

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Tuesday, January 26, 2021*

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## Plenty of early focus required to qualify

Teams will need to find their feet quickly in the Taranaki women's Open fours tournament when it commences around north Taranaki today.

The 69th edition of the competition has drawn 56 teams, the same as last year.

"We are happy with the entry that we have received," Bowls Taranaki president Ian Andrews said.

"We are hopeful that the wet stuff that plagued the men for the qualifying rounds of their event last week will not reappear this time."

Two matches of 25 ends will be played each day, with teams required to win four matches of the six scheduled games in order to qualify for Friday's post section play.

The four sections have a reasonable spread of talent amongst them, with a number of strong visiting teams set to contend with the best from Taranaki.

**Section A** plays at Paritutu A, Waitara and New Plymouth.

Included in the group is Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Janice Ropitini (West End) and Joan Richards (Fitzroy).

Elaine McClintock (Orewa), the 2015 Dominion singles runner-up, is the big visiting name. But there are others. Joan Raymond (Wanganui East) has representative experience, as does Ronnie Crone (Otaki).

Few locals will have forgotten Jean Sheary's glorious run to the semifinals 12 months ago. Sheary returns with the same Matua lineup.

**Section B** has drawn Paritutu B, Lepperton

and West End 1 – and it features a number of top teams.

Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), Alison Rennie (Carlton Cornwall) and Mere Fryer (Palmerston North) all present likely looking sides from outside the province.

Green has the same side that made the final of the Dominion fours in Mt Maunganui last season, including Lynette McIntosh, Huia Ratana and Doreen Ryan. Green faces a possibly tricky opening assignment against Karen Forrest (Manurewa). Forrest in fact eliminated Green from last year's event 29-20 in the first post section round.

Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) and Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) are both double gold star holders in Taranaki and remain highly competent. The same Adams side were the best performed Taranaki team last season and also carried off the champion-of-champions title in October.

**Section C** plays at Lepperton, Vogeltown A and West End 2. Mina Paul (Ngongotaha) returns with her own side this season. It includes Mary Campbell, the former Blackjack.

Pam Mulford (Plimmerton) is also in the section. Mulford showed a distinct liking to the Taranaki greens last February when she impressively won six singles games out of seven in the Octagonal representative fixture.

Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth) presents a tidy unit, as does Pauline Davy (Opunake). And it is a welcome return back to the Open for Bowls Taranaki patron, Patty Symes (Tower), who missed last season's event.

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**Section D** plays at Inglewood, Vogeltown B and Fitzroy. The big name in the section is Paula Meredith (Johnsonville). Meredith has won distinctions galore in Wellington and last season carried off the Aotearoa Maori title in New Plymouth.

Her opening clash has the potential makings of a great game. Meredith's side plays Heather Johns (Paritutu). Johns' side is similar to the one that won the Dominion fours in 2013.

Life doesn't get much easier this afternoon for Meredith, either. She is due to play the proficient Anne Loveridge (Wanganui East). The other big name in the group, of course, is the defending titleholder, Marg Davies (Papakura).

## Late change to draw

Following the original draw, two further sides have been added to section D. That section now contains 14 sides as well.

The teams coming into the draw are respectively skipped by Gloria Shaw (Paritutu) and Gaye Holub (Fitzroy).

Shaw's team comprises Marie Mummery, Marlene McArthur and Barbara Harvey.

Holub skips three players from Waitara – Norma Jane, Marlene Malcolm and Jilly Kimber.

## Different locations this year

There is a change to the allocation of greens for this year's event compared to prior seasons. "For the last few years we have put only one section at a club each day, and that club has always been in the City," Bowls Taranaki president Ian Andrews said.

The change this year will see Paritutu, Vogeltown and West End being used only one day

each during section play. "It makes it easier for those clubs. But it will also provide an opportunity for players in different sections to interact as well."

In addition to this, Waitara, Lepperton and Inglewood are being used for the first time in a number of years. "Players in the men's Open have indicated for a long time the joy of going to clubs in the heartland. Taranaki bowls certainly does not start and end in the City – it extends well beyond that."

## Defending champ has one change

There is one change to Marg Davies' side that won last year's thrilling final 24-23 over Pam Burgess (Wanganui). Davies led 24-20 at the commencement of the last end, but Burgess held five shots with just three bowls of the final remaining. However, Davies rose to the occasion to reduce the count and secure victory. The 2012 Dominion fours winner Gayle Melrose comes into the side replacing Hetty Bolscher. The reliable front end of Cheryl Hunia and Les Eagleton remains intact.

However, Melrose will miss the opening day's play due to a family bereavement. West End's Denise Clark will substitute for the side.

Pam Burgess' Wanganui team are not in the field this season.



# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Wednesday, January 27, 2021*

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## A quarter of the field unbeaten after day one

Fourteen teams are already halfway to qualifying after the opening day's play in the Taranaki women's Open fours yesterday.

Evenly spread throughout the sections, there were plenty of close encounters, plus a few upsets, as players battled with temperatures not experienced in Taranaki so far this year.

Perhaps the biggest surprise was the two losses incurred by Ngongotaha's Mina Paul. Paul's team includes three-time Dominion pairs winner Mary Campbell, Carolyn Tasker — whose husband, Lance, won the men's title on Sunday — and Marilyn Constantine.

In the opening game, Paul's side, in the feature clash in **section C**, went down 28-23 to Pam Mulford (Plimmerton) and they then lost 21-17 to Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth).

Both Mulford and Hodge finished on two wins.

