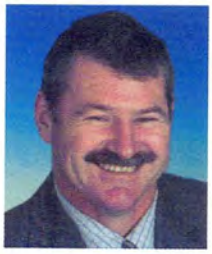
# PERSONALITIES INVOLVED WITH RAGLAN CLUB

TWO well known characters who have blessed the Raglan Club with their presence over the years.

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# PROUD MOMENT FOR FOUNDATION MEMBERS

A highlight of the 25th anniversary celebrations was the presentation of engraved tankards by Mrs Ann Arter and Ralph Blanchard to members who had been with the club continually over the first 25 years. Some recipients are pictured. The wives received a orchid shoulder spray.


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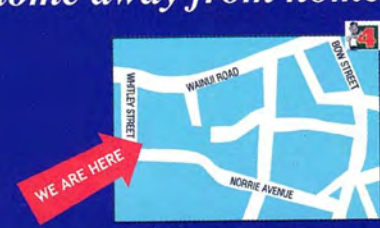
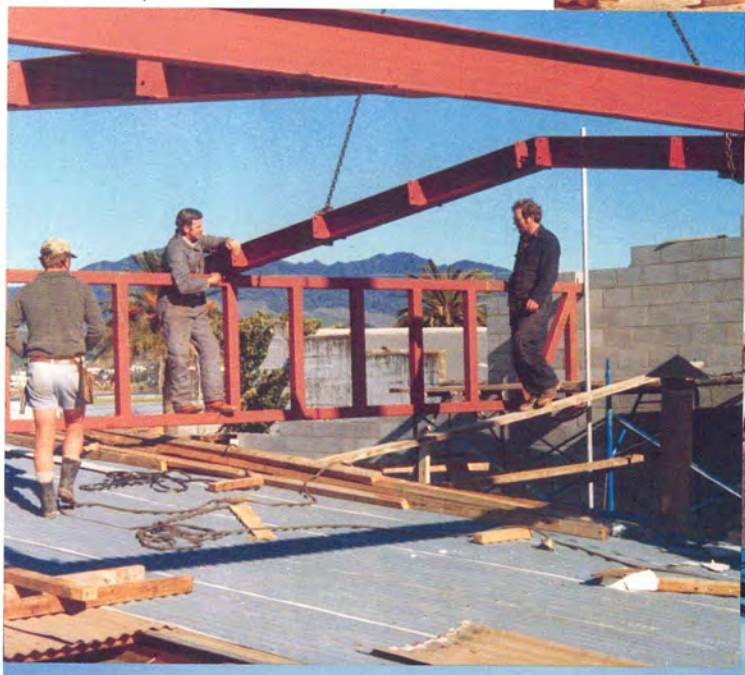



Office: 07 825 8362

# THE CLUB CHANGES SHAPE

Over the years the growth of the club has meant the original building has undergone change. Were you involved when these alterations took place?



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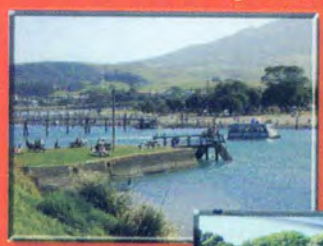

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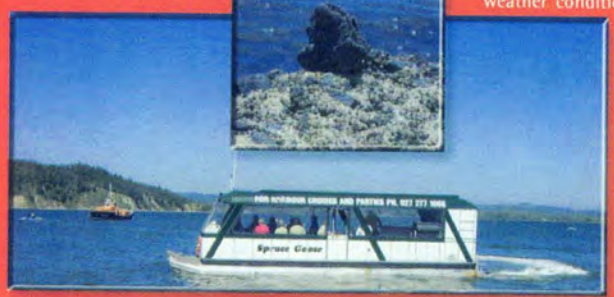

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DOUG ARTER - Raglan Club Secretary 1970 - 1980. It was recorded at the time - "This gentlemen gave unstintingly of his time and knowledge to the club. Many of his ideas and ways will continue for years to come. He was a tireless worker for the club, very loyal"

