



**36<sup>th</sup> Aotearoa National Bowls  
MATAATUA 2010**

**6 & 7 FEBRUARY 2010  
Kawerau Bowling Club**

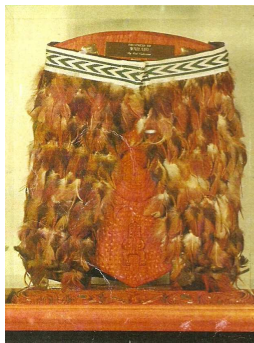



### **36<sup>th</sup> Aotearoa National Bowls Mataatua 2010**

Waitangi weekend will see approximately 100 teams from across New Zealand converge on the township of Kawerau, nestled deep in the heart of The Bay of Plenty. There will be around 400 competitors over two days of competition and the general headquarters and finals will be held at the Kawerau Bowling Club.

With such a large amount of teams and players the surrounding clubs of Edgecumbe, Whakatane, Ohope and Taneatua will also host teams in the competition. This years tournament is being hosted by the Mataatua Maori Bowls. They were handed over, after the 2008 Champs won by the Frankton Railway Team, the stunning Taonga Tuku Iho, this Taonga/treasure is passed down from host to host after each tournament.

### **History of Taonga Tuku Iho**



#### **Thames – 1990**

At the delegates meeting Fred Bristowe made a request to Waikato to withdraw their application to host the 1992 tournament. One of the original fraternity members Bill Knott of Russell BC was in very poor health, hence his request to host the tournament back up north at Kaikohe. As a token of appreciation to Waikato for honouring his request, Fred donated the beautiful Taonga.

**Dannevirke – 1993**

The taonga was presented for the Aotearoa National Bowls tournament.

**Tokoroa – 1996**

Waikato and Te Arawa finally came to a decision on how the taonga would take its journey.

**Rotorua – 1998**

Waikato received the taonga in its original state, but because of the mana the taonga was given, it was placed on a carved base then adorned with a korowai crafted and presented by Hana Herbert.

**Masterton – 2007**

The taonga was blessed and given its name “TAONGA TUKU IHO”

**Ruawai – 2008**

Te Taitokerau had the taonga enclosed in glass

**Te Tairāwhiti – 2009**

Te Tairāwhiti reveals the history of the taonga, as told by Jack Owens of Waikato.

It is anybody's guess as to who could be the favourites for the 2010 title, no doubt the Mataatua team will fancy their chances and the Gregory's from the Frankton railway team should not be ruled out, having taken the men's section twice in the last 3 years.

However, the big news came when the Mataatua organising committee recently found out that the hot shot Shannon McIlroy will be competing in the 2010 team tournament. His inclusion will certainly add an international flavour to the competition as he was selected to represent New Zealand and also won the prestigious Stokes Invitation Singles. His presence at the tournament will certainly get people talking and may put his team into title contention.

The Bay of Plenty will certainly provide the stunning back drop for this national tournament and Mt Putauaki will stand proud in the nearby landscape watching over the competitors. The powhiri will take place at Rautahi Marae in Kawerau from 5pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Those competing will enjoy plenty of serious bowls action and the excellent opportunity to meet with friends past and present, as they join together in the one true passion they all share; Bowls!