

## Hi from the front desk

Congratulations to the 32 U17 teams and 24 U19 teams who have qualified for the National Championship Tournament in June. The results for these games can be found on the BBNZ website. U17 and U19 premierships final team placing and national championship qualifiers are on page four and five of this newsletter.

The U18 Men finished 7<sup>th</sup> and the U18 Women finished 11<sup>th</sup> at the U18 Australian State Championships held in Australia during April. At the end of pool play, the men's team were in 4th place after securing three wins from six games. In their first playoff game they went down 75-85 to Western Australia Metro. They came back the next day with a narrow win over Victoria Country 61-58 to take 7th place in the playoff for 7th and 8th. The women's team finished in 5th place at the end of pool play recording two wins from six games. The women's first playoff game was closely contested; unfortunately ended with Western Australia Country closing out the game to win by three points, 50-53. This loss placed our women's team against Western Australia Metro where our team pulled away in another close game 55-51.

Nenad Vucinic has been reappointed as coach for the Tall Blacks and Kennedy Hamilton-Kereama for the Tall Ferns. BBNZ is now seeking expressions of interest for the Tall Ferns' Manager Position. Applications close Wednesday May 18, 2011. For more information please email [melinda@basketball.org.nz](mailto:melinda@basketball.org.nz) or visit <http://www.basketball.org.nz/news/tall-ferns-manager-position/>

The New Zealand Bartercard National Basketball League started this month. Make sure you get along and support your local team or turn on the television to Sky Sport 3. For more information and to view the 2011 NBL draw please visit our website <http://www.basketball.org.nz/competitions/nbl/draw/>.

Last of all we extend a HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to the NZ Breakers who have won the Australian NBL. Please see page two for more details.

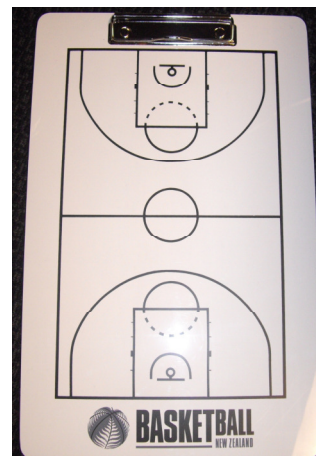
Wishing you all the best,  
 The Team at Basketball New Zealand

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## Coaching Clipboards Available



White BBNZ-branded coaching clipboards with the new court markings are available at \$41 each, this price includes postage.

Clipboards can be purchased online at <http://www.basketball.org.nz/fans/merchandise/>.

Alternately you can call 04 498 5950 or email [bbnz@basketball.org.nz](mailto:bbnz@basketball.org.nz).



## NZ Breakers in NZ Sporting History

Congratulations to the NZ Breakers, the Champions of the Australian NBL. The NZ Breakers defeated the Cairns Taipans **71-53** in the last game of the Australian NBL Grand Finals at the North Shore Events Centre in Auckland Friday April 29. The Breakers are the champions of Australia – and the toast of New Zealand. The New Zealand club last Friday defeated the Cairns Taipans 71-53 in a brilliantly one-sided deciding game three of the Australian NBL grand finals, and wrote themselves into Kiwi sporting history.

In front of a sell-out crowd of 4200 at a frenzied North Shore Events Centre, the Breakers mixed some fabulous defense with more than enough offence to leave the Taipans in their dust as they cruised to their second convincing home victory of this series. And didn't they celebrate it at the final buzzer as eight years of toil, disappointment, patient building and a false start or two finally turned into the prized championship. At the end the players leapt into each other's arms and celebrated one of the special moments in New Zealand sport.

A Kiwi team – made up of nine New Zealanders, two international imports and a lone Aussie – has gone into an Australian league and beaten them in their backyard, in their competition, under their terms. It does not get any sweeter than this. The Cairns outfit simply could not handle the lock-down Breakers defense and struggled to put enough points on the board to stay in the race against a Breakers side who spread the scoring load splendidly and eased to a no-sweat victory after halftime. It was fitting, too, that it was such a team effort on the night of nights for this club.

