

2024 Canterbury Golf Awards Dinner – Award Citations

Eagles Promising Junior Girl of the Year – Zarai Bourne

Zaria made quite a first impression after securing her club's senior women's title at the tender age of 12 back in 2021. Since then, she has continued to develop her game decreasing her handicap and participating in a range of junior events and interclub competitions before moving into various senior level events. Her progress has accelerated over the last 12 months having reduced her handicap from a 7 in July 2023 to a current day 0.6. In 2023 she was a member of the Waimairi Beach Pollock Cup champion team with her season consisting of 4 wins and a half, including wins in her semi-final and final match. She was selected for the Canterbury Women's team for the Aorangi match, South Island Interprovincial, and also made her NZ Interprovincial debut in December in the Kapiti Coast. She was also a member of the Canterbury Girls team that won the NZ Girls Interprovincial tournament last October and in April was the runner up in the Girls u16 category in the 23/24 Canterbury Golf Order of Merit.

Eagles Promising Junior Boy of the Year – Mitchell Redmayne

Mitchell has shown great improvement in his game over the last couple of years, with the last 12-months including some huge progression. After actively being involved in Canterbury Golf junior competitions, he was selected by Canterbury Golf to attend the annual South Island Development Camp held in Timaru in July 2023. He was then subsequently invited to join Canterbury Golf TDP programme. Since his inclusion in this programme this player has reduced his playing handicap from a 6.4 to a current day 0.8. During the past season the now 17-year-old was a valuable member of the Bottle Lake winning Simon Cup team where he won the Roy Mitchell Salver, awarded to the best individual player, with 7 wins & 2 halves with additional wins in both the semi-finals & final sinking the winning put for the team on Finals Day. In April he finished as runner up in the Boys u19 category in the 23/24 Canterbury Golf Order of Merit and most recently he was part on the winning men's pair that took out the 2024 Canterbury 4BBB title shooting an individual -8 round of 65 at Coringa.

Girls Junior Golfer of the Year – Aroha Minhinnick

Aroha has had an impressive year after making the decision to join the Canterbury Golf Talent Development programme in July 2023, a commitment that requires her to travel down to Christchurch each month from her home in Blenheim, a sign of her commitment to her development. This commitment was justified with her selection for the Canterbury women's team debuting in the annual Aorangi fixture. She was then part of the Canterbury Women's South Island Interprovincial team that won that event in 2023 at Rangiora GC before being selected for the Canterbury Women's NZ Interprovincial team that finished 5th at last years NZIP tournament. In that tournament she was Canterbury's top performing player playing in the number two position and recording 3 wins from her 5 games. Earlier in the season she was part of the Canterbury Girls team that captured the NZ Girls Interprovincial title in Rotorua, the first time Canterbury has won this event since 2014. She was recognised as the Player of the tournament having won all 6 of her matches playing in the number 2 position. Finally, she was also an integral member of the Pollock Cup winning team for Waimairi Beach helping the club lift the title for the first time since 2011.

Boys Junior Golfer of the Year – Yuki Miya

In what is always a difficult category to judge, Yuki's continual activity and performance has led to his selection this season. A player who is regular in Canterbury Boys teams now for several years, he was again selected in the Canterbury Boys team to compete at the NZ Boys Interprovincial tournament in Cambridge, playing in the number 2 position. He had a stellar tournament winning all 6 of his matches, an impressive effort against some very high-quality opposition from across the country. Individually he also had many notable appearances over the last 12-months including a 6th place finish at NZ u19 Age Group Championships in August, 7th place finishes at both the Mount and Tauranga Charles Tour tournaments, the only Canterbury player to achieve two top 10 Charles Tour finishes in 2023. He also won the u19 title at the Canterbury Age Group Championships in January before winning the Russley Open in February. To round out his season he finished as runner up at the South Island u19 Age Group Championship in April before being the best performing Men's player at the Canterbury Golf season ending OOM Tour Championship at Clearwater shooting an event best round of 66.

Greenkeeper Trainee of the Year – Nic Dobbs

Nic receives this award due to his outstanding achievements during his Apprenticeship at Russley Golf Club. Starting his apprenticeship in March 2021 and completing it in November 2023, an impressive six months ahead of schedule, during which Nic demonstrated exceptional dedication and skill throughout his training.

His apprenticeship involved mastering on-job skills, theoretical knowledge, and block courses, all of which he passed with remarkable ease. Chris Gribben, Senior Agronomist at the New Zealand Turf Institute and overseer of the block courses, noted Nic as a standout, consistently excelling in all areas. Nicola Wood from the Primary ITO was equally impressed with Nic's progress and success over his apprenticeship period.

