



New Zealand Canoe Polo Quarterly Newsletter

2015 NZ Secondary School Championships

2015 saw the champs back at Makino Aquatic Centre in Feilding for the 5th year. Adie and her team now have this competition working as smoothly as possible with each year showing improvements they have made. However their success has proved a wee bit tricky for us as next year the complex is undergoing a makeover and the pool will be closed over our weekend, it will be exciting to return in 2017 to see the improvements.

Feilding put on another great weekend weather wise and the schools brought us some great games, lots of laughs and a wonderful spirit. Many people came along early and helped set up, Peter Bolton and the Horo gang, had the goals up, cones out for the outside pool before Michael and I arrived. Ange Shailer was organizing her troops for the inside.

It was a pleasure to welcome 2 new schools to Nationals this year Wanganui High School who had two teams one in SODII and the other in SGDII while both teams finished down the rankings, they did express their delight at having attended and went home with the commitment to finish further up the leader board next year. The second college was Sacred Heart New Plymouth what a delight these young ladies were and what a brilliant result for their first venture into finals a bronze medal!!!!

Over the weekend we were treated to some great games, and while the big games on the outside pool were as usual of a high standard, the standout game for me this year was the JO final. In this grade pool play produced hard fought games to decide the top four teams, Karamu High School taking third over St Peters College with 20 seconds to go.

The final was a fantastic battle between St John College and Feilding High School where teams traded goals and defended hard. The smaller pool made this games speed an exciting spectacle for the packed crowd, many of whom had not seen canoe polo before. The noise in the inside pool was deafening and added to the tension and excitement of the game. With time marching on, the teams were trading waves of attack and defence and were deadlocked at 4 all. With 3 seconds to go to full time Feilding secured the ball and managed a well-timed long range shot which went in the top corner of the goal and secured the win right on the buzzer. Refs; James Mitchell and Cam Butler commented on the quality of the game, the excitement and the advanced skills and tactics shown by players on both teams.

I take this opportunity to remind everyone of the fantastic sponsorship provided by James of JC Polo and Cam and Dave of Polo Mania without them sport prizes would be a thing of the past or minimal at best. While at the Champs both Cam and James spend hours with emerging players and their parents getting these players into the correct gear. Apart from their sponsorship of these champs they add a level of expertise for which we are grateful.

Next year Makino is closed for renovations, we are hoping to confirm shortly 2016 champs will be held in Palmerston North, as soon as we have confirmation I will advise you.

Once again thank you to all concerned for a great championship

Penny – School Championships Director

Contents

Special Interest Articles

NZSSC	1
James Mitchell	2
Generation Y	2
Oceania 2015	3
Viking Silver	4
Viking Chrome	4
Viking Black	5
Hurrikets A	5
Ambassador Programme	6

Individual Highlights

Upcoming Events	2
Club Profile	6

James Mitchell – outgoing competitions director

After 16 years as competitions director James Mitchell has decided to step down from the role. NZCPA appreciate the hard work that James has done over the years and asked James to reflect on some of his achievements and memorable moments in this role.

I first started to be involved in the late 1990s when there was actually a break in any form of national Champs for senior club players, mostly due to a lack of volunteers. In the late 90s there was only a couple competitions run by clubs and the Vikings-Justice challenge trophy. School nationals were still run at this stage with similar numbers.

Since 2000 club Champs have been back and a regular part of polo the polo landscape. 2000 saw national club champs being held once again as a single tournament. Two grades Open and a Women's grade. A couple years later we moved to a league system with two island based leagues playing home and away games over 40 minute games. Coming together for finals based on your island rankings.

The home and away system eventually morphed into our current system basically to make it easier for more teams to join the league (also because top

teams were only getting to play each other once across the island divide). Gradually as demand grew we added a B division....which has since grown into Women's B and Open C grades added. Also we have been forced to separate the grades to make the tournaments more manageable.

All along the way the inter regional concept has run with a couple additions to regions with Deep South and now Hawkes Bay/Eastern added....mostly at a junior and youth level this had been very successful, but at a senior level had been mostly a replication of club champs.

School Champs were for many years run exclusively under the schools council...recent years seen greater integration with the other competitions. It's still seen very much as the bed rock of our competitions, with a high level of play for our juniors.

The last 10 years has seen a proliferation of invitational tournaments run by clubs. As players demand more and more games to whet their appetite for our awesome game. Canoe polo is in great health competition wise and hopefully heading to even greater heights.

