



OCEANIA BULLETIN

The quarterly newsletter of the FIBA Oceania zone

July 2010

It's not just the teams who will be travelling!

The feast of basketball later this year will not only see players, coaches and team managers packing their travel bags. A large number of basketball referees have got the 'travel bug' this summer.

Visit the FIBA Oceania website www.fibaoceania.com and look for the story "Have whistle will travel..." to find out who is going where later this year.

Stage is set for giant together — THE WORLD'S GREATEST basketball event



Latest news:

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- * Grant to Fiji

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings to everyone. As this is the last FIBA Oceania Bulletin before my term of office as President comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to make the following comments.

We have World Champions in the Australian Opals, Emus and the Gliders. Our referees are consistently appointed to FIBA Championship events. We have hosted FIBA and Olympic events and we are represented on the international family, the Central Board and its Commissions. Our zone is the smallest in the FIBA family and in keeping with many other codes in the zone we at FIBA Oceania perform well above our resources. This is largely due to the fantastic work of the many dedicated volunteers, coaches and referees in each of our member federations.

My thanks to everyone involved in the promotion and organisation of basketball in our zone. Some countries are much better resourced than others but everyone I have had the privilege to meet and work alongside, is working for a common goal, all dedicated to helping make the world a better place for all. Take care and best wishes.

Barbara Wheadon



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New Format for the Oceania bulletin:

In collaboration with our colleagues in FIBA head office in Geneva, we have changed the format of the FIBA Oceania Bulletin to more closely resemble the FIBA 'design format' for publications. Since 2001 when FIBA launched its new global brand, the move has been on to make sure basketball looks like a single organisation. Eventually all publications from the 5 FIBA zones will look like they all belong to the one family. Please send comments to judy@fibaoceania.com Enjoy the read.



Four FIBA World Championships:

As they say in the northern hemisphere, "we have a busy summer ahead of us". Between now and October 3rd FIBA will stage four world Championships and also stage the first FIBA 33 competition at the IOC's first Youth Olympic Games.

The Men's World Championship in Turkey August 28 to September 12

will undoubtedly be our best ever. Turkey is a basketball loving country, it is close to Europe where basketball is very popular and it is accessible from Asia and the Americas. A field of 24 teams is sure to draw in fans from right around the world. Ticket sales are already impressing organisers and broadcast rights are at a record level.

The preliminary rounds of the competition have been taken to regional centres to spread the appeal and impact of our Championship and in all cases this has resulted in either new facilities or significantly enhance facilities being available long after the last whistle has blown.

The USA has indicated that it will be bringing a very competitive team to this Championship to erase the memory of its 3rd place finish in Japan in 2006 and its 6th place finish in Indianapolis in 2002.

The standard of basketball in the rest of the world has risen significantly since a level playing field was established in 1992 and there is an unprecedented number of international players now plying their trade and making a significant impact in the NBA. Australia and New Zealand will both participate in the event as Oceania representatives. New Zealand play their preliminary games in Izmir while Australia take on their opponents in Kayseri.

A fantastic festival of basketball is set to unfold in Turkey in August. **Hope to see you there. For more information on the Men's World Championship visit turkey2010.fiba.com**

The Women play their World Championships in the Czech Republic, September 23rd to October 3rd. Our only Oceania representative will be Australia who will be defending their World Champions title won in Brazil in 2006. A silver medal at the Beijing Olympics and a final 4 finish in every Olympic Games and World Championships since 1994 **gives them some confidence of a 'podium finish' if providence, injuries and the 'bounce of the ball work in their favour. They certainly will carry the hopes and best wishes of Oceania with them.**

A very interesting addition to the competition program at this event **will be a symposium on Women's Basketball where a wide ranging discussion will look for ideas to strengthen women's basketball and build the profile of, and interest in, the Women's World Championships.** Several interesting ideas have already been put forward for some changes in the competition format. For more information on the **Women's World Championship visit czechrepublic2010.fiba.com**

In the month of July FIBA will stage its first ever World Championships for U-17 Men (Germany, 2 – 11 July) and U-17 Women (France, 16 – 25 July). **Oceania's representative in both of these events will be Australia** who have achieved good success in the past. For more information on the U-17 Championship for Men visit <http://hamburg2010.fiba.com> and for the U 17 women visit <http://france2010.fiba.com>.

