

WELLINGTON SOFTBALL

87TH ANNUAL REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024





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LIFE MEMBERS

Patron

Maurice Fenton

Life Members

Alf Jenkins*

George Bassant*

Harry Mason*

Bill Wilson*

Gerald Dalley Snr*

Allan Lindsay*

Mick Zemba*

Fred Prentice*

Keith Gerrie*

Gerald Dalley Jnr*

Patricia Beattie*

Maurice Fenton

Lorraine Dalley*

Joan Davies

Colin Ward

**deceased*

OBITUARIES

It is with the deepest regret, and our condolences to the whanau and friends, that we record the passing of:

- *Hadyn Smith*
- *Ray Timu*
- *Kevin Bastion*
- *Lorraine Dalley*
- *Ted Nichols*
- *Terry Nuns*
- *Aaron Thompson*

Those who touch our lives stay in our hearts forever

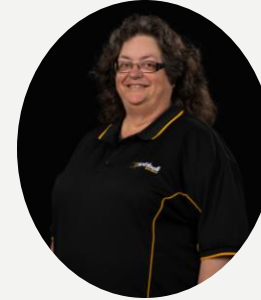
OUR PEOPLE



Raewyn Clarke
Chair



Brooke Cutting
Executive Member



Raewyn Fergusson
Executive Member



Andy Wilkinson
Executive Member



Willy Palmer
Executive Member



Hannah Rodriguez
Operations Manager



Cameron Durkin
Game Admin Officer



Amber Schisler
Development Officer

CHAIR'S REPORT

Amongst our clubs we have key people, families, supporters, sponsors, funders, officials, players and a strong history in our region. We are all passionate about the game of softball.

As we strive to continue our mahi in our community and foster the game of softball at all levels. We have been reminded this season about the core values of our sport – our people. (He tangata, he tangata, he tangata).

Obituaries

This year we lost some familiar faces who have contributed immensely to our sport. They toiled, played and added value to our wider community in many ways. Each one of them was involved in softball at international, regional and local level. Their contribution was immense, and they gave their heart and soul to our sport, and we thank them for their service. They will be sorely missed. Our heartfelt condolences go to their families and extended whanau.

Hadyn Smith, Lorraine Dalley, Kevin Bastion, Ray Timu, Ted Nichols

Awards

WSA continues to be recognized for the good work of our community leaders. WSA strongly featured this year at the recent NZ Softball Annual Awards – Tivi Sila, was awarded the SNZ Volunteer of the Year. His contribution to coaching at club, representative and secondary school and national level is outstanding and the development of women's softball in our region.

Our chief umpire Jeremy England was awarded the SNZ Distinguished Service Award for umpiring service to the region. We are so grateful to have Jeremy and Tivi as part of our community and the influences these two have on our game. Congratulations to you both.

Partnerships

We welcomed our new partnership with The Fieldhouse who have supported us with softball equipment for our in-school and development programs.



CHAIR'S REPORT

International Softball

Our partnership with Queensland softball continued this season with an opportunity for our local representative Under 19 girls and women's teams to be exposed to international softball. Playing Queensland teams annually allows our coaches and players to test their skills and abilities and how we can improve each year. This concept has been invaluable to all players and team management in our region, and we thank those who were all involved in the matches.

We would like to thank USA WPF Pro (Texas Smoke player) - Lindsay Thomas, who supported our development clinics with Amber who gave her time to help young catchers develop their skills

Facilities Management

In partnership with Wellington City council (WCC), WSA has been working hard to bring the lights at Hataitai up to code and Health & Safety compliance. This season we hope to see the lights return to full operation. This may help us have more opportunities for grades to be played midweek and ease pressure on umpires' availability and look at other ways to deliver our sport.

The WCC council recently came to the WSA Executive about an opportunity to have a softball diamond at Grenada park for the future. This concept is very much at preliminary discussions and whether it is a good fit for our sport moving forward. This work will be added to our facilities management plan.

