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## FIRST EDITION

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## TARA ITI DISC RELEASE

This April, we released our new control driver, the Tara Iti. Its flight numbers are **10.5.0.2**, and we consider it to be our most beginner-friendly driver yet. The Tara Iti has quickly secured its spot in all of the RPM pros' bags, being relied on for its straight and steady flight. In Jackson Sullivan's disc review video, he covers the different plastics and showcases the flight line of the disc in strong head and tailwinds. Oceania has been enjoying the Tara Iti for the last couple of weeks, and we are excited for the rest of the world to get their hands on this disc in the days to come.



It's just controllable. It's neutral. It's not too under or over stable. It's just sitting perfectly where we wanted it. Go check it out, you won't be disappointed at all.

# North Island Champions FPO



## Michele Simpson #161127

### 1st Place FPO Division

Going into the tournament, I felt a little underdone and stressed, having just come off a run of several tournaments where I had to travel, such as the South Island Championships and NZ Nationals. Additionally, I was dealing with a new job and terrible Auckland weather.

To prepare for the tournament, I played the usual rounds of disc golf with friends on weekends, engaged in some match play, and worked on my form in the park. I also maintained my usual gym routine for strength.

For the competition, I brought approximately 25 discs in my bag, carrying around 20 and having extras in case I lost any. Previously at NZ Nationals, I had really leaned on my 172 yellow Kahu XG. Loved it and so ended up getting a couple more, as well as a more stable white version that handles a slight head wind a little better. The new Kahu XGs were my go-to distance drivers off the tee for NI Champs.

During the tournament, I was most proud of my mental strength, especially in the final five holes. I had a shocker on hole 16 and had lost my lead. I subsequently missed a birdie putt and had another bogie before reaching hole 20. This hole has a hard drive out from the woods where a tree on the left catches many people. Suspecting I was down to the awesome RPM team member Laura Kjestrup, I managed to make a couple of safe drives out to the mouth of the forest where the basket sat and get in for a birdie. Leading up to that point, I had to quash any negative thoughts and bad holes to keep my head in the game.

My best drive and best putt came in the same hole at the same time on hole 13 spa park. Drive was with my yellow Kahu XG and it looked a lot closer off the tee than it actually was. So I had an 8-9 m putt for birdie with a little breeze. I had that battle in my head walking up to the disc - do I go for that extremely high basket or take the safety option. I had had the same look a year earlier and gone for it with success so I stepped up, fully committed and sunk the putt.

## Laura Kjestrup #146714

### 2nd Place FPO Division



Going into the tournament I was excited to play, as it had been a couple months. I really wanted to just play well for this event. I didn't have the best preparation leading up to NI Champs to be honest, my son had Chickenpox the week before the tournament. But I did get some daily putting done and the odd casual round on our 9 hole course to keep the arm warm.

My go-to RPM disc was the Kahu XG for max glide and distance - I was throwing this really well. And the Takapu, too, for my throwing putter which only recently entered my bag.

My favourite hole was hole 9 on the golf course. I threw a perfect full flight drive, had to forehand chip up before the hazard as I didn't have a line to go for it, then threw a cheeky hammer over the haz area, upshot and drop in for bogey which felt like a birdie! And hole 2 at Spa Park. Backhand fairway drive, forehand lay-up to the gap, floaty flex upshot through the trees, putt. Stayed out trouble! They were a nice level of difficulty but fun and I threw great shots so I really enjoyed those holes! My best drive was on hole 4 of the golf course, pushing right up to the corner of the first island - trusted my old Kahu in the wind. And my best putt.. none were very impressive unfortunately. I was either making comfortable par putts or dropping in my bogeys. My event highlights were on day 2 when I improved by 13! strokes from day 1, and battling back and forth for 1st with Meesh, it was fun!

I aim to keep growing and progressing, always trying to play above my rating each tournament. And I'd love to make Team Crown one day.

# North Island Champions MPO



*Jackson Sullivan #61103*

## 2nd Place MPO Division

Leading into this event I had a re-found passion for the sport and wanted to put up a good fight defending this title. With my spark for competition relit, I got back into the practice routine, putting and field work. Both courses were great, Spa Parks always a classic and the golf course had a lot of sweet holes.

