



BASKETBALL

NEW ZEALAND



ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Annual Report 2007




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from our president

Crossroads, what Crossroads?

The challenges in 2007 for our sport were not only on the court, but in the boardroom, as we grappled with the decline in funds and the need to rationalise the structure of the organisation, while still committing to our strategic plan.

There was much public comment about BBNZ finances, our relationship with SPARC and our ability to continue funding the development of the game, mostly gossip that produced a very unbalanced and negative view of our organisation.

It is certainly true that we have had to make some tough decisions to ensure the financial viability of the organisation. BBNZ is heavily dependent on SPARC funding, as is almost every other national sporting organisation in New Zealand.

Without the support of SPARC, BBNZ and many other NSOs could not achieve even a fraction of their annual programmes. As a result, there was and will always be regular dialogue with SPARC about financial and sporting issues relevant to the sport of basketball, including BBNZ's international programme.

Addressing such difficulties is the role of the BBNZ board and, indeed, the role of boards of many, if not most, NSO's. Not one member of the BBNZ board accepted the job thinking their task would be easy, but each of us feels passionately about the sport of basketball. We are also concerned about player welfare, the welfare of our staff and

that of the greater basketball community.

It was with regret that the board decided to disestablish the Field Development Officers roles mid year. Their work over three years had been instrumental in the enhanced capability of many of our associations. The support of the Scottwood Trust in funding these roles during that period was critical to the success of the programme.

There is a lot to be proud of at BBNZ, with increased participation in the sport at every level, increasing spectator viewership and a very committed base of loyal supporters, many of whom continue to unselfishly give up their time to support the game we all love. That basketball public has supported the game through thick and thin, and in 2007 provided the board with the support we needed to work through the many difficult tasks before us.

To quote Ernest Shackleton, the survivor of the epic journey of the *Endurance* into Antarctica...

"Difficulties are just things to overcome, after all."

BBNZ now has a history of success in international competition. In a sport played by 213 countries, the past six years have produced many notable performances, including silver medals at the 2006 Commonwealth Games for both Tall Blacks and Tall Ferns, the Tall Blacks' fourth placing at the 2002 FIBA World Championships, the Tall Blacks' and Tall Ferns' consecutive attendance with improved placings at the

2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Olympics, the Tall Blacks' Ramsay Shield wins over Australia in 2001 and 2006, and a continual improvement in world rankings.

The Tall Ferns have now gained a spot at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and the Tall Blacks, while losing their Oceania qualification series, enjoyed their seventh ever win over Australia and only their second on Australian soil, all achievements we should be immensely proud of.

These successes provide us with a significant platform on which to build interest in our sport, and to increase the number of participants and consumers across the sport.

On behalf of the board, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous support from departing SPARC CEO Nick Hill, particularly over the past four months, and the many friends in the basketball community, whose efforts over the past six years have helped Basketball New Zealand scale heights that no one ever imagined possible.

To all the basketball family, thank you.

Barbara Wheadon
BBNZ President





Introducing our **new ceo**

Thank you to all the staff, supporters, volunteers and participants who have made me so welcome to this office.

After a long involvement as a player, coach, administrator and referee it is a totally new challenge to step into such a pivotal role working directly with all aspects of basketball.

This sport has a number of unique characteristics...it is a true entertainment spectacle that 'involves' everybody at the game. It excites and elevates! It attracts people from all corners of society and it encourages excellence! This to me encapsulates the challenges ahead for BBNZ, to satisfy and develop the sport for all its varied stakeholders.

Like all sports in New Zealand Basketball has faced its share of challenges and thanks to the efforts of its dedicated people now looks forward with some confidence to the challenges ahead.

2008 looks like being a busy and challenging year with the Olympic campaign for our Tall Ferns, Olympic qualification for our Tall Blacks, our growing junior programmes, our many leagues and tournaments and the ongoing commitment to developing the many pathways for our participants.

Basketball is a great sport and we should all be proud of our involvement in this truly global phenomenon.

Dale Stephens





new zealand tall blacks

DOMINION
Finance Holdings
proud sponsors of the



TALL BLACKS
BASKETBALL NEW ZEALAND

Dominion Finance Tall Blacks

Half of Basketball New Zealand's core mission is to "Create Winning Teams" (BBNZ Strategic Plan 2007–2010). This mission is based on the sport's performances over the past six years, during which basketball has arguably been one of New Zealand's best performers in a truly international sport.

Late in 2006, Nenad Vucinic was appointed coach for what we all knew would be a tough assignment—qualification for the Beijing Olympics. A 14-game build-up included victories over European powers Slovenia—their only loss on their way to winning the Stankovic Cup in China—and Croatia on their home court.

Although the Tall Blacks had little answer to the Australian Boomers in the first two games of the Oceania Championships, a morale-boosting win in Brisbane provided some indication of their abilities and another success over their archrivals to cherish.

Having lost their chance to qualify directly through Oceania, the Tall Blacks now must gain a top-three placing at the World Olympic Qualification Tournament to be held in Athens, July 14–20, 2008.



Left to right: Carl Dickel (Assistant Coach), Darron Larsen (Video Technician), Steve Fitchett (Manager), Paora Winitana (Hawks), Mika Vukona (Nelson), Lindsay Tait (Auckland), Casey Frank (Auckland), Paul Henare (Hawks), Tony Rampton, Mark Dickel, Dillon Boucher (Auckland), Kirk Penney, Pero Cameron (Waikato), Phill Jones, Craig Bradshaw, Nenad Vucinic (Coach), Matt Wenham (Physiotherapist), Claire Dallison (Trainer). **Absent:** Daryl Cartwright (Harbour), Mike Fitchett (Nelson)