WSA works across three councils to ensure softball is accessible in the community with sports fields. The WCC council worked closely with WSA and clubs on the maintenance of turf diamonds in the batter boxes and dugouts and these were upgraded this year thanks to grant funding and council support.

Premier Softball

Intercity softball is our major flagship competition and brings with it the challenges of negotiating with clubs, umpires, and administrators. We would like to thank all our clubs involved this year for their participation.



CHAIR'S REPORT

Social Softball

Our social numbers have kept steady but ways of helping our players to stay engaged and looking at ways we can improve our game is one area we would like to focus on going forward.

Staff & Associations

To the WSA Executive we thank Raewyn Ferguson, Andy Wilkinson, Brooke Cutting and Willy Palmer for their support and guidance over this season.

Our gaming trust funders continue to support our programs and operational costs.

Our sponsors across Wellington Softball family thank you for your ongoing support. Thank you to the Wellington scorers and umpires' association for your dedication.

This year at the office we had Cam, Amber and Hannah. A big thank you to Hannah, Cam and Amber for all their hard work. Hannah has developed her operational role with gaining funding and her ability to network and keep our stakeholder relationships has been key. Amber has dedicated herself to supporting all our players with her development and improvement programs for the last two seasons. We are very grateful for her commitment, softball nous, and her ability to connect with many players in our region. We wish her well as she continues her softball journey, returning home in August. Cam left us earlier in Feb to start a role with Pulse Netball.

We welcome Karl Moresi to the staff who will be our draw master and supporting our in-schools programs while we recruit a new Amber! Karl comes from Karori Football and is looking at developing his sports/business management further.

As we close the door on another season, we look forward to seeing you all on the diamond.

Raewyn Clarke

Wellington Softball Association Chair



UMPIRES REPORT

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the umpires from the Wellington and Hutt Valley Umpire Associations, and to WSA and HVSA for their joint management of Intercity. Special thanks to Bob Bargiacchi, HV chief umpire, for his support.

The season began with a well-attended regional clinic in Porirua, including umpires from Manawatu, Hawkes Bay, and Tairarawhiti.

In Wellington, we welcomed Daniel Parker from HV and Viv Tippet, a returning umpire. Viv's enthusiasm and return to umpiring later in life was inspiring. Our P2 and U17/U19 teams appreciated having a regular umpire. We now have eight active umpires, the highest in years, and hope to see this number grow.

Intercity

This season, I shared umpire appointments with Bob Bargiacchi again. I handled Saturday games while Bob covered U17 and U19 midweek matches. With more umpires and fewer P1 teams, our goal was to have two umpires per P1 game. Although this wasn't achieved every Saturday, it happened more frequently than before, benefiting both teams and umpires. We still had some P1 games with one umpire, but this was reduced compared to previous seasons. We also covered many P2 games, including the P2 women. Increasing umpire numbers would help us cover nearly all P2 games, benefiting both teams and umpires.

We managed to avoid using too many Sundays, thanks to favorable weather. Sundays are generally not preferred for scheduled games, although they're acceptable for catch-up games. Umpires already commit many weekends to tournaments, and adding more Sunday games can be burdensome, especially since many of us work Monday to Friday and reserve Sundays for family time. Not all umpires are available on Sundays, increasing the load on a few.

The goal should be to ensure quality games rather than simply increasing the number of games. More games with uneven matchups can lead to more lopsided games, which isn't beneficial for teams, umpires, or fans.

Overall, Intercity ran smoothly. It would be useful to get feedback from P2 clubs about split competitions after Christmas. I favor having a single big day of finals in March, focusing solely on the finals and eliminating additional games. Umpires look forward to officiating finals, not games added just to fill schedules. Such games could be managed by the clubs themselves if they choose to play them.

Wellington Comp

The P1 grades played alongside the Wellington competition, with one-off finals for P1 men, P1 women, and P2 women. This arrangement worked well for umpiring. It might be worth considering moving WSA finals to a Sunday to consolidate events in one location and avoid lighting issues. The P2 men's Wellington comps took place post-Christmas, ending with finals in mid-March. Viv Tippet was named Umpire of the Year.

