

## **New Plymouth Basketball Association Inc. Presidents Report 2015**

To our honourable Patron, **Irene Rampton**, Life Members, NPBA Committee and members of NPBA. It is my pleasure to present the Presidents report on the activities of New Plymouth Basketball Association for 2015.

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 has been another good year.

### **Leagues**

Thanks to the dedication of a group of people, NPBA successfully ran leagues across all age groups this year. As the numbers show below, we continue to grow as a sport which is fantastic.

<b>Leagues</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Senior	47	45	38
Secondary School Years 9-13	49	43	37
Junior Years 5-8	61	58	52
Miniball Years 0-4	42	36	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>157</b>

Growth doesn't come without a price though and we continue to stretch our resources to the limit. Stadium facilities are at a max and the people involved in organising and running leagues are pretty much the same people that have done the job over a number of years. This is a risk to the organisation and we need to continue to develop and grow more volunteers to ensure the association is sustainable into the future.

Special thanks again to our Hall Marshalls **Pam Moss** for looking after the Senior, Junior and Miniball leagues and **Andy Cowie** for the Secondary School Leagues.

While there was growth in the secondary school league this year, the committee made the decision to end the Junior Premier grades primarily due to a lack of entries in the past couple of years. We would like to resurrect this league if possible because it provides a great foundation for our future elite players. The main benefit is to give them exposure to the full length stop clock game which is important as they go on to compete at a National level.

## **Age Group Development**

The Easter tournament has become a key date in the age group development calendar. As a member of Basketball Pacific, NPBA has the opportunity to enter many age group teams into this fantastic event which happens each year over the Easter weekend.

This year we sent 9 teams (up on the 7 in 2014) over to Tauranga and they all had a great time competing in their relative age groups. With over 120 teams from around New Zealand and Australia, this is by far the greatest experience that our young players can have during their developmental years. The tournament has grown so large that the tournament will be split into two in 2016 with the U11's and U13's being hosted in Rotorua and the older age groups going back to Tauranga.

Basketball Pacific follow up the Easter Tournament with a Jamboree in Rotorua for players 12 years and under. NPBA again sent a number of our enthusiastic younger age players to this in 2015.

Both the Easter Tournament and the Jamboree offer developmental opportunities for our up and coming Coaches, Managers and Officials. Its pleasing to see new faces getting involved and taking the opportunities that are on offer. These people are the key to the future of our game, so I encourage anyone thinking about getting involved to jump right in and make the most of the opportunity.

NPBA has a policy of investing in our age group development program. This year the program cost \$53,000. The majority of this is funded through the association's age group development fund \$12,000 and grant funding agencies \$16,400. The remaining 47% of this is covered through levies to the players involved.

The committee are committed to investing in the age group program but the level of financial support is something that has to be managed on a year by year basis.

Special thanks goes to **Matt Cursons**, **Tony Eldershaw** and **Dave Cooper** for all their efforts in organising the Easter Tournament and also to **Linda Giddy** for taking a lead on the Jamboree.

Next year is shaping up to be even bigger and better than 2015.

## **Wheelchair Basketball**

It was pleasing to see the addition of Wheelchair basketball to our weekly league program during 2015. The NPBA committee saw this an important opportunity to make sure all our basketball community were involved and included under our umbrella.

Having personally sat in a wheelchair and attempted to play the game, I can assure you those players make it look a whole simpler than it is in reality to pass, shoot and dribble the ball.

Taranaki was represented at the Wheelchair Basketball Nationals this year with the Taranaki Rollers being placed a credible 6<sup>th</sup> in Division 1 of the tournament.

Special thanks to **Therese Campbell** for her commitment to the Wheelchair basketball program.

### **Basketball Taranaki Inc.**

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

The number of teams attending BBNZ Tournaments increased from 7 in 2014 to 9 this year with addition of a U19 Womens team and a U23 Mens team. 51 of our age group players went onto represent Taranaki as part of these teams.

Ten coaches or assistant coaches were involved in the Taranaki teams. These were:

<b>Team</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>Tournament Placing</b>
U23 Men	Brendon Baxter	5th
U19 Men	David Bublitz, Drew Green	10th
U19 Women	Scott Taylor	12th
U17 Women	Jenna Kensington	3rd
U15 Boys	Matt Cursons	17th
U15 Girls	Andy Cowie	4 <sup>th</sup>
U13 Boys	David Cooper, Tony Eldershaw	4 <sup>th</sup> regional
U13 Girls	Vanessa McCarthy	6 <sup>th</sup> regional

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

NPBA and Taranaki Country Basketball met during the year to look at the structure and performance of Basketball Taranaki since its inauguration in 2012. I think everyone is in agreement that the current structure will be a challenge to sustain primarily because it demands a lot of time and effort for those selected to sit on its governance board.

