

## A HUGE THANK YOU NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS VOLUNTEERS AND THE HAMILTON CLUB MEMBERS

*for your assistance and time given  
to ensure the 20th Anniversary Championships  
provided an event enjoyed by all*

From the  
*New Zealand Inline Hockey Association*  
Board and Operations Committee

### Life Membership Krys Beardman

#### Congratulations and Thank You!

Krys has been actively involved in New Zealand Inline Hockey since 1999. She has been an active part of the New Plymouth Ravens club and New Plymouth Roller Sports since then to the present day. In addition, she has been part of the Central Region Committee and been an Executive member of the NZIHA and was Vice Chair of the Board. Over the past two years Krys has been the General Manager for Inline New Zealand.

Her knowledge and dedication is incredible. Often emails and notifications generated by Krys, are late at night or in the early hours of the next day. She has been one of the mainstays of organising Nationals and Regional tournaments. New Zealand teams travelling overseas or played locally have benefitted by Krys's preparation and attention to detail that have made those events so successful.

Earlier this year, all clubs that attended the National Annual General Meeting in Wellington, unanimously voted that Krys be awarded a Life Membership to the NZIHA. During the 2015 Nationals competition in Hamilton and the celebration of 20 years of the NZIHA, Krys received her Life Membership pin as an acknowledgement for her outstanding service and dedication.

Pete Shields



### Hockey Line? What's that?

Published quarterly from 1996 Hockey Line was New Zealand Inline Hockey's method of communicating with members.

HockeyLine was edited by Angelique Mawson who at the time was based in Auckland. Content was provided by members of the NZIHA briefing results of events, providing profiles of various players and an assortment of other inline hockey related news. Initially published quarterly, Angelique was editor for the first ten publications. (1996-2000)

Krys Beardman took over as editor in late 2000 and continued to compile Hockeyline through until 2010. From there NZIHA moved to a bulletin format and email contact became much more frequent. The days of "stuffing" envelopes and licking stamps had past and electronic media releases took over. Contact with members continues with website access, Facebook and email. HockeyLine has been reinstated and will provide information and photos of recent events.

There is a lot of history contained in the HockeyLine publications. These can be found on the website at the following link. Take some time and take a look, familiar names and faces can still be found...

[Hockey Line Archive](#)



New Zealand Inline Hockey

**BUILD THE GAME**

**1995 - 2015**



## Volunteer of the Year Award 2015

### David Carrington

*This is the first time this award has been presented for service to the sport over the past 20 years. The Volunteer of the Year Award has been initiated this year and will continue on an annual basis. As this is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the association's operation the award this year is being given to a member of the association who has shown over the past many years his passion and dedication to the growth of the sport within New Zealand.*



David has developed the sport from grassroots, developing a school league programme which led to the development of an inline specific arena being built in New Plymouth. Working through the con-

sent process, negotiating with local council and working with funding agencies to provide a viable and worthy project worthy of support.

A huge amount of time and energy was spent during the building stage, along with continuing the school league and club development, building the club and the players into a substantial entity.

David also initiated the school league curriculum learn to skate program in Taranaki – although heavily dependent on funding was hugely successful with over 2000 school children involved in the project on an annual basis over four years. Many of the programs initiated by David and the New Plymouth club have been shared with other clubs in an effort to build the game across the country.

David has been involved on various committees, he remains as the New Plymouth Club president a position held since 1997, has been a member of the NZIHA Executive, a member of the NZIHA Board, and a member of the Central Region committee.

David taught himself to skate and has represented NZ in the Veterans grade, he has coached and managed teams at club, regional and national level. He has managed NZ teams overseas and more recently taken club teams to play in the USA as a development project.

David is a very worthy recipient of this first volunteer of the year award.

## Congratulations Distinguished Service Award Recipients:

Thank you and farewell Claire Bruin



Claire has been a staunchly unbiased and level headed volunteer giving up her holidays to provide a huge amount of time to assist with the running of national and inter regional events. Sadly for NZIHA she has found a new direction and interest training and competing for triathlon. We wish her well in her new pursuit but not without a hint of sadness at the sport's loss.

### Distinguished Service Award :

Claire has been involved in all aspects of the sport over the past 12 years, with club, regional, and more recently with the national operation committee. She has taken on roles as Chair, Discipline Chair in the lower region and management of national and Oceania events.

### Jenny Henry

Jenny is an important and active member of the Northern Regional committee, Mt Wellington Panthers and the National Operations Committee. Jenny works hard to ensure the region operates effectively and has brought a level headed view to the operations team.



### Willy Harvey



Willy has been involved with the New Plymouth Ravens and Central Region bringing a strong background in sport administration and coaching through his association with rugby. He has chaired the regional committee, coached various grades at club, regional and Oceania level. Willy has also taken on the management of the NZ Senior men when travelling to Europe for the IIHF World Championships. He is a staunch supporter of the sport and has also played in goal for a number of years.



# Congratulations Distinguished Service Award Recipients

check out the website: [www.inlinehockeynz.org.nz](http://www.inlinehockeynz.org.nz)



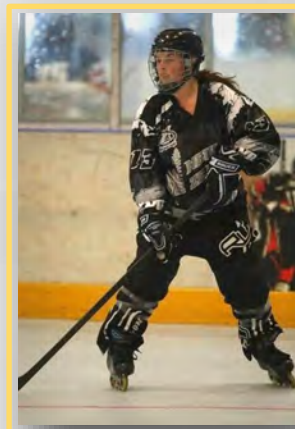
## Wayne & Julie Scott

Wayne and Julie Scott have developed the Northland Stingrays club, encouraging the development of the sport and the provision of a multi sport venue where players can experience inline hockey at all levels. Wayne has been involved in coaching junior teams through to NZ representative teams and also one of the highest accredited referees in New Zealand. Julie has coached junior teams at club, regional and national level and has managed and mentored junior and senior women's New Zealand teams when playing internationally.