I decided to step down from national umpiring after 28 years of officiating at nationals and received a Distinguished Service Award from Softball NZ. I plan to continue umpiring locally and regionally.

Jeremy England

President/UIC Wellington Softball Umpire's Association.

MEMBERSHIP – CLUB STATS

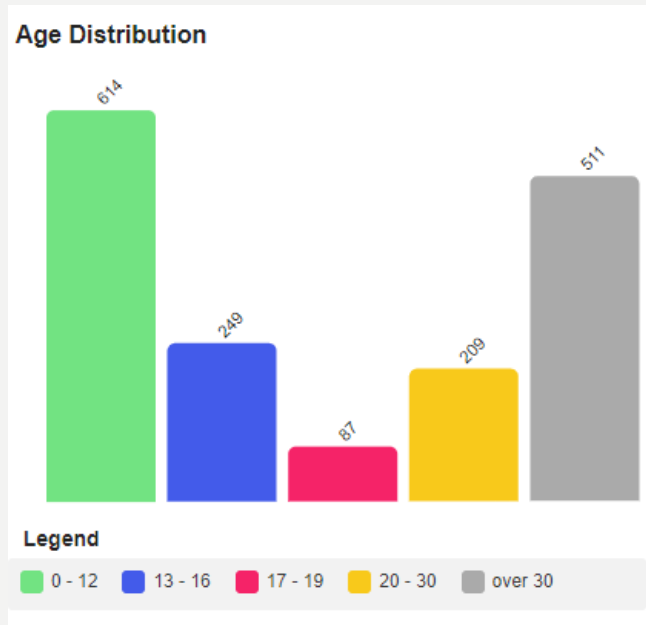
2023/2024 Season									
	Number of Adult Teams			Number of Youth Teams (17s & 15s)			Number of Junior Teams (13s 11s 9s 7s;T ball)		
Name of Club	Adult Men	Adult Women	TOTAL	Youth Men	Youth Women	TOTAL	Softball teams	T Ball teams	TOTAL JUNIORS
Central Sports	1	0	1	2	1	3	1	0	1
Island Bay	3	1	4	1	0	1	3	2	5
Johnsonville	6	3	9	2	1	3	6	4	10
Kapiti	4	1	5	2	1	3	5	3	8
Karori Knights	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miramar	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2
Newlands	3	3	6	0	0	0	2	3	5
Paremata Plimmerton	1	2	3	1	1	2	6	8	14
Porirua City United	3	1	4	1	0	1	3	2	5
Poneke Kilbirnie	6	3	9	2	1	3	2	1	3
PCI	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royals	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
St George	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tawa	3	2	5	0	1	1	2	3	5
Toa	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	33	21	54	11	6	17	31	27	58