The debate on BTI's structure in the future, as well as the structure of basketball in the province, will need to continue next year with the objective of putting in place something that is sustainable in the long term.

My thanks to **Paul Crighton** and **David Cooper** who put their hands up for the second year running to represent NPBA on the BTI Board. Your contribution is

valued. Paul has indicated that he will be stepping down from the role in 2016 so thank you for your time and commitment over the past two years.

### **BBNZ Nationals Representatives**

While this year has been a quieter year for Nationals representatives from our age group program, it has been a particularly special year with two of our members being selected to represent New Zealand at the Special Olympics World games in Los Angeles, USA.

<b>Ian Mishefski</b>	(Life Member)	Coach
<b>Roger Bublitz</b>		Player

Both these people represented New Plymouth and our country with honour and I'm pleased to recognise their achievements today.

We also had a coach involved in BBNZ at the National level with **David Bublitz** selected as the Assistant Coach for the National U16 Boys team.

Well done! A fantastic effort that comes about through sheer hard work.

### **Tournaments**

Sad to say but it was a quiet year for Tournaments in 2015.

As covered in my last annual report, the association hosted a Philipino Tournament in October 2014. This generated a lot of work with over sixty teams descending on New Plymouth and competing. Thanks again goes to **Tony Eldershaw** for organising this and making it the success that it was.

No BBNZ tournaments were allocated to our city so our wonderful tournament administration team headed up by **Christine Mori** had a year off.

I'm pleased to say that BBNZ have allocated the Junior Secondary Schools tournament to New Plymouth in 2016 so Christine and her team will have something to do during the year.

We are also waiting to hear if New Plymouth has been successful in securing the National U23 tournament which hasn't yet been allocated.

### **Referees**

Special thanks to **Tony Eldershaw** and his team of Referees for their contribution to the game this year. Tony continues to work 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.

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.

Tony will provide a full report to the AGM.

## **Finances**

NPBA continues to be in a strong financial position with a surplus around \$10,000 in 2015. This surplus is primarily generated through securing an increase in funding from Lion Foundation which goes towards covering our stadium hire costs. Historically, we receive around \$10,000 from the Lion Foundation but this year they were generous and gave us \$25,000.

Without this increased funding, NPBA would have faced a deficit for the year.

The Committee endeavours to keep the costs to players stable across the years even with increasing costs through from Basketball New Zealand. The association again absorbed half of the 10% levy that BBNZ charge each member association with only 5% being passed onto the teams. Affiliation fees remained unchanged from 2014.

Special thanks to **Therese Campbell** our Treasurer who has worked hard to get the financial statements prepared and ready for the AGM. We do appreciate the skills, expertise, time and effort you bring to the role ensuring we stay on track financially.

## **Acknowledgements:**

NPBA thanks our funding supporters who have contributed financially to the organisation in 2015. This includes: TSB Community Trust, Lion Foundation, Pelorus Trust and New Zealand Community Trust.

Thank you to our funding officer **Linda Giddy** who continues to extract much needed finance from these important agencies. It takes a well organised person to manage all the requirements of the funding agencies and Linda is very skilled at doing this. Her skills have been recognised and she was co-opted on to the Mountainairs Committee to help them out in this area in 2015. Well done and many thanks.

A special thank you also goes out again 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.

## 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:

Dave Cooper	Vice Chair
Paul Crighton	Secretary
Therese Campbell	Treasurer
Pam Moss	League Controller
Tony Eldershaw	Referees Co-ordinator
Linda Giddy	Funding Officer
Eileen Hall	
Matt Cursons	
Maree Dallinger	
Hannah Feron-Woods	

Many thanks to each and every one of you for your contribution this year. It is appreciated.

Thanks also **Bridget Burke** who carries out the role of Disciplinary Committee Chairperson. Bridget brings her expertise to the table when we need her and this is much appreciated.

So that wraps up my report for 2015. It has been my pleasure to serve the New Plymouth and Taranaki Basketball community in 2015. I do appreciate all the time, effort and support that is contributed by a group of volunteers. The association would not survive without your contribution.

And there endth the Presidents report for 2015.



Kevin Fenwick  
President