



New Zealand Canoe Polo Quarterly Newsletter

Introducing Anita Sharrat

Being new to the sport of canoe polo, Anita Sharrat brings a fresh face and a new approach to her role as the Executive Director for NZCPA.

Introduced into the sport by her twin daughters Kirsty and Nicola, the mother of 3 soon become a 'water mum' and helped her local club Wairarapa Paddlers with running events and sorting teams. However, after wanting to get more involved Anita has recently conquered her fear of water and jumped in a kayak to play in the Novice grade for Wairarapa at Atahua Cup in 2014. Anita is now a self proclaimed 'addict' to the sport, and regularly participates in her local league.

Anita's background includes playing multi sports throughout her life including competing in athletics for England. Anita has also spent years coaching netball at primary level, in which she managed to coach her team through to win their grade for 3 consecutive years. As a coach Anita understands the importance of team work and teaching the sport at grass roots level.

Anita also has a passion for horses. She has spent time travelling on the international show jumping scene. Anita's boss at the time competed for the GB team and came home with a Bronze at Seoul and Barcelona.

First up for Anita in the ED role is sorting Oceania. Organising coaches, managers, refs, players and liaising with her Australian counterparts are going to be the upcoming challenges for Anita, but she is up for the challenge. Building on a great performance from our teams at the World Championships Anita is says 'that gives us (NZCPA) something positive to build on'.

We welcome Anita to NZCPA and wish her the best in her role as the Executive Director.

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Team Last Chance

Developing young talent in a region is the key to the long term success of this sport.

These young talented players are the next wave of up and coming paddlers.

Here in Feilding over a few years a group of young players have played together consistently, training together and competing as a unit in National and regional tournaments. (representing Kiwipolo)

This year has seen a successful outcome for a team of them with wins at both the Levin under 14 and Hawkes Bay under 14 tournaments.

Team Last Chance is- Oliver Morrirt, Zack Currie, Josh Gray, Lachie Harrigan and Matt Oke.

Some of them have played for 3 to 4 years and some only 18 months, but the passion they have for the sport, knowledge of each other and their commitment to training and teamwork is reflected in their results.

Close fought games with hard won victories have shown them the value of teamwork.

What a great tournament Hawkes Bay put on and the final was a hard fought affair with Last Chance (Feilding) taking the final over a talented St Johns side.

There is a great wealth of young talent in all regions coming through the sport and the popularity of Canoe Polo is steadily increasing, with this the sport has a very bright future.
Greg Oke

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

Upcoming Events

January 2015

Quarry Tournament, Auckland – 17- 18 January

February 2015

Atahua Cup, Palmerston North – 7- 8 February

Napier Boys High tournament, Hawkes Bay – 14-15 February

Art Deco Tournament, Hawkes Bay – 21- 22 February

Dunedin Tournament (TBC) – 21- 22 February

School Regional Qualifiers Central East & South Island – 28 February

March 2015

School Regional Qualifiers Northern, Central West & Central South – 7- 8 March

National League A Grade tournament, Christchurch – 21 –22 March

National League SI B&C Grade tournament, Christchurch – 21- 22 March

Secondary School Nationals, Feilding – 27 – 29 March

KiwiPolo's Ref Course November 2014

During the year I was thinking that it would be great if just before the season of Canoe polo started we asked if people would like to refresh the rules, learn to ref and for some, sit their official refs exams. I was amazed at the response we had.

Gathered in the room at Sport Manawatu were over 40 people from various local regions .

Our teacher was Kate Bolton whose vast refereeing knowledge and representative paddling expertise needs no introduction.

Kate went through the rules, reviewing not only the regulations but also offering wise advice on how to ref, practical knowledge on positioning and managing on and off court issues.

This course also involved questions and answers which enabled us all to be on the same page with calls and decisions. Even among some experienced players there was always the something to be learnt and clarified.

Each person was given their own whistle and set of cards. 10 people went on to it their refs exams, with a further number going away to study before the next round. Thank you James Mitchell our examiner.