CJ Bruton made his own slice of history by claiming his fourth title with his third club – led the scoring with 14 points (5/10 FG) that included four three-pointers, two of which were back-to-back fourth-quarter daggers as the Breakers put the issue beyond doubt. Import Gary Wilkinson added 13 points and six rebounds, while Kirk Penney added 11 points (3/10 FG) and five boards to cancel out his five turnovers. But the contributions came right down the line-up for the Kiwis. Mika Vukona was painfully shy of a double-double with nine points and 10 big boards, Alex Pledger had nine points and six rebounds off the bench and

Thomas Abercrombie weighed in with seven points, 10 rebounds and four steals, not to mention some of the best defense seen in the league this year.

Paul Henare bowed out in his 250th game in perfect fashion. The foundation player now has that ring he can take into his retirement, and he played his part with four points, four assists and two steals. Henare's energy from the start off set the tone for his side. The Breakers made history in so many ways as they lifted aloft the trophy they call 'The Doc' last night – not only securing their first title in their eighth season in the NBL, but making the long-awaited breakthrough for a Kiwi team in an Aussie league.

Including the Warriors, Breakers, one-term Sirens, the three football clubs and a lone water polo season there have been 35 seasons of futility. Not any more. The wait is finally over and the Breakers can now rightly be lauded as



Photo by Mark Taylor - Waikato Times



the first New Zealand club to crack the tough ask of crossing the Tasman and beating the Aussies in their own backyard. But this has been a championship built slowly and steadily since owners Paul and Liz Blackwell took over the club six years ago.

Year by year they've added the pieces to the puzzle, till finally in 2010-11 they had the line-up not only to march through the regular season with the league's best record (22-6) but scrap their way through two tough, grueling three-game playoff series. Bruton became just the third player in league history to win titles with three clubs, while coach Andrej Lemanis – who deserves as much credit as anyone for this – is just the fourth person to win championships as both a player and coach, adding to the crown he lifted as a backup guard with the South East Melbourne Magic in 1992.

The Breakers made an electrifying start in front of their vociferous sell-out crowd, coming out with all the aggression to lead 11-2 inside four minutes. But then the Taipans settled and the home team's shooting, and ball security, fell off. A mere six points in the last 6:25 saw the Kiwis lead just 17-15 at the first intermission. But with Vukona in to-the-rim mode early in the second period, and Abercrombie converting a three-point play off some excellent Braswell hustle, the Breakers sprung out by 11 (30-19).

Still they couldn't shake these sticky Snakes, and with Dusty Rychart (12 first-half points) keeping them in it with that solid mid-range game, the visitors had reduced the deficit to seven (30-37) by the major break. The Breakers had played solidly rather than spectacularly through the first 20 minutes, shooting 43 percent from the floor (15/35 FG) and forcing the visitors into 13 turnovers, but never quite able to do enough to make a game-winning break.

However, when they extended their lead to 12 at the end of the third quarter they had one hand on the trophy. By knuckling down and keeping the Taipans to just 15 points in each of the first three periods, the New Zealanders were able to keep chipping away at the lead with their more reliable offensive game. And then when the Taipans kept missing and Bruton nailed those back-to-back triples in the final quarter, the celebrations could begin. The lead was 21, and the rest was simply academic.

Abercrombie was named finals MVP at the post-game presentations, with the North Shore boy receiving a huge cheer from his home crowd as he stepped on to the podium to receive a deserved award. Doesn't it sound great? The best team in Australian basketball is the New Zealand Breakers. *Marc Hinton from [www.stuff.co.nz](http://www.stuff.co.nz).*

**NZ Breakers 71** (CJ Bruton 14, Gary Wilkinson 13, Kirk Penney 11), **Cairns Taipans 53** (Dusty Rychart 14).

1Q: 17-15      3Q: 57-45  
 HT: 37-30.      FT: 71-53



**Tauranga City Basketball**

**Stock Exchange Bar Atomic Masters Tournament**

QEYC  
 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Tauranga  
 25 and 26 June