# 4 FOUR SQUARE RAGLAN

Richard & Jane Jacobsen *Owner/Operators*

**Richard Jacobsen** *Store Owner/Operator*

Three years ago we bought into a Raglan Institution, Petchells 4 Square, when we moved in it was just turning 80 years young.
We had not been in retail before and so far the last three years have been a very steep learning curve.
We have made a lot of changes in that time and thank our community and staff for their help and patience; we hope that most of the changes are for the better.
Commuting from the big smoke of Hamilton to the small community of Raglan has been a real eye opener and pleasure, again we would like to thank Raglan for all their help and understanding we have received and I apologise for not remembering all the names of people who made the effort to introduce themselves to us over the last three years. It has been a very busy and enjoyable time for us.

**Marty Davies** *Produce Manager*

I started working here at Petchells when I was 10 years old bagging sugar and flour as you couldn't buy these pre packed in those days. Biscuits came in tins not cartons as they do today. We would phone the local farmers and make up orders and deliver them 3 times a week. I received a scholarship here at Raglan which led me away to my own store in Hamilton. Just as the wheel turns I have done a full circle and I am back to where it all began.
The store has undergone a huge transformation since I began here those many years ago, my Produce Department is now chilled and the variety has increased 10 fold and with today's transportation we now receive produce from all over the world!

Marty Davies *Produce Manager*

**Richard Roberts** *Store Manager*

I started here about the same time as Richard Jacobsen, I have come from a retail background but not in Grocery, In the 3 years I have been here it has been a great pleasure to meet everyone and see the wonderful changes made here at Raglan 4 Square.
We have a great Team here now and it reflects on our current status within the Foodstuffs Group. Our store has gone from being ranked 12th in the group to the No 1 store 6 months straight! Fantastic effort, this is also attributed to all our loyal Raglan customers who now shop with us instead of making the trip to the city, Thank you all and it has been a great time.

Randy Cain *Deli*

Billy Gannaway *Hardware and Fishing*

Gina Robbs & Brenda Svensen
*Checkout Supervisors*

# 4 FOUR SQUARE RAGLAN

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TRAVEL CLUB members ready for one of their 'journeys' into the unknown.

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# MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS FOR CLUB BOWLERS

THE signing of the first documents, then the amalgamation with the Raglan Bowling Club and the opening of the new astrograss green by club president, Peter Hockenhull, were club highlights in 1999. The first kitty was rolled by women's patron, Flora Williams, and the first bowl by men's patron, Rex Coombes.

RAGLAN opening 1993 (at back) Peter Newman, Tom Davies, Tom Mitchell, Rex Coombes (in front) Colin Lendrum and Murray Mead. RIGHT: Raglan Club bowlers D Healey, M Donn (back) R Turner, M Mead (front) at the 1993 New Zealand Chartered Clubs' tournament in Hamilton. They did well to make the last eight.

# BOWLS ACTION - ON AND OFF GREENS

RAGLAN bowlers have seen plenty of action with the various upgrades of their clubrooms and greens. Flooded greens in 2003 meant the astrograss had to be replaced.


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# SUB-SECTIONS
# OUTDOOR BOWLS

The Raglan Bowling Club opened in 1921 on the same site where it is today.

First president was Mr J Thompson with Mr D Welch secretary-treasurer.

As there was no building, a marquee was used for special events.

A small pavilion (cost $170) was erected in 1924. By 1925 membership had increased to 25.

Minutes from 1930 indicated committee members were at loggerheads over interpretation of rules and said members had promised to 'be good boys'.

A new pavilion was built in 1955. In 1978 club members erected the original part of the main pavilion with an extension in 1986. Upgrades have happened during recent years and now the club operates in much better conditions.

Water was needed for the greens so in 1936 the club installed its own bore. By 1947 the original bore had become unsuitable and a second was sunk. Water restrictions in 1987 caused some problems for the greens and the club was forced to obtain water from the Domain Board. An in-ground irrigation system was installed in 1993 and is still in use today.

