

26 April 2019

To the Waikato Eagles Society,

On behalf of the CNITMA committee, I would like to thank your organisation for providing funding for our Apprentice of the Year Award which allows the winner to travel to Queenstown to take part in preparations for the New Zealand Open at The Hills Golf Club.

Ben Engels of Cambridge Golf Club was our winner in 2018 and he has written a letter of appreciation which is attached.

The CNITMA committee received glowing feedback about Ben from The Hills management so we are very pleased that he was able to take full advantage of the opportunity given to him.

Kind regards



Mike Downs

Secretary

CNITMA

To Waikato and Bay of Plenty Eagles.

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As a young apprentice at the Cambridge Golf Club, I was extremely grateful to have received the "Trainee of the year" award late last year by the Central North Island Turf managers association. I would personally like to pass on my sincere thanks to your organization for financially supporting me while I travelled down to Arrowtown for the 100th New Zealand Open, played at Sir Michael Hills beautiful golf course.

During my 2 weeks at the Hills, I worked alongside 27 other greenskeepers from New Zealand, Canada, England, France and Australia. We had a great work culture and everyone was so friendly and welcoming. The landscape in which this golf course is on, was quite simply amazing. In every direction you look there was high mountains and beautiful lakes. I felt very grateful to work in an industry that can take you to awesome places.

Leading up to tournament week, we all worked for long hours, some days up to 14 hours. The jobs I did throughout my time down at the Hills were fly mowing, cutting tees with walk behinds, full rake on bunkers, removing weeds on fairways with a screwdriver, weedeating around sculptures, divotting from tees to surrounds, walking the greens on the newly built par 3, 9 hole course, removing algae from ponds and transforming the golf cart shed into media rooms.

My tournament job was to full rake all 96 bunkers in a team of 6. All staff started at 4am and for our team it took us about 3 and a half hours to rake all bunkers. PGG Wrightson turf provided us with a very nice breakfast every morning and after

that we were free to either head out onto the course and watch golf or just chill out either at home or in the shed. Following Ryan Fox was an awesome vibe, so too was meeting Michael Campbell at Millbrook.

After re-grouping again around 3:30pm for dinner provided by the chef from the clubhouse, we got organized again for our evening jobs. I was fortunate enough to help the 3IC Sam Davis cut new tournament holes. I learnt a lot off Sam who also won this award a few years ago while previously working at Tauranga Golf Club. We generally finished around 8:30pm and then it was a quick bike to my motel then straight to bed.

In review the Open ran very smoothly and all players were extremely happy with how the course was presented. Eventual winner, 21 year old Australian Zach Murray said it was an absolute dream to play on when he came down to the shed for a beer afterwards.

Then my time was up, i had an awesome few weeks working with some great men and women. I cannot thank all of you enough for providing me this opportunity, i am extremely grateful.

Many thanks & kind regards

~~Ben~~

Ben Engels.