



NETBALL WAIKATO BAY OF PLENTY ZONE

Annual Report

2015

Thanks to our partners



Naylin Appanna
Womens Health Centre
Gynaecologist and Laparoscopic Surgeon



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Our Centres

Cambridge, Eastern Waikato, Gisborne, Hamilton City, Harbourside, Hauraki Plains, Katikati, Kawerau, Maniapoto, Otorohanga, Taumarunui, Matamata, Mercury Bay, Morrinsville, Opotiki, Paeroa, Putaruru, Rotorua, Taupo, Te Aroha, Te Awamutu, Te Puke, Thames, Tokoroa, Waihi, Whakatane

Chair & Chief Executive's REPORT

As the Zone's Chair and Chief Executive it is our pleasure to present the 2015 Netball Waikato Bay of Plenty annual report. 2015 has once again seen NWBOP lead the way in many areas and that is something we can all take pride in throughout our Zone.

Developing the game is one such area of success. Helped by the appointments of a Performance Manager, Umpire Development Officer and a strengthening of our coach development team, we have been able to grow our base and upskill our netball community. Of course this would not be possible without the support of Centres and the volunteers who are the lifeblood of our sport, and we thank you for your tireless efforts and for partnering with us to ensure netball is both accessible and enjoyed throughout our region. You can read more about the successful initiatives that have been implemented and positive outcomes that have been achieved, in the subsequent Community Manager's and Performance Manager's reports.

Being able to invest in our grassroots and future also requires a proactive national body leading the way and the backing of a family of partners and funders. We are grateful to Netball New Zealand for the direction and resources they provide, especially with respect to the Whole Of Netball (WON) plan that we align to and guides much of what we do at a community level. We also acknowledge the critical importance of the support we receive from a large group of partners and funders (shown on the inside cover), who work with us to ensure netball thrives in the Waikato Bay of Plenty. As principal sponsor of the Magic over the last three years, Kia has been the driving force behind much of our ANZ Championship success, and while they have indicated they will not be continuing as principal sponsor next year, they will remain a valued major sponsor alongside Vantage Windows and Doors, Lodge Real Estate, Mother Earth, The Hits and Drive Sober (a Waikato Regional Council partnership).

Another area where we continued to lead the way in New Zealand in 2015 was through our shop window – the Kia Magic. Despite facing an injury crisis this year, the side overcame these injury setbacks to claim the inaugural New Zealand Conference Trophy in the ANZ Championship, which was just reward for the true character shown by the players and team management. Julie Fitzgerald and her fellow team management and team leaders did an outstanding job guiding such a young team to within one game of the grand final. We were delighted to see these efforts recognised with several national, regional and district awards going to Julie, accepting them on the team's behalf, as well as the Kia Magic being crowned Team of the Year at the 2015 Brian Perry Sport Waikato Regional Sports Awards.

In addition to being engraved as the first ever NZ Conference Winners, other firsts came courtesy of the Magic this year. Effectively the entire 2015 squad has resigned for 2016 along with Julie Fitzgerald as head coach. This is something we can be extremely proud of as it clearly demonstrates the strong family culture that we strive to foster not only in the Magic environment, but across NWBOP and the Zone. This strong culture was also a key factor in Kia Magic Co-Captain Casey Kopua signing a new unique contract that will cement her as a Magic player for the entirety of her career and provide opportunities off the court that will benefit the Zone. We would also like to acknowledge Casey and her long-time defensive partner Leana de Bruin, for each playing their 100th test for the Silver Ferns this year - truly remarkable achievements.

Despite the on court success of the Kia Magic, season gates were not as positive as they had been in 2014, albeit with one less home game. With the draw also loading our home games towards the start of the competition, which itself started earlier due to the Netball World Cup later in the year, we found ourselves competing in a very



John Wiltshire
Chair



Tim Hamilton
Chief Executive

cluttered sports market against the likes of the Cricket World Cup on home soil, and the beginning of the Super 15 and NRL. It also meant competing against outdoor activities in summer evenings and playing before the community netball season had started to ramp up. These factors are likely to have contributed to the lower than anticipated home crowds for games against top Australian opposition early in the season. The lower gate takings, coupled with the withdrawal of some key sponsors such as Wintec, in turn led to a loss of nearly \$60,000 for the year ended 30 November 2015. Next year will also present more financial challenges and as a Zone we need to work together to address how we can achieve the best value for money outcomes for netball.

While we have adapted well to the various financial challenges we have already faced as a Zone, including the existence of historic debt, the time has come where it is prudent to revisit our affiliation fees. Our fees have been lower than other Zones by some margin. The fact that we have been able to hold fees at such a level for three consecutive years has been a priority and well received. However, in order to improve our financial position and ensure we continue to grow netball, it may well be necessary to increase our affiliation fees soon.

