

Media release

Beat the drought blues golf day

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Farmers in Waipu are being encouraged to take time out, relax and enjoy a game of golf as a way to escape the drought blues – at least for a day.

Northland Drought Committee spokesperson Julie Jonker says that despite recent rain relief in some areas there is still very little grass around and farmers are feeling the pinch.

“The rain has been very patchy throughout the region and while some farmers are seeing grass growth it’s pretty slow and feed shortages are still a very real worry,” she says.

“The increase in payout announced last month (**subs: April**) has also eased the pressure for dairy farmers but it’s going to take a long time for pasture to recover and much of the additional payout will go towards ensuring stock have sufficient feed through the winter and into spring.”

The Waipu golf day is the third to be run by the Northland Drought Committee and Ms Jonker says she expects this one to be just as popular as the previous two.

“The informal golf games and barbeques we’ve already had were very popular, providing farmers with a chance to unwind and get away from the farm,” she says.

The golf day will be held at the Waipu Golf Club on Thursday 20 May from 10am to 2:30pm with prizes awarded for ‘interesting’ shots. The ‘ambrose’ format for the day will ensure that even those with no skill or experience at the end of a golf club can enjoy the round.

A barbeque lunch is also being put on by the committee at 1pm - all farmers are welcome, whether they play a round of golf or not.

“Committee members are aware of the stresses many in the rural sector are under and with Northland heading into winter without any substantial rain in most places those stresses are unlikely to end any time soon.”

She says people interested in the fun day should phone (09) 432 0259 to register by Monday 17 May.

ENDS

For more information:

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