## Jessi Scott

Jessi Scott has provided an excellent coaching and mentoring ethic to the young player of the Northern region, within her own club and others in her region. She has represented NZ in Junior and senior women and continues to assist with junior player development. She is a good role model for our developing players.

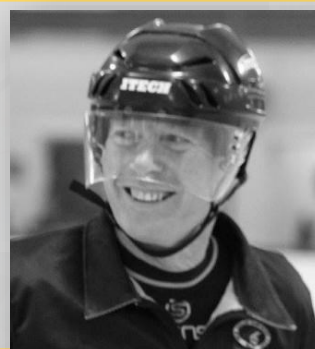


## Clyde Jackson

Clyde has been involved with inline hockey since the beginning. He has coached at club, regional and international level as well as being a player at these levels. The northern region has relied heavily on his senior experience over the years. Clyde brings a vast knowledge of game technique and has been a mentor to many players over the years ensuring they develop an understanding of the game.



## Alan Henderson



Alan Henderson has been involved since his son, Nick (now in his mid 20's) started playing in New Plymouth at an early age. Alan has coached and continues to referee at national level. He is a member of the NZ referee committee, mentors young referees during their officiating careers and supports their development.

## Wendy Mclean and Julia Craig

Wendy and Julia have volunteered their time to ensure the scorebench - especially during national events - is adequately staffed but also spending many hours themselves providing this very critical service to the game - making sure the games are scored correctly, run as close to time as possible and assisting the administration of the game rink side through liaison with referees and tournament organisers. They both provide a large number of volunteer hours and have done so for several years.



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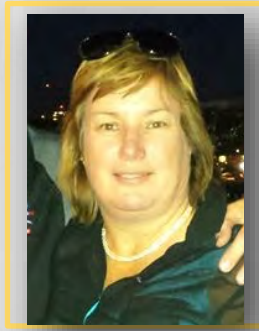




# Congratulations Distinguished Service Award Recipients

## Alethea Stove

Alethea has been Chair of the Southern Region, is a past member of the NZIHA Executive, has managed NZ teams and is works tirelessly to keep the Nelson In-line Hockey Community active. She also works hard to encourage the players elsewhere in the south stay actively playing .



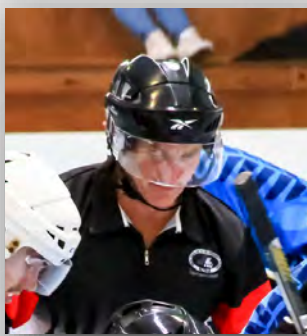
## Shane Clark

Shane has been involved with the sport for many years and has given his time freely to assist with coaching, development of junior skills and mentoring older players. He has played for and coached New Zealand teams at World Championships, leading the NZ team to its highest placing at this prestigious event hosted by the IIHF. Silver in Division 1. He continues to be active in Christchurch despite the issues arising from the loss of their skating venue during the Christchurch earthquake. Shane continues his involvement and now plays for the Rimutaka Renegades and was recently appointed to coach the NZ Maori team in the Exhibition game played at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration event hosted by NZIHA.



## Derek Mclean

Derek has been involved over many years with inline hockey and taken on roles including coaching at club and regional level and providing a key referee role taking over at the NZIHA Referee Chair in 2007. He has handed the Chair role on, but still remains on the NZIHA Referee Committee and continues to provide many hours to inline hockey as a referee and mentor.



## **Your Operations Team...**

*As the 2015 year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has volunteered their time and provided their expertise and efforts to ensure the sport continues to thrive. The parents who get their children to and from the rink, help with club administration, game administration, school leagues, learn to skate sessions, fundraisers, skating discos, not to mention the club coaches, trainers and managers - all of whom we sincerely appreciate and acknowledge. The sport is dependant on your input, to continue to provide an exciting and unique activity where whole families can be involved from beginner skaters to seasoned veterans. The sport is all inclusive and provides such great personal reward within a team environment to our participants.*

*Your national operations committee are committed and dedicated individuals giving their time freely to the sport to ensure competition is provided at all levels. We are guided by the governance and strategic planning from the Board.*

*Thanks also to those who have taken time to respond to surveys, attend forum meetings and provide insight and feedback to help with establishing a way forward.*

**A very special thank you to Claire Bruin, Jenny Henry and Pete Shields who provide their knowledge and bring a long history of involvement to our committee ensuring efficient operations . We look forward to an exciting 2016. Thanks you, Krys Beardman, General Manager—Operations**



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# NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015 - RESULTS

GRADE	1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>	4 <sup>TH</sup>
UNDER 10	Devils	Thunder	Panthers	Ravens
UNDER 12	Panthers	Ravens	Devils	Renegades
UNDER 14	Panthers	Penguins	Ravens	Devils
UNDER 16	Panthers	Devils	Ravens	Renegades
UNDER 19	Devils	Panthers	Penguins	Ravens
JUNIOR WOMEN	Devils	Penguins	Ravens	Miners
SENIOR WOMEN	Panthers	Devils	Renegades	Penguins
SENIOR	Whalers	Panthers	Mustangs	Devils
PREMIER	Penguins	Sabres	Renegades	Panthers

"After quite a few years of attending and participating in Inline Nationals, I really loved the special event day with the exhibition game. It was new, different and quite exciting"

*Petra Dickens*



"The highlight of Nationals for me was seeing the Whalers senior team win. They have no one to play except when they come to Wellington for the Whalers weekend, it is a credit to them to come out on top"

*Shona Dowman*



"As a guest in New Zealand with the Renegades, I really appreciated the friendliness of everyone I met during the National Championships. The overall atmosphere was great."