Venezuela in NZ

Beat Venezuela 99–73 in Napier

Beat Venezuela 95–78 in Wellington

Lost to Venezuela 81–91 in Wellington

Boris Stankovic Cup, China

Lost to Angola 55–67 in Gaungzhou

Lost to NBDL Ambassadors 84–87 in Guangzhou

Beat Slovenia 74–72 in Macau

Lost to China 63–93 in Macau

Beat Venezuela 76–73 in Macau

NZ in Europe

Lost to Belarus 74–77 in Riga

Lost to Lithuania 81–94 in Riga

Lost to Latvia 74–82 in Riga

Lost to Finland 79–85 in Rijeka

Beat Croatia 79–77 in Crikvenica

Lost to Great Britain 75–82 in Delnice

FIBA Oceania Championships, Australia

Lost to Australia 67–79 in Melbourne

Lost to Australia 67–93 in Sydney

Beat Australia 67–58 in Brisbane



TALL FERNS
BASKETBALL NEW ZEALAND

new zealand tall ferns



TALL FERNS

BASKETBALL NEW ZEALAND

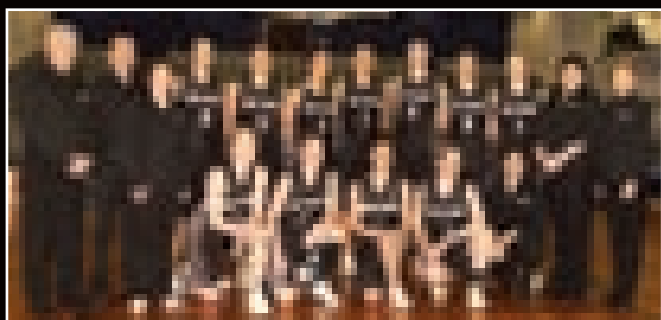
The Tall Ferns continue to raise the profile of women's basketball in New Zealand, developing a programme aimed at performing successfully at the Beijing Olympics. In addition, BBNZ and Canterbury Basketball have ensured the Tall Fern programme will be significantly enhanced over the summer of 2007/2008 with the majority of the team playing for the Christchurch Sirens in the Australian Women's National Basketball League.

The Sirens franchise fulfils several immediate needs in the women's game, providing a valuable step in the career pathway, while also exposing our top players to a consistently high level of competition week after week.

The Tall Ferns' focus during 2007 was to demonstrate their capability to the NZ Olympic Committee. The NZOC selectors had designed their criteria to ensure only athletes and teams that were capable of credible performances would be sent to Beijing. For team sports, this means they have the ability to move beyond section play.

With several veteran players unavailable through injury or personal reasons, coach Mike McHugh was obliged to blood some rookies to the international scene and finished the season more confident in the depth of our women's squad.

Highlight of the schedule was probably the win over 12th-ranked Argentina and a close result against seventh-ranked Cuba in China.



Left to right standing: Mike McHugh (Coach), Leigh Gooding (Assistant Coach), Alaina McGowan (Physiotherapist), Aneka Kerr, Jody Tini (Harbour), Natalie Purcell (Harbour), Karlene Kingi (Harbour), Jessica McCormack (Auckland), Lisa Wallbutton (Auckland), Antonia Edmondson (Otago), Rachel Gwerder (Video Technician), Louise Hogarth (Manager); **Kneeling:** Lisa Pardon, Kate McMeeken-Ruscoe, Angela Marino, Micaela Cocks (Auckland), Noni Wharemate (Harbour). **Absent:** Suzie Bates (Otago), Rebecca Dew (Harbour), Aroha Jennings, Tania Kerr, Charmian Purcell (Harbour), Erin Rooney (Canterbury), Jessica Spinner

NZ in Japan

Lost to Japan 52–68 in Tokyo

NZ in China

Lost to China 46–88 in Chengdou

Lost to Cuba 56–64 in Chengdou

Beat Argentina 57–55 in Chengdou

Lost to China 49–78 in Shanghai

William Jones Cup, Taiwan

Beat Taiwan White 51–50

Lost to Australia 52–99

Beat Japan Universities 99–71

Lost to Taiwan Blue 69–82

Lost to Athletes In Action USA 60–81

Lost to Korea 60–69

University of Wisconsin in NZ

Beat University of Wisconsin 65–62 in Christchurch

FIBA Oceania Championships, Dunedin

Lost to Australia 46–78

Beat Fiji 118–31

Lost to Australia 46–87

emerging tall blacks

Many of the players who have carried New Zealand basketball to prominence on the world stage are now approaching retirement age, so the spotlight now falls on those following behind, hoping to fill their shoes when the time comes.

The 2007 World University Games in Bangkok provided an ideal opportunity to pitch some of those potential replacements into a competitive international environment that would show who was ready. The NZ team was drawn from players aged under 26 attending universities either locally or in the United States, most of whom will still be eligible when this event next occurs in 2009.

The Kiwi men finished 15th, two spots ahead of their Australian rivals, but a performance that suggested they could have finished much higher with more experience at this level.

Captain Everard Bartlett provided the individual highlight of the tournament, achieving 50 points in a 117–88 win over China in their final outing. Bartlett finished as the event's leading scorer and showed he is one capable of playing for the Tall Blacks in the near future.

Emerging Tall Blacks

Mada Abdelhamid (Houghton College, US), Tom Abercrombie (Washington State University, US), Everard Bartlett (Massey University), Gerard Bowden (Savannah College of Art & Design, US), Chris Daniel (Massey University), Leon Henry (Victoria University), Jarrod Kenny (Auckland University of Technology), Calum MacLeod (Valparaiso University, US), Zane Meehl (University of Arkansas-Fort Smith), Mark Morrison (Canterbury University), Christopher Reay (Midwestern State University, US), Mike Townsend (Canterbury University)

World University Games, Bangkok

Lost to Canada 62–74
Beat Thailand 108–73
Lost to Israel 87–91
Lost to Korea 57–78
Lost to Ukraine 104–86
Beat China 117–88

national junior teams

Underpinning the Tall Black and Tall Fern campaigns is a focus on athletes in the Emerging and Junior Tall Blacks and Tall Ferns who will provide the core of 2010 world championship teams and beyond. BBNZ has implemented a "Beijing & Beyond" campaign. This project is part of a wider long-term development programme that co-ordinates an expansive player and coach development framework.

The project encompasses an international competition programme in key world events complimented by a thorough domestic training programme. As part of the project, BBNZ hopes to send the emerging and junior national teams to the William Jones Cup, the Oceania championships for junior men and women, and the Albert Schweitzer Tournament in Germany, featuring the top 10 junior men's teams in the world.

The 2007 High Performance projects were part of a targeted 10-year talent development plan aimed at developing world class performers across the basketball community. This programme encompasses competition and training programmes aligned to key communities and stages of development.