Looking forward to next year several new initiatives will roll out that will illustrate our continued commitment to delivering quality services and growing the game. Integral to this will be the introduction of our new Zone strategic plan that will give us clarity of focus over the

next three years. We also welcome the introduction of the National Netball League. This will strengthen the performance pathway and help bridge the gap to ANZ Championship level netball for talented players, coaches, umpires and technical officials.

Netball is a team sport and requires a team effort to ensure it grows and flourishes. As well as the Centres, volunteers, partners and funders mentioned earlier, we acknowledge the contribution of the Zone Board and NWBOP staff in leading, promoting, supporting and growing netball in our region.

There was a change at Board level this year with Bev Edlin replacing Diane Waititi. We look forward to the positive difference Bev will make and thank Diane for her contribution as a Board member and for her commitment to the role. While falling just outside the reporting period, it was also a source of great pride to learn that Board Member Carole Maddix received a MNZM (Member of The New Zealand Order of Merit) in the New Year Honours for services to netball.

Finally to the staff at Netball Waikato Bay of Plenty, we particularly thank you for the great work you do and for the dedication and passion you bring to your roles. We know you will continue to promote and deliver the purpose, values and principles that underpin the work we do and way we operate, as we now look forward to a successful 2016.



Community Netball Manager's REPORT

It gives me pleasure as Acting Community Netball Manager to report on a very successful 2015. Before I begin I'd like to acknowledge Ruth Stanley, who because of her exceptional ability, has been seconded to Netball New Zealand for a year. Since stepping into her shoes midway through the year, my focus has been to continue her great work.

Reflecting on the year, growth has been a key theme that stands out in 2015. This follows a couple of years of change due to the establishment and bedding in of the Zones and the introduction of new programmes. The importance of investing in grassroots to provide a strong foundation and future for netball in the Waikato Bay of Plenty was boosted by the appointment of a third Coach Developer in the Zone (Kim Hunt) and a full-time Umpire Development Officer (Jan Teesdale).

This resulted in more resource with which to engage, build relationships and collaborate with stakeholders and Centres. In turn, this led to pleasing growth across the spectrum of coach, umpire and player development.

An emphasis continued to be placed on the new Junior Netball programme on the back of its introduction in 2014. It is pleasing to report that all but one Centre has now implemented it and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive for this age appropriate modified programme. On top of this all Centres are now providing ANZ futureFERNS to their communities. A real highlight of this initiative in 2015 was the ANZ futureFERNS day held at the Trust Waikato Hamilton City Netball Centre. Kia Magic player Kelly Jury was present along with Netball New Zealand Ambassador and former Magic star, Irene van Dyk to mix and mingle with the throngs of kids and families in attendance. Courtesy of a well organised day with plenty of fun activities and sponsor support including giveaways, a great time was had by all.

Greater collaboration across the Zone has been a hallmark this year too, assisting Centres with

their coach development plans and often helping trigger the appointment of Coach Coordinators. Subsequently a strong increase in coach development workshop attendance occurred with nearly two thousand coaches being upskilled. This represented 47% growth on last year and was aided by a significant increase in the number of workshops held; 152 in 2015 compared to 90 in 2014. The addition of a third Coach Developer contributed to this growth by more closely supporting the Centres in the Southern Waikato. In total 43 coaches received a Community Coach Award (CCA) from attending five or more NNZ endorsed workshops.



Natalie Kelly
**Acting Community
Netball Manager**

As eluded to earlier, umpiring development has also experienced real gains with added drive and focus provided by the appointment of Jan Teesdale as a full-time UDO. Jan has worked closely with the

NZUDG and Zone Cluster Umpire Advisors to develop and train umpires in Centres across the Zone. As a result 31 umpires passed the Zone, and 14, the NZ Theory examinations. In the practical space, 19 new umpires gained their Zone Award and three their NZ Award. Sixty-nine umpire coaches attended either the Introduction, Level 1 or Update workshops, and were observed coaching umpires as part of their accreditation process, while ten Centres completed their umpire development plan.

With umpiring part of the Zone performance plan and a strong group of umpires currently embracing the pathway, we expect to see more WBOP based umpires joining Danielle Maulder on the ANZ Championship umpiring panel in the not too distant future. We congratulate Danielle for doing our Zone proud not only on the ANZC stage, but also for officiating at the South Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea.