*Micah Bonneville*

GRADE	MOST VALUABLE PLAYER	MOST VALUABLE GOALIE
UNDER 10	Alex Harold	Zane Cooper
UNDER 12	JJ Merlo	Nakita Watene
UNDEF 14	Harriet Fuller	Connor Parr
UNDER16	Jack Howatson	Jeremy Ashdown
UNDER 19	Jacob Nelson	Riley Scott
JUNIOR WOMEN	Jana Kivell	Kathleen Rose
SENIOR WOMEN	Jasmine Horner-Pascoe	Madison Fox
SENIOR	Vinnie Fuller	Sean McShea
PREMIER	Thomas Heather	Scott Collins

"The 2015 National Championships were really well run with scheduled games being on time and sometimes even earlier. Kudos to the Hamilton Club for all their hard work and for keeping the snack bar open for some long hours."

*Sandy Nimmo*





# Inter-Regionals 2015

Inter-regionals were held in New Plymouth over Labour Weekend. Congratulations to all regions for an impressive turnout with teams in all age grades. Special thanks to Central Region for hosting in 2016 in association with NZIHA. Our volunteers are hugely important and the roles they play operating the score bench for every game must be acknowledged. The referees contribution to the game to ensure fairness and fairplay in their application of the game rules and the local club, Ravens, for providing the venue, the café and clean up crews.



## INTER-REGIONAL RESULTS 2015

GRADE	1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>
U10	Central	Lower	Northern
U12	Central	Northern	Lower
Jnr Women	Central	Lower	Northern
U14	Central	Northern	Lower
U17	Central	Northern	Lower
Open Men	Northern	Central	Lower
Veterans	Northern	Central	Lower

## INTER-REGIONAL POINTS TOTALS

GRADE	NORTHERN	CENRAL	LOWER
U10	1	3	2
U12	2	3	1
Jnr Women	1	3	2
U14	2	3	1
U17	2	3	1
Open Men	3	2	1
Veterans	3	2	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>

**CONGRATULATIONS to the CENTRAL REGION for being the overall points leader at the end of competition and WINNER OF THE INTER REGIONAL TROPHY**

# 20TH ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES FROM OUR INLINE HOCKEY COMMUNITY

*I regret that I am not able to be with you as you celebrate NZIHA's 20th anniversary but I would like to send my congratulations to the Association on this memorable occasion.*

1995 seems so long ago now, but I remember well the excitement at the time of the start of NZIHA and some of the political dramas associated with setting up an independent body. I also recall some stunning national, regional and international events around the country at such places as Taupo Events Centre, Wanganui Jubilee Stadium, Trafalgar Centre in Nelson, ASB Stadium in Auckland, Arena Manawatu in Palmerston North, Tauranga, Glenfield, and New Plymouth. I trust that this year's National Championships in Hamilton is yet another successful and enjoyable event.

It has been an absolute pleasure to have been a member of the Association and can I say at this time on a personal note how much I appreciated working with members around the country for the sport and I would like to make special mention at this time of the wonderful contribution of Krystyna Beardman to NZIHA.

Best wishes

Diane Thomsen

former President NZIHA and NZIHA Life Member

Dear New Zealand Inline Hockey Community.

I would like to take this time to congratulate all the parents, players, committee members, coaches, and volunteers on this great accomplishment. 20 years in the inline hockey community is a major milestone. It is with great pleasure to have shared some of those memories with all of you. I want to wish each and everyone one of you another happy and successful 20 years. Thank you for letting me be a part of your great history. I look forward to seeing all of my NZ family again, but until then remember why we play this great game. Don't focus on the things in which we don't like but rather cherish all those wonderful tournament memories. Think back to that day when all the stars lined up for you and remember with team work anything is possible.

Regards

Dave Hammond

We wish everyone competing in the 20th NZ National Championships the very best of luck! We were impressed with the level of play of the New Zealand Players that participated in the 2015 NARCH FINALS and hope that more players from New Zealand can experience the NARCH FINALS in the future.

We are doing two finals again 2016, same plan, June in CA and July in FL. We would love to have NZ Teams at either event. It's June 15th or 16th to 26th in CA, and July 13th or 14th to the 24th in July. I think AAU is more talk than anything,

Daryn Goodwin (Narch)

Congratulations NZ Inline Hockey on reaching 20 years of activity in NZ.

Sorry I cannot be with you as you celebrate the progress you have made on the NZ sports scene. The fast, exhilarating, skilful game offers boys, girls, adults & masters participants a great opportunity to have fun & develop themselves in a team environment.

Keep working towards .. more people playing, achieving & enjoying NZ's most exciting sport.

May the next 20 years provide many more achievements to celebrate.

