

## **New Plymouth Basketball Association Inc. Presidents Report 2013**

2013 has been a year of interesting change and challenge.

NPBA continued with its core business and ran the Senior, Secondary School and Junior Leagues through the Winter combined with Social basketball leagues pre and post Christmas in the Summer.

NPBA was involved in the formation of Basketball Taranaki Inc set up to oversee the age group representative program in Taranaki part of the new All of Basketball Plan developed by BBNZ.

A team of dedicated and passionate people were involved the running both these organisation's and we are grateful for their contribution.

### **Key Supporters:**

Thanks must go to our key funding supporters.

Lion Foundation, over recent years, has consistently provided funding towards the cost of hiring the TSB Stadium both for NPBA leagues and for hosting BBNZ tournaments. Their funding enables us to keep team affiliation fees to a reasonable level.

TSB Community Trust have also been a key supporter and this year providing an annual grant to help with administrative costs.

Finally, NPBA used up the last of the Kiwisport grant it received a couple of years ago towards referee development.

Without their financial support NPBA would not be able to do the things it does.

Many thanks also to Linda Giddy for her work in the Funding Officer role.

### **Basketball Taranaki Inc.:**

In the spirit of the BBNZ All of Basketball Plan, NPBA and Taranaki Country Basketball joined forces and created a new incorporated society called Basketball Taranaki Inc. The objective of BTI was to organise the Age Group Representative program in Taranaki with the aim of getting our best young players to BBNZ National Tournaments.

The benefit of being involved with BTI was that Taranaki had an automatic spot in the National tournaments. This provided certainty for the teams involved and enabled coaches and players to work towards a defined goal.

Both NPBA and TCB financially supported BTI and contributed \$3,500 each to the organisation.

Many thanks to Eileen Hall and Dave Cooper for volunteering to sit on the BTI Committee. There have been a number of challenges getting BTI up and running the least of which has involved monthly meetings around the province. Whilst it has been challenging, it has had its rewards and, my personal perspective is that it has been worth it.

Special mention should be made of the NPBA members who were involved in either coaching or managing a Taranaki team. They were:

Pete Knechtel	Under 19 Mens	Coach
Karl Whalen	Under 19 Mens	Assistant Coach
Colette Whalen	Under 19 Mens	Manager
Andy Cowie	Under 17 Mens	Coach
Matt Curson	Under 13 Boys	Coach
Dave Cooper	Under 13 Boys	Assistant Coach
Tristan Emeny	Under 13 Boys	Assistant Coach
Linda Giddy	Under 13 Girls	Co-Coach

Trent Adam and Daryn Shaw were also appointed coaches of the U23 Women's and Men's team respectively but these failed to get off the ground due to lack of player support.

Thank you all for getting in behind BTI and working to make it a success.

The Taranaki teams enjoyed mixed success at their respective National tournaments with the best being the U17 Girls being placed a very credible 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **National Representatives:**

Congratulations to the following players who made National teams in 2013:

Monique Hornby	Under 20 Women
Dane Brooks	Under 18 Men
Kayla Manuirirangi	Under 17 Women
Connie Poletti	Under 17 Women
Bayley Ransfield	Under 16 Girls

Aaron Bayley-Nowell has recently been announced in the NZ Maori team, Kirsty Fairhurst was named in the Womens National Wheelchair Team and Jono Brownjohn was selected for the National U23 Mens Wheelchair team.

Well done to each of them for achieving National honours in their particular category.

### **Age Group Reps:**

The bulk of the Age Group rep program, U13 through to U23's, was run by BTI this year. NPBA however, did pull together U13 and U15 teams early on in the season with a view to ensuring all our players at these age groups got an opportunity to participate and develop.

Thanks must go to the following coaches:

Tristan Emeny	Under 13 Boys
Brendan Dickson	Under 13 Girls
Kevin Fenwick	Under 15 Boys
Andy Cowie	Under 15 Girls A and Development

who were involved. It was a struggle to find a suitable tournament for these teams to play in and that's something that NPBA are looking to address next year.

Thanks goes to Paul Crighton and Julie Gardner who put their hand to be involved in the committee at the last AGM. They were appointed the role of Rep Team co-ordinator(s) and have done a fantastic job working with the coaches and keeping track of all the equipment and gear that each team needs.

### **Tournaments:**

NPBA hosted one tournament this year. This was the Junior Secondary School Premierships for Year 9 and 10 players from schools in Zone 3. Our Tournament A team was called upon to administer the tournament. Thank you to Christine Mori, John and Margaret Carley and Pam Moss who always run a great tournament and this was no exception.

The tournament was topped off with Taranaki teams New Plymouth Boys High School winning the boys division and New Plymouth Girls High School taking out the girls division.