Mulford's side is in fact being skipped by Liz Witton, with Val Hadfield and Annie Judge in the engine room.

Against Paul, the clash was very up-and-down. Witton led 6-0 after four; Paul hit the lead 7-6 after seven; Witton then led 11-7 and 16-10; Paul won five of the next six ends to lead 18-17; but a five followed by a three on the next two heads had Witton looking good.

Paul's side clawed back a three and a two to trail by two shots playing the last end. However, Witton took a three to win it.

Witton's afternoon win came 32-19 over Margaret Farmer (Paritutu). Hodge had coasted home in her morning match 35-10 over Colleen Clark (Ohope).

Allan's team rebounded well to triumph 27-20 in the afternoon against Vogeltown's Gale Fache, the joint women's player of the 2010 Dominion tournament. Fache had edged Anne Connelly (Bulls) 25-22 earlier.

The other unbeaten side in section C is Taranaki gold star holder, Pauline Davy (Opunake). Playing on her old home green with three members of the winning 2016 side, Davy beat Trish Howard (West End) 27-21 and Chris Telford (Napier) 23-19.

Defending champion Marg Davies (Papakura) made a successful start, posting two wins in **section D** on the impressive Inglewood green. With Denise Clark substituting at lead and Cheryl Hunia being promoted to No 3, Davies beat Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay) 24-13 and Taranaki great Ellie Goble (Lepperton) 30-15.

McDonald was level through 10 ends in the morning game, before Davies edged away. Gayle Melrose returns to the Davies side today.

Home town heroine Cindy Nicoll also posted two wins. But there was plenty of anxious moments before edging Goble in the opening game. Goble led 19-16 with two ends remaining. Nicoll replied with a five and Goble could only manage a single on the last, the Inglewood side prevailing 21-20. Nicoll then beat Denise Cottam (West End) 30-22.

Cottam had upset Anne Loveridge (Wanganui East) 23-21 in the first game. Loveridge had further agony in the last going down 26-25 to Paula Meredith (Johnsonville) in a particularly crucial game.

Meredith had dropped her first match to Heather Johns (Paritutu) 24-18. That was after Meredith had led 18-14.

But 10 points over the last five ends gave the game to Johns, who backed it up with a 38-14 afternoon win against Janet Olliver (Waitarere Beach).

Joining Johns with two wins was clubmate Gloria Shaw. Her second victory came 29-22 over Gaye Holub (Waitara), who had also opened with a win — 25-16 over Dawn Clark (Tauranga).

Kia Toa's Coral Lukies, skipping a composite side of old friends, continued a terrific run of form to open with two wins in **section A**.

Lukies was last season's Hawke's Bay junior player of the year and as recently as Sunday, claimed that centre's open triples title.

Lukies commenced with a resounding 27-11 win over Janice Ropitini (West End), before inflicting the second defeat of the day on last year's semifinalist, Jean Sheary (Matua), 27-18. After 23 ends, Lukies led by just one shot, but counts of five and three on the last two ends inflated the margin.

Lukies is joined on two wins by Mary Solomon (Tauranga), Fay Bird (Central Cambridge) and Elaine McClintock (Orewa).

After an easy 31-12 win over Joan Richards (Fitzroy), Solomon defeated a Hawera Park side that was being skipped by Pauline Kennedy 27-22. To do so, Solomon overcame a 12-5 deficit after 10 ends by virtue of scoring 17 shots on the subsequent seven heads.

Bird's wins came 30-23 over Joan Raymond (Wanganui East) — a six on the 16th end being vital — and 24-14 against Liz Johnstone (Waitara).

In the final analysis, McClintock was a comfortable victor in both games — 33-18 over Anne Duggan (New Plymouth) and 28-16 against Ronnie Crone (Otaki).

## Who won how many on day one?

### Standings after the first day's play in the 69th Taranaki women's Open fours tournament:

**Section A: two wins**, Fay Bird (Central Cambridge), Mary Solomon (Tauranga), Coral Lukies (Kia Toa), Elaine McClintock (Orewa); **one win**, Patricia McGrail (Napier), Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Liz Johnstone (Waitara), Joan Raymond (Wanganui East), Ronnie Crone (Otaki).

**Section B: two wins**, Alison Rennie (Carlton Cornwall), Mere Fryer (Palmerston North), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu); **one win**, Sue Edwards (New Plymouth), Fane Vessey (Paraparaumu Beach), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), Martie

**Section B** featured the closest games of the day, with a number of nail-biters. Ngongotaha's Wendy Green experienced both sides of the coin, scrapping home 23-21 over Karen Forrest (Manurewa) and then losing out 22-20 on the last bowl played by Fane Vessey (Paraparaumu Beach).

Mere Fryer (Palmerston North), playing on the same green that she contested the Dominion singles semifinals in 2013, won twice. The first was 24-20 over Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy), after leading by three shots playing the last end. It was even tighter in the second.

Trailing by three shots with two ends to play against Chris Commene (Opunake), Fryer grabbed two braces to get home 23-22.

Joining Fryer as unbeaten in the group are Alison Rennie (Carlton Cornwall) and Cathy Andrews (Paritutu).

Rennie was a victor over Judy Cato (Te Awamutu) 26-17 and Margie Davis (Paritutu) 29-19. Davis won a thrilling morning round clash 29-28 over a luckless Carole Pearce (Lepperton) — who lost both games by a point.

Davis gave Rennie a good go, too, leading 17-14 after 18 ends. However a three and a six on the next two ends turned the tide.

Andrews defeated Commene 30-19 and Forrest 30-21.