Paul Cameron

Advisor to NZ Inline Hockey

Board Member Sport NZ

Dear Hockey New Zealand

It's an honor to wish you all the very best and congratulations to the NZIHA in reaching your 20th Anniversary. My stay in your great country has been a highlight of my hockey career. There are so many passionate hard working people there who truly make the sport fun and important to all the kids, and men and women who play the game. After all that's why we're all involved in the great game of Inline hockey is to help provide opportunities and enjoyment for the players. I wish I could be there to hoist a Steinlager Pure (stolen from Willie's fridge) and toast all of you on this tremendous achievement! Congratulations to you all and I wish you the very best in your next twenty years!!!!

Sincerely,

Dan Brennan

USA Hockey

On behalf of the New Zealand Inline Hockey Association our sincerest thanks to Sue Roulston and Rob Henry for providing some insightful comment during their terms as association Presidents.



## New Zealand Inline Hockey

### BUILD THE GAME

### 1995 - 2015







## NZ Allstars vs NZ Maori 20th Anniversary Exhibition Game

The initial idea for the NZ All Stars vs Maori Exhibition game came about from Krys Beardman, who had the idea of wanting to play an exhibition game in celebration of NZIHA's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. At the same time I had always dreamed of having a Maori team exhibition game. I knew Krys was organising the logistics so I rang and pitched the idea. We soon realised that we not only had the numbers but we had the

depth of players to be worthy of doing this for the first time. As well as a great team, there was awesome management with Willy Harvey, Gary Toa and Brett Turia. A huge thank you to Willy and Sport Waikato CEO Matthew Cooper and Jack Clayton, Sport Development Officer, for assisting with the team session prior to the game. A Maori elder came and blessed the team and taught us what it means to be Maori – understanding the blood that we carry from our ancestors and the Maori spiritual element.



*"A big thanks to Shane Clark for putting his heart and passion into the team and believing in and bringing out the best in our players."*

*"After the Haka, when the puck dropped, another special moment was lining up next to Dion Bunt, who was my mentor for hockey, a great warrior for New Zealand and NZ Captain, so it was an honour to be next to him. To score the first goal for the NZ Maori team – that was mean as well! Leigh scoring the second goal – two Taiapas scoring the first two goals – and then we won! I was honoured to be Captain of the first Maori team!"*



### NZ Maori vs NZ All Stars

#### Inline Hockey Team Haka



The NZ Maori Inline Hockey team performing the Haka against an All-Star team at the 20th anniversary 2015 National Championships. Click on the photo to link to the video.

**The NZ All Stars team put up a really good challenge and pushed us!**

*Lewis Taiapa*



# 20th Anniversary Exhibition Game

## the meaning behind the MAORI TEAM jersey

LEWIS TAIAPA

### JERSEY DESIGN CONTRIBUTORS:

HORACE TAIAPA

JOE DOWMAN

LEWIS TAIAPA

*The Jersey is broken up into many components, the Maori Koru patterns and Manaia designs were sketched for us by Horace Taiapa (Leigh's father) who is an active Maori Carver with roots going back to Tikitiki, Ngati Porou. He describes the shoulder spiral patterns as each Koru representing each player in the team coming from different Iwi's and uniting together as one. On the top of that pattern is each person's Iwi which is specific to that person, it was placed on the right shoulder to pay respect to our ancestors and our own heritage as they will be watching down on us and guiding us on our journey. So unity as one with our Iwis coming together, and honoring the spiritual connection we have with our ancestors who came before us.*

*The remainder of the Jersey was completed by Joe Dowman. His input helped take my uncle's pencil sketches and format them into the digital design, this was a massive effort on his behalf as every detail was attempted to be preserved, he put a lot of hours into this. He also then added the modernised inline hockey feel with our agreed color palette of the Tinorangatiratanga colours Red, Black and White.*

*I asked for him to add a chest sigil and timestamp of the game to commemorate the Historic occasion, which says "NZ MAORI vs NZ All Stars, National Inline Hockey Championships, 30th September 2015".*



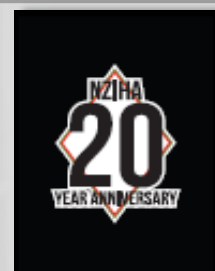
*The Manaia was designed to represent the strength of the Maori Warrior we carry within us (our Mana and who we are as warriors) selected as the elite to represent our Iwi, our culture, our heritage, and our ancestors for this moment!*

*Leigh's father then incorporated a Maori Taiapa in the form of a hockey stick as he understands this is our Taonga we use for battle, and it is Beautiful.*

*On the back of the Jersey, Joe created another unique sigil (pictorial signature) to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the NZIHA.*

*So our thanks go out to  
Horace Taiapa and Joe Dowman for their  
contributions to the Jersey design.*

*Lewis Taiapa*



# NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

## HAMILTON RINK, 30 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER

Congratulations to all players competing at Nationals. Great sportsmanship and skill was demonstrated by 56 teams over ten days, playing 146 games in 9 grades. There were some amazing crowd pleasing games and we shared your emotional highs and lows as first placings were fought for.

The following accounts are written by players from the winning team in each grade. Thanks so much for taking the time to write these , it is especially great to hear from our kids, the future of inline hockey.

### U10 Devils - Gold



*The intensity had been building all year. This is what we'd been working towards and now the time had finally come.*

Nationals 2015! The u10s had the agonising wait until the second block before our games began and its so hard to be patient when you're less than 10 years old. The benefit of this though was being able to watch the older grades play, to finalise strategies and to get in the zone . By the time our turn came to play we were bursting at the seams and ready to roll!

