



Hi from the Front Desk

Welcome to the **September** edition of the **Basketball New Zealand Newsletter**.

Congratulations to the **Nelson Sparks** who have won the **Women's Basketball Championship** held in Dunedin.

This month **Basketball New Zealand** in conjunc-

tion with **Porirua Basketball Association** will be holding the **FIBA Oceania U19 Championships for Men & Women** on the 20-22nd of September.

September marks the arrival of our new CEO **Ian Potter** who begins on the 17th.

Our athletes for the 2013 **Koru Tour** have been named to play at the **Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup** in Albury, NSW (9-20 January, 2013). Please follow the link below for more information.

www.basketball.org.nz/national-teams/2013-koru-development-tour/

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Sparks take out WBC title



Nelson Sparks— Richard Hood Photosport

Nelson Sparks have taken out the 2012 **Women's Basketball Championship**, trouncing **Waitakere West Auckland** 61-40 in the final at Dunedin.

Last year's runners-up maintained their unbeaten record through the playoffs tournament, taking the initiative with a nine-point run in the opening quarter and never looking back. They had a 17-point lead at halftime and their advan-

tage never fell below 14 over the final 20 minutes.

In a line-up filled with experienced performers, Nelson were led by youngsters **Jess Bygate** (10 points/12 rebounds) and **Shannon Perrett** (11 points), supported by the balanced scoring of Jodi **Hikuroa**, **Lisa Book** and **Jane Gowans** (eight points each).

The Sparks dominated the boards, grabbing 20 offensive rebounds and outscoring their rivals 20-8 in the

paint. Defensively, they held the Rangers to just 20% shooting from the field, blocking six shots in the process – five by veteran centre **Nicky Rampton**.

Only Junior Tall Ferns forward **Penina Davidson** offered any answer for debutants Waitakere, scoring 15 points from 9/11 free-throw shooting.

Defending champions **Otago Oceana Goldrush** defeated previous champions **Harbour Breeze** 54-49 for third place, while **Waikato Wizards** took out the plate final, overrunning **Canterbury Wildcats** 68-46.

Upcoming Events

- ♦ **Secondary Schools Premierships (September 5-8)**
- ♦ **Secondary School Nationals (October 1-6)**
- ♦ **Under 13 and 15 Nationals (October 8-12)**
- ♦ **Open and Wheelchair National (October 19-22)**

WBC Final Placings

1. Nelson Sparks
2. Waitakere West Auckland
3. Otago Oceana Goldrush
4. Harbour Breeze
5. Hutt Valley Flyers
6. Taranaki Trojans
7. Waikato Wizards
8. Canterbury Wildcats
9. Rotorua Lady Vols
10. Southland Kelvin Hotel Pearls

Thanks to all our valued sponsors



Bygate Takes MVP Honours

Nelson's **Jess Bygate** was named Most Valuable Player after leading her Sparks to the 2012 **Women's Basketball Championship** last weekend.

The 2011 runners-up went one better this year, overwhelming debutants Waitakere West Auckland 61-40 in the final. Bygate compiled a double double of 10

points/12 rebounds in the title game and has already left to take up a scholarship at Dickinson State University, under NZ-born head coach **Caleb Harrison**.

Sparks coach **Tatjana Zizic** was named Coach of the Year and Hutt Valley Flyers forward **Stella Beck** took out Junior Player of the Year honours.

Bygate joined team-mates

Jodi Hikuroa and **Nikki Rampton** in the All-Star Five, along with **Soraya Umaga-Jensen** of Otago Oceana Goldrush and Rotorua Vols' **Aroha Jennings**, who was also the competition's top scorer.

Waitakere coach and Tall Ferns assistant **AIK HO** was recognised for his service to women's basketball, while manager Julie Harris was



Webster Commits to Nebraska Huskers



After a successful debut for the Tall Blacks, if continues to be good news for **Tai Webster** who will be attending the **University of Nebraska** on a scholarship in

2013

The 17 year old was a sensation in the **Tall Blacks** Olympic Qualifying Tournament averaging 13.5 points,

shooting over sixty percent from three point range.