Under the mentorship of Mike Yorston, Superintendent at Russley Golf Course, Nic developed a comprehensive skill set and gained valuable knowledge, equipping him to now apply his expertise at one of the top courses in Melbourne's Sandbelt region, the prestigious Kingston Heath Golf Club. We extend our best wishes to Nic for his future endeavours and hope one day he returns to apply his trade within Canterbury.

Services to Greenkeeping – Bruce Lowe

Services to Greenkeeping award presented to Bruce Lowe of Prebbles Turf World. Bruce started with the company in the late 1980s and has never left their employment. Bruce was employed as their sales manager for their fledgling turf business after we decided it was time to expand past a few landscapers, the odd council and whoever came in off the street. With Bruce's employment, the company expanded into the golf market and wherever else we thought worthwhile, and it was then the company came up with the brand Turf World and it has stuck ever since.

Bruce has been largely responsible for the outstanding range of products Turf World sell especially on the imported front. Many of their suppliers have been Turf World a minimum of 20 years. A great testament to forging relationships not only with your suppliers but also the customers.

Bruce's passion for the betterment of greenkeeping especially in golf has always been his hallmark. His greatest belief was to look after the apprentices, as they are tomorrow's superintendents.

Bruce in his career has also served on many organising committees for upcoming national and local events to try and ensure everybody was given a fair go.

In terms of the Greenkeepers golf tournaments, Bruce always made himself available on these days. A golfer he certainly is not, though he was always very keen to improve his barbecuing skill and also on hand to pass out the liquids to the golfers on their way round. He managed this onerous task cheerfully whilst still managing to keep his hydration levels well supported.

I am sure everybody in the turf business will wish Bruce a long and fruitful retirement. However do not celebrate yet as he is not retiring until the end of March and then ties the caravan on to the Ute and drives off into the sunset to stop and stay wherever suits him at the time.

His company and the wider Greenkeeping industry company will surely miss him as he has been the backbone of the Turf World scene for so long.

Services to Greenkeeping – Peter Calder

Services to Greenkeeping award presented to Peter Calder of Drummond and Etheridge. This award recognises Peter's outstanding contributions to the industry over a career spanning more than 25 years at Drummond and Etheridge. Peter's expertise and passion for greenkeeping has made a significant impact on countless golf clubs. Specializing in John Deere machinery, Peter was renowned for his ability to guide even the smallest clubs in selecting the right equipment, ultimately transforming the quality of their turf and enhancing the playing surface.

Peter's integrity and commitment to his work earned him immense trust and respect among greenkeepers across the country. He was known not just as a seller, but as a trusted advisor who always ensured clubs received only what they truly needed. His dedication to the craft and the relationships he built along the way have made him a role model and mentor to many.

Peter Calder's well-deserved recognition as a fitting recipient of this award reflects the lasting legacy he has created in the greenkeeping community.

Vardon Trophy – Dominic Brett Kelly

The Vardon Trophy is awarded to the male player with the lowest stroke average over the course of the season from their applicable events. In order to be eligible to win the Vardon Trophy the player must have played a total of 12 rounds, once again showing a commitment to play multiple events as well as perform well at these. Dominic wins this year's award a stroke average of 70.17 from his 22 rounds.

Liz Douglas Trophy – Alisia Ren

The Liz Douglas Trophy is awarded to the female player with the lowest stroke average over the course of the season from the applicable events. In order to be eligible to win the Liz Douglas

Trophy the player must have played a total of 10 rounds and be a NZ citizen or resident. Alisia wins this year's award a stroke average of 76 from her 15 rounds.

Administrator of the Year 2024 – Malcom Wratt

This award is open to both male and female nominee's with a focus on particular contributions of theirs that have resulted in major improvements in the administration, management and well-being of the club. This year's recipient after being nominated by Coringa Golf Club is Malcom Wratt.

While this particular award is typically reserved for a person that is a paid administrator of their golf club, it is worth noting that while Malcom refuses any reimbursement for his work, you will see from his citation, his contributions are very much of an administrative nature.

Coringa's nomination for Malcolm:

Malcolm, for a number of years has been the Board Treasurer and by default Chief Executive Officer of our club.

Throughout Malcolm's many years on the Coringa Board, the club have heavily relied on his sound business experience, commercial acumen and wise advice. With his leadership, the Board have developed a Strategic Business Plan for the club, initially in conjunction with Golf NZ, but refreshed this year by the Board alone.

