



November 2013

Meridian recognises the important role of communities living close to our generation assets.

Members of the public will be able to try their hand and increase their skills in golf and tennis in Makara and Karori this summer.

Karori Golf Club's 'Pitch and Putt' 9-hole course (Goldfields) received \$8,000 in funding from Meridian's West Wind Community Fund in October 2012 and was officially opened in March this year. The Pitch and Putt course has a goldfields theme, with each hole named after a gold mine that existed in Karori between 1840 and 1912.



Before and after shots of Karori Pitch and Putt's 9th hole which is now all ready for the summer season.

"The golf course is designed to provide an informal, family-friendly leisure option for people in the Wellington region," says Karori Golf Club's Director of Operations, Marketing and Publicity, Al Thomson. "Pitch and putt courses are becoming increasingly popular around the world and our aim is that our course, which is right next door to our 18-hole golf course, will encourage more people to enjoy outdoor recreational pursuits. They can develop key skills for the full-course game or just play for fun with their children or friends."

Despite the winter storms giving the flags and signage a hammering, the development of the course has continued, with definition and beautification work and the planting of young trees to form a shelterbelt. "The

signature ninth hole features a larger than normal hole on the green, being the size of a 10-litre pail. This makes getting a hole in one more achievable," says Al. "It's something to cross off the 'bucket list' and increases the fun."

The Club launched a weekly twilight 'fun night' competition in early October which runs on Wednesdays from 6pm. "The competition lasts about an hour and is open to everyone. We have a caterer on site and plenty of picnic tables for people who want to bring their own dinner."

Meanwhile Makara Tennis Club is set to enjoy a second summer with new nets, thanks to \$616 in funding received in the October 2012 allocation. "Summer is just around the corner and the Makara Tennis Courts are looking very smart," says Vicky Wutzler, Club Captain of the Makara Tennis Club. "One court has recently been resurfaced and two new nets have been installed with funding from Meridian. All year round there are regular club days on Saturday at 1.30pm. Junior coaching has also been taking place through the winter months and more is planned for the summer. With financial help from Meridian, Makara has an amazing facility for social tennis and it is one we are very proud of."



Vicky Wutzler and Robert Thompson with one of the new nets at the Makara Tennis Club.

Makara broadband project kicks off

Around 30 households at Makara Beach are enjoying faster access to online information thanks to Meridian's West Wind Community Fund. Friends of Makara Model School (FROMMS) charitable trust used its \$19,974 grant to start providing high-speed broadband access to Makara Beach and some Makara Valley residents.

The funding was used to buy and install solar-powered wireless broadband access points. Phase one of the project was completed in July when 30 homes in the area were connected. The second stage of the project is due to be rolled out once the weather is more settled.

"Our community has really struggled to access broadband internet, with most people still using dial-up as their only option for internet," says David Wutzler, FROMMS Project Manager. "These days the internet is vital for completing school work, managing farm systems, and working remotely. We're just thrilled Meridian has supported our community broadband project."

"We've been waiting for some dry weather before installing the stage-two equipment," says David. "There's no formed track up the hill to the site and vehicles can only get up in dry weather. A couple of local teenagers have already dug the foundation holes in preparation – it's amazing the motivation access to broadband can provide!"



Henri Raaijen (left) and Aaron Poehts get stuck in to help with the next stage of the broadband project.

Broadband is being rolled out to the Makara community in stages:

- Stage one connected Makara Beach (around 30 houses).
- Stage two (depending on weather) will cover homes from Makara Beach to the crossroads with Makara Road, and up Opau Road to West Wind farm (around 20 houses).
- Stage three of the project will link to about 20 homes in South Makara. FROMMS received \$21,538 from the Meridian Fund in the October 2013 allocation to support this stage of the project.

Funding recipients:

Meridian's West Wind Community Fund supports community development initiatives in Makara, South Makara, Makara Beach and Takarau Gorge. More than \$250,000 has been granted through the fund to local community projects during the last five years. Funding allocations are managed by a panel of community representatives and Meridian staff, ensuring supported projects are meeting community needs.

May 2013 funding allocation

A total of \$30,000 was allocated to three projects in the May 2013 allocation. The projects that received funding were:

- **LandSAR Wellington** \$1,000 goes towards new uniforms for volunteers.
- **Makara Playgroup** \$4,000 helps the group transition from being a member of the Playcentre Association to becoming an independent playgroup.
- **Makara Model School** \$25,000 will help purchase a flying fox for the school playground, as part of a broader playground upgrade.

October 2013 funding allocation

- **FROMMS Charitable Trust** \$21,538 goes towards stage three of its project to provide broadband services to the Makara region.

LandSAR volunteers looking smart

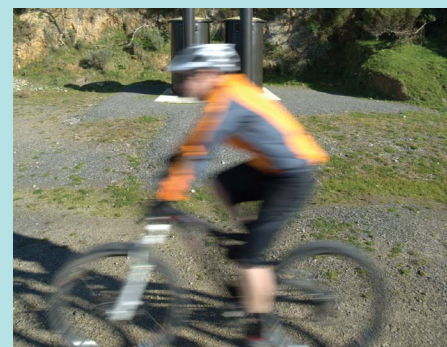
Meridian's West Wind Community Fund made a \$1,000 contribution to LandSAR Wellington's efforts to kit its volunteers out in smart new uniforms. LandSAR Wellington's chairman Ross Browne says that it's important for members to have a uniform that reflects their professionalism and makes them easily identifiable to the community. You can find out more about LandSAR Wellington at www.landsarwellington.org.nz.



LandSAR Wellington members in uniforms similar to that purchased with support from the West Wind Community Fund

West Wind Recreation Area now open

Summer opening hours (October – March) are from 9am to 6pm daily.



Keep in touch

Meridian recognises the important role of communities living close to our generation assets, and values the relationships with residents of Makara, South Makara, Makara Beach and Takarau Gorge.

For more information regarding West Wind farm or the Meridian West Wind Community Fund, please go to www.meridianenergy.co.nz or email community@meridian.co.nz

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