Junior Tall Blacks

Duane Bailey (Massey), David Beck (Wellington), Poutu Edwards (Counties Manukau), Richie Edwards (Canterbury), Robert Loe (Harbour), Morgan Nathan (Otago), Dion Prewster (Wellington), Adam Rainbird (Nelson), Brook Ruscoe (Porirua), Dennis Tawhiti (Counties Manukau), Thomas Webb (Wellington)

Coach: Kenny McFadden

Assistant coaches: Trent Adam & Jozsef Molnar

Manager: Michael Taylor

The Main Event, Las Vegas, US

Beat Las Vegas Toros 76–52
Beat Ewing Falcons 58–39
Lost to Omaha Alegent Crusaders 64–77
Beat Dallas Texas Warriors Red 63–62 OT
Lost to Houston Pacers 56–60



NZ U18 Men

Josh Bloxham (Nelson), Sam Butler (Harbour), Vincent George (North Canterbury), Hiwora Grant (Waikato), James Holland (Canterbury), Hala Manoa (Wellington), Hemi Pairama-Lewington (Wellington), Te Puao Silver (Waikato), Haylen Tahau (Hawke's Bay), Dean Van Maanen (Canterbury)

Coach: Trent Adam

Assistant coach: Mark Rogers

Manager: Laurence Paurini

Australian U18 Championships, Launceston

Lost to Victoria Metro 54–93

Lost to SA Country 67–78

Lost to ACT 63–70

Lost to WA Metro 55–104

Lost to Queensland North 62–92

Lost to NSW Country 63–69

Beat Northern Territory 79–75 (13/14th)

Junior Tall Ferns

Rebecca Dew (Harbour), Petra Erceg (Harbour), Harriet Fenwick (Canterbury), Jordan Hunter (Counties Manukau), Kezia Kelly (Harbour), Zoe Kensington (New Plymouth), Chevannah Paalvast (Massey), Ashlee Rigter (Canterbury), Erin Rooney (Canterbury), Jelena Vucinic (Nelson)

Coach: Darryl Pene

Assistant coach: Tania Hunter

Manager: Philomena Terei

Australian U18 Championships, Launceston

Lost to Queensland South 44–74

Beat SA Metro 88–76 OT

Lost to WA Metro 23–86

Beat Northern Territory 65–48

Lost to Victoria Country 50–69

Beat Queensland North 76–60

Beat SA Metro 75–71 (9/10th)

Emerging Junior Tall Blacks

Tane Bennett (Harbour), Aaron Dempster (Nelson), James Glucina (Waitakere), Stanley Heather (Hawkes Bay), Stefan Mandic (North Harbour), Chris McIntyre (Wellington), Scott Sharp (Wellington), Tia Temata-Frost (Palmerston North), Tepasu Thomas (Palmerston North), Sonny Tuaputa (Hawkes Bay)

Coach: Doug Courtney

Assistant coach: Curtis Wooten

Manager: Debbie Webb

Australian U16 Championships, Terrigal

Lost to Victoria Metro 45–82

Lost to NSW Country 65–79

Lost to Queensland South 67–98

Lost to Tasmania 67–81

Beat SA Country 90–80

Beat WA Country 84–44

Beat Queensland North 90–62

Lost to South Australia Country 66–105 (9/10th)

Emerging Junior Tall Ferns

Kate Alemann (Massey), Shinae Blair (Harbour), Caroline Crowley (Otago), Jasmine Davis (Harbour), Samarah Gallaher (Otago), Shiana-Rose Harris (Wellington), Anna Lacey (Harbour), Milomilo Nanai (Hutt Valley), Jasana Salmon (Wellington), Te Paea Selby-Rickit (Wellington)

Coach: Howard Metekingi

Assistant coach: Sue Pene

Manager: Helen Richardson

Australian U16 Championships, Terrigal

Beat Northern Territory 64–61

Beat WA Metro 71–58

Lost to Victoria Country 42–88

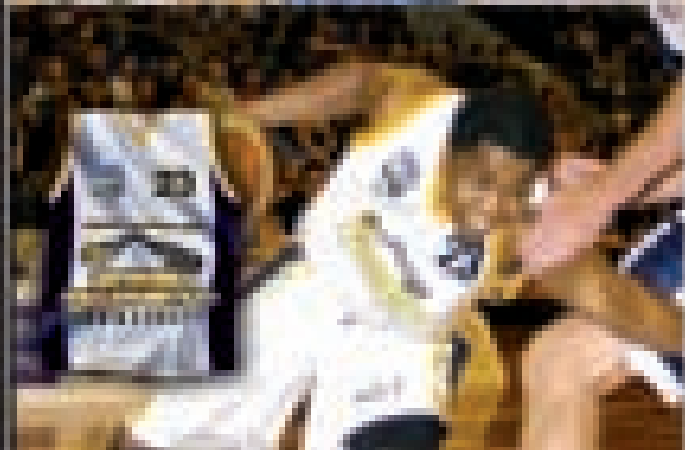
Lost to Queensland South 69–89

Lost to NSW Metro 60–70

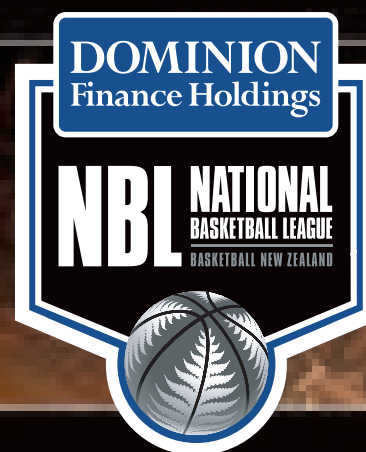
Lost to SA Metro 54–67

Beat Tasmania 78–72

Lost to WA Metro 45–63 (9/10th)



national basketball league



Basketball New Zealand was proud to secure Dominion Finance Holdings as naming rights sponsors of the National Basketball League for the next three years. CEO Paul Cropp and his team became enthusiastic supporters of the league—their first basketball experience—and enjoyed their involvement so much, they also signed up as principal sponsors of the Tall Blacks when the league ended.

They are already exploring ways to develop Dominion Finance's relationship with the NBL for 2008.

The 2007 season continued the trend of close finishes to the NBL regular season, with an upset road victory by Scenic Circle Canterbury Rams over 0800 Easy LPG Hawks in the final round dramatically affecting the final placings. As it turned out, home advantage meant nothing in the playoffs, where the visitors prevailed in both semifinals.

Then, the Blue Chip Nelson Giants stole the opening game of the best-of-three finals series off the Hawks at Pettigrew Arena and returned home to wrap up their third championship, a perfect send-off for retiring centre Ed Book and coach Nenad Vucinic.