Webster will first finish his studies in the North Shore before heading over.

Junior Tall Blacks

Roster

Timothy Apisai
Anamata Haku
Delroi Heu
Mark Kelly
Andrew Kennerley
Mathew Lacey
Derone Raukawa
Will Soonalole
Alex Talma
Reuben Te Rangi
Thomas Vondanovich
Zachary Young

Coach

Deslea Wrathall

Assistant Coach

Lawrence Lianda

Apprentice Coach

Blake Moore

Manager

Willie Taurima

Physiotherapist

Victoria Blackledge

Two Australia-based players have been named in the **Junior Tall Blacks** roster to take on Australia at the **FIBA Oceania U19 Championships** at Porirua next month.

Coach **Deslea Wrathall** has included forward **Andrew Kennerley** and guard **Will Soonalole** in her 12-man line-up, with another trans-Tasman recruit – **Jarrold Sorenson** – among the reserves.

"Andrew's a big bruiser from Victoria, who should really complement the team," says Wrathall. "Will's a point guard, so we've got a nice mix of physical players, smart players and real athletes, like **Reuben Te Rangi** and **Ana Haku**."

Te Rangi, the JTB's lone survivor from the 2010 Oceania series, will captain the team, while Haku was MVP and led Rosmini College to

the NZ secondary schools title last year.

The juniors have contested the Albert Schweitzer Tournament in Germany and toured China earlier this year, and while they failed to win a game, Wrathall feels comfortable with their development towards this world championship-qualifying event.

"At Albert Schweitzer, we lost all our games – we had a couple of close games and a couple of blowouts, but it's about the learning.

"But the time we finished in China, we were getting closer and tougher, which is what they have to do in games. They've got to come to play."

The glaring absence is new Tall Blacks sensation **Tai Webster**, who emerged as the national team's star performer during their last-ditch Olympic qualifying cam-

paign.

With Division I US colleges now knocking on his door, Webster has withdrawn from the age-group programme to concentrate on his grades at Westlake Boys' High School.

"We didn't have Tai or Reuben in China," shrugs Wrathall. "At the end of the day, you lose someone, you bring someone else into the mix and you go with it."

New Zealand has never beaten Australia in a junior series, although they came close at the 2009 Oceania U17 Championships.

"I've said to the team, I think we've got the personnel that can have a crack at them," says Wrathall. "It's probably one of the first times I've felt that way.

"It's going to be tough. They can flat out play and have a lot of players from their U17 team that came second in the world.

JTBs Named for Oceania series

Henare Moves to the Deep South

After a successful two season stint with the **Hawke's Bay Hawks**, **Paul Henare** joins the **Southland Sharks** as Head Coach for the 2013 NBL season.

Henare replaces **Richard Dickel** who coached the Sharks in their first three seasons, taking the team to the Quarter Finals in the first two.

Henare was a key figure with the Breakers and was honoured by becoming the

first Breakers player to have his number (32) retired last year.

He played at two Olympics and two world championships with the Tall Blacks and has played professionally in Europe.

After his retirement as a player the 33-year-old has focused on carving out a coaching career, which started with Hawke's Bay, who he played for, and includes him linking with the Tall Blacks as an assistant.

He has a 75 per cent winning record during his time at the helm of Hawke's Bay.

His first assignment with the organisation was to assemble a roster that could develop into title contenders.

He had already touched base with his former Breakers team-mate Kevin Braswell and was hopeful for his possible return to the Sharks.



Paul Henare

Officials Corner

As we come to the conclusion of our Premiership tournaments for the year, the last of our National Championships are nearly upon us. October will see the U13, U15, Secondary Schools, **Wheelchair** and **Opens Nationals**. Referees for these have been invited but if you are keen, or know of a suitable referee for these tournaments, please contact Melony (referees@basketball.org.nz).

