

## **New Plymouth Basketball Association Inc. Presidents Report 2014**

To our honourable Patron, **Irene Rampton**, Life Members, NPBA Committee and members of NPBA. It is my pleasure to present my report on the activities of New Plymouth Basketball Association for 2014.

NPBA's core business is running leagues for its basketball community which reaches as far north as Waitara, Inglewood in the south and Oakura in the west. It covers all age groups and is split into a Junior Primary/Intermediate School league, a Secondary School League and our Senior Leagues.

The second core activity is about providing development opportunities for players, coaches, officials and administrators. These groups of people are the future of our sport and I'm pleased to report it is good heart.

### **Leagues**

Thanks to the dedication of a group of people, NPBA successfully ran leagues across all age groups this year. The number of teams playing and the leagues concerned were as follows:

<b>Leagues</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Senior	45	38
Secondary School Years 9-13	43	37
Junior Years 5-8	58	52
Miniball Years 0-4	36	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>157</b>

These numbers provide evidence that we are a growing sport. Success at an international level with Steve Adams playing in the NBA and the Breakers performing well in the ANBL give our youngsters great role models and motivates them to get involved in the game.

It was particularly pleasing to see the enthusiasm from the youngest members of our basketball community with the Mini Ball League showing huge demand and really stretching our stadium resources this year. Limited stadia resources is an ongoing theme and is one that not going to go away any time soon.

Thanks to our Hall Marshalls **Pam Moss** for the Senior, Junior and Miniball leagues and **Andy Cowie** for the Secondary School Leagues. Thanks also to their support teams including **Eileen Hall and Linda Giddy** who ran the school gyms in the Secondary School League.

### **Age Group Development**

NPBA took a number of steps this year to ensure our younger players had an opportunity to grow and develop in the game. Our membership of the Basketball Pacific organisation started to bear fruit and we took 7 teams away to the

Basketball Pacific Easter tournament held in the Bay of Plenty. I think every player who went over there had a great time, learnt a lot and can back with a positive life experience under their belt.

Following the Easter tournament, we took a number of our younger players across to the Basketball Pacific Jamboree in Rotorua where they had some more quality coaching and experiences.

Thanks goes to **Matt Cursons** for leading this initiative and to all the Coaches, Managers and Parents who got involved in this program. It will continue in 2015 and coaching clinics are already underway for next years program.

### **Basketball Taranaki Inc.**

NPBA is a founding member of Basketball Taranaki Inc. I have had the pleasure of Chairing BTI this past year and can report is going well. BTI provides an extension to our Age Group program where our elite athletes can go on and represent the province in BBNZ National Tournaments.

Teams were sent to the U13, U15, U17 and U19 Nationals this year. Forty five of our age group players went onto represent Taranaki as part of these teams.

Six coaches were also involved in the Taranaki teams. These were:

<b>Team</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>National Placing</b>
U19 Men	David Bublitz	3 <sup>rd</sup>
U17 Men	Andy Cowie	9 <sup>th</sup>
U17 Women	Trent Adam	5 <sup>th</sup>
U15 Girls	Matt Cursons & Linda Giddy	6 <sup>th</sup>
U13 Boys	David Cooper	14 <sup>th</sup>
U13 Girls	Eileen Hall & Linda Giddy	6 <sup>th</sup>

Well done and thanks to all these people who show great commitment and dedication to their roles.

Basketball Taranaki has also worked closely with Sport Taranaki this year and has been successful in entering into a partnership with them. This has provided an opportunity to employ a Basketball Community Liaison person. **Vanessa McCarthy**, one of our Women's Premier players, has already commenced working with the four association's around the province and I expect we'll see the benefits of her role as time goes on.

Lastly, but certainly not least, my thanks to **Paul Crighton and David Cooper** who put their hands up for the BTI Board representative roles this year. This is a valued role but one that comes with demands on time and energy as meetings are held monthly around the province. My sincere thanks for representing NPBA on this Board and for your contribution, dedication and commitment to this role. The provincial age group program benefits hugely from your efforts.

## BBNZ Nationals Representatives

This year has been a particularly positive year for our players going onto higher honours. The players involved in our leagues or age group program who have achieved National recognition this year include:

Person	Team
Kayla Manuirirangi	U18 and U19 Women
Connie Poletti	U18 and U19 Women
Harrison Meads	U18 Men
Dane Brooks	U19 Men
Beauden Giddy	U19 Men
Aaron Bailey-Nowell	New Zealand Maori
David Bublitz	U18 Men Assistant Coach

Well done to all these players and coaches. A fantastic effort that comes about through through shear hard work.

## Tournaments

It is always a pleasure to host tournaments at our home court, the TSB stadium because it brings the best talent from around the region to our place – ‘a place like no other’. This year we hosted two tournaments.

The first was the Senior Secondary School qualifying tournament where teams from Zone 3 – Taranaki across to Hawkes Bay and down to Wellington came to New Plymouth to try and qualify for one of the six spots going for the Secondary School National Tournament.

Three teams from New Plymouth - Boys High School, Girls High School and Sacred Heart Girls - went on to qualify for the Nationals.

Girls High School went onto win the National title – a very unique and rare experience and one that the whole basketball community rejoiced in. **Kayla Manuirirangi** was named the most valuable player of the tournament and **Connie Poletti and Bayly Ransfield** were named in the tournament team.

In the boys tournament, **Dane Brooks** was named in the Boys tournament team.

Adding to this, Girl High School won the inaugural National 3 on 3 tournament and they were awarded Taranaki Junior Sports Team of the Year at the recent Sport Taranaki awards function. Well done to Coach **Trent Adam** and the girls.