Once were warriors:

This article is rewritten from the PNG Basketball website:

Not many basketball players in the rural areas of Papua New Guinea have gone onto the national arena, but the National Souths Basketball tournament, held at Goroka was hailed a success after giving the rural based players an opportunity to showcase their hidden talent.

PNG is one of the many countries in the world that sees sport as an instrument to build relationships among the warring tribes, bring peace to the community and most importantly unite the diverse cultures and traditions.

"Sport is the only form of activity that works hand in hand with community leaders to change the way of life, instil discipline and bring change in the community", said Koroba basketball official Willie Kununu after his teams attended the National Souths Tournament in the PNG highlands.

Koroba, in the Southern Highlands province, has seen 20 years of bloodshed and land disputes, and this was the first time in 20 years that the once tribal warriors travelled to Goroka town for friendly reasons. Participating in the National Souths Basketball Tournament thanks to the deputy governor of SHP Pastor Issac Joseph, who sponsored the tournament, and a fine young man named Willie Kununu, who lead his boys and girls from the village to Goroka. According to Kununu, the teams found the true meaning of sportsmanship and friendship.

Although new in the tournament, the Koroba teams learned a lot and **will come back next year. "We have set the foundation for the Koroba people but our political representative, Joe Kekenno, must know that if he is trying to develop Koroba, he has to look to sports first, as it will only help him develop peace in our place"** Kununu said.

Many players who played for Koroba in the tournament had to sacrifice



the little resources they had to attend the tournament.

"We sacrificed to attend this tournament, not because we wanted to win, but to foster good relationship with outside centres and that is what we did," Willie Kununu said.



"I am sure our sponsors saw how basketball can help us develop friendship in the highlands".



Kiribati junior secondary schools basketball championships:

The Kiribati Junior Secondary Schools Championship was completed on 12th May at Bairiki court, with the 2010 Cup awarded to the boys from Tarawa Urban Council school, and to the girls from Betio Town Council school. **With the success of this years' tournament, many schools have already indicated they will be joining the competition next year.**



News from Ryan Burns, ZDO

Hello Oceania Basketball.

Over the past 2-3 months I have been busy with development visits to the Marshall Islands, the Cook Islands, Palau and Guam.

The Marshall Islands were in the midst of their Constitution Day Basketball Tournament, which is one the highlights on the country's sports calendar. The tournament involves 600+ players and over 50 teams. To coincide with this tournament the Marshall Islands Basketball Federation arranged for a Level 1 Referee course which included 25 participants developing their officiating skills. This solid investment in the future of Marshall Islands Basketball will be paying off soon.

The Micronesian Games are fast approaching and will be held in Palau from August 1 – 10. With the high popularity of basketball in the region, basketball is set to be the premier sport of the Games. Marshall Islands have been preparing their teams, along with Palau and Guam. My visit to Palau also allowed for the opportunity to prepare statisticians using the FIBA Live Stats software, and with a first class basketball facility, basketball will be a showpiece. All Micronesian countries are reminded that the new FIBA court markings will be in use for this tournament.

Guam Basketball have been making an investment in their junior development programs over the past year and the results are beginning to show. Not just in the improvement of their junior athletes, but also by getting coaches involved from throughout the island and creating an excellent environment for all involved to improve their basketball skills, knowledge and abilities. With 2 international competitions this year (Micro Games and the FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament), the team preparations are well underway.

In Cook Islands with a new and energetic group of basketball leaders and brand new facility, steps have already begun with a regular basketball league and junior development in local schools. The next 12 months will be exciting ones.

I would also like to wish all the best to the Vanuatu Junior Women's FIBA 33 National Team that will be attending the Youth Olympic Games, held in Singapore in August this year. Vanuatu will be joined by Australia girls and New Zealand boys, and as this is the inaugural FIBA 33 tournament, everyone is very interested to see how the Oceania teams will go.