My best drive was a turn over on hole 13, and my best putt was on hole 12. As for favourite hole, it's always the par 4 to the peninsula at Spa park, Hole 9! Can't beat that view after grabbing your putter from the basket. Go to discs for me were my stable Kahu XG's and Kotare off the tee - Mint Peka, Kotukus and Keas in between. I brought a total of 23 RPM discs with me to the event.

My highlights and proudest moments were one in the same, which was getting back into the right frame of mind to succeed competitively on the course. Not to mention, having my whanau caddy and winning the skins match taking a nice \$700.

*Simon Feasey #8508*

## 3rd Tied MPO Division

The North Island champs was the final NZDG major and like the other 2 events had the primary course as a pop up on a golf course. A huge amount of work and expense goes into these pop up courses and while I loved playing on them, I do wonder if it is testing all the abilities of the players? The modern game has many factors that are beyond just playing golf, for example the size of the fields dictate that tight time frames need to be adhered to, we are getting more and more rounds filmed, and on occasion we even have spectators. It is much more difficult to find naturally technically challenging holes, so a huge emphasis is put into length and artificial OB and hazard areas. These do make the courses challenging, but can remove the scrambling side of the game. I personally love being confronted with difficult lies in places where the options have huge consequences. You get the experience of making crucial decisions where going for the low percentage shot could gain you a stroke or cost you 2. You will often find yourself throwing from stances that you hardly ever practice and it comes down to your confidence and experience to be able to execute shots that can make your round.



I played well throughout the event and only really felt like I started to fade a bit at the end of the third round. It was important for me to really try and pace myself and avoid the temptation to throw as hard as I could on the long holes. My star performing discs for the weekend were the Kahus and Pekapeka off the tee and the reliability of my Kotukus and my Takapus for the up shots. It was awesome to see so many people at each event and I really enjoyed the fact that with only 1 round a day I could take advantage of the social events. I would very much like to see the Majors go back to 4 rounds though as I feel like the consequences of a bad round or different conditions within the division are too large over only 3. Would have loved to have a second round at Spa Park too. The highlights for me at Taupo were playing with team mates and playing well.



*Levi Stout #118179*

## 3rd Tied MPO Division

Going into North Islands, I was feeling good about how my game was feeling, distance has been a focus recently and leading into this event, I was throwing further than ever. Putting was feeling good, but still not quite where I wanted it to be. I focused heavily on open shots and putting before this tournament due to

the longer nature of the courses. My Keas and Takapus were doing work all throughout the weekend, on all my approach shots, and they held up perfectly in the wind. My Tuis were my main putter as usual, and I made some big putts throughout the tournament due to the confidence Tuis give me. I was proud of how I held up on the putting green coming down the final stretch, with my Tuis making some big putts that had pressure behind them. I only had one putt that I think I should have made and didn't, but I can't complain about my putting in the final round.

# North Island Champions FA1



## Alexandra Williams #195466 1st Place FA1 Division

I actually felt a lot of pressure and nerves heading into North Island Champs, having won NZ nationals just 2 weeks prior. The courses were completely different to each other, and I was probably more nervous for NI than I was for Nationals!

In the lead up to NI, I did a road trip around the South Island in a Kombi van with my good mate Kev Costa. We played 20 odd courses over 7 days, which definitely helped keep up my good form following Nationals - not to mention it was the best, most incredibly fun 7 days. However, I had never played in a tournament split across two courses, and I think I left myself a day short in Taupo; I only managed to get 1 practice round of each course in where my usual routine for new courses is 2 practice rounds, so I felt quite unprepared going into round 1.

I took far too many discs to NZ - I was so nervous to lose some that I took backups for my backups for my favourite drivers. I think across all 3 comps, I had 30 discs in my bag. My caddies definitely had sore backs!

Across all 3 comps, I leaned very heavily on my Tui, Ruru, Piwakawaka, Kiwi and Kahu. I found myself throwing them a lot in NZ and I definitely don't think I would have played as well as I did if I didn't have them in my bag.