Tournaments will be hard to secure in the future with the changes BBNZ has implemented for Age Group Nationals but we hope we can secure one of the Secondary School premierships tournaments in 2014.

### **Leagues:**

NPBA ran its traditional Senior, Secondary School and Junior leagues again this year. Overall there was a small drop off in the number of teams playing but it was within what could be expected in the natural ebb and flow of things.

The Senior Men's Premier League saw the return of Mountainair starters into the league and this definitely elevated the level of play as well as enthusiasm in the games. Airs import Kenny Gabriel played the game a good six inches or more above everyone else and players and spectators alike would wait in anticipation for his next spectacular dunk.

We made some progress in the area of uniforms with the standard improving across the grades this year. Its great to see well presented teams competing and when combined with good officiating on the floor and scorekeeping by the bench it makes it a great experience for all involved. Well done to all teams for getting into the spirit of the game.

Thanks goes to Pam Moss who co-ordinated the Senior and Junior Leagues this year and to Andy Cowie who ran the Friday night Secondary School leagues.

Thanks also to our regular photographer at the senior leagues Ken Davies who posted his photos on the website for members to view.

The standard of play in the Friday night Secondary School leagues, particularly in the Premier grades was a pleasure to watch and personally be involved in. Its important that our young players get plenty of opportunity to develop their skills and the better the competition in both our Junior and Secondary School grades, the better they will be able to compete at the National level.

Over the past couple of years we have had Parafed involved in running wheelchair basketball particularly in the Summer leagues. This year it was with pleasure that we were able to provide an opportunity for a wheelchair basketball league to be run as part of our regular program. Flowing on from this is the success Kirsty Fairhurst and Jono Brownjohn have had with their selection in National teams.

Thanks must go to Therese Campbell who has been right behind this initiative.

#### **Referees:**

Special thanks must go to Tony Eldershaw supported by Matt Cursons, who took on the role of Referee Co-ordinator(s) for the year. Their dedication and passion for their role saw a marked improvement in the allocation of referees to Senior games this year which in turn, contributed towards an improvement in the overall quality of the games played.

Players certainly appreciate quality officiating and it all contributes to the marketability of the game on a local level particularly when basketball which is experiencing unprecedented highs Nationally at the moment.

The development of referees is a critically important role for the future of the game though and it's a constant challenge to bring new referees into the program and then develop them through to the National level.

Congratulations goes to Corbin Giddy who has achieved great success with his refereeing this year. Corbin refereed a final at the U15 Nationals and also at the Secondary School Nationals this year. We wish him ongoing success in the future.

#### **Finances:**

NPBA recorded a surplus of \$9,896 this financial year which from a governance perspective is a prudent result for the year. NPBA is in a sound financial position and needs to maintain this ensure its ongoing sustainability into the future.

Thanks goes to NPBA treasurer, Therese Campbell who volunteered for the role this time last year not knowing exactly what she was getting herself into.

Therese has done a great job in looking after the finances and we appreciate the skills and dedication she brings to the role.

### **Committee Members:**

Thanks go to all the people that got involved in running NPBA this year. The team of dedicated people included:

Eileen Hall	Secretary/BTI Delegate
Therese Campbell	Treasurer
Paul Crighton	Rep co-ordinator
Julie Gardner	Rep co-ordinator
Tony Eldershaw	Referee co-ordinator
Matt Cursons	Referee co-ordinator
Bridget Burke	Disciplinary Chair
Vicky Stephenson	Committee
Dave Cooper	BTI Delegate
Linda Giddy	Funding
Pam Moss	Senior/Junior Leagues

Special thanks to Eileen for her dedication in the secretarial role. Her time and commitment to the role is appreciated.

Also, special thanks to Vicky Stephenson who has decided to step down from her role on the committee. Vicky has held several roles within NPBA over the past few years particularly as her children have come through the Junior leagues as well as the NPBA rep program. Your time on the Committee has been valuable and your contribution is much appreciated.

### **The Future:**

The future looks bright for NPBA. The Association is looking at a number of initiatives next year including:

- A mens 2<sup>nd</sup> division team to bridge the gap between the age group rep program, our Premier grade and the National League.
- An opportunity with Basketball Pacific aimed at developing our younger players and providing them with a pathway into the National age group program.
- A development program aimed at boosting the coaching resource within Taranaki with the flow on effect of filling a gap identified in our age group development program
- Working with Sport Taranaki to progress the 3 on 3 program outlined in the BBNZ All of Basketball plan
- Continue working with BTI to achieve the best possible results at the Age Group Nationals and National Representative program.

In summary, I would like to thank all those that have been involved in some way with the NPBA basketball program during 2013. Your time and effort is much appreciated and will go some way to ensuring continued success with the Association.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Fenwick', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Fenwick  
President