To finish off I would like to thank all of those who have shown me great hospitality throughout the first half of 2010 during my visits, and to everyone else, I look forward to seeing you soon.



Aussies bring home bronze from paralympic world cup:



Australia's wheelchair basketball teams, the Rollers and the Gliders, both won bronze medals at the Paralympic World Cup in Manchester in May. Both teams will be looking to improve on that result when they return to England next month to compete in the 2010 IWBF Wheelchair Basketball World Championships in Birmingham.



News from across the region:



FIBA OCEANIA:

Congratulations to Ryan and Jina Burns on the safe arrival of their first child, a daughter whom they have named Violet.

Violet was born on 27th June, weighing in at a very healthy 3.4kg. Mother and daughter are both doing well, while Ryan is taking some extended leave from work to help Jina with parenting duties.



Palau:

The "tall timber" of the YTS All Star team in 7 foot Todd Fuller and 6'9" David Wood proved the difference in the final of

the Palau men's Super League competition in July.



CNMI:

The Women's National Team under the leadership of Coach Bill Sewell is practicing at the Ada Gymnasium every day from 4 to 6 pm.

The CNMI Women's team is working hard to defend their Micronesian Games Title which they won over Palau in 2006.



Papua new guinea:

Welcome to Kevin Teme, a former PNG National Junior player and a journalist graduate from the University of Madang. Kevin has volunteered to regularly update the PNG Basketball website with news from around

the county. Go there and see his first series of stories and photos, including in-depth reports from the National Southern Basketball Championships held in Goroka. www.fibaoceania.com, countries & website, select PNG and click on their website link. Thanks for your work Kevin.



Aussies active:

It's a busy time for basketball in Australia with a number of national teams preparing to compete in FIBA World Championships in the upcoming months.

The Australian Boomers have just completed in a three-test series against the top FIBA-ranked team in the world, Argentina. The Boomers used the opportunity to play many new and young faces in the green & gold, a strategy that gave the Boomers a 3-0 series win over the Argentineans. This was the last chance to see the Boomers on home soil before the FIBA World Championships in August, and the Aussie crowds came out in mass to support the Boomers.

The women's team, the Jayco Opals, showed what they are capable of with a resounding 3-0 series win over Japan as they seek to defend their World Championship crown in the Czech Republic from September 23. The Opals are ramping up their preparations for the world titles with the a tour to China, the United States and Hungary for a number of friendly matches and training camps.

The Opals have lost the second fixture of their three-game series in China, going down 78-73 in Jiangmen. It was a fast paced and dynamic game going right down to the line. Liz Cabbage was a strong force for the Jayco Opals and top-scored **with 24 points and Jenna O'Hea turned in another fantastic effort, recovering from a crash in the second quarter to finish with 19 points.** Kristi Harrower made some **great drives to the basket to match O'Hea's points tally.** Ma Zengyu led the Chinese with 20 points.

A number of Australia's women are making themselves known in the WNBA, with Abby Bishop and Alison Lacey enjoying their rookie season in the American league, joining Lauren Jackson at the Seattle Storm. Jackson and Opals teammates **Penny Taylor of the Phoenix Mercury, and Indiana Fever's Tully Bevilaqua** are in great form ahead of the FIBA World Championship with all three averaging career-best numbers in at least one statistical category this season.

Domestically, the NBL has gone from strength-to-strength in the off-season, with the league confirming the return of their flagship franchise, the Sydney Kings. The NBL was also proud to announce that matches would return to free-to-air television on Channel Ten and OneHD. The league has also been able to lure some of **this country's best talent back from overseas, including Boomers Alex Loughton and Luke Nevill, in what promises to be the most exciting competition in years.**

Similarly, the WNBL has lured back Beijing Olympian Tully Bevilaqua who will return to her home state of Western Australia. 2006 World Champion Emma Randall also returns to the Australian domestic league for the Logan Thunder, and Opals squad member Kathleen MacLeod will join the Dandenong Rangers in 2010/11.

The U17 Men's and Women's teams are finalising their preparations for the inaugural FIBA U17 World Championships in Hamburg, Germany beginning 2 July for the men and from July 16 in Toulouse and Rodez, France for the women.