Regular Season

1. Appliance Shed Harbour Heat
2. U Park It Waikato Pistons
3. Blue Chip Nelson Giants
4. 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks
5. Youthtown Auckland Stars
6. Century City Wellington Saints
7. TET Taranaki Mountain Airs
8. Scenic Circle Canterbury Rams
9. Inspire Net Manawatu Jets
10. Cartridge World Otago Nuggets

Semi Finals

0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks 85 (Everard Bartlett 18) Appliance Shed Harbour Heat 76 (Nat Connell 16)

Blue Chip Nelson Giants 109 (Joshua Pace 37) Waikato Pistons 103 (Jason Crowe 28) OT

Final

Game One—Blue Chip Nelson Giants 76 (Joshua Pace 23) 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks 67 (Kareem Johnson 17)

Game Two—Blue Chip Nelson Giants 96 (Joshua Pace 25) 0800 Easy LPG Hawks 83 (Paora Winitana & Everard Bartlett 20)

Awards

Champions: Blue Chip Nelson Giants

Runners Up: 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks

MVP: Joshua Pace (Blue Chip Nelson Giants)

Kiwi MVP: Paora Winitana (0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks)

Regular Season Winners: Appliance Shed Harbour Heat

Most Outstanding Guard (Keith Carr Trophy):

Joshua Pace (Blue Chip Nelson Giants)

Most Outstanding Kiwi Guard (John Macdonald Trophy):

Lindsay Tait (Youthtown Auckland Stars)

Most Outstanding Forward (Commissioners Cup):

Link Abrams (TET Taranaki Mountain Airs)

Most Outstanding Kiwi Forward/Centre (Stan Hill Trophy):

Link Abrams (TET Taranaki Mountain Airs)

Leading Individual Rebounder (Garry Pettis Memorial Trophy):

Link Abrams (TET Taranaki Mountain Airs)

Leading Assists (Dave Taylor Trophy):

Paul Henare (0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks)

Leading Scorer: Garry Hill-Thomas (TET Taranaki Mountain Airs)

All-Star Five: Joshua Pace (Blue Chip Nelson Giants), Lindsay Tait (Youthtown Auckland Stars), Link Abrams (TET Taranaki Mountain Airs), Dillon Boucher (Youthtown Auckland Stars), Oscar Forman (Appliance Shed Harbour Heat)

Rookie of the Year: Charlie Piho (Youthtown Auckland Stars)

Coach of the Year: John Dorge (Appliance Shed Harbour Heat)

Free Throw Leaders: U Park It Waikato Pistons

Administrator of the Year: Jeremy Bayliss (0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks)

Media Award: Toby Robson (Dominion Post)

Finals Officials: Alan Godden, Andy Thackray, Gavin Whiu, Tim Brown

women's basketball league



The 2007 WBL was contested in three conferences with the top two teams from the Northern region facing the winners from Central and Southern zones.

Stung by their defeat in the 2006 final and determined not to falter again, Curves Harbour Breeze assembled a powerful line featuring several Tall Ferns and American import Jenny Lingor.

They progressed unbeaten through conference play and swept all before them in the post-season. Fresh off a successful US college career, Tall Fern rookie Natalie Purcell returned home to play the starring role for Harbour, shooting 13/16 from beyond the arc through the semis and final.

Conference Winners

- Northern — Curves Harbour Breeze
- Central — Wellington Swish
- Southern — Otago Goldrush

Final

Curves Harbour Breeze 82 (Natalie Purcell 21) Waikato 63 (Jo Kalahi 20)

Final Placings

1. Curves Harbour Breeze
2. Waikato
3. Wellington Swish
4. Otago Goldrush

Awards

Champions: Curves Harbour Breeze

Runners Up: Waikato

Finals MVP: Natalie Purcell (Curves Harbour Breeze)

Tournament Team: Jo Kailahi (Waikato), Jenny Lingor (Curves Harbour Breeze), Sezen Mercan (Wellington Swish), Natalie Purcell (Curves Harbour Breeze), Noni Wharemate (Curves Harbour Breeze)

Final Officials: Keiryn Udy (Auckland), Sunglim Suh (Christchurch)



conference basketball league



Love him or hate him, rogue Waikato coach Jeff Green added to his legend by guiding the Titans to a three-peat of CBL championships. Green, who was suspended a game for misbehaving during the regular season, was serving as TV commentator for the Tall Blacks' series in Australia when the playoffs began, handing the reins to former protégé Natu Taufale for the early games.

But he flew into Tauranga the day of the final to steer his team through a nailbiter against Porirua, decided when Ray Cameron rose above the pack to tip home the winning basket in the final seconds.

The 2007 CBL rules were modified to allow each team the option of an import or a fully fledged NBL player on their roster, an adjustment that undoubtedly improved the overall standard of competition.

Conference Winners

- Northern — Mexicali Fresh Harbour Heat Reserves
- Central — Waikato Titans
- Capital — Porirua

Final

Waikato Titans 94 (Mason Le Pou 22) Porirua 92 (Brendon Polyblank 34)

Final Placings

1. Waikato Titans
2. Porirua
3. Turanga Health Rising Suns
4. Mexicali Fresh Harbour Heat Reserves

Awards

Champions: Waikato Titans

Runners Up: Porirua

Finals MVP: Mason Le Pou (Waikato Titans)

Tournament Team: Willie Banks (Turanga Health Rising Suns), Damien Ekenasio (Porirua), David Clarke (Burger King Northside), Valance McCarthy (Mexicali Fresh Harbour Heat Reserves), Puke Lenden (Waikato Titans)

Final Officials: Yalla Edwards (Wellington), Donna Brown (Wellington), Bo Wills-Choat (Whangarei)





national age group



More than 7000 players in 700 teams participated in 48 Basketball New Zealand tournaments during 2007, the most ever. These events are the breeding ground for talented basketball players across the country, and provide a pathway from the grassroots of our sport to BBNZ's High Performance and international programmes.

A feature of this year's programme was the expansion of secondary school competition to include tournaments for "small" schools (A

under 300 pupils single sex or 600 co-ed. The concept opened up basketball to a new market, providing largely rural and Te Kura Kaupapa schools a chance to compete for national titles against similar-sized rivals.

Basketball New Zealand also replaced the U23 division with an U21 national championship, more readily catering to players as they leave school and aspire towards national league representation.