Another highlight of 2015 was the success of the WBOP Secondary School Tournament held at the Rotorua Netball Centre in August. The one-day tournament attracted 48 entries, well

exceeding expectations and received plenty of praise, having adopted learnings from the inaugural 2014 Zone Secondary School Championships. The tournament not only provided the opportunity for top teams to fine tune ahead of UNISS, but allowed emerging teams and Year 10 players to learn and develop. Having Margaret Forsyth (WBOP Performance Manager) and fellow selectors present to identify talent and Jan Teesdale on hand to help develop and identify umpires also added to the value of the tournament. Congratulations to open grade winners Mt Maunganui College, Year 10 winners St Peter's Cambridge, and those named in the tournament selections.

UNISS was held in our Zone this year. The Trust Waikato Hamilton City Netball Centre took on the mammoth task of hosting 112 teams competing over five days. This resulted in over 500 games being played and often in very wet conditions. However that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of all involved and HCNC did a tremendous job putting on a great tournament and organising all of the teams, management, officials, supporters and volunteers. Congratulations to the players and umpires who were honoured as tournament selections and to A

grade champions, Mount Albert Grammar School. The best performed school from our Zone was Waikato Diocesan, making the top six.

As we all know volunteers are the backbone of sport in New Zealand and netball is no different, with UNISS and the WBOP Secondary School Tournament just two such examples of volunteers making netball happen. We were therefore delighted to see Gwen Matchitt being awarded the New World Volunteer of the Year Administrator at the inaugural New Zealand Netball Awards. Maree Body (Sport BOP Regional Awards) and Margaret Webby (Sport Waikato Regional Awards) were also recognised for their service to netball. I'm sure they accepted their acknowledgement on behalf of all the netball volunteers who give their time so willingly, for which we are truly grateful.

Finally I would like to thank my Community team for all their hard work this year. We live this game certainly typifies their passion and drive to develop and grow netball in our Zone.





Kia Magic

SEASON REVIEW

In 2015 the Kia Magic were once again able to maintain a proud record of being the only ANZ Championship team to make the playoffs every year since the competition's inception. Under a new format introduced this year, a New Zealand Conference trophy was also part of the post-season picture and having qualified for the playoffs, sights were set on this initial piece of silverware before any thought would be given to the grand prize.

After defeating the Southern Steel 71-69 in a tight and tense New Zealand Conference elimination final, the Kia Magic faced a rested Northern Mystics side in Auckland only a few days later for the New Zealand Conference title. An epic encounter followed that showcased netball of the highest quality and some extremely physical defence, with the Kia Magic prevailing 57-54 to achieve the initial goal of claiming the inaugural New Zealand Conference trophy.

The result also secured a home conference crossover semi-final against the talent laden NSW Swifts. In front of a near sell-out home crowd, a poor second quarter ultimately cost the Kia Magic any chance of victory. Despite narrowing a ten goal halftime deficit (21-31) to just two goals at three-quarter time (40-42), the NSW Swifts were able to pull away again to cement a 60-52 win and progress to the 2015 ANZ Championship Grand Final.

While the Kia Magic were naturally devastated to fall just short of another Grand Final appearance, as the dust settled on the season, the team was able to reflect on another successful Magic campaign that overcame considerable adversity. This adversity began before the season had even started with the knowledge that Casey Kopua would miss most of the season due to the major knee injury she suffered playing for the Silver Ferns at the end of 2014. One of the squad's new recruits, Kelly Jury also ruptured her achilles tendon before even coming into camp.

The Kia Magic's ANZ Championship campaign was then dealt a further blow when Courtney Tairi ruptured her Achilles Tendon near the end of a hard fought away win against the Thunderbirds in game one of the season – a win that would later prove to be the only time a New Zealand side would savour

success on Australian soil the entire competition. To make matters even worse, star import Jo Harten was injured in the early stages of the round two clash against the Swifts, missing the remainder of the game and the subsequent match against the Vixens.

However, these major injury setbacks simply served to harden the Kia Magic's resolve and provided more playing opportunities for the talented young players in the squad. For the rest of the season the team regularly played with four players on court who were 20 or under (Sam Sinclair, Malia Paseka, Jamie-Lee Price and Kristiana Manu'a). Under the leadership and quality play of Leana de Bruin and ably supported by Grace Rasmussen and Jo Harten, this combination of youth and experience proved a powerful starting combination for the Kia Magic as the season progressed. With Ellen Halpenny providing impact from the bench and Casey Kopua making an eagerly anticipated return to court, the Kia Magic won the must-win games they needed to during the business end of the season to book their customary place in the ANZ Championship playoffs.