Women were permitted the use of a green in 1927 and could play in men's teams if invited. On the men's closing day in 1939, a ladies day was incorporated. Women in the community were invited to play with the view of them becoming members. Membership was open to women in 1943 with 11 accepting the opportunity.

A women's club was established in 1947 when the No2 green became available and mixed play was permitted for the 1949 Christmas tournament.

There used to be a hedge that separated the men's and women's greens and another hedge with a gate in it that separated the women's green from the croquet lawn.

The croquet club used the bowling club land (since sold and now has two houses on it). There was an annual Christmas exchange between women bowlers and the all women croquet club. The croquet club closed about 1969.

A locker system to store drinks operated in 1954. The new pavilion built in 1955 must have had bar facilities. In 1956 it was decided no women would be permitted intoxicating liquor during tournaments.

Inter-club fixtures were regular features of the 1950s and some are still played today.

Ron Pearce and Tom Stephens won the Waikato-Thames Valley Centre's pairs title in 1956. It was Ron Pearce's third centre title. He had previously won the pairs in 1944 and then the coveted singles crown in 1956. The Stephens-Pearce combination won the Raglan pairs four years on end.

The club operated in overdraft for several years and so in 1968 it was ruled no free liquor would be provided at tournaments. This cost saving venture along with a raffle for a 'trotting filly', donated by Tom Stephens, helped the club overcome its financial difficulties.

The women had their clubrooms in the form of an old bach. The men erected a new building for them around 1957 and rented it to the women's club for 87 pounds annually.

Rex Coombes, president in 1997 and now club patron, wrote: "The club has a proud record of fellowship and hospitality which must be preserved in the face of challenging times ahead."

During the 1950s the women's tournaments had 28 teams playing on a regular basis. The club flourished. Many activities were held with a fancy dress day, where everyone took part, a feature.

Women who gained Waikato titles included - 1953: M Ford, champion of champion first year singles. 1955: A Bates, champion of champions junior singles. 1956: J McKenzie, L Thomas, R Pearce, F Litchwark, open fours tournament. 1958: R Vance, intermediate champion of champions singles. 1961: E Adamson, T Thomas, E Litchwark, A Bates, champion of champions fours. 1967: E Williams, intermediate champion of champions singles. 1973: F Williams (skip), J Jackson, C Beggs, K Moore, graded fours winners from 68 teams.

A well-known member was Kath Evans who served as president of both Waikato and New Zealand. She was also secretary-treasurer of the women's world bowls tournament held in Wellington in 1973.

Ken Brown and Ross Turner were applauded for their feats on the green. Brown won the club singles, pairs and fours in 1987 while Turner collected the singles, pairs, triples and fours in 1991. In recent times Graham Stephens has collected all four championships in the one year. Amazing!

In 1978 Ken Brown, Hec Dunning and J Walford won the centre triples.

Later both the men's and women's clubs followed the national trend and experienced dwindling memberships.

On February 22, 1997, the men celebrated 75 years of bowling while on May 6, 1997, the women's club celebrated 50 years. The jubilee tournaments were well supported.

The men's jubilee open fours went to R Turner, C Cliff, W Jeffcoat, M Cook from another Raglan team, M Mead, T McNeil, D Robertson, M MacDonald. The mixed fours went to W Jeffcoat, J Healey, P Laity, H Subritzky from C Lendrum, K Wood, M Donn, D McCardie with T McNeil, I Bull, J Hawkins, L Harker third.

Margaret Mead, Shirley Cook, Eunice Turner and Joyce Davis-Goff were praised for their organisation of the women's jubilee and Thelma McNeil and Patsy Graham for their work behind the scenes. Special awards went to Joyce Davis-Goff and Eunice Turner.

With the amalgamation of the men's and women's associations at national level, it was decided to amalgamate the Raglan clubs. The AGM on June 6, 1998, elected the first committee of men and women combined.