U13 Boys

Winners: Western Bay of Plenty

Runners Up: North Harbour

Most Valuable Player: Kurt Heatherley (Western BoP)

Tournament Team: Mark Brown (Wellington), Ben Crombie (New Plymouth), Hunter Hawaikirangi (Waitakere), Geoffrey Heather (Hawkes Bay), Kurt Heatherley (Western BoP), Delroi Heu (Waikato), Mark Kelly (Western BoP), Caleb Vautier (Massey), Ben Waters (North Harbour), Tai Webster (North Harbour)

U13 Girls

Winners: Waikato

Runners Up: Waitakere

Most Valuable Player: Isobella Lawrence (Massey)

Tournament Team: Penina Davidson (Waitakere), Petra Dye Hutch (North Harbour), Kahu Elliot (Hutt Valley), Deena Franklin (North Harbour), Breana Jones (Buller), Isobella Lawrence (Massey), Reeune Pinono (Waitakere), Kalani Purcell (Waikato), Faustina Tuala (Massey), Veshae Wilkinson (Waikato)

U15 Boys

Winners: Canterbury

Runners Up: North Harbour

Most Valuable Player: Elliot Noble (Canterbury)

Tournament Team: Elliot Bryers (North Harbour), Alonzo Burton (Hawkes Bay), Chris McIntyre (Wellington), Jordan Ngatai (Porirua), Elliot Noble (Canterbury), Kirk Rangiawha (Waikato), Ruihana Te Nahu (Porirua), Croyden Thompson (Canterbury), Chris Tomlinson (Canterbury), Tim Wyatt (North Harbour)

U15 Girls

Winners: Hawke's Bay

Runners Up: Wellington

Most Valuable Player: Moengaroa Subritzky (Waitakere City)

Tournament Team: Georgia Agnew (Waikato), Aleesha Coulter (Counties Manukau), Brinkley Harris (Wellington), Kayla Kiriau (Wellington), Brooke Leaver (Auckland), Grace Love (Canterbury), Josie Stockill (Hawkes Bay), Brittney Vermunt (Hawkes Bay), Moengaroa Subritzky (Waitakere City), Tyla Tariau (Waitakere City)

U17 Boys

Winners: North Harbour

Runners Up: Otago

Most Valuable Player: Rob Loe (North Harbour)

Tournament Team: Duane Bailey (Massey), Scott Campbell (North Harbour), Sam Evans (Canterbury), Zac Fitzgerald (North Harbour), Hemi Joyce (Waikato), Sam King (Otago), Rob Loe (North Harbour), Paratene McLeod (Otago), Ezra Nikora (Hawke's Bay), Manu Telefoni (Wellington)

U17 Girls

Winners: North Harbour

Runners Up: Canterbury

Most Valuable Player: Milika Nathan (North Harbour)

Tournament Team: Mikayla Blair (North Harbour), Fran Edmondson (Canterbury), Sulu Fitzpatrick (Auckland), Natasha Hall (North Harbour), Gemma Hazeldine (North Canterbury), Awhina Karawana (Hutt Valley), Hannah McKay (Canterbury), Milika Nathan (North Harbour), Kirsty Thompson (Nelson), Latava Whippy (Wellington)

national age group

U19 Men

Winners: Porirua

Runners Up: Wellington

Most Valuable Player: Joe Maiava (Porirua)

Tournament Team: Bronson Beri (Nelson), Riki Buckrell (North Otago), Elton Cotton (Auckland), Joe Maiava (Porirua), Houston O'Riley (Waitakere City), Dion Prewster (Wellington), Adam Rainbird (Nelson), Brook Ruscoe (Porirua), Logan Van Beek (Canterbury), Hayden Whelan (Porirua)

U19 Women

Winners: Canterbury

Runners Up: Auckland

Most Valuable Player: Jess McCormack (Auckland)

Tournament Team: Rebecca Dew (North Harbour), Jordan Hunter (Counties Manukau), Kezia Kelly (North Harbour), Jess McCormack (Auckland), Madison Nicolas (Auckland), Te Rina Noon (Counties Manukau), Chevannah Paalvast (Massey), Ellie Pavel (Canterbury), Erin Rooney (Canterbury), Stevee Theyers (Massey)

U21 Men

Winners: North Harbour

Runners Up: Waikato

Most Valuable Player: Corey Webster (North Harbour)

Tournament Team: BJ Anthony (Waikato), David Clarke (North Harbour), Rory Fannon (North Harbour), Cade Hobman (Porirua), Wade Parata (Canterbury), Dylan Perfect-Tait (Waikato), Dion Prewster (Wellington), Matt Stevenson (Canterbury), Corey Webster (North Harbour), Eru Wills (Waikato)

U21 Women

Winners: Canterbury

Runners Up: Otago

Most Valuable Player: Erin Rooney (Canterbury)

Tournament Team: Suzie Bates (Otago), Miranda Caldwell (Canterbury), Hayley Cameron (Nelson), Toni Edmondson (Otago), Jordan Hunter (Counties Manukau), Jess McCormack (Auckland), Natalie Moore (Canterbury), Georgina Richards (Canterbury), Erin Rooney (Canterbury), Chelsea Terei (Auckland)

Divisional Men

Winners: Waitakere

Runners Up: Porirua

Most Valuable Player: Paul Denny (Waitakere)

Tournament Team: Tyrone Davey (Waitakere), Mekatu Dell (Southland), Paul Denny (Waitakere), Ezra Fermanis (Porirua), Tia Te Mata Frost (Palmerston North), Josh Evans (FKN Irish), J McCrombie (Hutt Valley), John Millar (Western BoP), Pekahau Parata (Porirua), Taiatina Winitana (Eastern Bays)

Divisional Women

Winners: Southland

Runners Up: Auckland

Most Valuable Player: Melinda Martin (Southland)

Tournament Team: Ava Filipo (Hutt Valley), Leanne Hall (Western BoP), Melinda Martin (Southland), Grace Rasmussen (Auckland), Justine Reed (Waitakere), Helen Richardson (Palmerston North), Janna Slaats (Hawera), Michelle Swan (Palmerston North), Jo Thompson (Southland), Aimee Williams (Auckland)



Wheelchairs

Winners: Waikato

Runners Up: Canterbury

Most Valuable Player: Troy Sachs (Waikato)

Tournament Team: Wayne Chase (Canterbury), Orion Daley-Coers (Nelson), Alister Johnston (Waikato), Sheldon Larsen (Waikato), Reo Lewis (Canterbury), Danny McBride (Waikato), Shawn Russell (Canterbury), Troy Sachs (Waikato), Mark Sullivan (Canterbury), John Wiser (Canterbury)

Secondary Schoolboys (AA)

Winners: St Patrick's College

Runners Up: Nelson College

Most Valuable Player: Brook Ruscoe (St Patrick's College)

Tournament Team: Zac Makavilitogia (Dilworth School), Houston O'Riley (Kelston BHS), Josh Bloxham (Nelson College), Adam Rainbird (Nelson College), Sam King (Otago BHS), Logan Funnell (Palmerston North BHS), Hayden Wheelan (St Patrick's College), Joe Maiava (St Patrick's College), Brook Ruscoe (St Patrick's College), Rob Loe (Westlake BHS)

