



The New Zealand Basketball Foundation

Keeping the Story of Our Game Alive

For over a decade, the New Zealand Basketball Foundation has been working with BBNZ to do something that's never been done before: preserve and celebrate the full story of basketball in Aotearoa.

We're the history-keepers of our sport - collecting, archiving, and sharing the people, teams, and moments that have shaped the game across generations. Our focus is especially on national teams and competitions, but the ripple effects of this work benefit the **entire basketball community**.

Here's a snapshot of what we do:

Building the National Archive

Our main goal is to digitally record and preserve New Zealand basketball history at a national level.

- We currently employ two part-time staff and have a team of dedicated volunteers (plus support from the BBNZ CE) driving this massive project.
- While the full archive is still a work in progress, the end goal is for everyone to have open access to our sport's rich history.

Annual Awards Function

Thanks to the Foundation's work, we support events that honour legends of the game.

- We provide historical research for nominated candidates and help fund awards events when these take place.
- It's a chance to celebrate and hear from those who've paved the way - players, coaches, referees, and contributors alike.

Legacy Displays

To mark 50 years of Secondary School Nationals, we created commemorative school banners - and last year we refreshed all other tournament banners, seen at major events and internationals.

Publishing the Game's Story

We've published (and supported) some of the most important works on basketball in NZ, including:

- *The Lost Years* (early men's game) – Allan Bruce, completed by Dave Norris and Warren Smith
 - *Let's Go Girls* (early women's game) – Glenda Taylor
 - *In the Hotspot* (refereeing) – Rodney King
 - *History of Basketball in NZ* – Roger Booth (supported by Foundation funding and archive materials)
- Every Association and Life Member has received copies of these books — they're vital records of our past.

Tall Ferns & Tall Blacks Database

We've helped develop and maintain a comprehensive [national team database](#) - a first-of-its-kind.

- Every Tall Fern and Tall Black is listed and numbered, thanks to **Tony O'Connor** and historical records dating back to the 1940s.
- This is how we reconnect with players and honour their place in the game's whakapapa.

Honouring Those We've Lost

We support the creation of obituaries and tributes for national-level contributors, ensuring they are remembered on the BBNZ platform.

Alumni Events

Whenever possible, we host alumni gatherings before major internationals, inviting former national players to reconnect through the Tall Fern and Tall Black database.

Basketball is more than a game in Aotearoa – it's a shared legacy.

Through books, banners, events, and archives, the Foundation makes sure that the people and stories behind the sport are never forgotten.

We're here to celebrate the past, inspire the future, and bring our basketball whānau together.