The desire for an all-weather green brought another major change in 1999 when the decision to amalgamate with the Raglan Club was made. Signing of the first document


CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

OPENING of Raglan Bowling Club on November 16, 1922. E W Bernard is delivering a bowl with the Pegler home in the background. Others in this historic picture include Percy Sweetman and Orton Wallis.

happened on February 19 with the final legal document being effective from April 1.

The outdoor bowling adjunct of the Raglan Club had been formed in September, 1992. First president was Murray Mead with Don Davis-Goff secretary.

The inaugural chartered club tournament in Raglan on February 23, 1993, attracted 28 teams. Visits were made to Huntly and Te Kuiti.

The second tournament had 32 entries, but the weather meant only 29 played. Richard Stephens donated a pig and Mac Donn a sheep while the club's fisherman again provided a fine supply of flounder.

Visits in the second and third seasons were to Otorohanga, Te Kuiti and Huntly.

A Raglan team of W Jeffcoat, E Butcher, F Subritsky and J Jeffcoat won the third tournament with four wins and a draw.

By 1995 women had become eligible to become involved and so, like the men, were able to enter their own nationals which that year were held at Otorohanga. The next year Raglan women, Margaret Mead, Shirley Cook, Jean Walters and Eunice Turner finished runners-up at Papatoetoe, a magnificent effort.

The adjunct was wound up when the Raglan Bowling Club became involved and affiliated to Clubs NZ and Bowls NZ. The amalgamation took place on February 19, 1999.

An all-weather astrograss surface was opened on June 9, 1999. It was seriously damaged during floods in 2003 and was replaced.

Raglan bowlers have done well in Waikato Centre and national events. Some have been selected for Waikato representative teams. Certificates of achievements are displayed on the bowling pavilion walls along with some photos and the honours boards.

Medals have been presented over the years to members who have given much dedicated service.

Dress codes have changed dramatically. For everyday roll-ups or tournaments, everyone had to wear 'whites' while green cardigans/jackets were 'uniform, too. The men could wear brown shoes. Women's skirts had to be a certain length. There were no slacks or shorts in the early days, but that rule was relaxed later on. Hatbands were the norm, but caps were allowed later.

Points on etiquette were strictly adhered to.

The only real stipulation today is for flat-soled shoes to be worn and that the whole team be dressed the same. Casual everyday clothes can be worn for roll-ups.

Today the bowling club functions with a mixed membership fluctuating around 50. The natural grass and astrograss greens means members can play all year round.

Raglan should be well represented at the men's national chartered club championship being hosted by the Hamilton Workingmen's Club next February.

Businesshouse bowls is run in two sessions, one in November and the other in February. Why not check on how you can become involved.

Note: Eileen Stephens, who prepared the excellent report on behalf of the bowling adjunct, reminds all club members the game of bowls is very enjoyable. She suggests you should go down to the greens for some fun and friendship. Who knows where it may lead you! This season is officially underway. Dolly Norton rolled up the first jack and Rex Coombes the first bowl. The Esther Smith pairs was the first tournament with Terry Green and Jim Ardern successful from Denny Robertson and Les Soanes and Les Schlager and Margaret Locke.

BOTTOM LEFT: WOMEN bowling club presidents - Back: Peg Limmer, Shirley Cook, Margaret Mead. In front: Colleen McNeil, Dulcie Somerville, Alice Brown, Flora Williams, Ester Smith and Joyce Davis-Goff.

TO LEFT: WESTERN bowls winners in 2005 - Mac Donn, Eunice Turner, Ross Turner, 'Blue' Stephens.

# SUB-SECTIONS

## INDOOR BOWLS

The indoor bowls section will celebrate more than 30 years of activity over Labour weekend.

In the early 1970s, Paul Furer, Laddie Rawiri, Allan Oliver, Dave Sutton and Bob Shea headed a group who commenced bowling in the club.

In the 1980s, when women bowlers were encouraged to join in proceedings, Bert and Doss Williams, Kath Morgan and others organised mix bowling and the adjunct prospered from there.