Secondary Schoolgirls (AA)

Winners: Church College

Runners Up: Rangitoto College

Most Valuable Player: Letava Whippy (Church College)

Tournament Team: Kayla Cullen (Auckland Girls GS), Stacey Costain (Cashmere HS), Mieke Elkington (Church College), Letava Whippy (Church College), Zoe Kensington (New Plymouth GHS), Natalie Moore (Rangi Ruru Girls School), Jelena Vucinic (Waimea College), Mikayla Blair (Rangitoto College), Milika Nathan (Rangitoto College), Codi Hippolite (Church College)

Secondary Schoolboys (A)

Winners: Taumarunui High School

Runners Up: Fiordland College

Most Valuable Player: Clive Cox (Fiordland College)

Tournament Team: Dion Adams (Taumarunui HS), Anthony Axtens (Reporoa College), Michael Aitken (Paeroa College), Clive Cox (Fiordland College), Dylan Hepi (Taumarunui HS), Ben King (Tongaririo School), Peter Latoa (Taumarunui HS), Brad McLachlan (Fiordland College), Tawa Rehu (Taumarunui HS), Lee Todd (Mairehau HS)

Secondary Schoolgirls (A)

Winners: Paeroa College

Runners Up: Te Aroha College

Most Valuable Player: Renee Tana (Paeroa College)

Tournament Team: Taakahi Borell (Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Ruamata), Danielle Collier (Paeroa College), Kirstie Gleeson (Te Aroha College), Kelly Groot (Reporoa College), Leonie Keith (Paeroa College), Hannah Leese (Te Aroha College), Aniwa Nicholas (Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Ruamata), Stephanie Pollock (Te Aroha College), Renee Tana (Paeroa College), Shani Willenson (Reporoa College)



Tim Brown

community basketball



Koru Development Tour

The Koru Development Tour provides the opportunity for 120 developmental players to travel to Albury, NSW, and compete in the Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup. The level of competition provides an excellent forum for New Zealand athletes, coaches, officials/referees and staff members to enter "international" competition (U14 & U16 teams) and a chance to test older athletes' potential to perform within national level programmes.

Coach and Player Development

The comprehensive plan through to 2010 called "Beijing and Beyond" has been the basis of funding presentations to SPARC and we will continue to develop this template for marketing the game over the next four years.

The player and coach development programme for 2008 includes the establishment of four coaching personnel throughout NZ to help deliver Cluster Camps (skills days), and to assist associations with clinics and programmes as required.

National Camps

Four centralized national training camps were conducted, underpinned by three regional training camps and cluster development camps that formed the entry point into the High Performance programme for junior athletes. Conducted at five venues across the country, the camps were for athletes nominated by association coaches or identified at BBNZ events.

Association Development

An association development conference was held in conjunction with the annual Labour Weekend Coaching Clinic and regular workshops are planned for 2008.

Basketball New Zealand would like to thank Sporting Pulse for their assistance in the implementation of FIBA Organiser training among the local community associations. Seventeen associations are now using FIBA Organiser for competition and database management.

Officials

Refereeing has continued to develop and grow during this reporting period. Referee programmes have been set up to ensure referees have clear paths ways for their development and long term careers.

Level 1 course manuals for both referees, referee evaluator/coach and

score bench have been prepared for local trainers to download and run at the local and the association level. Level 2 and 3 course have been established to run in conjunction with all New Zealand camps. This year they have proved to be successful in developing referees' understanding of all the elements involved with the game. Future referee development for the forthcoming year has been established to dovetail in with the player and coach development during regional and cluster camps to ensure referees throughout the regions have as many opportunities as possible, irrespective of location, to improve and be seen.

Success had been achieved with our senior referees traveling to more international tournaments and tours than before. All three senior FIBA referees traveled overseas to tournaments during the season and continued to improve and develop the understanding of the global game. This increased standard has been reflected in Tim Brown gaining his FIBA accreditation at the FIBA clinic run in conjunction with the South Pacific Games in Apia last August, and being appointed to the Australian National League. The four current FIBA referees have been successfully involved in the Australian National League for the 2007–8 season

National League continues to develop and provide a challenge for our senior referees to continually improve and lift the standard of officiating. National age group tournaments throughout the past year have been well supported by referees keen on developing and improving their skills. These tournaments continue to provide the ideal arena for referee development, with excellent intense game experience and post game evaluations by keen and supportive evaluators-referee coaches. Junior referees have continued to have opportunities to represent New Zealand with tours to Australia for the Koru Tour in January, and then the Australian State Championships in July.

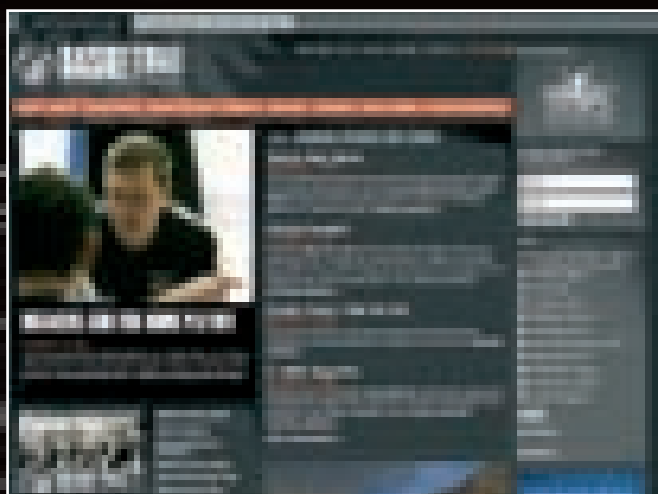
communications & marketing

Sponsors

The continuing support of key commercial sponsors is much appreciated. Dominion Finance not only supported the National League but also the Tall Blacks in their campaign to earn a spot at Beijing.

Oreo, for the second year, were the major sponsor of the Age Group Tournaments, and Furnware, a long time supporter of Basketball, in particular in the Hawke's Bay, were the naming rights sponsor for the Secondary School National Championships.

AND I, Gameface, Willimments Accor Hotels, and Molten, continued their relationships with BBNZ.



Website

During 2007, BBNZ commissioned Catch Design to revamp its website and results earned praise from respected IT critic Andy Thompson on *Radio Sport*.

"The site is one of the best sports site in New Zealand. It is phenomenally well produced, informative and up to date... a great little site They have got right through the Tall Ferns, the Tall Blacks and the NBL... all covered in absolute depth. The NBL has done very, very well... all the team information, the players and coaches, officials. It's one of the best revamps of a sporting website in New Zealand I have ever see."