**Don't miss out:**  
 Limited number of teams per grade

**GRADES** (Subject to entries)

- 25 to 34 years old
- 35 to 39 years old
- 40 to 44 years old
- 45 plus years

**\$400 per team (including GST)**  
 Includes 2 refs per game and scorebench  
 Minimum of 4 games per team

**Minimum 8 Players per team**

**Prizes, Spot Prizes Up for Grabs**

For an entry form and further details,  
 email: [admin@taurangacitybasketball.co.nz](mailto:admin@taurangacitybasketball.co.nz) or visit the website

[www.taurangacitybasketball.co.nz](http://www.taurangacitybasketball.co.nz)









## U16/U17 Selection Camp

The 2011 U16/U17 Selection Camp was held in Hamilton two weeks ago following the Regional Camps in February. This camp was the final stage in the selection process for the U16 National Teams that will compete in the U16 Australian State Championship in Australia in July.

The athletes who have been selected for the National U17 Men's (Emerging Junior Tall Blacks) squad of 16 will take part in a preparation camp prior to the U21 Nationals, where a team of 12 athletes will compete in the BBNZ National Championship Tournament in Counties-Manukau. After the U21 Nationals a team of 12 athletes and up to four non-traveling reserves will be named for the FIBA Oceania U17 World Qualifying Series September 22 – 24 in Canberra, Australia.

Congratulations to the following U16 athletes who have been chosen to represent New Zealand:

### U16 Men

<u>Name</u>	<u>Association</u>
Brandon Gleaves	Canterbury
DJ Shadrock	Canterbury
Hyrum Harris	Rotorua
Jack Salt	North Harbour
Jaylen Gerrand	Hibiscus Coast
Joseph Kang	Auckland
Laughlan Campion	Nelson
Luuk Witteveen	North Harbour
Matthew Bird	Hawkes Bay
Tamamoko Green	Rotorua

#### Reserves

Angus Riley	Nelson
Ihaka Pink	Canterbury
Keanu Singsam	Counties-Manukau
Neihana Tapiki	Taranaki Country

### U16 Women

<u>Name</u>	<u>Association</u>
Aaliyah Ah Kiong	Hawkes Bay
Askani-Muriaroha Pirihi	Australia
Charlotte Elley	Buller
Ella Fotu	North Harbour
Lyric Taurua-Wolfgang	Waitakere West Auckland

Maia Wilson	Waitakere West Auckland
Maria Milani	Waitakere West Auckland
Pareraukura Gilmartin-Kara	Waikato
Pene Bishop-Paenga	Porirua
Tessa Boagni	Canterbury

#### Reserves

Breeze Leonard	Counties-Manukau
Bronwyn Kjestrup	North Harbour
Kendal Hawea	Waikato
Maia Watene	Counties-Manukau

## U15 & U17 Cluster Camps

Cluster Camps are the entry point for the BBNZ development programmes. The first Cluster Camp will take place on **May 14 or 15**. All U17 (1995 & 1996) and U15 (1997 & 1998) players should attend who have been identified within a Basketball New Zealand or Association programme and who exhibit the potential to play above Association level and are seeking to be involved in BBNZ's Player Development Programmes. Registrations for Cluster Camp 1 have now closed. To view the 2011 Cluster Camp calendar please visit <http://www.basketball.org.nz/national-teams/2011-cluster-camps/>.

Basketball New Zealand also invites expressions of interest from the people interested in the voluntary positions within Performance Group Development Programmes, including but not limited to the 2012 Koru Tour:

#### Coach

Regional/Cluster Camp
- Lead Coach
- Assistant Coach
Koru Tour Coach

#### Manager

Regional/Cluster Camp
- Lead Manager
- Assistant Manager
Koru Tour Team Manager

To register your interest and for more information, please follow this link:

<http://www.basketball.org.nz/national-teams/2011-cluster-camps/volunteer-registration/>.