WBC

August saw the conclusion and finals of this competition in Dunedin. Congratulations to **Melony Wealleans** and **Nick Naylor** for their appointment to the final.

To date the **Women's Championships** has been played over three tournaments – restricting those referees who can attend. Discussions at the Finals indicated that next year will see an introduction of a num-

ber of home and away games in addition to the tournaments, and potentially the selection of a nationwide panel to attend the tournaments. From a development point of view this was fantastic news as it will provide another step in the pathway for referees, and ensure that suitable referees will be given the opportunity to officiate in this league.



Rule of the Month

Every month we will be covering rules that are often misunderstood. If you come across a rule that may fit in to this category, please contact Melony to have this covered in future newsletters. A copy of the latest rule book (2010) is available on the website, or a hard copy is available for purchase through our Officials merchandise section of the website.

Lead Positioning

It has been noted recently

at tournaments, a number of errors being made in the calling of fouls in area six, by the Lead official. The primary reason for this appears to be the positioning of the Lead official. Calls are often being made from area 5 or often area 5/4, which results in the referee not always having the best angle to accurately see contact. In fact in a number of cases the referee can only see the back of the defensive player.

According to the FIBA 2010

Referee's Manual for Two-Person Officiating when the ball is inside the two-point field goal area in area six, the official moves to cover the play around the ball, but always keeps his hips open to the play. He does not need to move beyond the edge of the restricted area to his right. The lead is also responsible for area six when the ball is in the post area of the player is moving towards the basket on a drive.

Whilst the manual notes that

positioning should not be "beyond the restricted area", the diagrams show that the Lead, should move across to this area for coverage – which many referees do not. It is important that in any position, the referee moves to see the gap between the offensive and defensive player, and therefore are in a better position to judge contact. Our website now contains a copy of the manual, so please refer to this for visual diagrams of the positioning of the Lead official.

Meet Your Local Official



Every month we will be featuring an official who heavily contributes to basketball in this country. This month we would like to introduce -

Kevin Hackett from Wanganui

Kevin is currently the Referee Coordinator for the **Wanganui Association** as well as being a member of the Association Committee. When asked by **Rodney King** at a referees clinic why he wanted to ref he said "I was a dirty player. So I've done the crime, so now I have to do the time." Recently retired from playing hit man in the Station B team in the Wanganui Men's B grade. Kevin now is focusing on his own refereeing, developing other referees and appointments etc. He has officiated and evaluated at many national and regional tournaments in the past ten years. Kevin's trademark call has always been the late call for which he is infamous in Wanganui.

"Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Until your good is better and your better is best."

- Tim Duncan (San Antonio Spurs)



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<http://www.basketball.org.nz/local-associations/resources/>

Merchandise

Check out the BBNZ merchandise available for purchase online <http://www.basketball.org.nz/fans/merchandise/>:

- Coaching Clip Boards
- Replica Singlets
- Tall Black T-Shirts
- Referee Gear
- FIBA Referee and Rule Handbooks

FIBA Oceania U19 Championship for Men & Women

Basketball New Zealand in conjunction with **Porirua Basketball Association** has been allocated the **2012 FIBA Oceania U19 Championship** for Men and Women.

The Championship will be played at Te Rauparaha Arena in Porirua from September 20-22.

Be courtside when the **Junior Tall Blacks** and **Junior Tall Ferns** battle against **Australia** in a 3 game series for the right to compete in the **2013 FIBA U19 World Championship**.

Help support the teams by purchasing a corporate table. The tables will be colour coded to show the country you are supporting

(Black or Gold):

- Seating for 8 people
- All courtside
- Beverages – including non-alcoholic
- Food
- Cost: \$1,500 incl. GST
- Covers 3 nights each featuring two games

General admission tickets can be purchased through Ticket Direct on www.ticketdirect.co.nz or at Te Rauparaha Arena:



Reuben Te Rangi—Photosport

Ticket Prices

Day Ticket

Child	\$6
Adult	\$11
Family**	\$11

3 Day Pass

Child	\$11
Adult	\$21
Family**	\$21



New Zealand v Australia
3 Game Series
20-22 September
Te Rauparaha Arena,
Porirua