As a club, Kiwi offered this course at no cost, to reflect the value we place in the volunteers who put themselves out there to ref the game.

Given the new changes in the ICF rules just posted in the past month, we will update all our refs and be ready for the new season of POLO.

Whether we ref social C grade, Local schools grade, A B or Nat C grade, consistency is the key when you are a player on the water.

One thing we need to do as players is to respect the refs call at all times, from watching and playing sport for some time we all know that this is not an easy job especially in such a fast paced assertive game as Canoe Polo.

I would think that if all regions offered this to their players refs and coaches you would see the same enthusiasm and we will keep standards of reffing high and consistent.

Greg Oke
KiwiPOLO



NZ Training Camp Dates

NZ Men's Training Camp Dates

24-25 January, NZ Men's training camp, Palmerston North
7-8 February, NZ Men's Selection Event (Atahua Cup, Palmerston North)
14-15 February, NZ Men's training camp, Palmerston North
14-15 March, NZ Men's training camp, Palmerston North

NZ Women's Training Camp Dates

31 January – 1 February, NZ Women's training camp, Palmerston North
7-8 February, NZ Women's Selection Event (Atahua Cup, Palmerston North.
Trialists can play at any level)
28 February – 1 March, NZ Women's training camp, Palmerston North
14-15 March, NZ Women's training camp, Palmerston North

NZ Official Appointments

Men's Squad Head Coach – Steve Hunt
Men's Squad Assistant Coaches – Mike Taylor
Women's Squad Head Coach – Peter Housiaux
Women's Squad Assistant Coach – Kate Bolton
Squad Management – Penny Dustin
Squad Assistant Management – TBC

New Zealand Squads will be established in the following categories to prepare for this event:

- NZ Senior Squad
- NZ Veteran's / Master's (over 35 men and over 45 men's teams to be selected depending on interest)
- NZ U21 Squad
- NZ U18 Squad

Player applications closed 19 December 2014.



Board Profile: Kirsten Demanser-Wilson

Lives in: Napier, Hawkes Bay
Family: Married to Kent, 2 children – Jaimee and Ben
Current Polo club: Canoe Polo Hawkes Bay

First started playing canoe polo: 1990
Kirsten began playing canoe polo for a bit of fun and training for her slalom and white water training. She was hooked after the first few games and whitewater and slalom took the back seat. Kirsten was selected for the NZ Junior Womens Team that toured Australia in 1992. While Kirsten was studying to become a teacher at Massey University in Palmerston North, she played in the Open team 'DayTwo Wasps' (Ruahine Canoe Club). She then joined Otaki Canoe Club and played many years for the Witches. In 1994, Kirsten was selected in the NZ Women's team that travelled to Sheffield, England for the Inaugural World Champs. She stayed in the NZ team in 1995 and 1996 for the World Champs in Australia. Kirsten retired from the sport for 4 years before heading back to the NZ national champs as a reunion of her old club team the 'Witches'. This hooked Kirsten back into the sport and she started to help out the NZ squads that were training for worlds in 2002.

Kirsten coached the NZ Women's team for World Champs in Japan 2004 as well as coaching the women's team for 2 Oceania campaigns. In 2007, Kirsten played in the NZ Women's B team and then played at the World Masters Games with a bunch of friends from around NZ to take out the Gold Medal for the over 30's.

Kirsten has been a board member since 2013 and is currently a teacher at Taradale Intermediate School where she specializes in Health/PE & and Sport.