MEMBERSHIP – WHO WE ARE

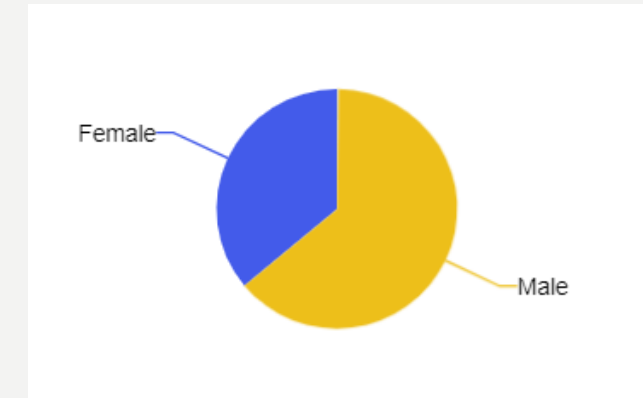
Total Teams & Members

**129 Teams
&
1679 members**

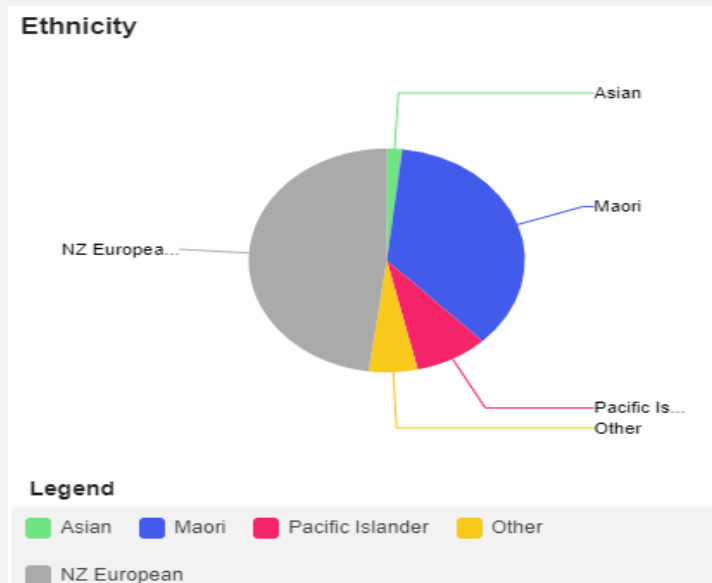
Age



Gender



Ethnicity



JUNIOR MANAGEMENT REPORT

This year was great for tournament play due to local tournaments and opportunities hosted by our clubs and nearby associations.

Now that the effects of COVID-19 are mostly in the past, we have begun to rebuild our sport and membership base. We had 80+ new registrations due to in school programs alone.

Despite persistent weather challenges as expected, we adapted to ensure that competitions and annual fixtures proceeded as planned. This year, junior teams were given the option to catch up games on designated rain out catch-up days.

A huge thank you to all our clubs, teams, parents, volunteers, and players who persevered this season—your dedication is what keeps Wellington Softball thriving. WSA is committed to enhancing and expanding softball experiences for the coming year.

This season was also notable for its exciting tournament play, with new events emerging and existing ones growing. Below is a summary of all the events that took place this season.



Colin Ward

It was fantastic to see the Colin Ward tournament take place this year. WSA organized the event at Hataitai Park, allowing the kids more time on the skin fields in front of their friends and family. We even had the fortune of having our NFC players, Corey Timu and Damon Creasy, umpire each diamond. Colin Ward attended the tournament himself to award the trophies to the winning teams. He commended the young players' efforts and expressed his gratitude to the teams and clubs for a remarkable day of softball.

This year, teams from around the region competed for the Colin Ward Trophy, showcasing an impressive display of talent. We eagerly anticipate what the next season will bring!

The results are as follows...

Under 9s	PK v Pareplim Bobcats	Winner Pk
Under 11s Section 1	Island Bay Mokokaha v Kapiti Knights	Winner – Kapiti Knights
Under 11s Section 2	Miramar v PCU Pirates	Winner - Miramar
Under 13 Boys	Island Bay Mokomauri v Kapiti GOATS	Winner – Kapiti GOATS
Under 13 Girls		Winner – Kapiti Tigers
Under 15 Boys	Island Bay Mokoora v Kapiti Renegades	Winner – Island Bay Mokoora
U15 Girls	PK v Pareplim Cheetahs	Winner - PK



WSA Junior Open Clubs U13/15s

This season we hosted the 2nd annual WSA Junior Open Clubs tournament. This was a pre season tournament with hopes of creating excitement for the season ahead. It was a festival with teams from all over the lower north island competing in the under 13s/15s grade. This gave teams the opportunity to face new competition outside of their region. The emphasis of this tournament wasn't on winning but on fostering a fun sporting environment where kids could enhance their skills and be encouraged to exhibit respect on the field. Awards were given to players who demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship. Unfortunately, Saturday was rained out so the U13 competition did not go ahead. However, on the Sunday, the U15 teams powered through the wind and rain to carry out the tournament. We were fortunate enough to receive prize packs from our sponsors for this tournament and we would like to thank them for their support of our event. Lifestyle Sports Tawa & Softball New Zealand. Another big thank you to the Miramar Softball Club who volunteered to umpire the event, run a snack bar, and shelter teams and spectators in their clubhouse from the weather.