Should you have any questions regarding cluster camps and expressions of interest please do not hesitate to contact Peter Kadar at the BBNZ office on 04 498 5954 or [peter@basketball.org.nz](mailto:peter@basketball.org.nz).



## U17 Premiership Tournament Final Team Placing and National Qualifiers

PREMIERSHIP TEAM PLACING				
PLACING	ZONE 1 MENS	ZONE 2 MENS	ZONE 3 MENS	ZONE 4 MENS
1st	Harbour A	Rotorua	Wellington A	Mid Canterbury
2nd	Waitakere West Premier	Waikato	Hawkes Bay	Otago
3rd	Waitakere West A	Tauranga City	Hutt Valley Gold	Canterbury Red
4th	Auckland Blue	Counties Manukau	Palmerston North	Southland
5th	Harbour B	Waikato Development	New Plymouth	Nelson
6th	Waitakere West Development	Thames Valley Black	Porirua	Canterbury Black
7th	Hibiscus Coast	Tauranga City Development	Wellington B	Otago B
8th	Auckland White	Thames Valley Blue	New Plymouth Blue	Canterbury White
9th	Waitakere West B		Taranaki Country	North Canterbury
10th	Auckland Red		Hutt Valley Green	Marlborough
11th			Wellington-Kapiti	South Canterbury
<b>No. Teams</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>

PREMIERSHIP TEAMS QUALIFIED FOR NATIONALS				
PLACING	ZONE 1 MENS	ZONE 2 MENS	ZONE 3 MENS	ZONE 4 MENS
1st	Harbour A	Rotorua	Wellington A	Mid Canterbury
2nd	Waitakere West Premier	Waikato	Hawkes Bay	Otago
3rd	Waitakere West A	Tauranga City	Hutt Valley Gold	Canterbury Red
4th	Auckland Blue	Counties Manukau	Palmerston North	Southland

PREMIERSHIP TEAM PLACING				
PLACING	ZONE 1 WOMENS	ZONE 2 WOMENS	ZONE 3 WOMENS	ZONE 4 WOMENS
1st	Waitakere West	Waikato	Hutt Valley	Buller
2nd	Harbour A	Tauranga City	Porirua	Nelson
3rd	Harbour B	Counties Manukau	Hawkes Bay	Canterbury Red
4th		Ngati Porou	New Plymouth	Otago
5th		Thames Valley	Wellington	North Canterbury
6th			Taranaki Country	Canterbury Black
7th				Southland
8th				South Canterbury
9th				Marlborough
10th				West Coast
<b>No. Teams</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>

PREMIERSHIP TEAMS QUALIFIED FOR NATIONALS				
PLACING	ZONE 1 WOMENS	ZONE 2 WOMENS	ZONE 3 WOMENS	ZONE 4 WOMENS
1st	Waitakere West	Waikato	Hutt Valley	Buller
2nd	Harbour A	Tauranga City	Porirua	Nelson
3rd	Harbour B	Counties Manukau	Hawkes Bay	Canterbury Red
4th	TBC	Ngati Porou	New Plymouth	Otago



## U19 Premiership Tournament Final Team Placing and National Qualifiers

PREMIERSHIP FINAL TEAM PLACING				
PLACING	ZONE 1 MENS	ZONE 2 MENS	ZONE 3 MENS	ZONE 4 MENS
1st	Hibiscus Coast	Counties Manukau Red	Wellington	Canterbury Red
2nd	Harbour	Waikato	Hawkes Bay	Nelson
3rd	Waitakere West	Tauranga City	New Plymouth	North Canterbury
4th	Te Tai Tokerau	Counties Manukau Black	Porirua	Otago
5th	Auckland		Palmerston North	Canterbury Black
6th	Hibiscus Coast		Wanganui	West Coast
7th			Hutt Valley	South Canterbury
<b>No. Teams</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

