



THE RIVERSDALE GOLF CLUB LIMITED

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LYDIA KO KEEPS THE SILVER FERN FLYING

Talented 13-year-old New Zealander Lydia Ko has a special reason to keep the Silver Fern flag flying high at the 53rd Women's Riversdale Cup, which gets underway this Sunday (27 February).

The devastating South Island earthquake has given her the incentive to topple defending Riversdale Cup champion Jessica Speechley from Western Australia in the 72-hole tournament.

Lydia, from North Harbour, on the North Island, will be playing for all her fellow Kiwis who were affected by the Christchurch earthquake.

She highlighted her intention today at Riversdale when she and fellow New Zealander Cecilia Cho tied the 2011 Australian Women's Foursomes Championship with Korea's Lee Park and Su-Hyun Oh, who is aged 14 years. Both teams came home with 139.

Lydia has been the inform player in amateur ranks this year, having finished second in the recent Ladies NSW Open and topping the amateur list in the Australian Open, coming home in equal 12th position.

Despite a heavy playing schedule there is no break now for the teenager, who will head to India for the Queen Sirikit Cup following the Riversdale Cup and then returns for the Australian Amateur Championships.

Ko can expect to see her world ranking as the leading New Zealand golfer – amateur or professional – jump up from the current place of 252 as well as her ranking as No 5 on the world amateur list.

Speechley is also in good form going into the Cup, being currently ranked No 1 Australian Women's Amateur. She is joined by Victorian Breanna Elliott, the winner of the 2011 Lake Macquarie Championship and currently heading up the leaderboard in the Karrie Webb series, as well as the 2009 Cup winner Ashlee Dewhurst, from Tasmania.

Su Hyun is Victorian Junior Champion and was the leading qualifier in the ISPS HANDA Women's Australian Open, setting a course record 67 at the Kingswood Golf Club.

Dewhurst, is ranked No.5 in Australia, and took out the 2011 Judy Elphinstone 54-hole Championship at Ulverstone Golf Club in January, the title she held in 2008 & 2009.

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