Along with the new website, BBNZ adopted a web-based format for its weekly "In The Huddle" bulletin to stakeholders. More than 1000 fans are subscribed to the service that keeps them up to date with latest and upcoming events, as well as coaching tips.

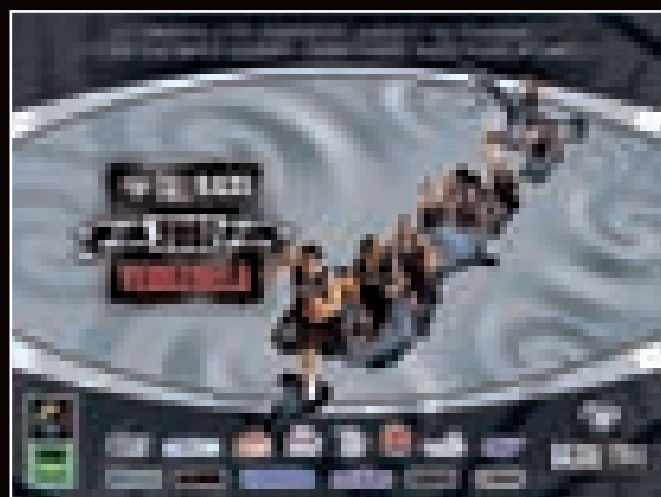
FIBA Organizer

The use of FIBA Organizer has dramatically increased internationally, so too is it in New Zealand. With the help of Sporting pulse Australasia, Catch Design Websites, and the BBNZ Tournaments Division, we are looking to have most BBNZ tournaments within the 2008 season being organised through this program.

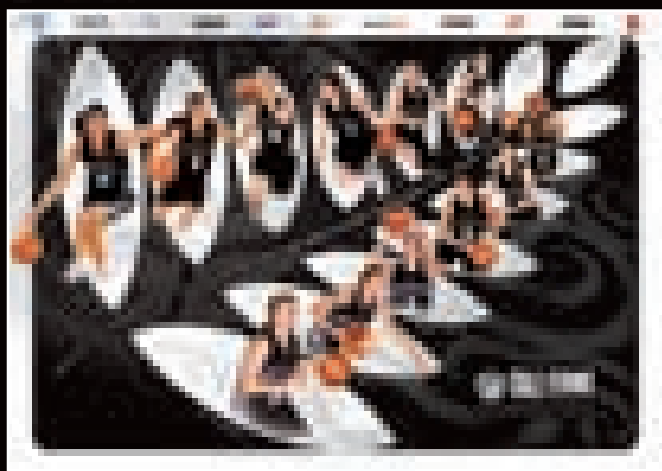
Associations will be given easy to use manuals on how to use the new process to enter tournaments, as well as staff being available for questions. A full demonstration of how FIBA Organizer will be used for tournament administration aspects will be given during the AGM in 2008. The main reasons for swapping to this program from other methods are:

- More information and faster—Personal player and team results for most games and tournaments.
- Personal and team histories collated throughout all tournaments they compete in.
- Less chance for error's relating to tournament administration (entry procedure, draws, etc.)
- Very easy to use

Associations do not need to be experienced in using FIBA Organizer to enter BBNZ tournaments and over time, players, associations, Supporters and BBNZ will benefit from the increased amount of results and ease of how this program works. Basketball New Zealand is leading the way to prove to all associations that this program is easier, faster and better than any other program out there.



Tall Blacks, Tall Ferns, NZ Breakers and Christchurch Sirens



Fans in Dunedin were treated to world class action when Basketball Otago hosted the FIBA Oceania Women's Championships at the Edgar Centre.

As reigning world champions, the Australian Opals had qualified directly for Beijing, but showed their class by soundly defeating the Tall Ferns for the zone title. With the Oceania spot at Beijing up for grabs, New Zealand beat Fiji to earn their third successive Olympic berth, while the Pacific Islanders progressed to the world qualifying tournament at Madrid, Spain, in June 2008.

The weather provided a notable obstacle to visiting teams — neither the Aussies nor the Fijians were accustomed to Dunedin's chilly climate. With snow predicted, the Fijians players faced an intriguing opportunity to build a snowman... but were deprived when the fall held off until the following week when the same city hosted the NZ U13 Championships.

Basketball New Zealand, in conjunction with 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks and Century City Wellington Saints, also hosted the Dominion Finance Tall Blacks v Venezuela in Napier and Wellington (two games).

Venezuela proved feisty competitors on the court and colourful characters off it, drawing a record basketball crowd to Wellington's TSB Bank Arena. Their visit was marked by the sad death of former national team player Gregory Vallenilla in a car accident back home, a tragedy that ultimately inspired them to a 91-81 victory in the final

game of the series.

The entry of the Christchurch Sirens — a joint venture between Basketball New Zealand and Canterbury Basketball — into the Australian WNBL over the summer has added to the year-long basketball season.

Only a decade ago, the code in New Zealand consisted primarily of the National Basketball League with little in the way of a structured international programme. Now, the NBL must compete with comprehensive Tall Black and Tall Fern schedules, as well as participation by the NZ Breakers and Sirens in their respectively Australian leagues.

In particular, the Sirens franchise fills a need to develop the women's game, especially in the face of competition from netball. While basketball provides far superior opportunities internationally — Olympic Games, world championships, professional careers and US college education — the Sirens are a great platform for young NZ women to launch themselves to higher honours.

In Auckland, the Breakers continue to develop their club culture as they attempt to qualify for the Australian NBL playoffs for the first time. Although they are run completely independent of Basketball New Zealand, the relationship between the two organisations has taken huge steps forward over the past couple of years.

The Breakers roster now includes a nucleus of the national men's team and the club has shown a refreshing commitment to developing local talent from its newly built headquarters in North Harbour.



the
team



Board Members

Left-Right: Barry Wilson, Patrick Daugherty, John Gallaher, Barbara Wheadon (President), Dale Stephens (Chief Executive), Mel Young (Vice President), Kevin Smith.



Life Memebers

Left-Right: Basil Marsh, Cedric Cudby, John Grocott, Barry Wilson, Peter Crowhen, Maurie Henshall, David Rout, Peter Christian.



Staff Members

Back Row (Left-Right): Tracy Walley, Maree Taylor, Cathy Gamba, Saileen Raj, Roslyn Hart, Jessica Daugherty, Natalie Tong.

Seated (Left-Right): Dale Stephens (CEO), Grant Chapman, Tom Radomski.
Absent: Ollie Dudfield, Glenda Rodger.

