

Media Release;

2018 NZPGA Championship to take place at the Manawatu Golf Club

The Manawatu Golf Club will host the **2018 NZPGA Championship**, to be played from **February 22nd – 25th** at its Hokowhitu course in Palmerston North. The tournament will be a PGA Tour of Australasia event and will again carry prize money of \$125,000, consistent with the 2017 LawnMaster Horizon Golf NZPGA Championship event staged at the Manawatu Golf Club.

“The 2017 LawnMaster Horizon Golf NZPGA Championship was an overwhelming success, the players loved the hospitality shown by the Palmerston North community and the Hokowhitu course that was presented in immaculate condition, the tournament exceeded all our expectations and we have been doing everything we can to get the event back to the region for another year. With longer lead in time to the 2018 Championship, we are very excited we can make next year’s event even bigger.” said PGA General Manager Dominic Sainsbury

Manawatu Golf Club General Manager, Warren Collett endorsed these comments. “We are delighted to host this prestigious event again and build on the success from 2017. This will be a first for me to be involved in such a historical tournament and being able to stamp my mark on the event. The support from the membership in 2017 was huge and the expectation is they will all come on board again in the many voluntary roles associated with running an event like this.

The club was very grateful with the ongoing support of the Horizon Golf Trust and Lawnmaster whom have indicated they will be on board and they are backed up by the many supporting local sponsors. We look forward to welcoming a top class field to Hokowhitu next February.” Work will now commence working alongside the strong band of sponsors.

Mr Sainsbury pointed out that the PGA Championship would again take place the week before the ISPS Handa NZ Open in Queenstown and would consequently attract a strong field of professional golfers from Australia, New Zealand and likely Asia, Europe and the USA.

The Manawatu Golf Club was founded in 1895 at Hokowhitu, which continues to be its current location. Previous PGA winners on the course have been Arthur Ham (1922), Fred Rutter (1930), Andy Shaw (1946) Kel Nagle (1957) and Jarryd Felton (2017).

The 2018 LawnMaster Horizon Golf NZPGA Championship winner will join a long list of famous names on the McDougall Cup, first played for in 1920 when it was won by Joe Kirkwood. The current holder is Jarryd Felton of Australia who won in a three man play off over Josh Younger and local Ben Campbell. The leading New Zealand player will receive the Sir Bob Charles Trophy, which was initiated in 2015 and won by Josh Geary. Ben Campbell won this title in 2017.

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