WSA recognizes the demand for more junior tournaments and is dedicated to expanding our opportunities in conjunction with our clubs. We acknowledge that some changes are necessary to facilitate its growth. Stay tuned for updates!

One final thanks to all the teams that competed!

Under 15 Boys	Under 15 Girls
HCU	PK TOA
Huia Rangers	Johnsonville Blue Jays
Pareplim Cougars	Te Aroha (Winners)
Island Bay Mokoora	Central
Central (Winners)	Saints
Johnsonville Titans	



Queensland Tour

WSA were fortunate enough to host the Queensland Under 19 and Open Girls softball teams for a 2-day double header series against our Premier and age grade players across different clubs.

The games were action packed and there was some great situational hitting performances, small ball action, and some stunning defensive plays from both sides. It was awesome to provide opportunities for our girls and women this time around.

We look forward to a continued partnership with Queensland Softball and expect more match ups in the years to come!



Johnsonville Under 9's Diamond Dash Tournament

Johnsonville Junior Softball Club held their second U9 Diamond Dash Tournament at Helston Park. This tournament provides a platform for players to showcase their skills and passion for softball. They hosted 10 teams in total, three from Hutt Valley, two from Manawatu and five from Wellington. Over the course of the tournament the teams play up to 5 games of mini pitch. The main driver for this tournament is to allow players play teams they would not otherwise play. This event is also unscored however, plenty of prizes on offer kindly donated from their sponsors. The highlight of the day is a quick visit from Mr Whippy to keep the kids 'cool'.

Johnsonville Tiny Sox Summer Sessions

Johnsonville Junior Softball Club created their very first Tiny Sox Program that was aimed at delivering entry-level tee ball skills to 61 young children aged 4-6. The sessions were held on four one-hour sessions run on Friday nights during February and March. Registration for the program was an accessible \$10 for all four sessions which help cover the cost for every participant to receive a free t-shirt. The program was delivered with the assistance from coaches, parents and junior mentors from our U13 and U15 grade players. During sessions 1-3 the children were split into groups and moved around stations every 12 mins which consisted of learning to throw, catch, hit a ball off a tee and base running relays. On session 4 the groups played games of tee ball and we ended on a barbecue for all the children and their whānau. The whole program was a huge success as we were blown away with how many children attended the sessions and had a fantastic time.



ParePlim Under 13 Rookie Sox Tournament

Our one-day invitational tournament for mixed, boys or girl's teams was designed to offer our club U13 teams other club teams and individuals an opportunity to play in a tournament. It was not designed to be a representative tournament, more of a "fun in the sun" tournament for the age group.

The U13 Rookie Sox Tournament took place once again on November 26, 2023, marking another successful event. The sun shone brightly as numerous teams and supporters gathered at the Ngati Toa Domain in Porirua.

Originally scheduled for November 19, the tournament was postponed due to rain, which unfortunately resulted in some teams from the Hutt being unable to attend, leading to a slightly reduced number of participants. A total of 10 teams travelled from Island Bay to Kapiti, divided into two sections of five teams each. Games commenced at 9:00 AM, with the final matches wrapping up by 3:15 PM. Both the boys' and mixed sections concluded with an outright winner after four games.

Winners were

Island Bay Mokomauri (Mixed Competition)

Kapiti G.O.A.T.S. (Boys Competition)

Even though the tournament was a week later than planned, it was a successful day where a lot of good softball was played by everybody.

Sincere thanks to all of the tournament sponsors, tournament volunteers, umpires, coaches, supporters and players! Looking forward to this year's tournament!