Day one of our puck drop and the air was tense with nerves and excitement. This was the first Nationals experience for many of our players. Wow everyone had clearly been training hard and these games were not going to be easy!

Each game was viewed as a new challenge and we all enjoyed playing and bonding with the other teams and their players. We worked well together as a team, supported and encouraged each other, and stuck to game plans. This paid off and we found ourselves in the final against the mighty Levin Thunder. I'm sure we were seen as the underdog and I'm not even sure we thought we could win! Our kids put everything into practice that they'd been taught and it all somehow came together. They skated their hearts out and put it all out there on the rink. We couldn't have been prouder and it's the first Hamilton Devils u10s gold win at Nationals since 2011.

*We'd like to congratulate and acknowledge all of the teams, Stingrays, Panthers, Ravens, Thunder and Renegades for being formidable opponents on the rink and great company off the rink. I'm sure we all agree that the u10 grade overall deserves a gold medal award for the loudest and proudest cheering parents and supporters.*



*One of our players noted that "all teams had stepped up and improved so much and I didn't want to let our team down - so I stepped it up too!".*



# National Championships 2015

## U12 Panthers - Gold



We went to nationals as a team, hoping we could achieve what our head coach, Ivan, told us so as to keep our unbeaten record. We had good strategies and lines and the coaching was a big part of how we played and won this year. All teams played hard and we weren't expecting such a tough game against the Ravens in the morning. They beat us in that game and deserved to win – it was a good game to the Ravens. We were determined after that game to not come second again, four years of coming second is a big disappointment.

***For the final Coach told us clearly what was needed and the whole team knew what to do... play like a team on every line all the time. We did and won!***

To make the finals was exciting. We were two goals down at the start but we didn't give up and each one of us worked so hard. Before we knew it we scored some goals and then a few more than we were unstoppable! The gold was ours!! Winning felt amazing!! I was so proud to be a Panther!!!

This year our Panthers under 12 team has won the hat-trick, we won Bauer Cup, the Queen's Birthday Tournament and the 2015 Nationals, so I can say I have really enjoyed hockey this year, especially Nationals, thank you team for playing so well.

Kate Vernal (C) and Harry Parr (A)



## U14 Panthers - Gold



Without high expectations for placing in Nationals after a demoralising loss against the Miners the week before, we came down to Hamilton to prove ourselves.

***As there was only pool play leading to finals we took every game as a "must win".***

Coming into the finals unbeaten we suddenly had high hopes for becoming winners. Winning the finals against the Penguins gave us our first National Title in 5 years, after a real team fight with high effort levels and excellent work from everyone throughout the tournament. The team was balanced with solid goal keeping and defence at the back to outstanding firepower up front.

Many thanks to our coaches Cam and Matt for preparing us and taking us through the Nationals. Although Cam could not see the games in person we fought hard to make him proud. Nationals 2015 was a great, fun, and astonishing tournament for the U14 Panthers.

Josh Giles -Captain







My favourite part of National this year was catching up with my friends from other clubs and meeting new people who love to play hockey. I love playing inline hockey, it's so cool. I also loved being the water boy for the senior women's team – they gave me a shirt of my favourite player from the NHL to wear and looked after me – before one game the girls were running late and they didn't have enough for a team so they grabbed me and put my hair in a ponytail and told me I had to play – It was fun – but I don't play with "girls" !

Dakota

HOME

## U16 Panthers Gold



The Under 16 grade Inline Hockey final was an intense, rapid paced, competition between two teams with a dichotomy of strategy but of equal skill and finesse. The Hamilton Devils, definitely the faster side, swarmed down the rink, often creating three on ones and three on twos. However their masterful breakouts were countered by the flair and steadfast strategy of the Mt. Wellington Panthers, who through sheer skill, determination and some luck took the first place title. Although the Devils had proven to be the stronger in the games running up, being unbeaten until that point, the Panthers had shown on several occasions the capacity to claw back games from the brink of possibility. This was shown in their previous games against the New Plymouth Ravens, and the Devils. Against the Ravens they brought a half time score of 5-1 to 5-5. In a game against the Devils prior to the final, the Panthers lost closely 2-1 but only after a series of tactical penalties had been incurred by the Devils. Overall the Final was the conclusion to this year's rivalry between two talented and adroit teams. It was fast, physical and did not slow down for penalties, as the referees let the two teams battle it out.



*It was a memorable and monumental game in which the sum total of both teams left everything on the rink, at the end of the day the Panthers brought up a win through persistence and determination in the face of less than likely odds.*

Ryan Blackmore – Assistant Captain



# WOMEN'S HOCKEY—2015 saw the introduction of Junior Women to Nationals



My favourite part of Nationals this year was the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> play off for Junior Women against the Miners. In the last 10 minutes we had a strong lead so both teams relaxed and we pulled out some full team celebrations – human bowling and after the final buzzer the Raven's sat in a line in front of the benches, the miners were quick to join the rowing team. Both teams were surprised when the Devils and Penguin's joined right in before their final. The friendship between all of the girls is why I like playing Junior Women's.

Jorja Rosser

## Panthers Senior Women – Gold



*After a 5 year drought the Panther's women team was ecstatic to come away from National's with the gold.*

Drawing in pool play with close rivals Hamilton Devils, the girls knew it was going to be a tough battle in the finals. Down 4 -2 with 10 minutes to play the girls dug deep. With possibly the strongest team we have had in recent years the Panthers team pulled back and got one up with 1 minute 30 to go.



