

GAMES GOLF 09

The Australian pair of Robert and Heather Stephens lapped up fast running fairways at Castlecliff to win gold medals on the opening day of golf in the ACC Thinksafe NZ Masters Games.

The pair, from the Rossdale club, carded 48 pts to win the 21-23 handicap mixed foursomes by three points from fellow Australian Carole Tector (Sandgate) and Wanganui partner Robin Casey.

The Taranaki combination of Irvine and Elizabeth Marr also returned 48 pts to win the 24-25 handicap title by six points from Waverley's Bill Stewart and Fay Dallison.

Home course players Murray and Marlene Mitchell took the 26 plus gold medals with 46 points, three clear of Marton's Steve and Barb Cornor who won on the count back from Taihape's Les and Lorna Thurston.

Boyd Pene (Castlecliff) teamed up with Taima Murphy (Waverley) to take the 17-20 division with 45 pts, just one clear of Lance Sawyer (Carterton) and Lynne Wickham (Wanganui) who won silver on the count-back from Castlecliff's Ian Townsend and former Wanganui table tennis rep Katie Webber (Sydney)

In the lowest scoring section (0-16), Mike Goodacre (HB) and Beryl McLeod (Sherwood Park) won on 41, one ahead of Alister Smith (Carterton) and Rosalyn Green (Gold Coast – Australia) who finished clear of Waverley's former Wanganui rugby rep fullback Francis Hill and Jenny Stewart on the count-back.

Lesley Leary (Huntermville) and partner Bruce Callon scooped the pool of three gold medals each in the under-50 mixed foursomes at Santoft, taking the gross (87), nett (69.5) and stableford (39 pts) titles.

They headed off Simiale Faalogo (Papakura) and Ngaire Hunter (Levin) by a stroke in the gross and Mike and Gillian O'Kane by five shots in both the nett and stableford.