Sisson (Ohope), Margie Davis (Paritutu), Kay Goldsworthy (Napier), Judy Cato (Te Awamutu).

**Section C: two wins**, Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth), Pam Mulford (Plimmerton), Pauline Davy (Opunake); **one win**, Denise Te Moto (Te Awamutu), Rae Curtis (Manaia), Patty Symes (Tower), Chris Telford (Napier), Trish Howard (West End), Wendy Moratti (Lepperton), Colleen Clark (Ohope), Gale Fache (Vogeltown).

**Section D: two wins**, Marg Davies (Papakura), Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), Heather Johns (Paritutu), Gloria Shaw (Paritutu); **one win**, Dawn Clark (Tauranga), Janet Olliver (Waitarere Beach), Denise Cotnam (West End), Frances Parkes (Hawera Park), Gaye Holub (Waitara).





# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Thursday, January 28, 2021*

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## Celebrations for special seven that have qualified

There were celebrations last evening, especially those attending the social function at Paritutu, for the special seven — those teams that have already notched up the required four wins to qualify for post section play in the 69th Taranaki women's Open fours event.

Those seven teams are headed by Mary Solomon (Tauranga), Elaine McClintock (Orewa), Alison Rennie (Carlton Cornwall), Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth), Pauline Davy (Opunake), Marg Davies (Papakura) and Gloria Shaw (Paritutu).

On the whole, nearly all of the big guns remain alive, but there will be some stressful moments today for some of them in their quests to qualify.

Davies and Shaw have called the tune in **section D**. Davies' wins on day two came 27-11 over Denise Cottam (West End) and 28-15 against Gaye Holub (Waitara).

After jumping out to a 17-7 lead after 12 ends, Davies received a bit of cheek from Holub's side. After 19 ends, the score was 19-15, but the experienced Papakura side claimed successive singles, a four and a three to win with two ends left unplayed.

Shaw was a comfortable victor in both games — 28-19 over Lee McDonald (Mercury Bay) and 28-17 against Janet Olliver (Waitarere Beach).

Three big teams finished the day on three wins each — Paula Meredith (Johnsonville), Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood) and Heather Johns (Paritutu).

After losing to Johns on Tuesday, Meredith dominated proceedings in the morning round against Nicoll, winning 34-13. That domination was never better illustrated than the 18th end, when Meredith claimed an eight.

Meredith beat Frances Parkes (Hawera Park) 30-18 in round four.

Nicoll raced away to a 24-9 lead over Johns in round four. That was after 16 ends. But Johns then stung Nicoll with counts of 3-4-2-6 to tie the scores at 24-all. However, Nicoll won four of the last five ends to prevail 32-25.

Both Hodge and Davy present very solid sides. And both presented noteworthy performances, as underlined by the size of their victories in **section C**.

Hodge's wins came 30-15 over Margaret Farmer (Paritutu) and 38-23 against Anne Connelly (Bulls). In the latter game, Hodge opened with a seven, but after 16 ends, Connelly trailed by just four points. However, three counts of four on the home straight to Hodge blew out the scoreline.

Davy held the upper hand in both matches. Her side beat Rae Curtis (Manaia) 33-11 and Wendy Moratti (Lepperton) 30-16.

Liz Witton (Taupo), Chris Telford (Napier) and Trish Howard (West End) are on course to qualify with three wins each.

Howard's afternoon win came via an extra end, 21-19, over Tower's Patty Symes. It was Symes that beat Witton 27-16 in the morning. Witton scrapped through 25-24 against Colleen Clark (Ohope) in the afternoon.

Aided by an early six, Clark held the edge as the team's headed towards the game's conclusion. But Witton grabbed one shot on the 25th and then took the extra end.

Telford's team beat Denise Te Moto (Te Awamutu) 24-14 and Farmer 27-14.

Mina Paul (Ngongotaha) remained alive with two wins. Paul beat Gale Fache (Vogeltown) 28-15 and Te Moto 24-19. Fache had led Paul 15-10 after 16 ends. However, Paul scored on all of the remaining ends.

Paul led by just two shots with two ends to go in the latter match.

But Paul still has a tough track in front, with her opponents today being Telford and Howard.

Rennie emerged as the only qualifier to date in **section B** when her side romped home 32-5 over Sue Edwards (New Plymouth). But Rennie and her side of Lillian Tukiri, Jill Fraser and Louise Fitness certainly got out of jail in the morning match.

Rennie trailed Paritutu's Cathy Andrews 28-22 with two ends remaining. But two threes tied the match up, and a further three to Rennie on the extra end gave her the match 31-28.

Andrews put that disappointment behind her team to eliminate Fitzroy's Rhonda Adams — a quarterfinalist last year and arguably the biggest casualty on the day — 23-13.

Joining Andrews on three wins are Fane Vessey (Paraparaumu Beach), Mere Fryer (Palmerston North), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) and Margie Davis (Paritutu).

While Green was disappointed on Tuesday, her side were well-charged yesterday. They beat Edwards 33-13 and then were the first team to beat Fryer, 27-11.

Vessey had given Adams her second loss, 22-21, in the morning. The Kapiti team then eliminated Kay Goldsworthy (Napier) 24-13.

Davis' side chipped away with wins coming 28-21 over Goldsworthy and 27-15 against Opunake's Chris Commene.

Fryer had recorded her third win, 26-13, in the morning. That was at the expense of Karen Forrest (Manurewa). With just one win, Forrest cannot qualify.

Both Solomon and McClintock have enjoyed bright starts to the tournament.