Both U17 teams have completed their final **training camps on home soil and the Men's team** departed Australia, flying to Belgrade, Serbia where they will play two warm up games before heading across to Germany for the World Championship.

The U17 Women's team set off for Spain on July 7 for some friendly competition before their tournament officially begins in France in July.



BUDWEISER MEN'S LEAGUE TIPS OFF IN SAIPAN:

The 2010 island-wide Budweiser League tipped off at the Ada Gym, Saipan on June 14th. Nine teams have signed up for the league, which will be officiated by referees trained during the FIBA Oceania Senior Tournament in Saipan last year.

Federation volunteer Abner Venus has spent hours preparing the gym floor, including remarking the court lines. The new **backstops donated by FIBA's Study Centre for last year's Oceania Tournament** are in excellent condition, and with the additional of FIBA floor decals at centre court, the facility is looking at its best for the highly prestigious league competition.

Abner has not only been busy preparing the facility, but has also entered the competition and members into FIBA Organizer with the results updated on the CNMI website. Court-side statistics are also being recorded by officials who were trained at the Oceania Tournament.



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ASOP funding in Kiribati:

Thanks to funding from the Australian Government's Outreach Program (ASOP) 79 coaches, score bench officials and referees in Kiribati have gained vital training and accreditation in these areas. The ASOP course was presented by local experts in Betio. Many of the participants are local teachers who are training school teams for the Kiribati Schools competitions. Pictured are young students practicing their basketball skills in the shade of their maneaba.



FIBA Congress:

September 3rd to 6th, **during the Men's World Championship, FIBA will hold its four-yearly Congress.** Already 150 of our 213 member Federations have indicated they will be attending. The Congress will consider some significant changes to our Statutes (Constitution), elect a new President and Board for the 2010 to 2014 Term-of-Office and honour many people including some from Oceania for their contribution to World Basketball.

FIBA have developed a program to make it worth your while to attend the Congress, with many demonstrations, information booths and FIBA program training sessions operating alongside the formal Congress Agenda. People attending the Congress will have their accommodation paid for the duration of the Congress and also will be able to **attend evening sessions of the Men's World Championships as FIBA's guests.**

The Congress will mark the end of the term of office of Bob Elphinston as FIBA President and will also see our founding Secretary General, Al Ramsay, become the first Oceania inductee into the FIBA Hall of Fame. We would love to see you in Istanbul.

Fiji inter-association games:

Basketball Fiji in partnership with Fiji Amateur Sporting National Olympic Committee (FASANOC) organized the Fiji Inter Association Basketball Games in May.

The one day event was held at the 4 court Lautoka multi-purpose facility. Basketball Fiji icon and South Carolina star Valeria Nanima featured in the tournament, guiding her Raiwaqa Red team past the energetic and fit Fiji U20 Black outfit to win the gold medal in the women's event.

In the men's competition the Leonard Whippy captained side defeated Raiwaqa Red to winning the men's event

Both the National U20 Men's and Women's team finished the tournament with a bronze medal, which is a great result and shows the improving standard of our junior players.

The tournament was a great success with all participating associations applauding the initiative of Basketball Fiji for organizing a National event outside of the Suva area.



Punjab independence championships in Kiribati:

The 31st Independence Championships were conducted in Kiribati in May, with 2 men's and 2 women's divisions of competition.



For the first time, competitions were included for junior secondary school and primary school teams. Almost 100 players participated in the competition, with the grand finals played on 31st June, **Kiribati's National Independence Day.**

New Rules:

FIBA will introduce several new rules from October 1st 2010 including some very visual changes in a new court and significant changes in the way the shot clock operates. Both these rule changes involve some planning by Federation; to have the new court marked and to modify your shot clocks or purchase new compliant equipment.

Why October 1st?

- The FIBA 4-yearly competition cycle will be over **with the completion of the Men's and Women's World Championships**, so all federations will have 2 years to get used to the new rules before they are used at the London Olympic Games and the continental qualifiers for them.
- Many leagues commence their 2010-11 season in October so this start date will be convenient for them to introduce the rule changes.