Across the weekend of NI, I had a couple things occur off the course which were difficult to deal with, and were a bit of a distraction. I ended up bogeying the first 5 holes of my first round, but thankfully I managed to put my emotions aside, focus quite well during my rounds, stick to my game plan, and get the job done. I'm definitely proud of how I handled a tough few days by focusing, having fun and competing well!

My favourite hole was definitely hole 2 of Spa Park. The tricky fairway with OB on the left and really bad rough on the right, with the basket tucked away in the trees, made for a challenging but incredibly fun hole to try and attack! Plus, the basket was one of the coolest baskets I'd ever seen, affixed a top of a fallen tree. Such an awesome hole!

Spa Park was one of my favourite courses I played in NZ. I loved the combination of the wooded holes for score separation and total challenge to my game, and loved the open holes for their elevation and ability to let a big drive off. The golf course was a beautiful course, but I didn't enjoy it as much as Spa because it felt like a big 'placement golf' course for me, which I'm not the biggest fan of. I did enjoy the elevation changes and being able to let big drives off though, that was fun!

My best drive and putt happened round 2, Hole 13, Spa Park. It's a 100m uphill island hole with an elevated basket and big headwinds. Although the island was only in play for MA1 and the pros, I landed the island with a massive drive, which left me with about a 6m uphill putt for birdie. I was the only female to birdie that hole across the entire weekend.

The end of day 2 players party at the clubhouse was an absolute hoot. You could tell how much thought went into the comp, both on the course and off the course, and it was a lot of fun to meet and hang out with a bunch of kiwi's. Was also a lot of fun to share 2 of the 3 cards with Victoria, Aimee, Michaela and of course our hype girl Katie!

I want to thank RPM for all their support, not just in NZ, but since day 1. You guys have supported and believed in me since before I even knew how to play properly. To the TD's for each tournament, thank you for putting on such incredible tournaments and showing off the best of NZ disc golf! Also, to all my new kiwi friends, thank you for the best month! I had an incredible time and can't wait to see you all again very soon!

# It's in our nature

# Support The Team

## Upcoming Tournaments

Barrett White • FP40  
Spring Fling Women's Open  
20th

Christoph Weiß • MPO  
EPT-X TREMONIA OPEN  
12th

Zieleniec Open  
19th

Drew Gibson • MPO  
DGPT - OTB Open  
12th

Beaver State Fling  
19th

Discraft's Cascade Challenge  
26th

Elvis Eriksson Sveiven • MPO  
Lundbyparken Open  
19th

Jake Anderson • MPO  
2023 Midwest Showdown  
13th

Jenny Umstead • FP40  
PDGA Masters Disc Golf Champs  
25th

Sofie Björlycke • FPO  
Lundbyparken Open  
19th

# TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS

APRIL 2023

Barrett White

1st The 2023 Prairie Open • FPO  
2nd Standing Rocks Open • FPO

Carina Weidner

1st Generation Series Finale • FA1

Christoph Weiß

3rd Neu-Ulmer Open • MPO

Jackson Sullivan

1st RPM Triple Crown Woodhill • MPO  
2nd 2023 Brook Park Brave • MPO

Jake Anderson

2nd Cross Hwy Clash Warm-Up Philly Flex • MPO  
1st Pull of the Pathfinders • MPO  
1st Bailey Park Open • MPO

Jenna Jiaxin Tan

1st Johor State Disc Golf Championship • FPO



Jenny Umstead

2nd 2023 Santa Cruz Reunion Masters Cup • FP40

Mark Dakiv

3rd RPM Triple Crown Woodhill • MPO  
4th 2023 Brook Park Brave • MPO

Martin Doerken

4th Salzgitter Island Challenge • MPO  
2nd First Run Vol 2.0 • MP40  
1st Lappwald Masters Cup • MP40