McClintock, playing with Jan Harrison, Kerin Roberts and Christeen Dalzell, beat Coral Lukies (Kia Toa) 31-19 and Fay Bird (Central Cambridge) 26-11.

Against Lukies, McClintock shot out to a 9-0 lead after four ends. However, Lukies pulled back a seven on the next. Thereafter, McClintock took the upper hand. Her side led 27-12 after 18 and while a late five brought some respectability to Lukies, the outcome was never in doubt.

McClintock's side was dominant over Bird as well. They led 7-0 after three ends, then 15-3 after nine. The Waikato side narrowed it to 15-7, before McClintock's quartet pulled away once more.

Both Lukies and Bird were left frustrated on the day. They had both opened on Tuesday with two wins, but lost twice yesterday. Bird had been squeezed out 23-22 by Joan Richards (Fitzroy) in the morning game, while Lukies went down after lunch to Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) 24-18.

Solomon is teamed with Sheila Crimlis, Margaret Roberts and Adrienne Owen-Jones. They defeated Patricia McGrail (Napier) 26-9 and Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 24-14.

Joan Raymond (Wanganui East) is the only three-winner in the section, after her side won handsomely twice.

## Who has won how many after day two?

**Standings after the second day's play in the 69th Taranaki women's Open fours yesterday:**

**Section A: four wins**, Mary Solomon (Tauranga), Elaine McClintock (Orewa); **three wins**, Joan Raymond (Wanganui East); **two wins**, Anne Duggan (New Plymouth), Fay Bird (Central Cambridge), Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Janice Ropitini (West End), Joan Richards (Fitzroy), Coral Lukies (Kia Toa).

**Section B: fours wins**, Alison Rennie (Carlton Cornwall); **three wins**, Fane Vessey (Paraparaumu Beach), Mere Fryer (Palmerston North), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu), Margie Davis (Paritutu);

**two wins**, Carole Pearce (Lepperton), Judy Cato (Te Awamutu).

**Section C: four wins**, Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth), Pauline Davy (Opunake); **three wins**, Pam Mulford (Plimmerton), Chris Telford (Napier), Trish Howard (West End); **two wins**, Patty Symes (Tower), Mina Paul (Ngongotaha), Colleen Clark (Ohope), Gale Fache (Vogeltown).

**Section D: four wins**, Marg Davies (Papakura), Gloria Shaw (Paritutu); **three wins**, Paula Meredith (Johnsonville), Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), Heather Johns (Paritutu); **two wins**, Dawn Clark (Tauranga), Anne Loveridge (Wanganui East), Gaye Holub (Waitara).



# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Friday, January 29, 2021*

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## The joys of qualifying still remain

The joy of qualifying in the Taranaki women's Open fours tournament remains a high achievement in bowls — just ask those 92 players, split across 23 teams, that.

You could also ask players in the 33 sides that missed the cut and it's likely they will concur, too. Even though the qualification rounds were reduced from eight to six last century, there still is a buzz that comes with qualifying. All the action from now on takes place at Paritutu, and one such team that will certainly still have smiles on their faces this morning will be Anne Duggan's New Plymouth team.

After two losses on the opening day, Duggan's team won the rest of their games to qualify in **section A**. It was a feat mirrored by Carol Pearce and Mina Paul.

Aided by counts of six on both the 15th and 17th ends, Duggan coasted home 32-14 over Patricia McGrail in the morning game. That left Duggan's team of Heather Earl, Lois Sole and Val Fleming in a winner-take-all sixth round with Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park).

Stampa had taken over the skipping of her team and also needed the game to qualify. Duggan called the tune up to the 14th end, leading 14-6.

But five ends later, it was 14-all. Duggan, though, took the initiative back, edging to 20-14 in front with two ends remaining. Stampa could only manage a two and a single on the final two ends, leaving Duggan the match 20-17.

With Fay Bird qualifying in the last round after McGrail had defaulted, it left only one other match on the New Plymouth green. Coral Lukies (Kia Toa) was chasing her fourth win against Liz Johnstone. In the morning, Lukies had eliminated Joan Richards (Fitzroy) 28-20, to give her team a chance. It was an opportunity that they, eventually, did take — but only just.

After tailing Johnstone 13-8, Lukies made it in

front 17-13. Three ends later it was 17-all and, indeed starting the last end, it was 19-all. But there was the spoken joy — and relief — for Lukies' team when they took the point to win 20-19.

There had been similar scenes in the morning when Joan Raymond's Wanganui East side notched up win No 4, grabbing a two on the last end to break a 19-all deadlock with the already-qualified Mary Solomon (Tauranga).

Three big names qualified in the morning round in **section D** — Paula Meredith (Johnsonville), Heather Johns (Paritutu) and Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood).

Meredith's team won convincingly 32-12 over Colleen Day (New Plymouth). Day, searching for her first win of the week, kept in touch early on. Meredith led just 10-9 after 10, but soon after collected a four and a five on consecutive heads. A further four on the 17th put the game beyond doubt.

Johns had plenty of anxious moments before her side prevailed 26-20 over Anne Loveridge (Wanganui East). Loveridge's side was left to rue two narrow losses on Monday. They still had their chances against Johns.

Loveridge led 14-13 after 16 ends. However, 10 shots over the following four ends put Johns in charge. Loveridge responded with a five to keep the interest high, but Johns cribbed home.

Nicoll defeated Frances Parkes (Hawera Park) 28-15. Nicoll was in complete control leading 21-3 after 13 ends. While Parkes added some respectability, Nicoll got through comfortably.