NZ Junior Team: 1992
Oceania Championships: 2003(NZ Women's Coach), 2007 (NZ Women's B team player and coach and coach of NZ Women's A team)

World Championships: 1994 & 1996
World Masters Championships: 2009 – Gold Medal

National league A Grade: 1993-1994 (Day Two Wasps – Ruahine), 1995 – 1996 (Witches – Otaki), 2006-2009 (Hawke's Bay Hurrikets); NemMRS 2012 - 2014(Burnside)

NZ u21 Men Worlds Campaign

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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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What a year it has been!! To finish 4th in the world is a massive accomplishment for us, however it was bitter-sweet. We were aiming for a medal and to fall just short is crushing. In saying this it was an amazing experience and still to finish 4th is pretty good. All the boys put in massive training hours early morning paddles and late night gym sessions, as well as travelling to 3 training camps through-out the year. The training camps were great and helped us to gel as we were from as far apart as Auckland to Christchurch and everywhere in between! Once in Europe we were rearing to play and at our first tournament, the European Championship in Groningen, we managed to finish 2nd!! It was an amazing first European experience and to finish second we were stoked! However it did show us that we had some way to go and what European polo was all about.

After this first tournament we had to drive to Liblar, Germany for training at a fantastic club venue on the side of a lake. Nursing some injuries after the first comp it was a good week spent recovering and working on our game. After a few nights we left for Rennes and our next tournament the Breizh Cup. I want to take a moment to thank our absolute trooper of a manager, Lisa Hunt, who did the entire 860 km drive without tagging out for another driver, she was awesome! Well done Lisa!

Once at the tournament we got to see the depth of the club scene, and the amount of people who knew about canoe polo. The whole town of Acigne where the tournament was played knew about it and was there to support. Here we had our first experience with spectators, for our final there would have been several hundred people watching. So it's a good thing we won!! Second tournament done and a win under our belts we were feeling pretty good. With more teamwork and cohesion shown we felt great.

Then it was time for another big drive to Ieper, Belgium which our coach Mike took us on. Good on ya mate it was a big day but we saw some cool places. Once in Ieper we had a couple days training and then the Poppies tournament, which was filled with international teams! Managing 5th this time we had our first international men's scalp under our belts beating South Africa and had a great game against the Spanish men where Aaron Crab decided to go beast mode and scored 4 goals in a row!

Then it was time for Worlds. We had some great games - beating Great Britain and Poland and fought hard against the French in the semi's and the Germans in the 3rd and 4th play off, but it wasn't to be. We had a great tour and came a long way, one of the things we worked on was having a huge defence and it definitely improved becoming world class, which was how we managed to get fourth I believe.

After all this amazing polo I would like to thank our substitute coach for a week, Steve, thanks for stepping up while Mike wasn't there. A huge thank to Lisa who drove us, fed us, and was a great camp mother. Lastly to Mike himself - thanks for everything coach. You pushed us and believed in

us, which drove us to get the best we could. Thanks. Jordan Hinton – NZ u21 Men Vice Captain

Worlds lead up 2014

The hype of it all, discussing with your fellow polo friends, "are you going to trial for NZ for France 2014?"

What makes it so real is when you fill in the application and wait for that email telling you when the first camp is. The motivation to get in your boat, on that water and do what you can to have that slight edge over the other 15 or so people going for those 7-8 spots.

My fellow Palmy players and I were extremely lucky to have one another to push us past our limits, train in the freezing cold and more importantly having the support from them knowing they were in the same situation, getting up at 6am on a dark winter morning to do a lactic session.

With strong bonds formed, the support crew carried on the whole tour. seeing our little black mob (not only our parents) on the side of the pitch cheering you on made you put in 120% more than the 110% you're already giving, knowing that when things went wrong they were there to cheer you up and put you back on track. What sort of trip would it have been if you couldn't come home and share memories with so many friends.

With Canoe Polo being a minority sport we all know how expensive it can be, with new boats, new helmets, new decks, competitions one weekend and then another the following, Having to pay for training camps and trying to save money for that all important day for when we are named in the NZ Squad to travel to Europe seemed rather difficult.

A group of us, Sam Hapeta, Ollie Maasen, Aaron Crab, Max Whitaker-Mills and myself plus the help of our family's, got together and came up with ideas on how we could raise some money to take the ease off our parents pockets and our bank accounts.

