk quickly after playing each shot.

At the world champs, competitors were able to play two

practice rounds - the first a slow practice round, and the second a slow speedgolf practice. The practice rounds enable players to gauge distances and decide which clubs to carry at the main event.

Liz says conditions were perfect at the world champs, with mild and settled temperatures.

"The golf course was in great condition with fast greens. 700 Golf Club is a typical Japanese course with it being hilly (over 180m of elevation) so the running was tough. The course length we ran was 7.9km."

Eighty participants from 13 nations took part in the event, with the women's contingent of 14 believed to boast the largest female representation at any speedgolf tournament so far.

"I definitely felt the nerves the morning of day 1 in the hotel," says Liz. "But once I got out to the golf course I just focused on my warm up and prep routine and this eased the nerves. I knew I had worked hard so now it was just about enjoying it."

Adding to her nerves was the prospect of knee pain throughout her rounds. "I injured my patella tendon a few days before departing for Japan and unfortunately didn't heal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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Guest Editorial by Franklin Ward Councillor Andrew Baker

The most recent census data has 50% so between the two rural wards we continued the trend from 2018 where Franklin is one of the fastest growing areas in Auckland, although it has slowed slightly. As anyone who receives this publication will know, the eastern areas of Franklin are seeing significant development and population changes. Our census day population sat at 84,357 which was an increase of 12.7%. This is a long way ahead of the average increase across the rest of Auckland which sits at 5.4% but lower than the 14.6% growth we had experienced between 2013 and 2018. Our home patch is certainly popular.

As we see significant changes in the different ethnicities that make up this melting pot of cultures called Auckland, Franklin remains a European dominated area with 77% identifying as European and the second highest ethnic group being Maori at 16.6%. Both those numbers are a lot higher than across the rest of the region. The biggest increase though is in the Asian group that has jumped hugely by 66.2%, however whilst the percentage increase is high, they sit third in total number on 12.5%. Anyone that has heard me talk about Franklin will have heard me say that it makes up 24% of Auckland's land mass; Rodney the other rural ward is about are responsible for nearly three quarters of Auckland. However our population, whilst growing here, still only equates to 5.1% of Auckland's total population and that is where the challenge for anyone elected to represent the area either on the Local Board or as Councillor to get on top of.

Population is the primary driver when we consider where Council spends its money and whilst we have had wins over the years in regard to having rural areas recognised more equitably, the battle remains. The challenges that we face in Franklin are not all about total population, but we have complex issues with the age of our population. We remain an area where we have higher than Auckland average under 15 and over 65 year olds generally suggesting what we at Council provide needs more focus on those at either end of the life spectrum. Things like facilities and services have to have greater consideration of those users. Those two groups make up nearly 37% of our population. It means we cannot just accept what the rest of Auckland gets. It is one of the reasons why I continue to battle for changes in the way Council delivers things and look for ways to work with the likes of developers to fund and build new community assets like playgrounds

and other social facilities so we don't have to rely on Council delivering it when it can be deemed a priority. That is a reflection on the handbrake of being only 5% of the population spread across a quarter of the land mass. This approach has worked well in other developments like Paerata Rise where the developer has recognised the value for them through supporting the attractiveness of their offering in having things like pump tracks, off leash dog parks and destination playgrounds as they develop. With what is planned in the Pohutukawa Coast area there are great opportunities for some quality amenities if we can get that type of agreement. It is great that the Local Board share these views and we continue to work together. I want to thank everyone who gets in contact and those who do so much in their communities and wish you all a happy and safe festive season and new year.



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Canine prepares for 'howliday' performances with Coast Choir

charismatic canine ambassador among its ranks. Ku, a 10-year-old silkie Australian terrier, is the choir's mascot and has been delighting choir members for most of his

Ku first joined the choir after participating in the Beachlands Santa Parade with his owner, Cath Dickey. Since then, he has become a regular at Tuesday night rehearsals, held at the Ray White Auction Rooms on Second View Ave. His presence brings joy to choir members, many of whom are older and no longer have pets of their own.

As well as his own fan club, Ku has his very own custom-made choir coat, tailored by Luxura at Ormiston Town Centre.

Under the leadership of local GP Dr Rebecca Starr, the Pohutukawa Coast Choir continues to grow, attracting members aged 20 to 80 and beyond. The

The Pohutukawa Coast Choir has a choir is currently preparing for its Holiday Serenade programme, with performances planned in Beachlands and Ormiston Town Centre in December.

> Rebecca says: "The choir feels like the musical heart of our community. It's wonderful to see any social barriers disappear during a night of singing together. There's plenty of laughter, chatter, and, of course, there is Ku."

> Rebecca says the choir offers more than just an opportunity to sing. Group singing fosters a sense of togetherness and improves mental health by reducing stress and enhancing mood. The synchronised breathing of choral singing even has physical health benefits, from regulating heart rates to improving symptoms of conditions like Parkinson's and lung

> When Rebecca mentions the choir to her patients she often hears the same responses. "Patients often say they

can't sing, or that they were kicked out of the choir at school. A lot of people are nervous about turning up," she says. Which is where the benefits of the Pōhutukawa Coast Choir become apparent. There are no auditions, and the ability to carry a tune doesn't matter.

"You just join in and you're surrounded by others," says Rebecca. "You're never singing on your own. It's more about technique - everybody can sing with the help of some vocal training and learning how not to strain their voice. A lot of people are surprised

to find they can actually sing."