In the clash of the two unbeaten teams Marg Davies (Papakura) and Gloria Shaw (Paritutu), it ended officially in a draw.

There was disappointment for Dawn Clark (Tauranga) and Gaye Holub (Waitara), after they both lost in the last round to miss out.

There were three teams that qualified with victories in the last round in **section C**, which finished with seven making the grade in total — an extraordinary high number.

Mina Paul (Ngongotaha) was one such side, which was a noteworthy effort from the BoP team. They had won a tough morning match against Chris Telford (Napier) 26-21 and then broke free in the second half of the afternoon round to beat Trish Howard (West End) 26-9.

Howard had already qualified in the morning, 25-12 over Margaret Farmer (Paritutu).

There were two games in the last round that saw two three winners facing off.

From 8-7 in front after 11 ends, Gale Fache's Vogeltown quartet moved to 19-8 in front of Patty Symes (Tower). Fache took the game 24-16. In the morning, Fache was a 21-8 victor over Pauline Davy (Opunake).

The other encounter was between Telford and Colleen Clark (Ohope). Clark had kept her hopes alive with a 26-13 morning victory over Rae Curtis (Manaia). The teams could not be separated on four occasions during the game. Telford held the upper hand leading 22-18 after 21 ends, but then luck deserted her side, with Clark winning the last four ends to take the honours 27-23.

The other qualifier from the morning round was Liz Witton (Taupo). Witton beat Anne Connelly (Bulls) 25-15, having led 20-9 after 17 ends. A four to Witton on the 24th end sealed the result, with the last head not played.

## Open fours post section draw

**Draw for post section play in the 69th Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu on Friday, January 29 (NB: all qualifiers must report for a 9am start, except Coral Lukies):**

**Round 1 (9am start – two rounds for the day):** Gloria Shaw (Paritutu) v Trish Howard (West End), Mina Paul (Ngongotaha) v Mere Fryer (Palmerston North), Colleen Clark (Ohope) v Marg Davies (Papakura), Elaine McClintock (Orewa) v Wendy Green (Ngongotaha), Mary Solomon (Tauranga) v Fay Bird (Central Cambridge), Pauline Davy

One of the most keenly contested games this morning will be between the unbeaten Elaine McClintock (Orewa) and Wendy Green (Ngongotaha). Green's side has been especially decisive over the past two days in **section B**.

They beat Paritutu's Cathy Andrews 32-8 yesterday morning to qualify and then put the kybosh on Margie Davis' hopes 35-13. Davis had experienced the agony of dropping 11 shots on the last three ends in the morning match to lose 25-24 to Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy).

Andrews missed the cut this year when her side lost in the afternoon 28-10 to Martie Sisson (Ohope).

Fane Vessey's Paraparaumu Beach team sneaked through its morning match to qualify, beating Alison Rennie 25-24 on an extra end. Vessey was in trouble, trailing 22-15 after 21 ends, but a four and a two on the last two ends tied up the match.

Palmerston North's Mere Fryer claimed win number four in the morning as well, 27-17 over Sisson.

Lepperton's Carol Pearce was the last qualifier from the section when her side beat Rennie 26-19. Pearce dominated proceedings post end 15, when the scores had been level at 14-all.

\* By the end of play today, eight teams will remain in the Open. Those teams playing round two matches in advance at 9am today will play just one game, with the winners observing their bye this afternoon.

(Opunake) v Fane Vessey (Paraparaumu Beach), Paula Meredith (Johnsonville) v Gale Fache (Vogeltown).

**Round 2 (9am start – one round for the day):**

Joan Raymond (Wanganui East) v Anne Duggan (New Plymouth), Elaine Hodge (New Plymouth) v Pam Mulford (Plimmerton), Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood) v Carol Pearce (Lepperton), Heather Johns (Paritutu) v Alison Rennie (Carlton Cornwall).

**Round 2 (report at 12.30pm – one round for the day):** Coral Lukies (Kia Toa) who will play the winner of Shaw/Howard.





# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Saturday, January 30, 2021*

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## Fryer impresses to advance to quarterfinals

Manawatu's Mere Fryer had a day to remember on the greens of Paritutu yesterday.

Playing in the opening two rounds of post section in the 69th Taranaki women's Open fours event, Fryer skipped her team into today's quarterfinals.

Fryer is no stranger to the big time in bowls. She has amassed 22 Manawatu titles and previously also won a national club (pathways) pairs.

Her side beat Mina Paul (Ngongotaha) 18-13 and Colleen Clark (Ohope) 31-7 to advance.

Fryer's side includes Emily Gray, who last season won two Manawatu titles; Vivienne Jones, who came in late to the side and plays out of the Fitzroy club in New Plymouth, won the 2018 Taranaki champion-of-champions fours; and No 3 Leoni Renata, a highly talented player with experience in Hawke's Bay, Gisborne and the Bay of Plenty.

Fryer, the skip, has harnessed that collective skill and energy into a team that is a genuine title contender. The side led from the opening end in both games during the day.

But there still were some pressure moments, especially against Paul. Fryer led 12-3 after 11 ends, but by the completion of the 19th, it had become 14-11. Three successive singles provided more comfort, with Fryer able to secure the success after holding a four-shot lead playing the last end.

The Clark match became somewhat an anticlimax, after the Ohope side had caused the biggest upset of Open in the morning game, beating the defending champion Marg Davies (Papakura) 25-7.

Interestingly, both of Clark's matches went only 20 ends.