That document has become the driving force within the club and built a focus to identify various goals, acknowledging their achievement, and then resetting the goals. Malcolm's drive has ensured the Board priorities of debt management were actively actioned, in conjunction with asset modernisation and repair. As a result of his hard work the club now has:

- A significant asset management program, and
- A debt reduction plan, which should see the club largely debt free by the end of 2024

One of Malcolm's many duties at Coringa is managing our workforce. This involves recruitment, remuneration, staff reviews, filling in at the Proshop, helping in the café or grilling burger buns in the kitchen at our twilight tournaments.

Malcolm is also the leader within our ever-increasing group of members, who on Tuesdays undertake voluntary work on the course, clubrooms and include replanting of native plant plots where old pines and blue gums have been removed.

His leadership has enabled the course to return to what we believe is once again one of the best presented courses within Canterbury.

All of this has seen an ever-increasing number of members attracted to the club. This was particularly noticeable during the 2023-24 season, with membership numbers increasing to 600, (over double what it was 6 years ago).

Malcolm also plays a key role in writing and editing the weekly newsletter to members and deals with many of the issues they raise with him. He has also developed a group of volunteers who collectively manage all the administrative roles required at the club, which is a substantial saving and one of the reasons why the club is now in such a sound financial position.

In the past 12 months Malcolm has been the go-to-person for anything from negotiating leases, organising corporate events, answering queries about course availability and performing radio interviews.

Coringa Golf Club is very fortunate to have Malcolm as a member, and he has demonstrated outstanding skills in Leadership, Management and Administration and many 'other duties' in the past 12 months.

Volunteer of the Year 2024

This is open to both male and female nominee's and is based on voluntary activities carried out by an individual at any one particular golf club. This focusses on particular contributions that have resulted in any major improvements in the administration, management and well-being of the club.

This year we had a unique joint nomination from Ellesmere Golf Club for two of their extremely valued volunteers that they could not split, these recipients are Mike Steed & Ray Anderson

Ellesmere's nomination for both Mike and Ray:

Mike Steed is our club President and previous Club Captain who also spends considerable time as a volunteer working on our course. This year Mike also had the added responsibility as the club treasurer at very short notice. Mike was responsible for a plan that has meant the contracting of these services to an outside agency and to someone whose knowledge of golf was very limited, requiring Mike to help upskill this person while doing a most admirable job as President.

Our club is currently in a great place financially, and in spirit, due to Mike's calm attitude and his drive to keep our club evolving, however it is the volunteer work on the course that Mike has excelled even further.

He spends considerable time working on improving our course, trimming trees, on the green's mower on a Saturday morning, before changing into his golf attire ... a gesture that is widely appreciated by our members.

Mike has been at the forefront of implementing the club's future programme of tree maintenance, removal and replacement, together with a team of volunteers. Once the trees and stumps have been removed, he is the guy tidying up the area keeping it to a standard that has allowed the rest of the club members to continue normal play.

Ray Anderson was earlier this year elected Patron of our club in recognition of the work he has done as a past President, Club Captain and Course Convenor, as well as more than 20 years' service on the committee of the club.

Ray is a key helper at our monthly Wednesday tournaments, which is an important source of funding for our club, and he has been since its inception 25 years ago. However, it is also on the course that Ray makes the biggest contribution to our club.

This year our irrigation system was upgraded, and Ray has been the key component in this upgrade, in the digging of holes and replacement of pipes and sprinklers. This is no easy task given the size of some of the stones just below the surface, left behind where the Rakaia River

once flowed. Ray also assumes the role of greenkeeper when our sole greenkeeper takes time off, including the cutting of new holes which is a job more suited to a younger person.

When researching some background for these nominations, we discovered that both Mike and Ray have each contributed more than 1000 hours of volunteer time in the past 12 months to enhance and beautify our course. Hence, we cannot separate them, and the Ellesmere Committee decided to make this combined nomination.

We are very fortunate that many people volunteer at our course, so while we are nominating Mike and Ray, an award for them, is actually an award for all the volunteers at our club.