Summary

A draft of the 2010 rulebook is available from www.fiba.com Inside FIBA> FIBA Rules, Regulations and other docs > download **"Official Basketball Rules 2010" & Official Basketball Rules 2010 Basketball Equipment"**.

I draw your attention to the warning on the site that there may be minor typographical and editorial changes prior to their implementation in October.

Court markings:

New shaped key

- 3 point line moved out to 6.75m from the ring.
- **"No charge" zone marked under each basket**
- **"Advancement spot" (after time-out in last 2 minutes)** now level with the top of the 3-point line.

Shot clock

- **When the throw in is to be administered in a team's back court, if a 'shot clock reset is required, the clock will be reset to 24 seconds.**
- **When the throw-in is to be administered in a team's front court and 'shot clock reset is required; If the display is 14 sec or more the clock WILL NOT be reset but run from the time on the display. If the display is 13 seconds or less, the clock will be reset to 14 seconds.**

Compression Garments, teeth protectors, taping.

- Compression sleeves must be the same colour as the dominant colour of the playing singlet.
- Compression stockings must be the same dominant colour as the shorts and must not cover the knee.
- Only non-coloured (transparent) mouth guards may be used and taping on arms, shoulders and legs must also be non-coloured.



Children of the World Camp - Turkey

Every National Basketball Federation in the FIBA family has been offered an opportunity to send 1 young boy, 1 young girl, and a young coach, to the *Children of the World Camp* in Turkey. **An initiative of the Turkish Federation to compliment the FIBA World Men's Championship**, this is a unique opportunity for young basketball players from across the world to meet fellow basketball players, learn about new cultures and make new friends. Many Oceania federations have nominated participants for this wonderful experience.

Kiwi news:

The NZ Tall Blacks have confirmed a nine-game build-up to the 2010 FIBA Basketball World Championship for Men in Turkey, late August. The playing schedule consists of three tournaments in Turkey, Slovenia and Croatia, also featuring games against Iran, Serbia, Russia and Jordan. Although New Zealand comes up against some highly rated nations in their world championship pool at Izmir, no one team has been targeted to beat, as the coaching staff recognises that every game is important.

The Tall Blacks head coach Nenad Vucinic has been based in Turkey for sometime, coaching the Darussafaka team in Istanbul.

New Zealand's pool opponents at the World Championships are defending champions Spain, Lithuania, France, Canada and Lebanon. Lebanon is coached by former Tall Blacks coach Tab Baldwin. The Tall Blacks, ranked at 13th, open their tournament against Lithuania on August 28.

Elsewhere, stalwart Wellington Saints owner Nick Mills was the only new addition to the Basketball New Zealand board at its Annual General Meeting in March. After declaring a \$200,000 deficit for 2009, most due to the cost of hosting the FIBA U19 World Championship for Men, BBNZ chief executive Tim Hamilton announced the formation of commissions to help run the sport. The commissions will assist in the areas of officials and rules, associations, competitions, honours and awards, and women's basketball.

North Harbours Alex Stojkovic has been appointed to coach the NZ men's team at the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in August. The tournament for U18 athletes will be contested in the FIBA33 format. New Zealand has drawn Greece, Serbia, Puerto Rico and emerging nation India in the competition.



Tall Black rookie Rob Loe a star of last years World U19 championship has taken up a scholarship at St Louis University for the next four years, citing legendary coach Rick Majerus as a major influence on his decision. Loe was also a member of the World Select Team that narrowly lost to the United States at the Nike Hoop Summit in Portland.

New Zealand players Chris Duthie and Jordan Ngatai have been selected for the Basketball Without Borders camp in Singapore, June 28-July 1. About 50 young athletes from across Asia and Oceania will attend the event, part of the NBA and FIBA's global

development programme that uses basketball to create social change in the areas of education, health and wellness. Players at BWB will be schooled in fundamentals and positional development in morning practices, then get the chance to scrimmage against each other in the evenings.

Referee Tim Brown has continued his meteoric rise through officiating ranks with selection for the FIBA World Championship for Women in the Czech Republic. Fellow official Gavin Zimmerman will work the FIBA U18 European Championship for Men (Division B) in Israel.