Against Davies, Clark controlled proceedings, leading 14-2 after 10 ends. Four ends later it was 16-6, but with the next five heads all going Clark's way, the white flag was waved early.

It was the opposite for Clark after lunch against Fryer.

After leading 12-1 after seven ends, Fryer put the match beyond doubt with counts of five on both the 13th and 15th ends.

Three other teams also won twice on the day – Trish Howard (West End), who meets Fryer this morning, Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) and Paula Meredith (Johnsonville).

Green and Meredith square off this morning in what has all the makings of a classic clash.

Green beat Elaine McClintock (Orewa) 26-23 and Fay Bird (Central Cambridge) 23-10.

Green's match against McClintock was earmarked for a titanic struggle, and it was. It was decided in the middle stanza, where Green went from 8-all after nine ends to 25-17 in front after 19. Three fours and a three proved decisive, as the old adage of avoiding numbers was illustrated.

McClintock battled to the end, winning five of the remaining six ends, but the wily Green was able to keep the counts to four singles and one two.

Green didn't get things all her own way in the second round against Bird, leading just 8-6 after 11.

But a four and a five immediately after that saw the match conceded after just 18 ends.

Bird's team had done well in the morning, winning the last five ends of its game against Mary Solomon (Tauranga) to triumph 25-18. That match didn't finish until 1.50pm and that told a story, too.

Meredith received tough assignments from two experienced Taranaki skips but prevailed – 26-24 over Gale Fache (Vogeltown) and 23-19 against Pauline Davy (Opunake).

Fache was left to rue dropping four fours during the opening eight ends, as Meredith raced out to 16-6 in front. The margin was increased even further.

After 17 ends, it was 25-11. The Vogeltown quartet came home with a decidedly wet sail, but could only manage two on the last end when four was required to tie the game.

Meredith's afternoon encounter with Davy kept the crowd entertained. While Meredith did lead 11-5 after nine, Davy, a Taranaki gold star holder, squared it up at 14-all after 17. A two to Davy on the 22nd end put the Opunake team in front 18-16. But disaster struck on the next, with Meredith claiming a five. A further brace to Meredith on the penultimate head curtailed the Opunake optimism.

Howard has been introduced into the Taranaki representative side this season and teaming with Debra Kalin, Lorraine Heal and Laureen Bright, they delighted themselves by advancing to the quarterfinals. It meant Howard needed to contact her boss, Maxine Pryor of the Nag 'N' Noggin, to get off work today.

They upset Gloria Shaw (Paritutu) 28-22 in the morning, although there were some nervous moments with Shaw having closed the deficit to just three shots playing the last. Howard was thankful for a 13-2 lead after eight ends.

Howard then ended a highly successful tournament for Coral Lukies (Kia Toa) 24-17. It was the start that made the difference, Howard racing to 9-1 in front.

## Open fours post section results

**Results of post section play in the Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday:**

**Round 1:** T Howard (West End) 28 G Shaw (Paritutu) 22, M Fryer (Palmerston North) 18 M Paul (Ngongotaha) 13, C Clark (Ohope) 25 M Davies (Papakura) 7, W Green (Ngongotaha) 26 E McClintock (Orewa) 23, F Bird (Central Cambridge) 25 M Solomon (Tauranga) 18, P Davy (Opunake) 24 F Vessey (Paraparaumu Beach) 22, P Meredith (Johnsonville) 26 G Fache (Vogeltown) 24.

**Round 2:** J Raymond (Wanganui East) 30 A Duggan (New Plymouth) 18, L Witton (Taupo) 20 E Hodge (New Plymouth) 19, C Nicoll (Inglewood) 27 C Pearce (Lepperton) 16, A Rennie (Carlton Cornwall) 24 H Johns (Paritutu) 15, Howard 24 C Lukies (Kia Toa) 17, Fryer 31 Clark 7, Green 23 Bird 10, Meredith 23 Davy 19.

Lukies closed in twice on Howard, but each time the West End side scored again to preserve the lead.

The four teams to advance to the quarterfinals by playing only one game were Joan Raymond (Wanganui East), Liz Witton (Taupo), Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood) and Alison Rennie (Carlton Cornwall).

Raymond's side were in all sorts of bother against Anne Duggan (New Plymouth). They trailed 15-4 after nine ends, although a resurgence gave them a sniff at 17-11 after 15. The team from the river city then completely took over, winning all bar one of the remaining ends to triumph 30-18.

Witton held on, just, to beat New Plymouth's Elaine Hodge 20-19. Witton had looked comfortable at 18-8 in front after 15 ends, but seven straight heads to the New Plymouth side saw the game tied up after both 22 and 24 ends.

Nicoll took 17 shots on the last six ends — two were left un-played — in her 27-16 win over Carol Pearce (Lepperton). Pearce had led 16-10 until Nicoll's run commenced.

After trailing Paritutu's Heather Johns 7-2, Rennie got in front 11-7 and then took the game 24-15.

## Quarterfinal draw — eight still have a chance

**Quarterfinals draw for Saturday, January 30 at Paritutu:**

Joan Raymond, Debbie Wildermoth, Loralie Hawkes, Adrienne Richdale (Wanganui East) v Liz Witton, Pam Mulford, Annie Judge, Val Hadfield (Taupo), Cindy Nicoll, Loris Ropitini, Margaret McCallum, Lorraine Crowskey (Inglewood) v Alison Rennie, Jill Fraser, Louise Fitness, Lillian Tukiri Carlton Cornwall), Trish Howard, Laureen Bright, Lorraine Heal, Debra Kalin (West End) v Mere Fryer, Leoni Renata, Vivienne Jones, Emily Gray (Palmerston North), Wendy Green, Lynette McIntosh, Huia Ratana, Doreen Ryan (Ngongotaha) v Paula Meredith, Kay Martin, Lil George, Merani Davis (Johnsonville).

# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Sunday, January 31, 2021*

[www.taranakibowls.co.nz](http://www.taranakibowls.co.nz) [www.facebook.com/taranakibowls/](https://www.facebook.com/taranakibowls/)

## Experienced skips to square off for title

Being among two of the more experienced teams from the start of the week does not seem to have weighed too heavily on the minds of talented skips Alison Rennie (Carlton Cornwall) and Mere Fryer (Palmerston North).

Both have successfully skipped their sides into this morning's final of the 69th edition of the Taranaki women's Open fours. And both did it with plenty of points to spare in the semifinals yesterday afternoon at Paritutu.

Rennie's side of Jill Fraser (third), Louise Fitness (second) and Lillian Tukiri (lead) ran away from Joan Raymond's Wanganui East team 30-7 in one semifinal.

In the other, Fryer, skipping Leoni Renata (third), Vivienne Jones (second) and Emily Gray (lead) were decisive 31-8 victors over Paula Meredith (Johnsonville).

Rennie's side wasted no time in stamping its authority against the Wanganui team, which comprised Adrienne Richdale (lead), Joan Raymond (second), Loralie Hawkes (third) and Debbie Wildermoth (skip). They opened with a single, a four, a two and a five to lead 12-0 after four ends.

Wildermoth's team clawed back three singles, but that sent Rennie into another scoring spree, jumping out to 21-3 in front after 13 ends.

A five on the 19th head had the score out to 30-5. Wildermoth pegged back a couple of singles, before the game was conceded after 21 ends.

There is plenty of talent in the Rennie side. She herself has six Auckland titles and also has won a few in Counties, where her career started with Papakura.

Fraser, the former president of the Auckland centre, has four titles in the Queen City and

also was a member of the 2019 Auckland side that won the NZ intercentre title.

Tukiri is formerly from Counties, where she won nine titles. She has been based in Hawke's Bay, alongside Fitness, for eight years. During that time, she has won four Bay titles.

Fitness won the national club (pathways) pairs title in 2016 and has collected three Hawke's Bay titles during her 12 years in the game.

Fryer's side got off to a shaky start against Meredith. Meredith's team of Merani Davis, Lil George and Kay Martin opened with a four on the first end.

Meredith led 5-3 after three ends, but thereafter it became one-way scoring.

Fryer's team put together nine successive scoring ends to completely blow the game apart, taking control 19-5 after 13 ends.

Meredith pulled back a brace on the following head, but when Fryer took a four, a single and then a further four, the rest became academic. The match was called off with five ends left un-played.

Like Raymond, it was a disappointing end for what had been a great week for Meredith.

As identified in yesterday's *Open News*, Fryer's side is vastly successful.

Fryer herself has 22 Manawatu titles as well as the national club pairs in 2017.

Renata is a former Gisborne/East Coast representative and won four titles in that centre before transferring to Bay of Plenty.

Jones, the unsung hero of the team and tournament, has previously collected one Taranaki crown, while Gray, a current Manawatu representative, has two titles in that centre.

All is set for an action-packed final, which will commence at Paritutu at 9am this morning.



## Quarterfinals were all keenly contested affairs

All four quarterfinals were keenly contested affairs yesterday morning, with none of the four semifinalists getting things all their own way.

Wildermoth ended the challenge of Liz Witton (Taupo) 24-21. Witton dominated the first half, leading 14-5 after 13 ends. But, just as they did on Friday, the Wanganui team fought back. They took a six and a four, to hit the lead after 15, and then led 24-15 after 22. Witton replied with a single, three and a two but it wasn't enough.

There was nothing in Rennie's match with Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood). After Rennie had led 10-5, it was nip-and-tuck for the balance of the game. A two on the penultimate end gave Rennie a three-shot lead, enough for her side to win 24-22.

Fryer beat Trish Howard (West End) 26-17. Fryer led 19-6 after 14, although six ends later Howard was back in the contest at 19-16. A four to Fryer on the 22nd sealed the result.

A four was also crucial to Meredith in her side's 23-20 win over Wendy Green (Ngongotaha). It came on end 19 — Meredith was only one in front prior to that — and was quickly followed on the next end by a three. Green subsequently pulled back a three and a four of her own, by the four-shot deficit on the last end was too big an ask.



**Third-equal: Adrienne Richdale, Loralie Hawkes, Joan Raymond, Debbie Wildermoth (Wanganui East, above) and Merani Davis, Kay Martin, Paula Meredith, Lil George (Johnsonville, below).**



## Open fours post section results

### Results of the 69th Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday:

**Quarterfinals:** Debbie Wildermoth, Loralie Hawkes, Joan Raymond, Adrienne Richdale (Wanganui East) 24 Liz Witton, Pam Mulford, Annie Judge, Val Hadfield (Taupo) 21, Alison Rennie, Jill Fraser, Louise Fitness, Lillian Tukiri (Carlton Cornwall) 24 Cindy Nicoll, Loris Ropitini, Margaret McCallum, Lorraine Crowskey (Inglewood) 22, Mere Fryer, Leoni Renata, Vivienne Jones, Emily Gray (Palmerston North) 26 Trish Howard, Laureen Bright, Lorraine Heal, Debra Kalin (West End) 17, Paula Meredith, Kay Martin, Lil George, Merani Davis (Johnsonville) 23 Wendy Green,

Lynette McIntosh, Huia Ratana, Doreen Ryan (Ngongotaha) 20.

