

# Waerenga Bowling Club & Croquet Club

18 August 2013

Info supplied by Janet Carey  
of Pukekheke Croquet Club



Google earth

feet 100  
meters 40

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## CROQUET AT HUNTLY

A successful four days' open tournament conducted by the **Huntly Croquet Club** was concluded this week. Ideal weather had prevailed throughout the play. The clubs represented were: **Hamilton, Whitiara, Ngarna-wahia, Taupiri, Te Kanwhata, Waerenga and Huntly.** The president of the **Huntly Club, Mrs. H. T. Watkins,** presented the prizes on behalf of the club.

## CROQUET

### KIWI CLUB OPENS SEASON

The Kiwi Croquet Club (Taniwha) was favoured with good weather for the opening of its 1933-34 season. The president, Mrs. G. Boot, welcomed the visitors and called on Miss Storey to play the first ball, and then declared the courts open. Afternoon tea was served in the pavilion, after which the president presented Mrs. Stevenson (ex-president and coach of the club), with a small token in appreciation of the interest she has taken in the development of the club. Following were the winners of the various competitions:—Progressive croquet: A, Mrs. Stevenson; B, Mrs. Boot. Bell croquet: Mrs. McDowell. Ball peg: Miss Storey. Angle croquet: Mrs. Boot. Circle croquet, Mrs. Harris. Hurry scurry: Mrs. Lovell and Miss Storey.

Forerunner of Waerenga  
Croquet Club

### CROQUET AND BOWLS

When Mrs A.E. Stevenson a keen croquet player, came to visit her daughter, Mrs Boy Storey, she brought her mallet with her and introduced some of the local ladies to the joys and frustrations of the game. Later when she came to live permanently in Taniwha she very quickly selected a relatively smooth part of the paddock adjoining the tennis courts and laid out a "green". Fortunately sheep were run on the farm and the surface was not too bad. Apart from buckets of dirt, carried by Mrs Stevenson herself, to fill up the worst hollows, no formation work was done.

Those who took part became instantly enthusiastic, so much so that if transport was not available, Mrs Chambers, Mrs Harris and Mrs Abe Sherson would walk from their homes, near the church, to Taniwha, and walk home again afterwards. All for a game of croquet. The first time that Mrs Harris and Mrs Sherson were overtaken by a vehicle they hid in the roadside scrub because, as they later explained, the driver might think them daft to be walking the five kilometres each way over rough roads, and carrying their croquet mallets as well. Mrs Bert Carley, Mrs Gardiner, Mrs Jim Muir, Mrs McBurney, Mrs Boot, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Frank Carter were amongst those who joined together to form the Kiwi Croquet Club.

Abe Sherson had recently put down a large lawn and, when this became usable, many of the ladies found it more convenient to play there. Abe produced a set of bowls and, when the news spread, one or two residents dug out, from their junk rooms, bowls which had not been used for years. Much to the, loudly expressed disgust, of the ladies, they were unceremoniously bundled off the best part of the lawn. The few who came to play bowls in the 1932/33 season returned, with friends, for 1933/34. Names which come to mind are George Boot, Friday Harris, Lofty Chambers, Charlie Sampson, Charlie Teddy, Don Murray and Alex Couper.

Mrs Chambers had marked out a croquet green on her tennis court and this was used while the second green, at Sherson's was under seige by the bowlers.

It was Don Murray who, in 1933, called the meeting which led to the formation of the Waerenga Bowling Club.

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NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 10 NOVEMBER 1931

The Kiwi Croquet Club, of Taniwha, was recently opened, a large number of visitors and members of the club attending the official ceremony. Mrs. J. D. Muir, president of the club, thanked Mr. Storey, who was accompanied by Mrs. Storey, for the gratuitous use of his land, which made it possible for the lawns to be ready for play this season. Miss Storey played the first ball. A special tribute was paid to Mrs. Stevenson, and also to the gentlemen who had assisted the ladies of the club in regard to the lawns. Progressive croquet was played and was keenly enjoyed. Afternoon tea was served by the members of the tennis and croquet clubs, concluding a most successful opening.