Today, the section has 50 members. Many play on a Thursday afternoon, when, amidst much laughter and frivolity, the action continues for about three hours. Several championship tournaments are staged with prizemoney presented at a special Christmas function, another occasion enjoyed by all.

Each year a team is sent away, all expenses paid, to the Clubs NZ national championships held in various cities around the country.

Last year the men competed at New Plymouth and this year nine women went to Napier. Although the teams have not brought home any trophies, they always have a wonderful time. The Napier visit this year was made special for the women when Barry Dalbeth, the new club president, hired a nine metre limousine one morning to transport them to the venue.

The indoor bowls correspondent wrote: "On arrival we were the envy of all, as we descended from the limousine in our usual lady-like manner!"

The indoor bowlers remind other members that their sport can be play by young and old who participate equally in friendly camaraderie. They have two or three players who are in their eighties. New players are always made welcome.

Final word from the indoor bowls correspondent: "We congratulate our club on a successful 50 years and trust the indoor bowls adjunct will play a major role with the club for many years to come."

**INDOOR BOWLS**

2006 championship results - Pairs championship: Dave Gatland and Faye Morris 1, Heather and Barry Dalbeth 2. Triples championship: Dave Gatland, Faye Morris, Leo Jackson 1, Maureen Wahanga, 'Mouse' Stephens, Hayden Kereopa 2. Fours championship: Maureen Wahanga, Sophia Rawiri, 'Mouse' Stephens, Hayden Kereopa 1, Heather Dalbeth, Brenda Waters, Eileen and 'Blue' Stephens 2.

The section Christmas party and prizegiving will be on Saturday, December 9. Helen Riley will be the entertainer.

## FISHING

The fishing sub-section was formed in 1994, the same year women became members of the club.

At that time there were only four adjuncts. To raise money to go on trips the section had a raffle week and the fishing club would subsidise half the cost of the trips with the members travelling the other half.

Fishing members have had many great trips away to Whitianga, Coromandel, Great Barrier, Taupo, Kaipara, Kawhia and, of course, out of Raglan with Aaron on the Santorina where the big fish are. Over the years many big snapper have been caught and a lot of fun has been had.

The adjunct has had up to 130 members and for only $5 it had proved great value.

As the club now has seven adjuncts, therefore one raffle turn every seven weeks, raising finance has become more difficult. In 1994 it was $400 for a trip away, now it's $1000!

The adjunct has had many great sponsors over the years for the 'take a kid fishing' competition and at the barbeque more 100 people have been fed.

Commodore Joan Oliver said the annual subs were now due and suggested to members that they join up and have fun on the organised trips.

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# SUB-SECTIONS

## TRAVEL CLUB

The Travel Club adjunct was formed in December, 1998, to provide subsidised social activities outside of the club environment for members.

Human beings tend to be creatures of habit. They graduate to the same tables and groups of people on a regular basis.

The positive result of the Travel Club's activities has been opportunities to discover the quirks, personalities and new friendships from outside one's comfort zone, simply by enjoying each other's company.

To date members have attended rugby and rugby league matches; race meetings at Te Aroha, Pirongia and Te Rapa and trots at Cambridge; watched the Rocky Horror Show, Queen, Pink Floyd, Russian ballet; heard the Hamilton Jazz Society; and visited the Ellerslie Flower Show and the Bully Point Pub at Robinson's Sports Museum. Overnight trips to Awakino and Tauranga and the long train excursion to Whangamomona for its Independence Day have been other highlights.

They found a 'trip over the hill' was not the prerequisite for having fun. On Friday, July 21, this year, 22 members spent several hours with 'our country cousins' at the Te Mata Club.

The Travel correspondent wrote: "It is amazing how many people are unaware this wonderful little club exists, only 15kns away and surrounded by farmland. It was an evening of chocolate fish, 'PC' entertaining with all strings attached, dogs, kids, copious bottles of port, cuisine a la Spicer girls Dianne and Margaret, Rose's haka, challenging Te Mata ladies, silly games and super prizes. Oh, what a great party. Look out, Te Mata, we'll be back!"