2015 Kia Magic ANZ Championship results:

- Round 1 Beat Thunderbirds 45-44, Adelaide
- Round 2 Lost to Swifts 43-48, Tauranga
- Round 3 Lost to Vixens 48-51, Tauranga
- Round 4 Beat Tactix 52-49, Hamilton
- Round 5 Lost to Pulse 38-49, Wellington
- Round 6 Drew with Mystics 45-45, Rotorua
- Round 7 Beat Steel 63-57, Invercargill
- Round 8 Lost to Firebirds 42-50, Brisbane
- Round 9 Lost to Fever 49-54, Perth
- Round 10 Bye
- Round 1 Beat Steel 59-53, Hamilton
- Round 2 Lost to Mystics 49-54, Auckland
- Round 1 Beat Pulse 52-47, Hamilton
- Round 2 Lost to Tactix 58-62, Christchurch

NZ Conference Elimination Final

Beat Steel 71-69, Hamilton

NZ Conference Final

Beat Mystics 57-54, Auckland

Semi-Final

Lost to Swifts 52-60, Hamilton

2015 player milestones:

Leana de Bruin – 100 ANZ Championship games v Vixens (Round 3)

Jo Harten – 50 ANZ Championship games v Steel (Round 11)



JULIE FITZGERALD
COACH



MARGARET FORSYTH
ASSISTANT COACH



KERRI MIKKELSEN
MANAGER



CASEY KOPUA
CO-CAPTAIN, GK, GD



LEANA DE BRUIN
CO-CAPTAIN, GD, GK



AISHA BOWER
GD, WD



ELLEN HALPENNY
GS, GA



JO HARTEN
GS, GA



KELLY JURY
GD, GK



KRISTIANA MANU'A
GD, GK



MALIA PASEKA
GS, GA



JAIME-LEE PRICE
WD, GD



GRACE RASMUSSEN
GA, WA



SAMANTHA SINCLAIR
C, WA, WD



COURTNEY TAIRI
C, WA



JO TRIP
GK, GD

ROGER ATHY-KNIBBS (PHYSIOTHERAPIST), SAM CHAMBERS (STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH)
DR MATTHEW DRILLER (SPORTS PHYSIOLOGIST), SHANNON O'DONNELL (PERFORMANCE ANALYST)

Performance Manager's REPORT

After commencing my part-time role as Performance Manager in March I have enjoyed getting to meet many capable and enthusiastic coaches, administrators, netballers and their families in our Zone. I am excited about our depth of coach, player and umpire talent and providing pathways and opportunities for our best talent is what my performance role is all about.

Zone selectors were busy during June, July and August selecting at zonal and national age group tournaments and competitions. Approximately one hundred players were identified and they will form the basis of our 2016 performance squads.

In September I presented the Performance Programme at the Zone Forum in Rotorua. The three tiered programme was well received with the emphasis on providing developing coaches and netballers at secondary school, U20s and pre-Magic level, the opportunity to learn much more about what it takes to be a performance athlete.



Margaret Forsyth
Performance Manager

An introductory workshop in Cambridge and Rotorua for school aged and U20 netballers was held in November. This was a great opportunity to recognise our athletes for their consistent performances and netball potential, and also served as an early lead into the 2016 programme.

The announcement by Netball New Zealand of the introduction of a National Netball League competition in 2016 has also helped put the performance space in the spotlight. The excitement around a new national competition that more closely aligns with the ANZ Championship competition has already sparked a new vigour for players, coaches, officials and netball fans in our Zone.

With all that is going on in the performance space, in 2016 I am looking forward to building further on what we have already started developing this year.



Waikato Bay of Plenty

UNDER 23s

NZU19 NZU23 NETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

vs MAINLAND	55 – 47 (W)
vs CENTRAL	52 – 42 (W)
vs SOUTH	47 – 51 (L)
vs NORTHERN	41 – 50 (L)
vs MAINLAND	55 – 45 (W - third place playoff)

Tournament Selection	Sam Sinclair Monica Falkner
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Tournament Shooter:	Monica Falkner
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Team

Aisha Bower	Kelly Jury
Ariana Cable-Dixon	Jamie-Lee Price
Ngawai Eyles	Tamsin Moala
Monica Falkner	Emily Patterson
Simmon Howe	Sam Sinclair
Harley Smith	

Team Management

Mary-Jane Araroa	Head Coach
Rebecca Greenhalgh	Assistant Coach
Sandra Carter	Manager
Clarke McKenzie	Physio

NZU19

Eastern Bay of Plenty (placed 12th)
Hamilton City (placed 14th)
Rotorua (placed 16th)

Roll of Honour

New Zealand Representatives

Silver Ferns
Oceania Netball Series (v Fiji & Samoa)