Basketball New Zealand are currently seeking a Tall Ferns head coach after Shawn Dennis resigned to take up an assistant coaching position with Australian NBL champions Perth Wildcats.

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China gives to basketball:

Basketball Fiji was boosted with a \$12,000 cheque donation by the Chinese Embassy to help in the running of the Federation.

In presenting the cheque, Counsellor Fei Mingxing said the embassy was happy to help the Federation.

"Basketball is the first sport that we have assisted and we are very pleased with the outstanding achievements achieved in the past years and we hope that our support today will help you achieve more and defend your titles in the next South Pacific Games"

Mingxing also said that there is a need to identify talent at a very young age and remarked how important it is to develop the talent as they grow.

Basketball development officer Laisiasa Puamau said the grant will be used to purchase much needed equipment for member associations. Puamau thanked the Chinese Government for their financial support towards the growth and development of the sport in the country.

Mingxing acknowledged the President of the Fiji Basketball and Commissioner of Fiji Prisons & Corrections Service (FPCS). **"Your President is a very good friend of our ambassador, and you have a strong leadership under the Commissioner of Prisons"**.

In receiving the cheque, the President of Fiji Basketball and Commissioner of FPCS Brigadier General Iowane Naivalurua thanked the Counsellor for their **kindness and support. "On behalf of the Prime Minister and the Fiji Basketball Federation, I accept your donation with a lot of humility," Naivalurua said.**

Brigadier General Naivalurua also assured the counsellor that the money would be used in the development and growth of basketball in Fiji, and to that end, Lai Puamau has been working with FIBA Oceania to order the much needed basketball equipment.



Fiba live stats available in french:

The FIBA Live Stats program is now available in French. The Live Stats program is available free of charge, and is able to be used courtside without internet access if you just want to record statistics. Please copy the link below to download the French version of Live Stats.

ftp://ftp.sportingpulse.com/pub/FIBALiveStats/FIBA_LiveStats_Setup_fr.exe



New Caledonia gears up for the youth tournament:

FIBA Oceania staff conducted a very successful facilities and preparation inspection in New Caledonia in May, hosted by President Yoann Lecourieux and head of the LOC, Robert Vautrin. The visit included a trip to the northern township of Kone, who will host a number of semi final games.

During the visit to New Caledonia, the draw for the pool positions for the Youth Tournament was done. In line with the regulation for pool placement, the final placing of teams at the 2008 tournament was used as the first criteria for pool placement. With a number of different Federations at the New Caledonia event, teams were then allocated pools with regard to regions within Oceania and performance at other Oceania events.

Please see the results of the pool draw below.



Men's' Pool 1	Men's' Pool 2
Australia	Tahiti
New Caledonia	Guam
Fiji	New Zealand
American Samoa	Vanuatu

Women's' Pool 1	Women's' Pool 2
Australia	Tahiti
Guam	Fiji
New Caledonia	New Zealand
Vanuatu	American Samoa

The basketball facilities that are being constructed for the 2011 Pacific Games are well advanced, with the Vallee de Tir facility on track to be ready for the Youth Tournament. A number of other basketball facilities are being upgraded as part of the PG preparations, and will be ready for our tournament. The local organising committee are busy recruiting volunteers to assist with the tournament, and from the response to scoretable and refereeing clinics held during the inspection, visiting teams will be treated to one of the best Youth Tournaments.

Teams will be housed in the accommodation blocks at the Jules Garnier boarding school, which will be vacant due to school holidays. Each bedroom will sleep 3 people, with toilet and shower facilities on each floor of the dormitories. The dining room is adjacent to the dormitories, with 3 outdoor basketball courts located just outside the dining hall. The school is just a 5 minute drive to the university court, which will be used as a training venue. The traditional cultural evening will be held in the dining hall at the accommodation, while meetings for players, coaches and referees will be held at a number of

different venues. The 3-on-3, where players from all federations are mixed together for a fun afternoon of basketball, will be conducted in the city park, right in the centre of Noumea. This location should ensure a big crowd for the 3-on-3 tournament.