Each trip produced its characters and some memorable moments. Travel correspondent again: "Ata Martin with her cowbells at the rugby; Joy Trott on the swings at our after-match meal of fish and chips at the Lake Domain; Voting at Rangiriri School, then a puncture at Pokeno when bus driver, Jim Brosnan couldn't find the jack or a spare tyre and one of the members using his credit card to pay for the repairs! All this before we got to the flower show; The look on Maurice Cook's face when he introduced himself and our group to the barmaid as a distant RSA and she replied. 'So!'; the version of Dee Dee K in a long skirt and Harold out of overalls for the Russian ballet performance; the Time Warp crew who became the 'creatures of the night' for the Rocky Horror Show; Roy Hayes spending money - at the Hamilton Sky Casino; the role of the busty barmaid at the Bully Point Pub being taken very seriously by Rose McLeod; the long tunnels on the way to Whangamomona where men emerge wearing bras and women have inside out T-shirts' and we have yet to find one member who has actually seen a horse at the Pirongia races!"

Raglan Club members have an invitation to join the Travel Club and are asked to bring innovative ideas, places to go and sense of fun.

The Travel Club is - Chairman, Don Campbell; secretary, Dianne Hockenhull; treasurer, Jo Jackson; committee, Maurice Cook, Heather Dalbeth, Joe Fabish, Reg Johnston and Brenda Waters.

## GOLF

Golfers have been very active from the earliest days of the Raglan Club.

They have run local tournaments, organised trips away and have sent teams to the annual North Island chartered clubs event.

Myrle Robertson can recall going to Mount Denby in Whangarei with her husband Archie and his mates way back in the 1960s.

Jack Peden said in the early years the house committee made all the arrangements for the varied interests of members. People who travelled to golf tournaments usually paid their own way.

When the separate sections were created with their own committees, the golf section established a system whereby golfers had to compete for places on the teams. The games they played locally and at other courses counted and scores were recorded.

According to Bruce Tricklebank, there was much interest and the best performers were chosen for the team. He remembered playing his first game as a member of the team which went to Hokowhitu. "I was playing with a guy on a scratch handicap. I was on 24 and playing so well that at the ninth green he turned to me and suggested that my handicap should be checked. I had 10 shots on the next hole!"

Each year the team of three for the chartered clubs' tournament was the major focus of fundraising. The minute books kept by Sharon Tricklebank indicated enough money was raised each year to cover all expenses of the team and occasionally the expenses of supporting teams as well.

Those events were always enjoyable and although women went along in the supporters teams, it was not until 1999 that an official women's team went to their North Island tournament in Taranaki and were victorious. The team won again the following year and so decided to attend the national tournament in Invercargill. Surprisingly, Raglan took the top prize there as well to complete a magnificent trifecta.

Junior Mataira commented that in all the years the men had been going away to their tournaments, they had never returned home with a major prize. "It took the women to the put the Raglan Club on the map," he said.

While winning is exhilarating, the major focus of the golf section is participation. The teams event held this year was well attended and enjoyed by all as have the trips away to other clubs.

Brian Banks wrote: "As far as can be ascertained, the first golf played in the district was just prior to the First World War and was played on the Somerset farm up the Mangatwhiri Road. In 1926 the game was revived on Ralfe's farm, now called Lorenzen's Bay. The course was later extended to the area bounded by Greenslade's Rd. In about 1928 a nine hole course was laid out on the farms of the Gibbison family at Kauroa.

In 1954 the club moved to Sutton's farm at Waitetuna. The next move was in 1968 to land by the aerodrome. Later came the move to Te Hutewai Rd.

# SUB SECTIONS

## DARTS

Raglan Club darts section president, Mike Ingerson, remembers when six enthusiasts used to gather in the corner on Friday nights during the 1990s and play the game they enjoy.