Melanie Meuter

1st Winkelried Trophy • FPO  
1st Spring Clang • FPO

Simon Feasey

4th RPM Triple Crown Woodhill • MPO

# TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS

APRIL 2023

Alek Anderson

2nd Hastings Huck • MA1

Andrew Garza

3rd Throw Down The Dam 2 • MP40

Ben Brawn

1st Spring At The Rock • MA1

Jesse Kosonen

3rd Ford Am by Spincom • MA1

Jesse Peterson

3rd Skyline Classic • MPO

Joshua Delp

4th Throwmore 2023 • MPO



Micah Fracker

1st A Spring Session at Sessions Lake • MA1

Michael Stoddard

1st NSDGT New Minas • MPO  
4th Halliburton House Huck • MPO

Nathan Davis

2nd 1st Annual Tree Trunk Chunk • MPO  
5th Bluff City Open • MPO

Oliver Mundy-Castle

2nd Southern Forest Bark Buster 2023 • MPO

William Quinn

1st Spring Fling at Wilson • MA2

# TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS

APRIL 2023

Alexis Valenti

2nd Bomber Blast • FA1

Bryce Winchester

5th The Molong Cup 2023 • MA1

Charles Hemstock

2nd Mo Kan Battle • MA1

Claire Bruton

4th Molong Cup • MA4  
5th Vic Open • FA2

Curtis Koster

5th Dolly Cooper Classic • MA3

David Highlands

5th The 2023 Blackjack Open • MA2  
2nd Crossover Spring Thursday Night Flights • MA2



Erich Ward

1st 2023 NADGT: C-Tier @ Widefield • MA2

Isaiah Crawford

1st Thrills In The Hills • MP40

Liam Hernberg

5th Pot O' Gold • MPO

Mark Boland

2nd Molong Cup • MA2

Sarah O'Shannessy

2nd The Battle at 7th Brigade Park • FA40

Sean Sullivan

2nd WNY Point Series - Event #1 • MA1  
3rd The 81Fore Classic • MA1

Sarah O'Shannessy

1st The Molong Cup • MA3

# Player Spotlights



The Paradise Plates is always one of my favourite events to attend each year. I would say the highlight moments were every round when we made the walk from hole 10 Snakey to hole 11 wedding vows and standing on the tee looking up to Turret head and up the dart river valley towards mount Aspiring Nat park. You can never get tired of that view. It was also great to be able to play the Tara iti on hole 17 as I always struggled a bit to make the distance with my over stable Huia. Also tapping in the final putt for the win can't be overrated.

Most challenging moments are playing snakey and taking the chance to throw OB through a tight gap. There was also a strong wind on the final day so making good disc and shot choices was the difference between pars and big numbers.

My go to discs were the Takapu and Kotuku having confidence in getting a nice stable flight is huge when shooting gaps through the woods and managing disc angles. I really don't know what my favourite holes are, as there are so many good ones, but I would have to say Reflections it's so much fun to play with a 90 odd m water carry slight elevation and a very alluring basket position. I Aced it a couple of years back so the memory is still pretty strong. Hole 7 is also a classic tunnel across a gully where the gaps get smaller the closer you get to the basket and there is a big drop off behind the basket. So rewarding when you lace it.

The entire event is more than just Disc Golf. It's spending 4 nights in Paradise with great mates, catching up with like minded people and enjoying simple delights without power or internet distractions. Just a great way to unwind. James Jaguar Smithells also religiously hosts a Jungle of fame ceremony that's a big party with a bon fire music and lights (with a generator) and a bunch of fancy dressed spirit animals. Great fun and I highly recommend to put this event on your bucket list if you haven't been before.

*Simon Feasey*

New Zealand South Island  
Championships 2023  
Helicopter Line  
NZ Queenstown Classic

1<sup>st</sup>



Hayley Flintoft  
#83693

"Disc golf lessons are the same as life lessons, always be in a state of learning."

Februarys tourneys were awesome! It's fascinating being a mum and still competing at the level I am, there is definitely a survival mode happening sometimes as I have not slept for longer than three hours at a time for two years, but I am also a hypnotist so I have tools under my belt that get me through the hard times with a giant smile on my face.

All of your reading this know how magical disc golf adventures are and to share this with a toddler is amazing! The adventures he's been on already are epic!

