

## Waipu Croquet Club hosts national tournament

It was a big day at the Waipu Croquet Club on Friday 1 February when nine of New Zealand's top ranked women Croquet Golf players arrived for a three-day invitation tournament. The tenth player Jean Kent is a member of the Waipu club so was in the welcoming party.

Club President Bev Pomana reflected on how far the club had come in the past few years with a new clubhouse replacing a little shed with a dirt floor, no toilet, no electricity and no running water and now three croquet lawns. She said a big tournament like this would not have been possible in past years.

Darla Blake, the President of Northland Croquet, had travelled from Doubtless Bay for the event and said it was a proud day for Northland to be hosting this national tournament.

Stuart Finlayson in full regalia piped as the competitors arrived and then led the ten in a circuit around one of the greens before the games began.

Tournament Manager Lynda Small explained that each of the ten competitors would play every other player, so nine matches in total and three rounds each day.

The players were: Ashley Cooke - Mt Maunganui, Helen Reeves - Heretaunga, Nicola Clement - Park Croquet Club of Hawera, Pixi Jones Merredew - Warkworth, Patricia Anderton - Morrinsville, Marion Taylor - Warkworth, Christine Newton - Matamata, Vanessa Hanna - Hamilton East, Mattie Clarkson - Hawera and Jean Kent of Waipu.

Jean Tafa of Waipu was tournament referee.

The winners of the CNZ Women's Invitation were - 1st place Helen Reeves from Hawkes Bay, 2nd place Ashley Cooke from Bay of Plenty 3rd place Nicola Clement from South Taranaki. Waipu's Jean Kent was 5th on a countback.



Piper Stuart Finlayson leads the competitors on a march around a green before the competition began