With abundant accommodation options available in Noumea, and lots of things to see and do, families who are considering attending the Youth Tournament could view www.newcaledonia.com.au for advice on bookings, costs, and tips on enjoying the "Paris of the Pacific"



New board chair at basketball | Australia:

Diane Smith-Gander has been appointed Chair of the Board of Basketball Australia following the retirement of David Thodey, due to his commitments as CEO of Telstra Corporation Limited. A former state representative player in Western Australia, Ms Smith-Gander was previously a partner at law firm McKinsey & Company in the US, and a Group Executive of Westpac Banking Corporation in Australia.



Youth team sports visit Palau again:

Following their very successful visit to Palau in 2005, the Youth Team Sports group arrived back in Palau in June to conduct their basketball clinics with ongoing messages about the qualities in life that we should all strive for. Coaches David Wood and Todd Fuller are former NBA players and Dan Dix, the team Leader, is a former international baseball coach. The Youth Team Sports is a Christian based group from the USA who have travelled to many of the Micronesian countries.



An Elite Camp for 30 members of the National Youth Squads started off the program. The YTS coaches took the players through individual skills and some team skills.

A player clinic for kids kicked off the next day. The YTS coaches, **standing at 6'9" and 7', stood out** among the kids but they seemed to have as much fun as their young charges.

The following night YTS Team went across to the Koror Jail to spend some time with the inmates, where the coaches shared stories and moments from their lives with the inmates.

The YTS group made a special trip to Peleiu on Monday to conduct a series of basketball clinics for local children. The 1½ hour boat ride gave the group an opportunity to see the famous Rock Islands on their way back.



Accompanied by NBDO Topps Sungino and other Koror basketball players, the group entertained the local kids with some dunking and ball skills.

Central Board Representatives 2010 - 2014

The Board of FIBA Oceania has decided who should represent the region on the FIBA Central Board for 2010 - 2014. The FIBA Statutes are quite proscriptive regarding this, requiring from 2010 that the Secretary General and the President of the Zone **MUST** be among the Central Board reps and furthermore insisting that among the three positions available to FIBA Oceania, that one of the reps must be a female.

FIBA Oceania will propose to the Congress in Istanbul that Barbara Wheadon, Bob Elphinston and Steve Smith be the representatives from Oceania for the 2010-2014 term of office.

These changes in our officers and the FIBA Statutes will mean that Bill Keldermans from Palau will retire as a Central Board member after the Congress in Istanbul. Bill continues to be a valuable member of the FIBA Oceania Board and I am sure has found his participation in the FIBA Central Board 2006-2010 a very interesting and rewarding experience.

Bill is certainly far more knowledgeable about the problems of world basketball and has a greater understanding of the circumstances under which basketball is played and conducted in our 5 member continents. On behalf of the members of FIBA Oceania and our board I thank Bill for his service at the international level.

Sports and the environment seminar in Vanuatu:

A "Sports and the Environment" seminar was held in Port Vila in June, organized by the Vanuatu NOC. Mr Simon Balderstone, who was responsible for the Environment committee during the Sydney 2000 Olympics was the guest presenter. All the sports Federation attended the seminar along with representative of the Ministry of Health and island provinces. NBDO Peter Izono attended on behalf of the Basketball Federation.

The workshop helped participants understand how sporting events impact on the local environment, and to recognise that it is not just big, world sporting events that leave an impression on the environment. During the seminar the participants visited the Unelco wind Power Station and the Coconut Oil Refinery.



U17 MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS:

At the time of going to print, the Australian U17 men's team had lost both of their pool games at the inaugural FIBA U17 World Championships in Germany.

The Aussies went down 71—54 to Poland, and then lost to Canada 76—68. Australia are still to play powerhouse basketball nations Spain and Germany.



