



# New Zealand Canoe Polo Quarterly Newsletter

## 2014 Starts with a Bang

Welcome to the first edition of the NZCPA Quarterly newsletter for 2014. Since becoming the communications director a few months ago I've hit the ground running and I hope that our members are noticing the difference with communications.

So far over the past few months we have completed a communications review, done a draft communications plan, updated the website, and of course managed to complete the first newsletter in some time.

The review identified areas which need improvement and I think I am up to the challenge ☺ However, if you do have any feedback on the communications please don't feel like you need to wait for a formal review – I'm contactable any time of the year.

On my journey so far, I have realized just how much work goes into running the organization, and that there are so many individuals who volunteer their time to make a difference in this amazing sport. On behalf of NZCPA I'd like to thank all those volunteers for their hard work and for their time and effort that they put into our sport and organization. Brenda Clayton ☺

## Auckland Quarry Tournament

The 2014 Quarry champs were held at Lake Pupuke the weekend of January 18/19. With 17 teams across 3 grades from all over NZ this was the largest Quarry champs so far. Congratulations to the winners, Viking Black in A grade, Smurfs in B grade, and MAGS in C grade. Special thanks to all those ACP club members who ensured the event ran smoothly and all the teams who travelled to compete. David Isaacs

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## NZ Squad Activity – U21 Women

The New Zealand U21's are in a great position in 2014, heading to the World Championships in Thury-Harcourt, France in September.

This year's team has none of the players who went to Poland in 2012, yet the depth of U21 polo in NZ is showing with competition for the team fierce among the 15 girls who are all of similar ability. The level of skill and fitness is improving quickly as the girls are very keen to learn, which is every coaches dream to have motivated athletes who are keen to get better.

So far they have had two camps and are about to have their third over ANZAC weekend where Pete Housiaux the Women's Squad Head Coach has some plans for a tough, busy weekend both physically and mentally.

They are also all playing in the Women's National League A grade which will continue to push them and that will be where selections are done at the finals weekend on the 10/11 May in Auckland. They are great group to coach and I'm looking forward to taking the best eight to Europe to take on the world's best.

Nick Burnett - Women's Squad Assistant coach.

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*"To promote and encourage all aspects of Canoe Polo in New Zealand for the future of the sport and its participants"*

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### Upcoming Events

#### April 2014

National League A Grade  
Tournament, Palmerston North - 12th  
& 13th April

National League B / C Grade  
Tournament, Auckland - 26th & 27th  
April

#### May 2014

National League A Grade Finals  
Tournament, Auckland - 10th & 11th  
May

National League B / C Grade  
Tournament, Hawkes Bay - 17th &  
18th May

National League B / C Grade  
Tournament - South Island location  
TBA

#### June 2014

National League B/C Grade Finals  
Tournament, Naenae Olympic Pool,  
Hutt City - 31st May - 2nd June

## Art Deco Tournament

The Art Deco Canoe Polo tournament made the news in March, below is the article featured in Hawkes Bay Today.

It isn't just the steam trains, classic aircraft and vintage cars that attract international visitors to Hawke's Bay for Art Deco Weekend.

The annual Art Deco canoe polo tournament played at the Frimley Pool in Hastings from Friday until yesterday had an international flavour, too.

Among the 25 teams, three more than last year, was a team named International.

"It played in the women's A grade, the first time we've had this grade in four years, and it included two players from Denmark and one from the Czech Republic," tournament organiser Kelly Walters explained. With a couple of Kiwis helping the international visitors, as good hosts should, International won the grade with a 2-1 victory against Hawke's Bay's Hit and Miss in the final.

An all-Palmerston North men's open-grade final that went to extra time saw Team Black pip Vikings Gold 4-3. Former Havelock North High School player Wade Miller was on the Team Black roster.

Top Hawke's Bay Secondary School team, Hastings Boys' High School Akina, beat Billbos 4-1 in the open B grade final.

Billbos was a selection of Hawke's Bay and Palmerston North players involved in trials for the New Zealand women's team for this year's world championships. Sophie Winton and Jordan Pearse of the Bay were prominent for Billbos.

In the women's B grade final Valkyries of Palmerston North beat Havelock North 4-1.



## Secondary School Nationals

March is a great time of the year for polo, the summer tournaments of Atahua and Art Deco have been and we have been treated to some great games. Most schools treat these tournaments as a stepping stone to Regional Qualifiers, to suss out the opposition and to see where their own games need to be strengthened.

Then came the Regional Qualifiers themselves, in the majority these were held the weekend of March 8/9 apart from Central East who held theirs a week earlier.

Congratulations to Northern, Central West and Central South all of whom attracted new college's to their qualifiers.

Once more the Championships were held at the Makino Aquatic Centre in Feilding, where we are always welcomed. The staff go out of their way to make sure everything that can be done is, every year improvements have been made to the facility.

While Michael and I get there early to set up we are always pleased to see Phil Parry who this year took the responsibly of the inside pool and the Horowhenua contingent of Peter, Russell and Kerin who always pitch in with the setting up of the courts.