Our defence was tested as the Devils went on an all-out attack but the defence held and the gold was ours. Our congratulations to all of the girls who played this year. It was the best turn out of numbers that we have had in a while and there are some amazing young talents coming through in all of the teams.

Jessi Scott



## Devils Junior Women—Gold



When we came to nationals we knew it would be tough. After a 4-3 loss to the Penguins in the rounds, we knew we would have to work hard in the final.

It was great to see all of the younger girls stepping up and everyone having a positive attitude on and off the rink.

There was a great level of competition in the Junior Women grade but we managed to win our semi-final which meant we would be facing the Penguins in the final.

*In the final we pulled together as a team while our goalies did some amazing saves, and won the first Junior Women national title.*

Thanks to Philippa Tobin for coaching us and Rosemary Thresher for managing.

Jana Kivell

## Devils U19 — Gold



The Hamilton U19s had a successful year in the league and went forward to take out the national title. We went through the tournament winning all our pool play games with some great team work from the players and some outstanding saves by our goalie, Jeremy.

Our last pool play game was against the Panthers who played well and gave us our first loss of the tournament. This put us in the final against the Panthers where we were determined to redeem ourselves. It was a great battle to the end with some amazing hockey being played. It was awesome to take away gold and the team deserved it.

Big thanks to Warren and Susan

*Gina Davis*



## No Cams Sabres at Nationals.



No Cams Sabres came in to the Nationals high with expectations after contesting the Northern Region League as two No Cams Sabres Premier teams. The core group of players in the team have been together for 5+ years however a sprinkling of new faces have been able to add some real value. The arrival of veteran Mark Drummond and new English import Bradley Whitehead helped stabilise the roster with a handful of players not available for nationals.

We came out of the blocks firing with a big win over local rivals Mt Wellington Panthers (B) before dispatching New Plymouth Ravens and the Capital Jokers before a loss against the Northland Stingrays to round out pool play. ¼ finals saw the team see off the local Hamilton Devils before taking on Mt Wellington Panthers top side in the semi-final. A tight battle ensued but the Sabres took the game and the shot at the title vs Capital Penguins - the team we faced in 2013 to raise the Sabres first banner in history.

The grand final had everything you could want from a game of hockey. Hard board play, slick passing, quality shooting and some outstanding goalie play. The Penguins took control of the game in the first half with a couple of late goals but the No Cams Sabres were able to peg these back to finish of the game at 2-all. OT period saw some cautious play but still some quality shots were put through but each of the goalies were up to the task as it headed towards the shootout. With the first few rounds going in the same direction as the rest of the game it took Lewis Taiapa's 2<sup>nd</sup> chance in the shootout as well as one more save from Dan Reason to take the title away from a committed No Cams Sabres outfit. It wasn't the result that we wanted but nonetheless it was an epic battle with many players leaving it all on the rink. The silver lining was at awarding of the Most Valuable Player and Goalie awards to Thomas Heather and Scott Collins respectively.

All in all it was a great campaign and our hats off to the Capital Penguins for taking back to back titles.

*Scott Collins*





## Senior Gold - Nelson Whalers



Take a couple of players from Nelson, Blenheim and Christchurch, add in a coach from New Plymouth, an Assistant Coach from Auckland (orig from Nelson), another NZ Rep on the gate and what do you get? A National Champion team!

We started with 12 players which inevitably became 7, mainly due to cost. We flew in our amazing Coach and had one training weekend in Nelson and by Sunday we knew we were looking pretty good. This was the one and only time we trained together as a team.

Some of the team had been to The Ravens senior tournament and some had been on an annual visit to Wellington, but



*"we had never played a game together until game one at Nationals".*

Game 1 was against Panthers, and we had to play 9 minutes without our goalie who's flight was delayed. When he got to the rink it was amazingly 2-2! After winning that game 11-7 we knew we could do this.

We never thought we would go undefeated through the whole tournament but wow it was amazing.

We beat some talented sides and it was fitting that the final was against Panthers who were in our pool and the game went into overtime!

*"We last won this grade in 1998 and for a small region it is just awesome."*



Vinnie Fuller had an outstanding tournament and was named MVP Player of the grade and our goalie Sean McShea was MVP goalie.



We could not have done it without the organisation of Alethea Stove, the coaching of Julian Beardman and Josh Stove and the words of wisdom from Devon Stove. It was an absolute team effort!

# Rookie's Review



vs



It was always going to be a tall order; the Penguins Prem team in 2015. I was a back-to-back gold medal for having seen the team play in previous tournaments over the years, I had some trepidation over my fit into the established team order. Some players had left for other shores, and the remaining members made me feel very welcome. Thanks boys for your mentoring during this and previous years.



We had a fairly demanding year of trainings and tournaments, and, whilst retaining an unbeaten record, we headed to Nationals quietly confident and determined to take it out.

No Nationals win is ever easy, and this year proved to be no different.

During pool play, we played the Devils, Renegades and Panthers. With close encounters such as a 3-3 draw with Renegades, we realised we needed to step it up in order to reach our goal. This followed through to the quarters and semis with a rematch over Renegades and Ravens.