Australian under 16 national championships:

The Australian Under 16 National Championship is underway in Logan, Queensland, with 24 teams from across Australia participating. Country and metropolitan state teams, plus national teams from New Zealand are contesting the event. If you are interested in following the games and results, go to www.basketball.net.au/index.php?id=418



International Coaching Enrichment Certificate Program:

The National Basketball Development Officer from Fiji, Laisias Puamau has been accepted to the University of Delaware, USA, to undertake an international coaching enrichment program. The University of Delaware, in partnership with the US National Olympic Committee conducts this highly prestigious program each year, allowing just 1 person from each country, with a maximum of 30 coaches. Lai will undertake the program from 2nd October until 10th November at Delaware and also at the US Olympic Training Centre. The program will **conclude in Lausanne, Switzerland in May 2011 following a public presentation of Lai's selected project.**

However, accepting the prestigious scholarship has come at a personal price for Lai, who **will have to step down as the coach of the Fiji men's National team who are due to play at the FIBA Oceania Youth U20 Tournament in New Caledonia.**

"In the coming weeks I will be stepping down as the National U20 Men's Head Coach due to the clash of dates of the two programs. The decision to step down did not come easy. I will still be heavily involved with both the National Men's & Women's U20 team but at the position as Fiji Development Officer. I was really looking forward to the Youth Tournament as I wanted to gauge the level of development and progress Fiji has made compared to other Oceania countries and also compared to Fiji's disappointing outing in 2008. I believe that the ICECP will give me an opportunity to become more professional in the work that I do and in return will benefit a mass number in the long run" said Lai.

OSEP Review:

Recently the Oceania Sports Education Program (OSEP) invited the Oceania Sports Federations of Oceania (OSFO) to nominate two people to attend a seminar in Fiji to review their education program. The two candidates were Regan Kama (FIBA Oceania) and Mary Mahuk (Oceania Archery Federation).

OSEP is a joint initiative between the Australian Sports Commission, OSFO and the Oceania National Olympic Committee, and is a regional approach to sport education that develops flexible, relevant and modern curricular in coaching, administration and sport science. Currently courses are delivered through certified providers in Papua New Guinea, Palau and USP Regional Centre for Continuing Community Education in Fiji, Federation of Rugby Unions and Oceania Table Tennis.

The 4 day seminar gave Regan an opportunity to outline the education and development program of FIBA Oceania, thanks to the invitation of the seminar organisers.

On return to the FIBA Oceania office Regan said "The course allowed me to interact with a wide range of sports experts, a number of whom travelled from New Zealand and England for the conference. It was very interesting to see how the OSEP program is developing, and how the various International Sporting Organisations of Oceania can **work within the OSEP framework.**"

"I believe there are great mutual benefits and opportunities for OSFO and OSEP in working together on this education program. And of course this was a great opportunity for me to meet new people who are heavily involved with the sports industry right across the world."

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The Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) Program is an Australian Government, AusAID, initiative, that provides skilled young Australians the opportunity to volunteer overseas in Asia, the Pacific and Africa. The AYAD Program supports the Millennium Development Goals and is committed to achieving sustainable development through capacity building, skills exchange and institutional strengthening.

Australian Youth Ambassadors Attend pre-departure training:

FIBA Oceania's Youth Ambassadors for 2010, Rebecca Campbell and Nick Cooper, attended their pre-departure training in Canberra recently. Along with all the other AYAD's from across Australia, Rebecca and Nick spent 4 days learning about the customs and culture of the countries they will be living in, as well as getting to understand their role in their new AYAD jobs.

Rebecca and Nick will depart Australia in early August to spend 12 months in Tonga and Vanuatu, assisting with the development of basketball in those Oceania countries.

Rebecca's priorities will be to assist newly appointed NBDO Loleini Ostling to build basketball numbers and competitions in Tonga. While basketball is a small sport in Tonga, we all feel there is great potential for basketball to become a major sport, as well as addressing some of the health issues facing the people in Tonga.

Nick Cooper will be heading to Vanuatu, and will work on developing outdoor facilities and assisting with the introduction of programs for minority groups in the Port Vila community.

"The training course was really good, and meeting other people who are going to Tonga has really made me very excited. I wish we were going tomorrow" said Rebecca Campbell



National U20 Men's & Women's Training Squad to participate in the 8km Fun Run

The National U20 Men's & Women's Squad will be representing Basketball Fiji in the 8 km Olympic Fun Run. The National squads will be participating in the group event which has been organised by FASANOC. Basketball Fiji is proud to be affiliated with the event and will be timing its squad members during the run to gauge their endurance and stamina level.