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

Upcoming Events

July 2015

11-12 Central Development
Camp, Naenae Pool

August 2015

29-30 Central In-House
Tournament, Naenae Pool

September 2015

19-20 Solstice Tournament,
Naenae Pool

October 2015

2-4 Inter Regional Tournament
17-18 Hawkes Bay under 14
Tournament

Generation Y – A Grade Women's Winners

National League 2015 was always going to be interesting for Generation Y, ending the 6 year reign of Kiwi Canoe Club's Valkyries A in 2014 and taking the Women's Title, Gen Y knew that revenge would be sought, and also that other Women's Teams would be gunning for the Title for 2015. Add to this the fact that only 1 member of their team was trialing for Oceania and all of the other Gen Y players were either focused on their studies or new careers.

This year there were some new formations of teams; under the experienced guidance of Kate Bolton and Emmah Hicks, Valkyries A were a combination of experience old and new, a team to watch with so many players in the Team representing New Zealand at Oceania. Avengers from Wellington were also another Team to keep an eye on, with the experience of Megan Juno, who had recently returned from living in Australia. Megan is a player with a wealth of knowledge, skills, cunning and ability that would be an asset to any team she was in. NeMrs, a team that is always to be respected in this competition, a team full of knowledge, experience, determination, cunning and wise heads, a group of good friends, that do what they do because they love it and want to have fun, (we want to be you guys when we grow up!!). Team Anarchy, a team of skilled young ladies who will be making their mark in Polo circles in years to come, and finally Valkyries B, once again under the guidance of Kate Bolton, this young team, stepped up and experienced Canoe Polo at a top level, if they continue to play, like Anarchy they will be making their mark in Canoe Polo in years to come.

This year the games were all fairly tight and close, with games sometimes only being won in the final minutes. As usual the train on the day philosophy for Gen Y didn't always work to their advantage, but towards the end of each competition, Gen Y were playing together as a team. The fact that the majority of the team had been playing together since they were about 14 meant that they had an understanding and bond that always managed to get them through to the finals, the games might not always have been pretty, but we got there.

Playing off against Avengers in the Grand Final Gen Y came out on top winning 8 - 3 and taking the Womens National Title for 2015, but never taking things for granted, they know that 2016 will be yet another tough battle. National League 2015 was a great but tough competition, seeing the teams gel, interact and support each other with a combination of experienced wise heads, supporting the new and upcoming, was awesome. Women's Canoe Polo in New Zealand is looking very healthy.

Housiaux Whanau



Oceania 2015

The New Zealand Canoe Polo teams have returned victorious after the Oceania Championships held from 9-11 April in Nagambie, Australia. NZ took 7 teams to compete against the Australians, U18, U21, and Open Men and Women plus a Masters team.

The Nagambie Regatta Centre was an excellent water sports venue situated 1.5hrs drive north of Melbourne, Victoria. The venue boasted a 2 pitch setup right in front of the purpose built Regatta Centre, with a warm-up pitch as well- all of this just 200m from the NZ squad's accommodation.

With no preliminary competitions the NZ teams had to hit the ground running for their 5 day tour - and hit the ground running they did! In the first round all NZ teams played strongly and claimed early victories over our trans-Tasman rivals across the grades.

This winning attitude flowed easily into day 2 and the second round of the competition. All teams beat their Australian counterparts and set up nicely for the business end of the tournament.

The final day saw all NZ teams easily qualifying for their respective finals. With strong results in earlier rounds (and buoyed by the fantastic NZ supporters who had made the trip across the ditch) the Kiwi teams were hot favourites for all finals. This could not have been more deserved as all the age-group teams dominated their finals, coming away with gold medals and putting the outcome beyond doubt with the smallest margin in any game being 5 goals. 5 of our 7 teams had taken victory before the men's and women's finals so the Julian Carter Memorial Trophy was safely coming home to NZ. The Paddle Ferns suffered an unexpected loss to the Australian women to claim silver. The Paddle Blacks won the final game of the competition over Australia to bring the NZ medal haul to 6 from 7 teams taking home gold.

Jed Graham
NZ Men's Captain



Vikings Silver – Open B Grade Winners

Viking Silver was formed when a group of seasoned Kiwi canoe polo players got together to play at B grade National League. The name Silver was given to reflect the distinguished age of the players. Once established as a team, Viking Silver provided a core of experienced players to mentor and develop younger/newer players, guiding these players along a player pathway. The motto of the team is “social-competitive”, and aims to foster an inclusive community culture that models hard but clean play. Over time Viking Silver came to represent one of the top B grade teams from Kiwi and New Zealand. Viking Silver has been successful at the national league level, being consistently placed in the top three B grade national league placings since 2010 and winning gold at National League in 2013 and 2015.

Shane Harvey

Viking Chrome – Open C Grade Winners



Vikings chrome has had an amazing national league this year going undefeated all season.

We had been training very hard since the start of this year and have played some outstanding polo.