Women's Golfer of the Year – Sora Kishida

Sora made quite an impact upon her arrival into NZ where she had relocated from Japan with the plan to stay, play and study for 3 years in Canterbury. It became obvious very early after her arrival of her skillset as she won the 2023 u16 South Island Age Group Championships tournament in Ashburton just weeks after arriving. Following this she continued to immerse herself in the local playing scene taking advantage of all available junior and senior events as well as finding herself a club to play Pollock Cup for. She soon backed up her SI tournament performance when attending and playing at the NZ u16 Age Group Championship tournament where she finished an impressive 3rd. She was then subsequently selected for her first canterbury Women's team as she played in the annual fixture vs Aorangi, debuting in the number 1 position, a big ask for a 15-year-old on debut. Following this she was selected for the Canterbury Girls team that travelled to Rotorua for the NZ Interprovincial tournament, again leading the team at number 1 taking on some of the best female juniors from across the country. She took on this challenge and performed admirably finishing the tournament with 3 wins including a crucial win in the final which the team went on to win. She was then selected for the Canterbury Women's South Island Interprovincial team, again playing at number 1, helping the team lift the trophy. Individually she then travelled to Hamilton to play in the NZ Amateur Champion, and after making it through qualifying she went on to be the best performing Canterbury female player at the tournament making it all the way through to the quarter-finals. Back representing Canterbury, she was then selected as to make her debut for Canterbury at NZ Women's interprovincial attending the tournament in the Kapiti Coast, during which she achieved two wins and a half against the best female players across the country. In 2024 she again played at numerous tournaments, some of her highlight performances included a 4th place finish at the NI Age Group Championships, winning the u16 Canterbury Age Group Championship, 3rd place at the Otago Stroke Play, 4th place at the Canterbury Stoke Play, and 7th place at the NZ Stroke Play. Finally, this season she won the Canterbury Open u16 Order of Merit title.

Men's Golfer of the Year - Cooper Moore

Despite Cooper's tender age, he has been well known in the region for some time now and the past season has seen him continue to make significant process in his development, playing both here in NZ, and around the world.

His year started with a runner up finish in the u16 NZ Age group Championships in Timaru in late August before kitting up in Canterbury colours for the annual Aorangi fixture recording two

victories as part of the team's victory in September. This was followed by his first Charles Tour event top 10 finish as he secured 8th place in the Clearwater event in October. That same month he was selected as the number one player for the Canterbury Boys team going on to win 5 of his 6 matches. This led to his subsequent selection for the Canterbury men's team for the South Island Interprovincial in Dunedin in October, where he recorded 3 wins from his four matches. An appearance at the NZ National Amateur Championship followed in November where he progressed to the first round, before his eventual naming for the first time as part of the Canterbury Men's NZ Interprovincial team where he would play in the number 4 position, an impressive feat for a 15-year-old. His performance at the Interprovincial was impressive too, recording 4 wins and 2 halves helping the team come within inches of making the tournament final.

Into 2024, and his positive performances in the individual tournaments continues. First up he claimed the u16 Canterbury Age Group prize before accepting an invite to play in the Australian Master of Amateurs event in Victoria, which is the number 1 ranked amateur event in Australia. Next up he returned to NZ to claim his first senior district stroke play title when he travelled to Dunedin for the Otago Stroke Play finishing as the leading amateur. This was followed by a third-place finish in the Canterbury Stroke Play which featured some of the countries best amateur players. He was then awarded the 2024 New Zealand Eagles' Golf Society golfer of the year award in March, during which he recorded a personal best round of 63 at Hastings GC. In April he again crossed the ditch to record a 12th place finish in the Australian Boys Amateur, before heading even further a field as part of a Golf NZ tour where he headed to Japan to play in the Royal Junior tournament where he finished a very impressive 10th on a long challenging course. Closer to home, in April he secured the season long Canterbury Golf men's and u19 Order of Merit titles before in May being selected to move into Phase Three of the Golf NZ programme where he joined their National Academy.

Finally, in June he went back to Aussie to play in the Queensland Junior Amateur event where he recorded a 3rd place finish before last month facing arguably the biggest and most exciting challenge to date in his blossoming career when he travelled over to Scotland to play in the R&A Junior Open. An event played every 2 years to which all golfing nations affiliated to the R&A are invited to enter their best under-16 boy and girl golfers, and is closely linked to The Open Championship itself. Incredibly he recorded a stunning 2nd place finish.

Service Awards

Olive Tapu (Golfing Achievement)

Olive has earned this award through her representation in the Canterbury Women's team at NZ Interprovincial tournaments over various years. She has attended the last 8 consecutive NZ interprovincial tournaments from 2016 in New Plymouth through to last year's tournament in the Kapiti Coast. Her longevity in the game and her ability to keep pushing and making these teams that have changed in profile throughout the last 8 years is a credit to her.