FIBA Oceania WABC Global Coaches Clinic

Featuring



DESLEA WRATHALL – New Zealand Junior Tall Blacks Head Coach

SEAN FULLER – New Zealand Junior Tall Ferns Head Coach

CHERYL CHAMBERS – Australian Gems Head Coach

DAMIAN COTTER – Australian Emus Head Coach

Saturday 22nd September 2012
1.00pm – 3.00pm

Te Rauparaha Arena

17 Parumoana Street, Porirua
NZCT Stadium (small stadium)

Entry is \$30 per attendee

Cost includes clinic, coaching whiteboard, notepad, pen and DVD

To register please [click here](#) (Team Code: 2781947)

Due to size constraints registrations must be completed online prior to the clinic

For further information please contact Peter Kadar at BBNZ on
(04) 4985960 or peter@basketball.org.nz

U18/U20 Selection Camp

The **2012 U18/U20 National Selection camp** is the second stage of the selection process for the **2013 U18 & U20 National Squads**.

Athletes that are invited back after the August Regional Camps will attend a 3 day camp from the 26th

to the 28th of October in Auckland with the newly appointed national age group head coaches for 2013.

This camp will also see athletes from the U17 age group for 2013 as this age group will compete in the

2013 U17 FIBA Oceania Championship for the right to compete in the **2014 FIBA U18 World Championships**.



Breakers to Play Wollongong

The **SKYCITY Breakers** are set to play a three home pre-season games against the **Wollongong Hawks** on September 11 in Christchurch, Sept 13 in Dunedin and Sept 15 in Hamilton.

The two time defending champs have finally confirmed their 10 man roster with the announcement of former Breaker **Corey Webster** who is in the best

shape of his career after spending a few months in China under former **Australian Boomers** Head Coach **Brian Goorjian**.

Breakers have also welcomed back import guard **Cedric Jackson** who was instrumental for them last season.

Former **Gold Coast Blaze** import **Will Hudson** replaces **Gary Wilkinson** at

the second import position as Head Coach **Andre Lemanis** will increase the game time of **Tall Black Alex Pledger** at the centre position.

The regular season begins on October 5th when they host the **Perth Wildcats** in a re-match of last year's finals.

SKYCITY Breakers Roster

- Cedric Jackson*
- Corey Webster
- Daryl Corletto
- CJ Bruton
- Tom Abercrombie
- Leon Henry
- Mika Vukona
- Dillon Boucher
- Will Hudson*
- Alex Pledger

Hawks Head Coach Vacancy



The **Hawks Basketball** franchise is looking for expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons who wish to be considered as the head coach of **HBS Bank Hawks** National Basketball League (NBL) team.

Expressions of interest would be considered from coaches interested in a full-

time position and those who just wish to coach for the NBL season. It is anticipated that the contract would be for a minimum of two years.

The successful applicant will be based in Hawke's Bay and will have the use of a vehicle.

Please send details to **Paul Trass** gm@basketballhawkesbay.co.nz by 17 October 2012.

Kerr Brings Up 250 in Final

Veteran Guard **Gemma Kerr** played game number 250 for the **Swinburne Kilsyth Lady Cobras** in the Grand Final against the **Knox Raiders** in the SEABL South Conference Grand Final.

Unfortunately the Cobra's could not defeat the Raiders going down 58-71, Kerr top scoring for her side with 13.

Kerr became just the second player to reach this milestone, playing all her games in a Swinburne Lady Cobras uniform.

Her basketball career began in **Country Victoria**, where she played for local team the **Shepparton Gators** as a child, before heading to the Kilsyth Cobras Junior side in the under 14's.

Since then, it has been a match made in heaven, with Kerr – whose sister **Aneka Kerr** captained the Ferns at the 2008 Beijing Olympics – continuing to represent Kilsyth, playing in the Swinburne Lady Cobras all these years later.