In spite of the fierce competition, as each game passed, the team began to play better, and it started to click for us. Some players displayed sparks of brilliance; such as Doc's coast-to-coast short-handed goal, Ali Novak's 4-goal frenzy, and Lewis Taiapa's control and play-making ability. Throughout all our games, especially the nail-bitingly close ones, coach Bevan calmly led the way and reminded us why we were here.

We completed an-unbeaten pool play, quarters and semis.

***The Auckland Sabres were now all that was standing between us and our goal of snatching our second consecutive title, and our 5<sup>th</sup> Prem Gold in eight years.***

The game began and was well fought, with goalies Reason and Collins performing unbelievably well under continuous shooting.

Ending with a 2-2 draw at the end of play, the over-time likewise drew no conclusion to the evenly matched teams. Subsequently a shoot-out was needed to resolve this.

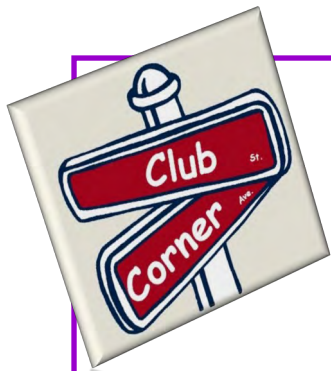
The Taiapa-Johnston-Novak lineup of shooters found no way to score past the mighty Collins, where likewise Reason blocked Sabres out. Fortunately, Taiapa's second attempt found the back of the net for us. With the end looming, Reason's subsequent sudden death save meant we won nationals. It was an unprecedented game, for an unprecedented year.



***Freakish performances by both Reason and Collins were a definite highlight of the final, and a great way to finish the Nationals campaign. Back-to-Back Champs!***

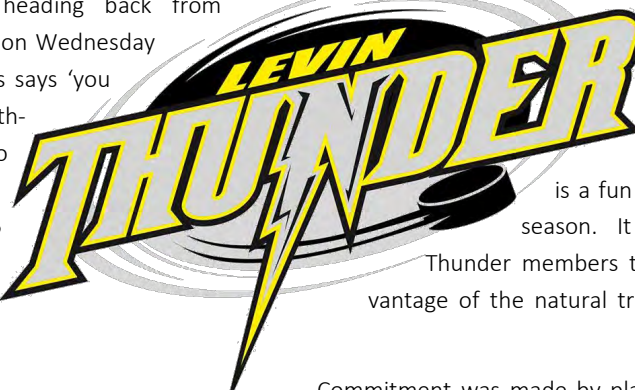
Jaun Turia, Penguins





At Levin Thunder, training for Nationals 2015 start- (young and old) heading back from heading to the rink on Wednesday Evan Taiaroa always says 'you rink than doing noth- are always happy to older players and it ing for the 2015 some of the Levin

Trig to keep up their fitness and to take ad- available in Levin.



ed early with many players Christmas break and evening. Head Coach may as well be on the ing'. Our under 10's scrimmage against the is a fun way to ease into train- season. It isn't uncommon for Thunder members to be seen climbing up vantage of the natural training ground we have



came home to Levin with Gold. The 12's also won Gold and Junior Women Silver – a great weekend.

Going forward to Nationals, it become clear that the 10's team would be the only Levin Thunder representatives going to Nationals and Jack Heyward would be the coach training and accompanying the team to Nationals with Eugene Healy as the manager. Other non-hockey life continued for our players, coaching and management team ie: School, work, weekend and holiday jobs and NCEA so Nationals is always a big commitment.

Arriving in Hamilton to the most amazing weather, it was clear that there was going to be no thunder on the horizon so the Levin Thunder brought their own. Supporters were boisterous right from our first game against the Panthers which we won. Throughout the next few days, our supporters never let up their Thunderous support and the under 10's did not let them down. The only undefeated 10s team going into the final against you guessed it... Hamilton Devils.

The final was overwhelming to say the least. Players were announced on the rink, there were cameras and

commentators for the live streaming. Hamilton Devils started the game on fire and early points

were scored against us. Coach Jack Heyward called an early time out. This paid off as Levin Thunder calmed down a little and managed to bring the game to a draw at half time. Our brave goalie carried on playing although injured and our players battled on in the second half. At the end, victory went to the hard playing Hamilton Devils. Whilst initially disappointed for ourselves and our supporters, we soon realised how well we did getting silver at Nationals. Alex Harold was awarded MVP and we were all happy for him. Next goal – Regional Champs.

*Jack Hayworth, Levin Thunder*



## Referee Review 2015

Another year of hockey is nearly done with the conclusion of our 20th Anniversary National Championships. With only Inter Regional and super league competitions left to run, this season has been a busy one.



I would like to thank all teams for their effort at this year's Nationals, with no disciplinary hearings required it shows the composure teams and team officials displayed during the event. The event ran smoothly with no issues. Thanks to the operations committee for running the event from behind the scenes and the endless supply of pucks.

It goes without

saying, but thanks very much to all the referees who made themselves available to officiate at this year's event. We had a very large team this year which allowed many younger and less experienced referee's to get some game time in at a National event. We have a strong group of young and up-coming referees with a passion for the game. Please respect the referees and help them build confidence within your local regions so we have an endless supply in the coming years.