A great outcome to a great season.

The second tournament held in New Plymouth was the Philippino tournament. Sixty teams of people with Philippino descent travelled to New Plymouth to compete in a variety of sports including basketball. Basketball is the National sport in the Philippines, a hangover from the US occupation of that country after World War II.

It was a massive logistical challenge catering for everyone and involved utilising the Francis Douglas Memorial College and Boys High gyms. Special thanks goes to **Tony Eldershaw** for the leadership he showed in organising this tournament and achieving such a great outcome.

Thanks also goes to our special Tournament committee which includes **Pam Moss, Christine Mori, John and Margaret Carley**. We are privileged to have such a fine group that we can call upon when we put our hand up to host a tournament.

Knowing that we can call on this team, gives us the confidence to put our hand up to host tournaments when BBNZ asks for expressions of interest.

On that note, its difficult to know when we might get another BBNZ tournament here in New Plymouth. As basketball grows, the tournament size gets bigger and the demand for facilities increases. Both tournaments we hosted this year required more than the TSB Stadium to run a successful tournament. Special thanks goes to the schools (NPBHS and FDMC) who helped us out with the overflow of games created with a limited 3 court facility.

The 2015 tournaments have been allocated and I'm disappointed to say that NPBA weren't allocated any. The issue seems to be a lack of a four or five court facility.

## **Referees**

Special thanks to **Tony Eldershaw** and his team of Referees for their contribution to the game this year. Tony has worked hard on developing and improving the quality and quantity of referees in the New Plymouth Basketball Association. This is always an ongoing challenge but it is great to see more uniformed referees at the senior league games than non uniformed.

Part of the role of NPBA is to ensure a good product for our members and referees are a very important part of the formula for this.

Congratulations goes to **Corbin Giddy** and **Connagh McKinstry** who have both gone on to referee in the finals of BBNZ National tournaments. This is a great achievement and we wish all the very best with their referee careers.

## **Finances**

NPBA continues to be in a strong financial position and this has caused some debate around the Committee table. Whilst NPBA has generated a surplus this year, the Committee has endeavoured to keep the cost to players stable across the years.

This is the first year there was an increase in Affiliation Fees charged to teams to compete in NPBA leagues. The main driver for the increase was a BBNZ introduced 10% levy across all Associations in 2014. This was implemented in

an effort to generate more revenue for the National body. NPBA made the decision to pass on half of this increase to its teams and to wear the cost of the other half.

Despite this initiative, the financial surplus this year was higher than budgeted. This primarily came about through the great work done by our Funding Officer, **Linda Giddy** who was very successful in raising grant funding for our age group program. This funding went a long way to offsetting the costs associated with the Basketball Pacific tournament and other costs involved in running an organisation like ours.

Linda's fundraising also enabled NPBA to purchase and import a shooting machine from the USA as well as purchase portable scoreboard equipment, computers and other assets for the organisation. Thanks Linda for your efforts in this area.

Thanks to **Therese Campbell** our Treasurer. We do appreciate the skills and expertise you bring to the role ensuring we stay on track financially. You are a busy person who has a particular passion for Wheelchair Basketball and I know that the Wheelchair community really appreciates the work you do for them.

#### **Acknowledgements:**

NPBA thanks our funding supporters who have contributed financially to the organisation in 2014. This includes: Stonewood Homes, TSB Community Trust and Lion Foundation.

A special thank you also goes out to our resident photographer **Ken Davies**. Ken gives his time freely to our sport because of his love for photography and for the game. Thanks Ken for all you do and for all the wonderful pictures you post up on our webpage.

It is my pleasure also this evening to recognise the efforts of four people who have contributed a significant amount to basketball in New Plymouth over a great number of years.

Later in the agenda nominations for Life Memberships will be considered for:

Pam Moss  
Ian Mischefski  
Jeff Cleaver  
Andy Cowie

I'll go into some more detail about their contributions at that time.

## Committee

Finally, thanks goes to a special group of people who give their time freely for the betterment of basketball in New Plymouth. The Committee this year comprised:

Eileen Hall	Secretary
Therese Campbell	Treasurer
Pam Moss	
David Cooper	
Paul Crighton	
Tony Eldershaw	
Matt Cursons	
Linda Giddy	

I'm sure many members of the Association don't fully appreciate the work that this group of people do and part of the reason for this is because they do it so well. Like any organisation of people, there are challenges from time to time that have to be worked through but for the most part, the operation runs smoothly.

One thing I've learnt in this role though is that you can't please all the people all the time. There will be differences of opinion over time. This is a natural and healthy part of a vibrant organisation.

The main thing is to not lose sight of what we are all about.

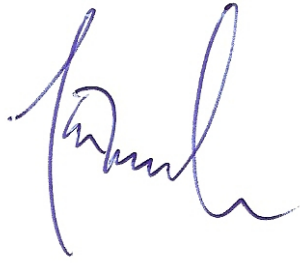
I think we are fortunate that at this moment, everyone involved in the Committee is involved for the all the right reasons. They each bring their own unique strengths to their roles and the organisation benefits as they work together as a team.

There is a shared vision amongst the committee to ensure there are opportunities for the next generation of players, coaches, officials and administrators and that basketball will continue to develop and grow and be the best sport in the world. Long may that ethos continue.

Special thanks goes to our Secretary **Eileen Hall**, who is standing down in this role after doing it for a number of years. We do appreciate all the hard work you have done and look forward to working with you in other capacities in the future.

My personal thanks to each and every one of the Committee for your time, dedication and commitment to the sport. It is appreciated.

And there endth the Presidents report for 2014.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Fenwick', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kevin Fenwick  
President