

JOSH GEARY
Winner 2006 Carrus Tauranga Open

On his home course Josh Geary started as the strong favourite in the inaugural Carrus Tauranga Open, and the expectation of victory certainly didn't affect his play. His play on the front nine in each of the first two rounds was incredible and Geary started with matching 63's. His confidence off the tee and his sharp short game reduced the short par fours to easy threes for the local player, and incredibly after 42 holes of the event he had a seven shot lead and stood at 20 under par.



What followed was one of the most dramatic turnarounds in an event of this stature anywhere in the world. The reachable par five seventh at Gate Pa yielded many birdies and eagles all week, but on this day it was to bite Geary big time. In front of 300 spectators he hit his first drive right which was never found. He returned to the tee and pulled his drive in to a position where it was unplayable. A penalty drop, an approach from the practice fairway, a shot from a green side bunker and a missed four foot putt soon added up to a quintuple bogey 10. Meanwhile playing partner Kevin Smith fired two woods to 6 feet and made the putt for an eagle for a remarkable seven shot swing. To Geary's credit he took the disaster on the chin and proceeded to still return a one under round of 70 and head in to the final round with a one shot lead.

On the final day Geary failed to take advantage of the front nine and with nine holes to play Smith was still within a shot, but an impressive last nine featuring five birdies helped geary clear out for an eight shot victory.

Six young women played in the event with only Ji Soo Oh making the 36 hole cut, which fell at 147. With rounds of 72, 70, 74 and 70 Oh finished in a tie for 29th.

1	Josh Geary	-22	63	63	70	66	262
2	Kevin Smith	-14	65	64	68	73	270
T3	Doug Holloway (p)	-9	66	76	67	66	275
T3	Grant Moorhead	-9	69	72	70	64	275
5	Tony Christie	-8	68	68	68	72	276

*** Photograph courtesy of the New Zealand Golf Magazine**