Mike Popata

Paremata Plimmerton Softball Club



JUNIOR RESULTS

Grade	Winners
U11 Section 1	Johnsonville Blue Hawks
U11 Section 2	Newlands Bears
U13 Boys	KC G.O.A.T'S
U15 Boys Section 1	Central Sports Club
U15 Boys Section 2	KC Cubs
U15 Girls	Poneke Kilbirnie Toa



INTERCITY COMPETITION

MEN

Grade	Winners
Premier One	Poneke Kilbirnie
U19 boys	Poneke Kilbirnie
Premier Reserve	Johnsonville Bombers

WELLINGTON COMPETITION

Grade	Winners
Premier One Men	Poneke Kilbirnie
Premier One Women	Johnsonville
Premier 2 Women	Poneke Kilbirnie
Major A Men	Tawa
Major B Men	Poneke Kilbirnie



SENIOR COMPETITION

MEN

Grade	Winners
2A MEN	Johnsonville Cripples
2B MEN - Section A	PCI Pressies
2B MEN - Section B	Newlands Raiders

WOMEN

Grade	Winners
2A Women	TOA Softball Club
2B Women – Section A	Johnsonville 2A Ladies
2B Women - Section B	TOA 2B 38ers

REPRESENTATIVE 2023/24

Congratulations to the selected team members and management representing the Wellington Softball Association at their respective tournaments.

This year, an independent panel was established to review the coaches' and management applications. The selection process included interviews and police vetting, ensuring a secure and confident appointment of coaches and management.

Due to previous season's representative debrief, the coaches and management were named quite early to allow for more preparation.

This season we participated in all grades except NFC women due to low interest levels.

At the end of the season, debriefs with coaches, management, and the independent panel led to a positive feedback session regarding the vision for our representative program.

With many of the tournaments being held in the Wellington Region, we anticipate a strong turn out and showcase this season. We look forward to another successful representative season next year and encourage you to strive for a place as a Wellington Softball Association Representative.

For information on future dates and venues, please refer to the SNZ website for the 2024/25 calendar season.

