

Couple make a lifestyle of vets golf

BY COLIN THORSEN

Clarks Beach husband and wife Terry and Karen Tapp will have fond memories of their double victory at the Waipā Veterans Two-Day Golf Classic at Te Awamutu course.

Terry took out the men's 36 holes division one stableford with 81 points (38, 43), while Karen headed the women's field with 71 points (36, 35), pipping last year's winner Sylvia Gooch of Te Awamutu by one point.

A field of 71 from Whangaroa north of Kerikeri to Christchurch teed off, many arriving in their mobile motor homes after travelling to the various veterans' golfing events around the country for the past seven weeks.

What got the Tapps into Vets Golf, joining the 3500 other members throughout the country including over 100 with mobile homes and caravans on tour?

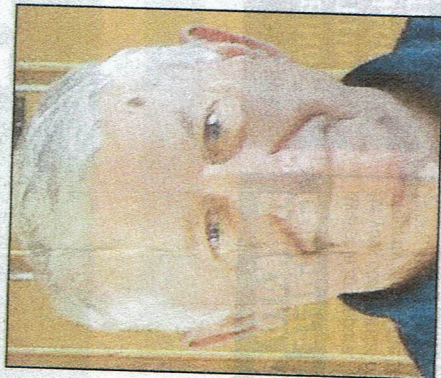
"In 2014 we sold up everything, house, cars, business etc, bought a huge caravan with all the bells and whistles and hit the road," said Karen.

"On board we had all the toys, inflatable boat, kayak, golf clubs, bikes — you name it we had it."

"After eight months, we ended up at Clarks Beach, joined the Golf Club and entered the two-day Vets tournament. It was at that tournament I made friends with a lot of the people we spend the Vets Calendar with now."

From Terry's point of view, Karen said: "Golf is his passion and now it is our lives from August, when the tour starts, to the end of May when we finish."

Like many of the veteran golfers who played at Te Awa-



Men's division one winner, eight handicapper Terry Tapp.



Women's winner, 18 handicapper Karen Tapp.

Photos / Supplied

mutu, the Tapps' motorised caravan is their home for nine months of the year.

"Without it we would definitely not be able to do the golfing calendar to the extent we do," she said.

Happy Hour is held without fail by these veteran golfers.

"In the warmer summer weather everyone joins in whether you drink alcohol or not."

"The Vets is all about sharing your day... golf often the topic, especially the men, but most importantly it is a chance to meet and help new people on the tour."

"Often there are birthdays to celebrate, a guitar, ukulele turn up and a trip down memory lane is always popular."

"How is it we can remember the lyrics to songs from the 40s 50s etc but can't remember who we played with that day?"

Friendships are made and are

treasured.

"We really get to know people and every one has a story to tell. Often, if a couple go home and then come back, they will bring back some of the summer fruits, vegies and share them around."

The Tapps said they enjoyed the Waipā two-day event and Te Awamutu hospitality very much, saying the people were very friendly, helpful and interesting to talk to.

They praised Te Awamutu Veterans convenor Terry Jensen and his committee for organising such a successful tournament, along with green keeping assistant Trevor Toon and his band of helpers who had the course in excellent condition.

"We will be back next year for sure, provided we remain fit and healthy," said Karen Tapp.

Results: Men, division 1 stableford: Terry Tapp (Clarks Beach) 38, 43, 81; Aaron Chen



Marking their cards during the Waipā Veteran Two-Day Golf Classic at Te Awamutu course were, from left: Steven Parkin (Wainuiomata), Norman Lofthouse (Kaitake), Noel Robertson (Riverside), John Hill (Te Awamutu).

Photo / Colin Thorsen

(Whitford Park) 40, 39, 79; John Rayner (Manukorihi) 41, 37, 78; John Staples (Te Awamutu) 39, 37, 76; Barry Ross (Te Awamutu) 37, 37, 74; Tim Crotty (Te Awamutu) 38, 35, 73; Lou Marty (Te Awamutu) 33, 39, 72; Andrew Brown (Te Awamutu) 37, 33, 70.

Women: Karen Tapp (Clarks Beach) 36, 35, 71; Sylvia Gooch (Te Awamutu) 38, 32, 70; Helen Robertson (Riverside) 33, 36, 69; Karen Campton (Te Awamutu) 32, 36, 68; Jenny Chen (Whitford Park) 34, 33, 67; Mary Jack (Sherwood Park) 34, 32, 66; Linda McAlister (Castlecliff) 31, 33, 64; Alma Goodwin (Te Awamutu) 31, 33, 64; Glenda Giddy (Wainui) 35, 29, 64; Brenda Whitehead (Levin) 35, 29, 64.

Men, division 2 stableford: Dave Zander (Rangitikei) 39, 38, 77; Norman Lofthouse (Kaitake) 39, 37, 76; Tim Young (Te Awamutu) 40, 35, 75; John Hill (Te Awamutu) 32, 41, 73; Alby Bron (Castlecliff) 40, 33, 73; Roy Greenhalgh (Te Awamutu) 36, 34, 70; Jon Stammers (Whangaroa) 39, 30, 69; Peter Emery (Te Awamutu) 38, 30, 68.

Thursday, best nett, women: Sylvia Gooch 71; men div 1: John Rayner 67; men div 2: Tim Young 68. Stableford, women: Karen Tapp 36; men, div 1: Aaron Chen 40; men div 2: Alby Bron 40.

Friday, women's nett: Karen Campton 73; men div 1: Gordon Kirkham 68. Stableford, women: Helen Robertson 36. men div 1: Tarry Tapp 43; men div 2: Dave Zander 38.