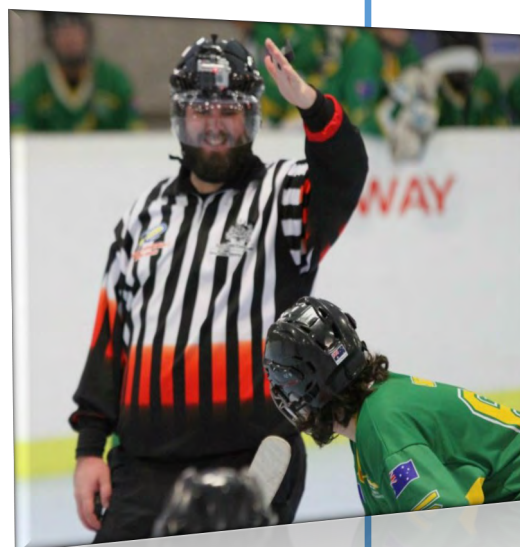
One major change this year at Nationals was the introduction of some new rules. I highly encourage feedback on these rules. The changes we have made coming into the event were to help us align with the international competitions we attend as a country. We introduced them for Nationals so we could roll them out in at an event where the majority of players, officials and referees were attending. This allowed for a smooth transition and to ensure consistency. These rules will be in effect for inter regional's to be held in New Plymouth at Labour Weekend. At the conclusion of the event a final decision, in conjunction with player and coaches feedback will be made on the rules and if they will be in effect for the 2016 season. So please let us know your thoughts on any of the rules. Feedback is important.

Again, thank you very much to all, for a successful 2015 Nationals and congratulations to all who attended and walked away with the silverware.

Regards

Kane Taylor

NZIHA Chief Referee





# NARCh Report - Kane Taylor, Chief Referee

This year I had the pleasure of attending the NARCh event held at The Rinks, Huntington Beach California. We had several NZ teams competing at this event across several grades. The purpose of the trip was to gauge our New Zealand level of refereeing on an international scale, gain knowledge from the event, socialise, network and to develop contacts in the States that can help us keep in touch with refereeing worldwide.

It was evident from the very first game I witnessed that things were different. Even though our rule books were near identical, the interpretation of the rules were on a different page. In the top division body contact along the boards or open rink was almost let go on every occasion. Penalties on stick work were only called if it was on a scoring chance. Nearly everything else was fair play. As the divisions dropped in skill and age, the rules were tightened slightly. But not near a standard that our teams have come across at other international events or how we officiate in NZ. It took our teams a game or two and several bruised bodies to understand where the line was that they could cross.

Several factors stood out to me that allowed for such play at the event.

Facilities were second to none, with fully enclosed rinks and boards that were designed to withstand hits. The flex in the boards openly accepted such heavy body contact that allowed players to play a physical game with a lot less risk of injury.

Player discipline was very good, If you got hit or went down as a result of foul play, I never saw once a player out seeking revenge or pushing and shoving on the ground. Players accepted the play as part of the game and continued on with the game.

The age grades and degree of skill in each grade allowed for control of the physical game to be easily managed in each section. They don't have 16 year olds playing in their top division as we can easily have in New Zealand, therefore allowing the top division to play a rough physical game because the age and skill of players are more capable.

Apart from rule interpretation our officiating in NZ compared to the officiating witnessed at NARCh spoke volumes about how far we have come improved in NZ over the past 5 years. Positioning and Procedures carried out by the referees at the event were exactly on par with our teaching criteria that we have in place here in New Zealand. We have developed new referee course and training material over the past 2 years to better improve the training and basics we provide our referees with. This has been developed based on the international referees we have had visit NZ and the training they have provided us. Attending NARCh allowed me to confirm the material we have and use is on the right level with what was witnessed. It was a huge, positive and overwhelming feeling to see this was the case. It reinforced the confidence I already had that we are on the correct page of developing highly skilled international referees in New Zealand.

I made contact with several referee's who were working the event, asking them several questions along the way to help better understand some aspects of the game in the States. The referee in chief for the event Brett Martin, was very friendly and forthcoming, allowing me to have many good conversations with him when he was free. He has shown interest in attending an event in New Zealand, which again will help us develop even further.

NARCh was a successful event for our teams to attend, and myself personally to witness such an event. Going forward I foresee a bright future for the sport internationally as with every event we attend we gain more skill and knowledge. Looking forward to a big 2016 season!

Kane



**Congratulations to the NZ Women's team  
winning Bronze in the Open Gold Women's  
Division at NARCh 2015**

# NZIHA Story Project 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Our history is full of stories about average Joe's who rose to the occasion and participated in our sport. We have created magic moments through games and player achievements. People have given to our sport through volunteering and family lives and holidays changed through supporting our children in the sport of inline.*

*We think that our stories are an important part of the 'life and history of NZIHA and the sport of inline hockey in New Zealand' and want to capture this for two reasons:*

- 1. It creates a recorded history for the organisation and it allows us to capture those good memories of magic moments.*
- 2. It becomes a tool for Clubs and NZIHA to help grow the sport as people will be attracted to the positive outcomes of involvement in the sport of inline hockey.*

*So our heroes aren't up on any pedestals—they are on the ground with us accomplishing extraordinary things.*

*We would like to thank Joe Dowman who has created a template for each Club and invite anyone to tell us your story.*

*Karen Fuller, NZIHA Board Secretary, is managing this project on behalf of the Board so please feel free to contact Karen with your Club's, or individual story. Blank templates are available for you to write your story. If you are not a keen writer, Karen will help with writing up the finished product, if you just want to jot down some notes and send in a couple of photos to help tell the story. [J.k.fuller@paradise.net.nz](mailto:J.k.fuller@paradise.net.nz)*

**Barbara Baker**  
Chairperson, NZIHA Board