PREMIERSHIP TEAMS QUALIFIED FOR NATIONALS				
PLACING	ZONE 1 MENS	ZONE 2 MENS	ZONE 3 MENS	ZONE 4 MENS
1st	Hibiscus Coast	Counties Manukau Red	Wellington	Canterbury Red
2nd	Harbour	Waikato	Hawkes Bay	Nelson
3rd	Waitakere West	Tauranga City	New Plymouth	North Canterbury

PREMIERSHIP FINAL TEAM PLACING				
PLACING	ZONE 1 WOMENS	ZONE 2 WOMENS	ZONE 3 WOMENS	ZONE 4 WOMENS
1st	Harbour	Waikato	Hawkes Bay	Nelson
2nd	Waitakere West	Tauranga City	Wellington	Otago
3rd	Te Tai Tokerau		Hutt Valley	North Canterbury
4th			Porirua	Canterbury
5th				South Canterbury
6th				Central Otago
<b>No. Teams</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

PREMIERSHIP TEAMS QUALIFIED FOR NATIONALS				
PLACING	ZONE 1 WOMENS	ZONE 2 WOMENS	ZONE 3 WOMENS	ZONE 4 WOMENS
1st	Harbour	Waikato	Hawkes Bay	Nelson
2nd	Waitakere West	Tauranga City	Wellington	Otago
3rd	Te Tai Tokerau	Zone 4 - Canterbury	Hutt Valley	North Canterbury



## Call for Volunteers

Counties Manukau Basketball Association is calling for volunteers to assist with score bench duties at the U21 National Championship Tournament from May 21-18.

Counties Manukau will be happy to conduct a workshop to “up skill” volunteers. Please reach out to anyone you may think would be interested and who would like to sit in one of the best seats in the house!

For more information on how to be involved please contact:  
 Tania Hunter - Counties Manukau Basketball  
 Mobile: 021 853 114  
 Phone: 09 278 6357  
 Email: [tania.hunter@cmbb.co.nz](mailto:tania.hunter@cmbb.co.nz)  
[www.countiesmanukaubasketball.co.nz](http://www.countiesmanukaubasketball.co.nz)



## Intermediate schools basketball tournament

DATE: Monday August 29 - Thursday September 1 2011  
 VENUE: Mount Action Centre, Mount Maunganui  
 COST: \$250.00 per team  
 AGE: Year 7 and 8 boys and girls  
 ENTRIES DUE: Thursday May 12, 2011 at 4:00pm

For more information please contact  
 Michael Kelly - Tauranga City Basketball Association  
 Phone: 07 578 0405  
 Email [leagues@taurangacitybasketball.co.nz](mailto:leagues@taurangacitybasketball.co.nz)

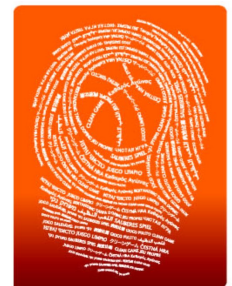


## Clean Game Campaign

FIBA filmed a number of video clips at the 2010 World Championships as part of the fight against prohibited substances in basketball. The clips include high profile players talk about their views on a Clean Game and give advice on how to stay away from actions that could result in positive drug tests. 156 doping tests were carried out during the 2010 World Championships in Turkey, all of which returned negative results. Keep it this way, keep it healthy and fair for a Clean Game.

BBNZ is committed to educating its athletes, participants and officials about the positive effects of being drug-free in sport and in life – and is not prepared to tolerate the taking of prohibited drugs. For this reason, we are continuing to work with Drug Free Sport to enhance our education for all members of the basketball community and remind them that BBNZ will continue to back this up with a zero tolerance approach to infringements.

We Are For Clean Basketball



Check the BBNZ website <http://www.basketball.org.nz/national-teams/clean-game-campaign/> for links, resources and where to view the Clean Game videos

## Upcoming National Championships

Date	NC	City	Host Association	Entry, Roster & Fees Due
May 18-21	U21 NC	Counties Manukau	Counties Manukau	Wednesday, April 6
June 3-6	U17 NC	North Harbour	North Harbour	Wednesday, April 27
June 3-6	U19 NC	Tauranga	Tauranga City	Wednesday, April 27

