



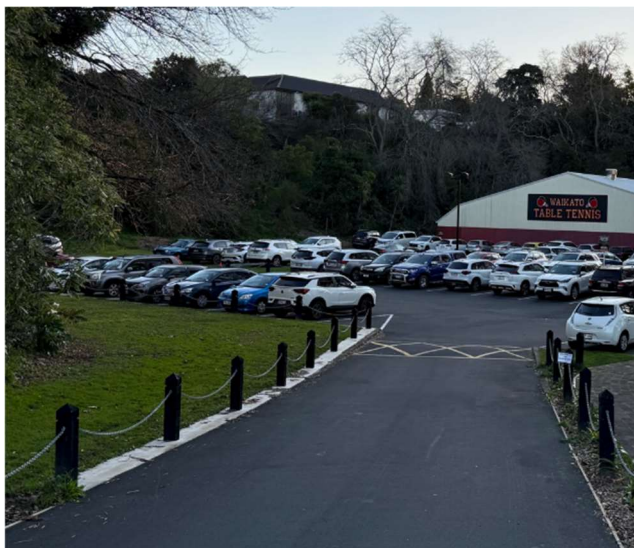
Waikato Table Tennis Association NEWSLETTER August 2025 e-mail: waikatotabletennis@gmail.com

2025 WAIKATO OPEN

The Waikato Open was held during the weekend of 9th and 10th of August. We had more than 140 players enter the tournament with 588 matches being played over the course of the event.

It was a fantastic showing from our local Waikato members. The number of players that participated from each Association was as follows:

Auckland	20	Bay of Plenty	3
Counties Manukau	20	Manawatu	1
North Shore	22	North Taranaki	3
Waikato	48	Waitemata	26
Whanganui	1		



Organizing an event like the Waikato Open is no small task and there was a team of volunteers looking after the Canteen, Parking, Facilities, Equipment, Health & Safety, Tournament Control, Medals, etc.

One example is the photo (inset left) of Kerry Allen running the Canteen and in her spare time categorizing all of the medals in preparation for the presentations. Kerry was also on call for any Health & Safety issues as they arose.

Running events like the Waikato Open provides an important source of revenue for the Association, but it is also a major undertaking for our volunteers. On the Saturday, many started as early as 7:30am and finished close to 10pm,



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while Sunday's shift still stretched a full twelve hours, from 7:30am to 7:30pm. With the number of entries received, it has been a challenge to keep all matches moving across just 12 tables. To help make the event more manageable, we will be making some changes in 2026. One key change is the introduction of a new tournament earlier in the year (Waikato Veterans Open) which will cater exclusively to the O30, O40, O50, O60, and O70 age groups and will still count for TTNZ ranking points. By separating the Veterans events from the main Waikato Open, we aim to reduce the pressure on scheduling and improve the experience for everyone involved. In addition, there will be adjustments to the structure of the events offered at the 2026 Waikato Open.

To view all results from the recent Waikato Open, visit our website (<https://www.wtta.org.nz/>) and select the 'Noticeboard' menu in the top-right.

Frank Risk



It was all happening on 7 August at the Frank Risk 10th Annual Doubles Table Tennis Tournament. This year's event was held at the upmarket Wintec Atrium in Hamilton. Play began around 6pm and continued well past 11pm.

Each year, WkTTA is asked to provide tables, nets, bats, balls, and a few umpires. A big thank you to Tom, Jon Jon, Trevor, Jonathan, and Kerry for umpiring, and to Mark and his friend for delivering and setting up the four tables and umpire chairs on Thursday morning, then returning them all to the stadium on Friday afternoon.



As always, Frank Risk kindly provided WkTTA with a generous donation for supplying equipment and umpires. They also looked after our team, providing food and drinks throughout the night.

The tournament attracted over 100 entrants, with 24 teams in the Social section and 16 teams in the Competitive section. Many teams added to the fun by turning up in matching, colourful outfits.

The Competitive section was won by the Cambridge Seniors team, made up of Bruce Langridge (a former WkTTA member) and Jeanette Boswell (a current WkTTA member). Remarkably, the pair had an average age of 80 and still managed to outplay all the much younger teams. Congratulations to them on a fantastic achievement.



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All proceeds from team entry fees went to the Sir John Kirwan Mitey Foundation, while Frank Risk covered the running costs of the event. In addition, another business matched the Frank Risk contribution up to \$5,000, making the night an even greater success.

New Zealand Secondary Schools

TTNZ ran the annual NZ Secondary Schools competition over 3 days from 25th to 27th of August. Our stadium was hired by TTNZ to host the event. The final of the U19 Boys Singles was between Jet Lin and John Wu who are ranked 1st and 3rd on the NZ **Senior Men's** Ranking List. The final of the U19 Girls Singles was between Carrie Guo and Jocelyn Lam who are ranked 4th and 2nd on the NZ **Senior Women's** Ranking List. The final of the U15 Girls Singles was between Ayumi Moriyama-Picard and Yelena Yi who are ranked 14th and 9th on the NZ **Senior Women's** Ranking List. With school players already competing at the very top of the national senior rankings, the future of table tennis in New Zealand looks exceptionally bright.



Photo of the U15 Girls Semi Finals (inset left) with Anya Chen playing Yelena Yi on Table 10 and Josephine Chong playing Ayumi on Table 9.

Bits & Pieces

- To comply with the 2022 Incorporated Societies Act we will be submitting a new WkTTA Constitution. This will need to be accepted and voted upon at a meeting of all members. This will likely be the AGM in November.
- Jonathan has been doing a lot of work making all of our Policy & Guideline documents transparent and accessible to all members. Please check these documents out on the new Hello Club menu that has been created (below the 'Account' menu).



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