The south Island champs at the Garden City Open was all an excellent comp and a testament to where NZ Disc Golf is going. I played well the first round and my highlight hole was hole 18 which was a 200m hole with ob starting at about 130m and an island green to finish and I played it exactly how I wanted to, drive, up shot to the ob line and then my lightweight Huia fought the wind perfectly to land next to the basket. I then dropped the ball straight out of the gate on the second round which meant that it became quite a tight battle for the rest of the weekend. I managed to keep my head clear though and only just snag the title on the very last hole of the tourney, so hole 18 was definitely a memorable hole for me! I had left myself short on my up shot and had to run the island green from further back than I had wanted and my lightweight Kahu sealed the deal and landed me in the island to give me the win. Queenstown classic was another goodie, short techy holes and my first round on the second day was epic, I literally couldn't miss a putt.

My most memorable hole was a par save. I'd just acquired an old school 2nd hand Arcturus (old Piwakawaka mold) and I was trialling it out, I missed a mando (probably shouldn't have tried using a new disc to the bag during comp but hey I'm sure we've all been there) and putted a stonker 25m putt from the drop zone to save par. I think I threw my platinum Piwakawaka for 90% of that tourney! Such a magical disc! I've just got my hands on the brand new Tara Iti and I can already tell it's going to be a magical part of my bag! Massive hanks RPM and Vortica! The birds are special and I'm honoured to represent them!

Hayley Flintoft



April is usually the start of the disc golf season here in the Buffalo, NY area which usually also means wet and sloppy course conditions. I'm happy to say though that I'm off to a blazing start so far with 1 top 10 finish, a mixed doubles win (shoutout to my partner Cassie Aszkler!), and finally my 2nd career MA2 win! I've been working a lot on my form and mental game this off season with my Coach/Mentor as well which has really prepared me well for my events. It's pretty exciting to see the results of my hard work and I'm also excited for warmer temperatures and better weather.

I find it a challenge to manage my game under very windy conditions. Sometimes you just gotta realize you can't run everything in those kinds of conditions and to strategize each shot. Maintaining my mental game can also be a struggle, as it can be very easy to slip into old/bad habits and the slightest crack can turn into a downward spiral especially in high pressure situations.

With the 2023 RPM Discs sponsorship, I've switched up most of my bag and I'm still exploring all of the molds! I have many favourites. The Glow Pekapeka is a laser straight backhand for me, with a nice finish and I've been loving it for forehands too. The Glow Tui ("Tui time!") I've been using for backhand approaches. Throwing this disc is effortless! I've almost had several throw-ins (even had a throw-in during my 2nd RPM practice round with my atomic Tui!) Finally, the Atomic Tara iti was an immediate new addition to my bag as soon as I got my hands on it. I've been loving this new disc for backhand and forehand. It's reliable and very workable for me.

My favourite hole has to be hole 1 at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park. It's a short hole with a tight gap off the tee that plays downhill the entire way. You have to be delicate with your power though because there is water behind the basket location which is set in a tree stump! Once you get down to the basket you can enjoy the nice view out into Lake Ontario. On really clear days you can see the Toronto Skyline in the background.

I've been working hard this off season to prepare for what's to come and seeing the results of my work is awesome! I've also gotten more into running events and will be running 4 tournaments total this year. I also manage my local pro shops team (shout out Spartan Discs!) It's a pretty rewarding experience to be able to give back to the community in other ways than just playing and attending events. I'm thankful for disc golf and where it has taken me so far, and I can't wait to see where it takes me in the future!