Then the club got extended and the darts section grew along with it and now there more than 60 members involved. Practices are held on Monday nights.

In-house competitions keep members busy while visits are also made to other areas for inter-club contests. Overnight stays in Orewa and Tauranga are always good adventures as are journeys to Te Awamutu. Manurewa, Te Mata and Hamilton.

President Mike said: "We are a good bunch of darts players and enjoy the social side as well. The section holds a Christmas party each year with a special dinner, pudding, drinks and wine to along with the prizegiving. We also do theme dress up for our parties. Any birthdays are well celebrated with most of our members present."

Contact Mike if you want part of the darts action.

The club continues to play a full range of events over the year and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future. The range of names on the honours board is testament to the depth of competition and the willingness to challenge of the members.

2006 competition results - Mixed doubles: George Bassett and Ali Kite 1; Josie Kereopa and Joe Murray 2. Women's singles: Ali Kite 1, Josie Kereopa 2. Men's singles: Bob Peters 1, Joe Murray 2.

Matches against Orewa and Te Awamutu were won.

On November 11 the sub-section will visit Manurewa RSA while on November 25 the darts players will stage a shared Christmas party with the fishing club. Check noticeboard.

PRESIDENT Mike Ingerson in action

## SNOOKER

The early years of the club saw all sport actively organised and run by the house committee with no membership fees to pay and only a pittance of an entry fee for competitions which were subsidised by way of funds raised through raffles. It meant all competitions were open to every member and gave us a very diverse range of skills and enthusiasm. With the formation of the snooker section and the demise of the house committee, outside competition was soon being sought by the top players. To this end we joined with the Hamilton Chartered Clubs group and began to compete for an annual trophy.

I believe when we first joined the group there was no little disbelief that a 'hick' country club such as ours should have the cheek to challenge them. Oh, the joy! In its first year the Raglan Club snooker section finished overall runner-up.

Of course this result was assisted in no small manner by the exploits of 'the Smith boys', Colin and Kerry (the guns) while Colin's son Steve all produced some good results.

Colin and Kerry also competed in the veterans' events in the Waikato and collected the pairs snooker and the billiards titles on more than one occasion.

While the last few years have seen the section main involved in the interclub tournament, there have been other occasions where members have taken weekend trips to visit and play against other clubs. Most memorable of these would have to be the first trip we took to Whangamata. We stayed at a motel and played in a round robin tournament on the Saturday and returned home on the Sunday via a round of golf at Whangamata. Members on that trip included Jerry Waretini, Steve Smith, Colin Smith, Andy Thompson, Graham Hyde, Bruce Tricklebank and Carl Woolston. By then Kerry Smith was living at Whangamata so he joined us there.

While we felt we were going into the 'lions den', Whangamata had some very good competition players, we did really want to challenge ourselves. Imagine our disbelief when at the end of the day we had not just beaten them, we had literally thrashed them!

At the present time snooker is experiencing a mini renaissance with a fairly large number of younger members taking to the tables. There is, as always, no shortage of advice and assistance for these young people and I am sure that judging on their current attitudes, they will become very good assets for the club in terms of player base.

The interclub team has been achieving some excellent results this year and are sure of a place in the semi-finals, if not the finals; the change of format to a team of four must have really suited them.

Results 2006 - Snooker open: Jerry Waretini 1; Andy Thompson 2. Senior handicap singles: Jerry Waretini 1; Michael Larkins 2. Snr handicap drawn pairs: Michael Larkins and Andy Thompson 1, Jerry Waretini and John Vati 2. Jnr handicap singles: Nin Waretini 1, Steve Petch 2. Jnr handicap drawn pairs: Craig Bowden and Alison Kite 1; Maureen Wahanga and Dianne Hockenhull 2. Veterans; handicap singles; Jerry Waretini 1, John Vati 2. Open billiards: Jerry Waretini 1, Robbie Stewart 2. 8 ball singles: Michael Larkins 1, Carlos Bond 2.