

THE HILLS CURE KIDS OPEN TO BECOME ANNUAL GOLFING HIGHLIGHT

March 19 2009: The Hills Cure Kids Open will become a permanent fixture on the Queenstown golfing calendar, after the outstanding success of the inaugural tournament in 2008, which raised \$40,000 for research into children's life threatening illnesses.

The tournament was launched for the first time last year as a gesture by The Hills owner, entrepreneur Michael Hill, recognising the support of Otago and Southland communities for the Michael Hill New Zealand Open.

This year's event on the private course is scheduled for November 28 and 29.

Mr Hill says it will again target local golfers, who will be an integral part of the 2009 New Zealand Open in March, particularly as volunteers.

"We are expecting the same outstanding support this year for the Open and we are keen to open up the golf course in November to local people who want a chance to play it. It will undoubtedly become a key local event over the years and I am delighted to be able to give something back in this way."

The tournament has two separate fields of 72 players each day with prizes awarded in handicap divisions for men and women. The entry fee for Otago or Southland golf club members is \$450 and for non-local golfers \$700.

Mr Hill expects many of last year's field to return.

"There has been an overwhelming demand from players who want the opportunity to take on the course again. Last year there was a waiting list and we look forward to seeing some new faces in the tournament this year."

Cure Kids is The Hills' charity of choice and Mr Hill is delighted to provide the venue for another fundraising tournament.

"Cure Kids makes some remarkable research achievements and we are very pleased to be aligned with their work which aims to improve the quality of life for many young New Zealanders."

Cure Kids South Island Funding Manager Josie Spillane says The Hills Cure Kids Open is a flagship event and the ongoing commitment from The Hills is exceptional.

"Last year's players in the tournament were also most supportive of Cure Kids and keen to learn more about our research and the benefits it brings for young children. At this year's tournament we will again introduce them to young local Cure Kids ambassadors to provide an insight into how significant their support is."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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