**Semifinals:** Alison Rennie, Jill Fraser, Louise Fitness, Lillian Tukiri (Carlton Cornwall) 30 Debbie Wildermoth, Loralie Hawkes, Joan Raymond, Adrienne Richdale (Wanganui East) 7, Mere Fryer, Leoni Renata, Vivienne Jones, Emily Gray (Palmerston North) 31 Paula Meredith, Kay Martin, Lil George, Merani Davis (Johnsonville) 8.

### Final to be played at Paritutu on January 31, commencing at 9am:

Alison Rennie, Jill Fraser, Louise Fitness, Lillian Tukiri (Carlton Cornwall) v Mere Fryer, Leoni Renata, Vivienne Jones, Emily Gray (Palmerston North).



# Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

*Monday, February 1, 2021*

[www.taranakibowls.co.nz](http://www.taranakibowls.co.nz) [www.facebook.com/taranakibowls/](https://www.facebook.com/taranakibowls/)

## Rennie takes title with last bowl in nail-biter

Alison Rennie's side has taken out the 69th Taranaki women's Open fours after the skip has produced a magical delivery with the last bowl of the final.

Rennie's side of Lillian Tukiri, Louise Fitness and Jill Fraser took out this year's event, winning the final 27-25 over Mere Fryer's team of Emily Gray, Vivienne Jones and Leoni Renata. But for the vast majority of the people present at Paritutu as the 25th and final end unfolded, it seemed certain that the game was headed for an extra end.

Rennie's team led 26-25 after 24 ends, but Fryer held the shot on the skip change-over. Rennie was narrow with her first bowl. But with her second, and having multiple chances of scoring a shot, she successfully pushed up Fraser's bowl onto the jack to take the point and the title.

"I'm elated," Fraser said straight afterwards, while still remaining calm.

"It was a real team effort."

Rennie's team started the final impressively, with Tukiri coming straight on to her game. They opened with a five and a two immediately followed. Tukiri drew a good shot on the third, before Renata dislodged it and Fryer added two more.

But with fours on both the fourth and six ends, Rennie's side opened up a 15-4 lead. The challenge at that point for Fryer's side was to remain in touch until morning tea time.

And that they did.

Down on the seventh head, Renata trailed the jack, and with Fryer adding again, a count of four gave them some belief.

That became even more pronounced with a single and a two on the next two head. Suddenly, the difference was just four shots. On the 10th head, the last before morning tea, Fryer held two, but, crucially, Rennie trailed the jack away to score a single. It was an important play in the overall context.



**The winning side of Lillian Tukiri, Louise Fitness, Jill Fraser and Alison Rennie.**

That became even more significant after the interval when Rennie's side again started the better. They won five of the next six ends to extend their advantage to 22-13.

The 17th saw excellent bowls from both skips. Three down, Rennie moved the jack for one, only for Fryer to return the favour and claim a three herself.

An excellent push shot from Renata on the next end saw Fryer holding two. She added two more and the contest was all on again at 22-20.

However, a three to Rennie on the 21st end, set up by Fitness, had her side firmly back in the box position with a 26-21 lead.

Fryer pulled back two singles to leave the margin at three as the penultimate head commenced.

Gray was handy twice, before Tukiri took the shot. Despite a lot of short bowls in her way, Fryer skilfully found the right hole to turn out the shot bowl and score a two, creating the one-shot difference on the last. Tukiri again lay shot, before Fraser, in attempting to secure the head, moved the jack to Gray's bowl. Then followed Rennie's magic.

## The final by the numbers; Fryer's team worthy finalists



Mere Fryer, Vivienne Jones, Emily Gray and Leoni Renata were worthy finalists.



CHARLTON C.N.W. V. Palm / NORTH

		LEAD	SECOND	THIRD	SKIP
A RENNIE		M FRYER			
SECTION	ROUND	RINK			
SCORE	TOTAL	ENDS	SCORE	TOTAL	
10.5	10.5	1	-	-	
2	7	2	-	-	
4	11	3	3	3	
4	15	4	-	3	
-	15	5	1	4	
-	15	6	-	4	
-	15	7	4	8	
1	16	8	1	9	
1	17	9	2	11	
1	18	10	-	11	
-	18	11	-	11	
1	19	12	-	11	
1	20	13	2	13	
2	22	14	-	13	
-	22	15	-	13	
-	22	16	-	13	
1	23	17	3	16	
-	23	18	4	20	
-	23	19	-	20	
3	26	20	1	21	
-	26	21	-	21	
-	26	22	1	22	
-	26	23	1	23	
-	26	24	2	25	
1	27	25	-	25	
		EXTRA			
		TOTAL			

The winner of the game is: 1.30

WINNER... Rennie (Use Block Letters)

LOSER (Signed)... M. Fryer

## End of a fabulous fortnight

Bowls Taranaki president, Ian Andrews, pictured, officially closed off the two week Open carnival at Paritutu yesterday.

"It has really been marvellous," the long-serving executive/board member Andrews said.

Andrews especially thanked the clubs for the use of their facilities and the presentation of the same, along with the multitude of volunteers.

"What a game!" he said poignantly after the final in his opening address. It summed up what everyone in attendance, and those watching via the livestreaming, also thought. Andrews said that play on Saturday had been difficult. "I didn't order the wind it just came."