Having won the open C Grade national league I must take this time to thank some important people who we wouldn't have gotten this far without. Big thank you to our coaches Carl Massorotto, Greg Oke, Shane Harvey and David Morrit.

I also wish to Thank the KIWI canoe polo club for letting us play under their banner, also a big thanks to the supporters who have been cheering us on since the beginning. We couldn't have done it without all of you.

Cheers everyone
Brad Jonasen – Viking Chrome Captain

Viking Black – Open A Grade Winners

For us it's been a long journey to arrive at our current domination. A culmination of years of developing players and creating a structure what we have players coming through pushing for positions in multiple teams. Enough players at a high level in teams so that we can simulate elite level competition during regular trainings. We are now in a situation where our #2 team can beat our top team...this flows on through many of our teams. We also welcome players from other areas into our club and teams and offer them the training and environment to succeed. Many go onto play for other clubs and national teams.

Trainings start early in the season with most of the squad being together from October for 3x a week trainings. These trainings are heavily game based with the first half of the season players from all 3 A grade teams being mixed. Also pre- Xmas we open our Friday training to other players from lower grades that may be future elite players. Also we open our trainings to our main opposition players from Expose.

Results wise this season the Vikings won all the summer senior competitions....though Art deco was won with mix club teams as elite teams stayed away from this. Probably the biggest result for our squad was actually the Gold team winning the Hamilton round of NL A-Grade. Also very happy with the progress of our 3rd team, with many of these players destined for higher teams.



The winning Black team is certainly a great mix of youth and experience with players ages ranging from 20-41. Great seeing the new players like Sam Hapeta playing Black and straight away being a major contributor. Likewise we have been lucky with Ben Fletcher being forced to take on the goalie role after Justin left for his OE, now must be considered one of the best in the country. ... saving our collective arse a few times. Success breeds success they say, but in our case it's more like expectation and belief in winning. Credit too must be given to the players in gold who could have easily been in the black team and had the same result.

James Mitchell – Viking Black Captain

Hurrikets A – Women's B Grade Winners

With only 1 returning player from the winning 2014 team we had a relatively new Hurrikets A team this season. Our aim was to retain the B grade women's title, and improve our play with every game.

We had the knowledge, skill and determination to get us through to the final and only lost 1 game from all 3 tournaments that loss was against Valkyrie Ravens.

The team gelled together well and found valuable leadership in Hana Tia-Ross and Gerogia Bryan who had both recently returned from competing at the Oceania Championships in Australia.

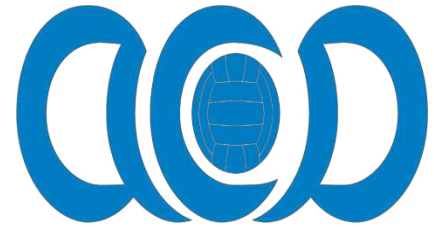
Maddi Gainger-Grove also proved to be a real asset to the team and deserves a mention.

We played the Ravens in the final and cleaned up having a convincing win to finish the season well. The team played with purpose and a will to do well. As their coach it was a pleasure and privilege to have taken part in their win.

All of the team deserve a clap on the back as they all done so well during the season and I'd expect to see more of them in the polo world in the coming years.

Phil Parry – Hurrikets A Coach





Ambassador Programme

Forward Foundation: an organisation that strives to promote sports among women, in particular minority sports.

I found out I had been chosen as a Forward Foundation Ambassador while still over in Australia competing for NZ at the Oceania Championships. I applied for the position because I was tired of struggling to find girls to make a team with and I want to encourage more girls to play canoe polo.

As an ambassador I hope to get more girls playing canoe polo, as well as creating just as many development opportunities for girls as there are for boys.

Since becoming an ambassador I have volunteered to coach both a Feilding High School and a Feilding Intermediate team, as well as helping out with a Valkeries B grade women's team for National League.

Even doing this I am able to see the girls developing and enjoying the sport so much, in particular the intermediate girls. Seeing their progress has made me so proud and I am looking forward to the rest of the year.

Monique Corson – Canoe Polo Ambassador



Club Profile: Auckland Canoe Polo

ACP is based in Auckland and has players from all over the Greater Auckland region playing regularly and for competitions some others from the Northern region play under the ACP banner.

ACP was incorporated 9 July 2007 but was Pakuranga canoe club before that which started 27 Jan 1998.

ACP has approximately 80 players including development and seasonal players.

The last 3 years ACP has focused on development not high performance with getting newer players working with experienced ones to increase their skills, mainly with a big focus on getting lots of teams into National league, 7 teams this year! We have had great success in getting newer up and coming players moving through the grades and performing at higher levels.

New Zealand Canoe Polo Association

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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"

Find us on the Web:
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