Some fun facts about me: I'm an identical twin. I bowl during the off season. My favorite color is purple. My favorite mold is the Dynamic Discs Felon. My favorite RPM mold is the Glow Tui. Favorite FPO player: Kristin Tatar. Favorite MPO player: Eric Oakley

**NZ National Disc Golf  
Championships  
NZDGC - Red (AM) Course  
NZDG North Island  
Championships  
The Paradise Plates**

**1<sup>st</sup>**



**Alexandra Williams  
#111213**

In March, I played in the NZ Nationals, North Island Champs, the Paradise Plates, and also 20 of New Zealand's most amazing courses! It made for a big, eventful month, and between the people, the courses, the effort put into each tournament, and the beautiful scenery, playing disc golf tournaments in NZ is absolutely unreal. I made some incredible memories, played some awesome holes, threw some of the best shots I ever had, and walked away with lifelong friends and memories, which I value a lot more than the tournament wins. I had the most amazing time in New Zealand; not one part of me wanted to return home to Australia, and I am already looking at ways to come back, and possibly for a longer stint!

My favourite moments in any tournament are the moments between the shots you take, where you get to know the people you're playing with and their caddies, share some laughs, strategise over the next shot or hole, and enjoy the overall experience! One of my favourite moments like this was at Nationals when I threw a nectarine into a tree in an attempt to get my disc down - safe to say it shocked my kiwi cardmates and made for some good laughs. Even now I still get some stick for it from a couple kiwi's!! There were plenty of these fun, little moments in NZ and I remember these more than the shots I made.

Funnily enough, the hardest moment for me was coming home to Australia aha! Living the dream by being on the road and playing disc golf nonstop for a month, and then returning to the everyday was hard! As much as I love my job, I loved my month in NZ a lot more! I miss the people, the courses and the overall experience a lot more than I was expecting to!

Across my entire month, I threw my Tui, Ruru, Takapu, Kiwi and Kahu a lot. They often put me in good positions and gained me strokes on my card, particularly the putters which I threw a lot in the wooded holes!!

Out of the approximate 360 distinct holes I played in NZ, it is very tough to pick a top hole! 5 or 6 come to mind immediately! But I think my favourite competition hole that I played would be hole 13 of the red course at Nationals - it's a 174m par 4 with a double Mando, a little dog leg right, a lot of trees guarding the approach to the basket and OB about 6m to the right of the basket. Not only was this hole very pretty, but it was fun yet challenging to play!! You had to keep your drive low enough that it didn't hit the low canopy of the trees, high enough that you didn't turf it, straight enough that you hit the double mando and landed in a favourable position, then with your approach you had to be precise to not hit a tree, but also have enough touch to not go long or skip into the OB next to and behind the basket. It was also good for score separation; I birdied this in rounds 1 and 3, and in round 2, my 2nd throw skipped off the cage into OB for a near eagle to a bogey!

It was also really cool to visit the RPM factory and hand pick a lot of discs!! Like a kid in a candy store, I went full sugar high! The next day I had to go buy a bigger suitcase to fit all of the new discs, as well as the extra discs I brought over as backups! I left Australia with 30 discs, and returned with 60!

I started playing in September 2021 after going for a run during Covid lockdown and seeing the baskets in the local park. The next day I got a couple discs delivered and went out to throw them, and have been playing ever since! I would have never imagined back then that I would travel to NZ for a month of competition, where I would somehow manage to win each comp, but more importantly, walk away with lifelong memories and friends. I'm super grateful for the NZ disc golf community, who welcomed me with open arms and I can't wait to come back over for some more fun and laughs!! Also, y'all should come over to Australia and play, the courses are so different to NZ, and there really isn't as many things that could kill you as you think!!!!

# Upcoming RPM Events



Lille Leland

**A TIER**  
**1st - 3rd June 2023**  
lindesnes, Norway

Get ready for an amazing experience on one of Europe's toughest and most fun courses. All players get free food all the tournament days. We will help all players with accommodation. As cheap as possible. There will be simple accommodation on the course for 15€ per night. We have some host families with bedrooms which are reserved for FPO players. Let us know and we will do our best to suit your needs. There will be a players only lounge with a PS5 and other entertainment. We will have a live band performing your requested tee off song on the Saturday (the band needs to know a month in advance.) There will be a players party in the club house after the event on Saturday evening, with food, drinks and live music. All of this is included in the entry fee. The RPM Open is a part of the Swedish Pro Tour.



*Stian Johnsen - Event Director*



# ATUA SERIES DISCS



POS  
FOR  
CHANGE