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## *Eagles Golfing Society of Hawke's Bay (Inc)*

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### **WHO ARE THE EAGLES?**

In 1956 a group of Auckland golfers realized that there was very little to encourage youngsters to take up the game of golf. So they formed a group with the twin aims of fellowship in golf and the development of Junior golf by providing equipment, tuition and the opportunity to play the game.

By 1964 the movement had spread to most of the larger regions, become more organized and developed an effective national controlling body. Membership of Eagles is dependent on golfing peers recognizing an individual's contribution to golf, and nominating that golfer for inclusion. This contribution is mainly through official positions in golf clubs, voluntary involvement in Junior organization or Club activities. The membership then votes on whether or not to accept him. Members are expected to continue contributing to the development of golf, particularly for Juniors, by involvement in activities and helping in supporting money raising ventures.

In 1969 the Eagles Society partnered up with the Murray Halberg Trust (now the Halberg Disability Sports Foundation). Major charity tournaments are organized throughout the country where business leaders pay to play, the proceeds being used by the Foundation to help disabled children. Regional Societies ask for sponsorship and donated prizes for an annual Charity Tournament. Since 1969 the Eagles Golfing Society of New Zealand has contributed over 4 million dollars to the work of the Halberg Trust.

To become an Eagle, golfers are nominated from outside their home club, either for proven work and ongoing service to golf that they have carried out either at Club, Provincial or National level; or being either a Provincial or National representative as an executive or player. Members vote on accepting any new members, and candidates do not know of their nomination until their membership of Eagles has been ratified.

Each year, we in Hawke's Bay conduct a number of initiatives to raise funds, but our major effort is the Charity Tournament each year in September at the Napier Golf Club. We have conducted a Halberg tournament ever since 1980 and have contributed over \$310,000 to the Foundation. Over the last ten years we have raised close to \$15,000 on average each year.

In addition, we sponsor the development of junior golf in Hawke's Bay, providing funds to assist coaching and travel for promising junior players.

The current Hawke's Bay office bearers are:

President: Carne Berry (Pongaroa)

Captain: Greg Bennetts (Napier)

Secretary: Jeremy Ballantyne (Waipukurau)

Treasurer: David Howie (Hastings)

Committee: Mac White (Onga Onga), Jamie MacLeod (Waipukurau), Peter Scott (Karamu), Allen Connor (Hawke's Bay), Craig Wedd (Puketitiri)