To join the choir, simply turn up on Tuesday evenings at the Ray White offices. All welcome.

www.facebook.com/CoastalChoir

Pohutukawa Coast Choir's Holiday Serenade performance details:

Thursday 12 December, 6-7pm at Ormiston Town Centre



Ku's custom-made choir coat was made by an Ormiston tailor.

- Saturday 14 December, noon, at Beachlands Chartered Club
- Friday 20 December, 9pm at Fern Place, Beachlands

2024 Clevedon **Christmas Parade**

Saturday 7 December, 2.30pm

Meet the Beachlands Police team

This Saturday offers Beachlands and Maraetai residents an opportunity to meet their local police staff.

The Beachlands Police team, accompanied by members of the Pōhutukawa Coast Crime Watch Patrol, will be in The Franklin carpark on Saturday 7 December from

Police say it will be a great opportunity to meet the team, ask questions, and have a chat out about keeping our community safe.



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Fire brigade set to spread Christmas cheer this weekend

On Sunday 8 December starting at 3pm, the Beachlands Volunteer Fire Brigade will hit the streets for its annual Christmas lolly run. Santa and the brigade will drive around Beachlands and Maraetai streets in their fire engine, handing out lollies to the Beachlands and Maraetai communities as a thank you for their continued support during the year.

Keep an ear out for the siren, christmas carols and music playing!

Time constraints mean that the brigade cannot visit every street, so see the maps on the right for the proposed routes.

Maraetai speed-golfer claims world title in Japan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in time. So I had added nerves that I knew my knee would hurt but that I would have to run through the pain."

Although her knee pain meant she ran at a slower than usual pace, Liz's golf

"I hit every fairway, and I had no 3 putts. With the greens being fast and with lots of slope it was important to position your approach shots well which I did."

After 18 months of training and preparation, Liz says the title win was "the icing on the cake".

"Of course it felt great. I had trained for 18 months for this. I was ranked 4th in the world by the media going into the event. So it was great to prove them wrong!"



Beachlands Volunteer Fire Brigade's lolly run routes for Beachlands (above) and Maraetai (below).



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THOMPSON Student Voice

LOCAL STUDENTS' NEWS, VIEWS & LITERARY TALENT

This column features news, views and literary talents of students from Beachlands, Maraetai, Clevedon, Brookby, Hunua, Paparimu, Orere and Ardmore Schools.

One student featured each week will be presented with a certificate and a \$20 book voucher, thanks to Barfoot & Thompson's Beachlands and Whitford branches.

School camp. 13.11.24

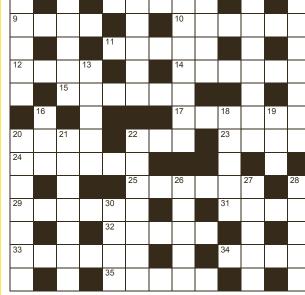
On Thursday, we had a big school camp with almost everyone there. First we brought our supplies to school and put them all in one of our classrooms. After that we all gathered to talk about camp in the senior classroom. They said that when they yelled "who let the dogs out!" we had to gather around them. After we all talked about what we had to do, we all went outside on the field. It was by a caravan and a teepee.

On the mat we were sitting on was a bunch of cool little things like flax creations, deer antlers, ukuleles, drums, rodent skins. We did a lot of fun stuff like making mini wakas, making flax ropes, making doughnuts, a burma trail, and much much more. The Burma trail was very difficult but it was also very very fun! Making the wakas and then racing them was so exciting. Me and my buddy didn't have enough time to finish but we still made it work. We came in second place, but our boat got washed away.

Skipping was also very fun! Especially because we all made our rope out of flax. It worked very well and we all had a turn. We also made doughnuts and they were so good. Overall, I think camp was very fun and helped us learn about nature.

- by Indie, Year 5, Ōrere School

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Across

- 3. Uncertainty (5)
- 9. Puff (4)
- 10. Strangely (6)
- 11. Dance style (5)
- 12. Rotated (4)
- 14. Foetus (6) 15. Origin (6)
- 17. Plump (6)
- 20. Headquarters (4)
- 22. Fire residue (3)
- 23. Appear (4)
- 24. A stable employee (6)
- 25. Best performance of its kind (6)
- 29. Stimulate (6)
- 31. Christmas (arch) (4)
- 32. Period of calm (5)
- 33. Gentle breeze (6)
- 34. Spurn (4)
- 35. Cockeyed (5)

Down

- 1. Bottomless void (5)
- 2. Concentrate (5)
- 4. Live broadcasting (2,3)
- 5. Entreat (7)
- 6. Side (4)
- 7. Minute living organism (7) 8. Word meaning same as another (7)
- 13. Work of fiction (5)
- 16. Talk idly (colloq) (3)
- 18. Lending money at excessive rates (5)
- 19. Gamble (3)
- 20. Windfall (7)
- 21. Argumentative (7)
- 22. Outstanding debts (7)
- 26. Rebuke (5)
- 27. Toilet (inf) (5)
- 28. Bowler hat (5) 30. Plant protein (4)
- Answers on page 7

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Monday 16 December 2024 Clevedon District Centre starting at 7pm.

Following the AGM, we will be having a short 30-45min workshop to focus on CPS's priorities for 2025. We are keen to hear about your concerns, ideas, and opportunities to make Clevedon an awesome place to live.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Light refreshments (including Christmas cake) will be served.

MEMORIAL NOTICES

IN MEMORIAM Christine Cox, Mum

It has been four years now that you have been gone. I'm still learning how to live without you in my life, which is hard. I try not to think about you for long because it still hurts my heart that you are not here. I hope in time I can think of you longer and my heart won't hurt as much. I miss you. I love you.

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