Mike Rondel

Mike is receiving this award based on his invaluable contributions to Canterbury Golf through his involvement as part of the Executive. After previously serving on the Harewood Golf Club board, Mike, a chartered accountant, first joined the Executive in 2019, bringing with him an extremely valuable skill set including expertise in financial audits, risk assessment, governance roles and strategy development. In 2020 Mike stepped up to the role of Canterbury Golf President, a role he assumed for four years, during which playing an integral part in the development of the 2021-2026 Canterbury Golf Strategic Plan and its implementation. Mike's expertise were also recognised by Golf NZ and in December 2023 was elected to the Golf NZ Board. However, with his commitment to Golf in Canterbury continuing, fortunately he agreed to continue on the Canterbury Executive, albeit stepping aside from the Presidents position. We are truly appreciative of the work Mike has and continues to do.

Wayne Hallinan

Wayne is a well-known character amongst the Canterbury Central scene, a passionate Weedons Country Club man, Wayne has served as the Canterbury Central Chair since 2019. It is his contribution as the Central chair over the last 6 years that we would like to acknowledge and celebrate this evening, from his work alongside his pairs and Canterbury Golf to oversee the details of the various Central interclub competitions, to his involvement in the Canterbury Central representative teams and tours, his contributions continue to be very valuable.

Noel Stewart

A proud Waimairi Beach member and board member, Noel has been a big contributor for both his club and the Metro subcommittee. Wayne became the Metro Chair in 2017, continued in this role right through until June of this year. A massive 8 consecutive year in the role, which he performed admirably working alongside his fellow subcommittee members as well Canterbury Golf to help organise and coordinate the various interclub competitions contested passionately by Metro clubs and players. We would like to thank Noel for the work he has done in this over the last 8 years, acknowledged this evening with his service award.

Ann Glading

Ann has been a member of the Canterbury Women's committee since 2014, this year marking her 10th consecutive year as part of this committee. A passionate lady who is always willing to lend a hand both within her club Waimairi Beach, or as part of the ladies committee, it is volunteers like Ann that make our game so great and that we want to highlight this evening with a much-deserved service award.

Claire Ballantyne

A long-term member of the Canterbury Women's committee, Claire has been a member since 2017, another who has served for huge period of time, 8 years in all. Claire as part of her role on the committee, also took on the role of the 9-Hole convenor, working alongside Canterbury Golf to organise and deliver the respective events and competitions in this space. Claire has recently

decided to step down from these roles, to have a much-earned break, as such there is no better time to acknowledge and thank her for her contributions. Please join me in congratulating Claire Ballantyne.

Lyn Robertson (Distinguished Service Award)

Lyn has been a big contributor to the Canterbury Women's game, first joining the committee way back in 2011. She continued on this committee right through to 2018, at which time she was presented her first service award by Canterbury Golf to acknowledge her contribution to that point. Lyn however has continued on, and also continued contributing as a course rater, a valuable resource for our clubs. I can confirm that Lyn has been nominated by her club Amberly to be re-elected to the Women's committee at the upcoming AGM, if accepted at the AGM next month, this will mark her 15th consecutive year upon the Women's Committee, an amazing feat.

Kate Johnstone - Life Membership

A special part of the evening where we honour a long-standing Canterbury Golf volunteer with their Canterbury Golf Life membership.

Tonight, this will be awarded to Kate Johnstone. It is perhaps fitting that we have these awards evening tonight at Christchurch Golf Club, where Kate is a long-term member. She is very familiar face, not just in the Women's game but for Canterbury Golf too having first joined the Canterbury Golf Executive in October 2014, with this year marking her 10th consecutive year on the Executive. During this time Kate has also served as Vice-President on several occasions, firstly elected as vice-president in September 2017 to assist then President Steve Kilpatrick, and then again in March 2022 assisting President Mike Rondel. During her time on the Executive, she has also been a valuable female voice on the Representative sub-committee, this insight leading on from her previous contributions to the Canterbury Women's Representative space. Between 2014 and 2016 Kate was the Canterbury Women's assistant manager, which of course included her contribution towards the 2015 NZ Interprovincial title the team won that year in Ashburton. Continuing on with her contributions to the female space, Kate has also been a member of the Canterbury Women's Committee since September 2016, a position she continues today working as an invaluable communication link between this committee and the Executive to ensure the women's game and its development continues to be of high priority to our organisation. Alongside Kate's tremendous volunteer contribution within the various committees stated earlier, she is genuinely an amazing, and kind women that we are lucky to have involved in our game. Her contributions span for over a decade and therefore it is fitting that tonight this is acknowledged appropriately.