With local businesses backing us like Hotel Coachman, BNZ, Cafe Cuba, Aberdeen and more we were able to raise over \$1000 each towards our trip.

BNZ loaned us their BBQ trailer, Hotel Coachman loaned us the coffee machine and donated the goods to go with it,

we as a group set up our own coffee stall at our local Palmy tournament down at the Manawatu lagoon and sold hot drinks, huge hit with a large crowd who has a caffeine addiction.

The success of the coffee cart motivated us to do more, we sold raffle tickets to friends, family, work colleagues and even to the general public at the Home show, where we were kindly donated a stall, this was a major opportunity to really promote our sport. The support from Cafe Cuba, Aberdeen, Hotel coachman and more meant we were able to have a decent prize draw for this raffle including dinner vouchers, weekend stay, headphones and deluxe shower heads which made selling these tickets was a breeze.

The generosity of Hotel coachman also meant we were able to host a massive garage sale, where they donated things from the hotel for us to sell, which we added to the pile with treasures from our parents garages which we were meant to clean out years ago, from furniture to clothing and everything else in between. We started in the early morning at 6am one Saturday. We had people from all over Palmy come and check what bargains we had. Family members brought down baked goods where some of us went down to the local soccer field and sold them to the hungry parents on the side line.

With the backing of parents and the strong bond of a friendship, we were very successful as a group in raising these funds. It took a huge weight off our shoulders knowing that we didn't have to scrape the bottom of the barrel or ask mum and dad for a little extra. The process of it all taught us to work together for a common goal but more importantly we had fun doing it.

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success” - Henry Ford

Emma Hicks

South Island Champs

Kick starting the summer season of Canoe Polo the annual South Island Championships were held at Lake Roto Kohatu on the weekend of the 6th and 7th of December. Christchurch put on some nice weather and two full days of games prevailed.

In the biggest South Island champs yet some really great games were witnessed with a number of games going into sudden death to decide who went through to the finals. The A Grade was tightly contested but the strength of the Palmerston North based Vikings Classic proving too much for the younger Burnside Blue team. Giving the competition an international flavor a couple of players from Switzerland created a team called Swiss Bros and took out third place.

The B Grade was the biggest grade and proved an extremely tough competition with wins interchanging all over show. A couple of teams had to fight their way back into the playoffs after dropping down in the first round. A highlight for Womens' Canoe Polo was the Burnside Red team, made up of Andi Fear-Ross, Olivia Spencer-Bower, Hannah Staples, Ali Neilson, Nicole Saunders, Lydia Nuttall and Cecilie Moe Weinreich (from the Danish womens team) lining up against the NZ U21 Women's team, fresh from winning bronze at the World Champs, in the B Grade final. This made for an all womens final except for Nick Burnett who was the token male in the game playing for the U21 team. Experience and age proved too valuable against youth and energy with the Burnside Red team coming away with a comfortable win.

In the C Grade and Women's grade some really great development took place. With a number of players playing their first ever Canoe Polo tournament. Burnside Red beat Eki Noa (the NZ U21 girls) in the final to give Burnside a win in two categories.

While in the C Grade the Gladiators triumphed over the Legionaires to take the glory. Saturday evening saw a large contingent of players enjoying a delicious BBQ while relaxing beside the lake. As is becoming custom camping was very popular on the shores of the lake by the out of towners.

Burnside Canoe Polo Club hit the history books with 66 players from the club playing over the course of the weekend. A great achievement for a growing club and thanks to the hard working volunteers who are driving hard to promote the sport at the schools level.

All in all the South Island Champs was a very successful weekend and opened up the summer season superbly. Thanks to everyone that came along and shared in the fun and thanks to all the people who helped organise the event. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

Board of Directors

Michael Beauchamp (President)

Peter Bolton

Emma Matheson (Chairperson)

Cam Butler

Alison Neilson

Kirsten Demanser-Wilson

Executive Council

Executive Director – Anita Sharrat

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