

Media Release:

2018 Horizon Golf NZPGA Championship to take place at the Manawatu Golf Club

The Manawatu Golf Club will host the 2018 Horizon Golf NZPGA Championship, to be played from 22-25 **February** on its Hokowhitu course in Palmerston North. The tournament will be sanctioned by the ISPS HANDA PGA Tour of Australasia and will again carry prize money of NZD\$125,000.

“The 2017 Horizon Golf NZPGA Championship was an overwhelming success, the players loved the hospitality shown by the Palmerston North community and the Hokowhitu course was presented in immaculate condition,” said PGA of New Zealand General Manager Dominic Sainsbury.

“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.” 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 for the ongoing support of the Horizon Golf Trust who 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.”

Mr Sainsbury pointed out that the NZPGA Championship would again take place the week before the ISPS HANDA New Zealand Open in Queenstown which will benefit the quality of the playing field and would once again provide the opportunity to attract a strong field of professional golfers from Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Europe and the USA.

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

The 2018 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 in the Championship will receive the Sir Bob Charles Trophy, which was initiated in 2015 and won by Josh Geary. Ben Campbell won this title in 2017.

For more information please contact:

Dominic Sainsbury, PGA of New Zealand (dominic.sainsbury@pga.org.nz or 0276723200)

Warren Collett, Manawatu Golf Club (gm@manawatugolfclub.com or 021 02141591)