Patron

Jenny Shipley DCNZM

President

Barbara Wheadon MNZM

Board Members

Mel Young (Vice President)

Patrick Dougherty

John Gallaher

Kevin Smith

Barry Wilson

International FIBA Representation

Barbara Wheadon (FIBA Oceania President/FIBA Central Board Member)

John Gallaher (FIBA Oceania Management Committee)

Mel Young (FIBA Youth Commission)

Life Members

Peter Christian

Peter Crowhen

Cedric Cudby (MNZM)

Graeme Davey

Robbie Dyce

John Grocott

Maurie Henshall

Keith Mair

Basil Marsh (QSM)

David Rout

Hori Thompson

Betty Williams

Ross Williams

Barry Wilson

National Basketball League Directors

Stephen Layburn (Chairman)

Simon Young

John Gallaher

Barry Wilson

Auditors

BDO Spicers

National Office Staff

Dale Stephens CEO

Grant Chapman National Teams & Communications Manager

Jessica Dougherty Coach and Player Development Administrator

Oliver Dudfield Coach & Player Development Manager

Cathy Gamba Events and Funding Manager

Roslyn Hart Receptionist

Tom Radomski Tournaments Manager

Saileen Raj Business Manager

Glenda Rodger Manager Community Development

Maree Taylor Leagues Manager

Natalie Tong National Teams Coordinator

Tracy Walley Executive Assistant/Office Manager

Memberships

2007 honours

2007 Sir Lance Cross Award

In 1985 Basketball New Zealand established an award to honour the outstanding contribution to basketball by the late Sir Lance Cross. The award is presented to those who have provided exceptional services to New Zealand basketball over time.

Winners

- 1985 Ross Williams
- 1986 E Kirton
- 1987 Ray Thomson
- 1988 Mary Clark
- 1989 Patricia Wells
- 1990 Brydon Harvey
- 1991 Ngaire Lee
- 1992 Lance McLoughlin
- 1993 John Grocott
- 1994 Barbara Baxter
- 1995 Keith Wright
- 1996 Len Rollinson
- 1997 Daisy Rangi
- 1998 Russell Henwood
- 1999 Jeff Olsen
- 2000 Keith Mair
- 2001 Peter Crowhen
- 2002 David Rout
- 2003 Mel Young
- 2004 Ken Coulson
- 2005 Dennis Jones
- 2006 Tab Baldwin
- 2007 Murray McMahon

Murray McMahon — Sir Lance Cross Award Winner



Murray McMahon has now been involved in basketball for approximately 50 years. He has been a coach at all levels, including three years as Tall Black assistant coach under Keith Mair and three years as video coach under Tab Baldwin. Murray was the NZ U21 men's coach or assistant for a total of seven years. He is currently the fulltime Sportsforce officer for Waikato Basketball and received the 2006 Services to Sport Award at the Waikato Regional Sports Awards. Murray also played for the men's national team in 1967. He represented Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Auckland from 1961-94.



Volunteer of the Year

Pauline Paterson

The secretary of Mid Canterbury Basketball Association and president of Wheelchair Basketball New Zealand, Pauline is a tireless and passionate friend of the game.

50 Year Service Awards

Maurie Henshall

Life Member Canterbury Basketball

Life Member Basketball New Zealand

Roger Paterson

Life Member Mid Canterbury Basketball

Colleen Lindsay

Life Member Mid Canterbury Basketball

2007 Zena Gay Award

In 1995, Basketball New Zealand instituted an award to commemorate a lifetime of service to women's basketball by the late Mrs Zena Gay. The award is presented to someone who has made a notable contribution to women's basketball in New Zealand.

Winners

1995	Aileen Solomon
1996	Carolyn Grey
1997	Lance McLoughlin
1998	Joyce Bush
1999	Min McMillan
2000	Kim Lucas
2001	Pauline Patterson
2002	Mata Cameron
2003	Teresa Cargo
2004	Leanne Walker
2005	Gina Farmer
2006	Janie Granger
2007	Donna Wilkins

Donna Wilkins — Zena Gay Award Winner



As a dual basketball/netball international, Donna Wilkins deserves to be recognized as one of New Zealand's greatest all-round sports women, despite never quite winning a major international Championship.

While she has come closest to a gold medal in netball — she was twice a Commonwealth Games silver medalist and once a world championship runner-up — Donna's most impressive credentials come in her preferred code of basketball.

Often conceding several centimetres to her opponents, she was part of a generation of Tall Ferns that emerged from the 1990s to participate at two Olympics, achieving an unexpected quarter final placing at Athens in 2004.

Donna battled opponents several centimetres taller throughout that tournament to finish as its leading rebounder, a feat that earned her a tryout with the WNBA's Connecticut Sun.

In 2006, with most of her Olympic team-mates now retired, she led a new-look Tall Fern outfit to silver medals at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games and again took out rebound honors for the tournament.

Donna's sporting career has been characterized by her gritty determination and refusal to take a backward step out on the court, and her habit of speaking her mind off it. While she has made herself unavailable for the upcoming Beijing Olympics, we hope she will return to the Tall Ferns in some capacity in the near future.

2008 preview

The 2008 year will be focussed on continuing our successes and producing winning teams in *truly* world class pinnacle events. With support from SPARC, our key high performance partner, we believe BBNZ has the strategic direction and organisational capacity to plan and operate programmes that identify, select, develop and prepare athletes, coaches and teams to excel in international competition.

Basketball New Zealand is determined to make basketball a top-four sport in New Zealand, and has prioritised participation and winning teams as the cornerstones of this vision. In particular, BBNZ defines winning teams as successful national teams at peak world events.

Referees

In conjunction with the coach and player development programme, we have initiated a referee education programme. The first clinic took place as part of the All-NZ Camp in Palmerston North at the end of January, 2008.

Affiliation Fees

For 2008, the board will recommend to the AGM a flat fee of \$1500 per association for with the first payment by June 1 and in 2009, March 1.

BBNZ Office

Dale Stephens started the role of CEO on January 7. *In The Huddle* will continue to be produced for distribution to stakeholders weekly, supplemented by more specific community and referee newsletters quarterly.

National Teams

Costs for our junior national teams are an ongoing challenge and this next year, we have tried to rationalise them carefully. While there will still be a contribution to those costs by the players, BBNZ investment in the player development programme and junior national teams will increase to \$280,000 in 2008.

Leagues

Conference leagues will once again be conducted for both men and women. Entry will be open to associations and other approved organizations that show they can field a competitive team, provide adequate playing facilities and sound administration.