Leana de Bruin
Ellen Halpenny
Grace Rasmussen

Silver Ferns
Taini Jamison Trophy (v Fiji & South Africa)

Casey Kopua (Captain)
Leana de Bruin
Malia Paseka
Grace Rasmussen

Silver Ferns
Netball World Cup

Casey Kopua (Captain)
Leana de Bruin - Played her 100th Silver Ferns game in the final
Malia Paseka
Grace Rasmussen

Silver Ferns
Constellation Cup

Casey Kopua (Captain) - Played her 100th Silver Ferns game in the third test
Leana de Bruin
Malia Paseka
Grace Rasmussen

New Zealand A

Ellen Halpenny
Jamie-Lee Price
Sam Sinclair

National Development Squad – U21 Tier

Monica Falkner
Kelly Jury
Jamie-Lee Price

NZ Secondary Schools

Courtney Elliot (player)
Mary-Jane Araroa (Assistant Coach)

NZ Aotearoa Secondary Schools

Monica Falkner
Kelly Jury

Pathway to Podium

Courtney Elliot
Mairangi Tamati

Emerging Talent Selector

Margaret Forsyth

Statisticians

Silver Ferns v South Africa (Hamilton)

Edna Brown
Anita Ledgard
Tricia Watt
Belinda Clarke



Awards

New Zealand Netball Awards

New Zealand ANZ Championship Coach of the Year	Julie Fitzgerald
New World Volunteer of the Year Administrator	Gwen Matchitt

Sport Bay of Plenty Regional Awards

Club of the Year	Harbourside Netball
Service to Sport	Maree Body

Sport Waikato Regional Awards

Team of the Year	Kia Magic
Sportswoman of the Year	Leana de Bruin
Club Coach of the Year	Rebecca Gabel
Service to Sport	Margaret Webby
Junior Sportswoman of the Year	Courtney Elliot

Sport Waikato District Awards

Umpire/Referee of the Year	Kirsty McGiven (Matamata Piako)
Service to Sport	Sylvia Smith (Matamata Piako)
Service to Sport	Heather Williamson (South Waikato)
Junior Sportswoman of the Year	Emily Ussher (Waikato)
Coach of the Year	Julie Fitzgerald (Waipa)
Sporting Personality of the Year	Julie Fitzgerald (Waipa)
Umpire/Referee of the Year	Nicole Kelly (Waipa)

Other Performances of Note

Upper North Island Secondary Schools (UNISS)

6th – Waikato Diocesan (qualified for NZ Secondary Schools)

UNISS Tournament Selections (A Grade)

Lyanne Eukaliti (Hillcrest High)
Hannah Ridling (Sacred Heart)
Alannah Te Wharau (Sacred Heart)

National Umpire Squads

ANZ Championship

Danielle Maulder
Jan Teesdale (Umpire Panel)

NZAGC U19/U23

Vicki-Lee Walker
Pam Clayton (Umpire Panel)
Jan Teesdale (Umpire Panel)

Lion Foundation Netball Championships

Vicki-Lee Walker
Pam Clayton (Umpire Panel)

NZ Secondary Schools

Ashlee Numa
Pam Clayton (Umpire Panel)

Our People

Board

John Wiltshire (Chair)	Carole Maddix
Helen Dodge	John Parker
Julie-Ann Hallett	Cathie Shaw
Alan Livingston	Diane Waititi (until March), Bev Edlin (from March)

Staff

Tim Hamilton	Chief Executive Officer
Rachel Andrews	Finance and Funding Administrator
Chris Buckley	Sponsorship Manager
Aroha Crombie	KiwiSport Netball Officer, Waikato (until May – maternity leave)
Julie Fitzgerald	Kia Magic Head Coach
Margaret Forsyth	Kia Magic Assistant Coach/NWBOP Performance Manager
Katie Horne	SportsForce Development Officer
Kim Hunt	Coach Development Officer
Shan Jensen-Loach	CoachForce Development Officer
Natalie Kelly	Events & Operations Manager/Acting Community Netball Manager (from May)/Personal Assistant
Nicole Lefebre	NWBOP Pass It Deliverer/KiwiSport Eastern Bay of Plenty (until July)
Kerri Mikkelsen	Kia Magic Manager (until July)/Operations Coordinator (from September)
Greg Palmer	Communications Advisor
Vikki Rangiawha	Operations Assistant/Community Netball Coordinator
Jeneva Snodgrass	KiwiSport Netball Officer (May-September)
Ruth Stanley	Community Netball Manager (until May – seconded to NNZ)
Jan Teesdale	Umpire Development Officer (February-November)
Kirsten Warbrooke	NWBOP Pass It Deliverer (from July)