Schools are allowed access to the complex at 10.30am and start to set up their individual areas. 11.30 is the coaches and managers meeting, once again there was a spirited discussion on the rules, however as Head Ref, Michael soon brought this under wraps and was pleased with the quality and consistency of the reffing throughout the tournament. Then at noon the games began on both pools.

It was good to see new schools enter for the first time, St Peter's from Central West, Chanel from Central South and Longbay from Northern, this year saw Kurt from Te Puke come back to the competition.

As the competition organiser I was very grateful to both Polo Mania and JC polo for their support and supplying many spot prizes for our players. Polo Mania have supported the fair play awards for a number of years, this year it was unfortunate that there were no nominations for any player in the outdoor pool however we had many nominees for the inside. Callum Forbes from Waiarapa College was nominated in two games for helping both his team mates and the opposition players when upside down; he was the recipient of a helmet. The main prize this year went to Kirsty Shailer of Freyberg for leaving her goal undefended during the golden goal period to help a team mate in difficulty; Kirsty received many nominations from parents, team mates and staff at the Aquatic Centre.

Apart from those either connected to a college or part of the team running the competition our thanks must also go to the many NZ Senior Players who turned up to support, Kate and Julie Bolton who reffed, selected the tournament teams and gave out medals, Jason Dalzeil, Luke Dustin and Kyzen MacDonald who also either selected the tournament team and/or gave out the medals. I know the students spent valuable time with these people who gave of their time and knowledge so generously. I am not sure Kris Claman of Dunedin is aware of how much we all appreciate her skill at handling the draw, the speed with which she has it completed, we are appreciative Kris thank you. Or Lynne Russell who comes every year to be on hand with apparel, reffing and sorting "stuff".

I have been attending these comps for several years now, and it is always a pleasant surprise at how well behaved and courteous the players are. It has also been a pleasure to watch players grow from the little Y9's through to very talented year 13's and then watch them progress into NZ senior team.

I look forward to 2015 where we are once again in Feilding and may it keep on supplying the great weather we have enjoyed for the past 4 years.

Penny Dustin – Schools Director



## Board Profile: Ali Neilson

Born: Palmerston North

Lives in: Christchurch

Husband: Thomas

Children: Lily

Polo Club: Burnside Canoe Polo

First Started Polo: Palmerston North Girls High School

Ali's passion for polo began as a 14 year old at high school. After a slow start (learning to roll took a year!) she soon learned to paddle in a straight line / while catching a ball almost out of arms reach / while railing against a tackle / all the while looking for her next pass. In fact, it's that complex nature of the sport, as well as the fast paced action that Ali loves about the sport. With great support through Kiwi Canoe Polo club, she was selected for the Women's national team at 19. After almost 10 years in the national team, Ali is now retired from international competition but still loves playing local polo and the National League series. Ali is a Chartered Accountant and is currently the Group Financial Accountant at Kathmandu. Prior to this she worked for KPMG.

Polo involvement:

World Champs 2002, 2004, 2006 (c), 2008 (c), 2010 (c)

World Games 2005, 2009 (c)

Oceania Champs 2003, 2005, 2007 (c)

National League for Valkyries (PN),

## New Zealand Canoe Polo Association

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Find us on the Web:  
[www.nzcanoe polo.org.nz](http://www.nzcanoe polo.org.nz)  
[www.facebook.com/nzcanoe poloassoc](https://www.facebook.com/nzcanoe poloassoc)



## NL Round 1 & 2 Points – Open

	Round 1 Points	Round 2 Points	Total
Bailiffs	6	6	12
Expose	16	16	32
Hurricanes	8	7	15
Justice	14	10	24
Kaos	12	12	24
Raiders	10	14	24
Viking Black	20	20	40
Viking Development	7	8	15
Viking Gold	9	9	18

## NL Round 1 & 2 Points - Women

	Round 1 Points	Round 2 Points	Total
Avengers	12	12	24
Generation Y	14	16	30
NeMrs	16	14	30
Valkyries A	20	20	40
Valkyries B	10	10	20

## Photo's from NZ Secondary School Champs



*Horowhenua Senior Girls –  
Division 1 Gold Medalists*



*Hastings Senior Boys –  
Division 1 Gold Medalists*



*Girls Tournament Team –  
Alexia Hinton, Kaya Shlomi, Anna Coppelman,  
Sian Fendall, Francie Bacon, Renee Bacon,  
Megan Devlin, Monique Corson*



*Boys Tournament Team –  
James McNatty, Cole Hawkins, Aaron  
Crabb, Ryan Warren, Liam Warren,  
Alex Whiley, Liam Huges*

## Board of Directors

Michael Beauchamp (President)

Tonille Crombie

Peter Bolton

Emma Matheson (Chairperson)

Cam Butler

Alison Neilson

Kirsten Demanser-Wilson

## Executive Council

Executive Director – Maree Burnett

Coaching Director – Phil Parry

Communications Director – Brenda Clayton

Competitions Director – James Mitchell

Funding Director – Megan Bolton

Refereeing Director – Sean Thomson

Schools Director – Penny Dustin

Squads Director - vacant