Wellington Softball Association



REPRESENTATIVE 2023/24

NFC Men

Final Placing -
4th

Coach – Gene Lutton

Assistant Coach – Ricky Manson

Manager – Margaret Marsh

Statistician – Raewyn Fergusson

Te Wera Bishop

Zac Boyd

Damon Creasy

Joel Harris

Wayne Lauulu

Reilly Makea

Arron Gollan

Ciaran Bolger

Josh Merritt

Te Kirika Cooper-Nicola

Jerome Raemaki

David Rodgers

Jayden Stratford

Cory Timu

Andre Tolova'a-Hart



REPRESENTATIVE 2023/24

U17 Boys

Final Placing – 5th

Coach – Regan Taouma

Coach – Troy Palmer

Manager – Rikki Tibbitts

Statistician – Heather Graham

Nate Cameron

Mason Carey

Van Hillock

Eli Jelicoe

James McCartney

Cooper Mccuan

Duncan McGarry

Swayde Paaka

Genuine Savaliga

Noah Sipeli

Rylan Stephen

Micah Taouma

Cameron Wilkinson

Kiharoa Landon-Lane

U17 Girls

Final Placing – 7th

Coach – Steve Sila

Coach – Hannah Rodriguez

Manager – Lou Bolger

Statistician – Elaine Hiroki

Siobhan Bolger

Ava Hamilton

Ivana Laulu

Anuela Leofo

Kostyn Manson

Ruby Morisson

Brianna Olds

Raukura Parata-Mua

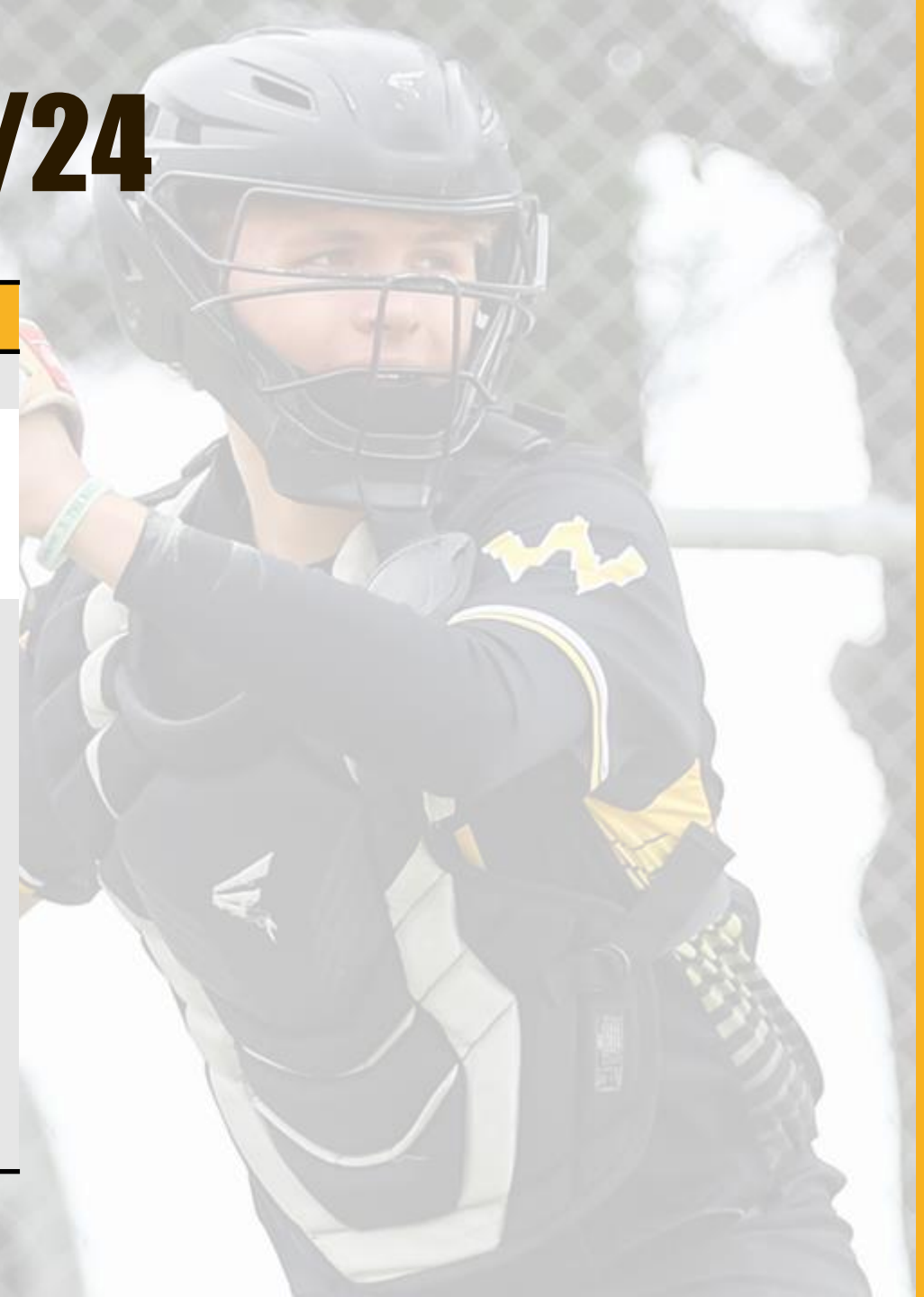
Matilda Sipeli

Putiputi Smith

Te Aroha Takiwa Hampton

Jayelle Temarama

Magdelene Ulberg



REPRESENTATIVE 2023/24

U19 Boys

Final Placing – 4th

Coach – Raniera Morrison

Coach – David Gollan

Manager – Lou Bolger

Statistician – Frankie Pearson

Mason Carey
Zach Fearless
Arron Gollan
Ethan Grant
Nikau Hailwood
Jayden Harris
Tane Landon-Lane
Nino Mason
James McArtney
Manahi Uden-McFarland
Swayde Paaka
Luke Pearson-McGruer
Olly Smith
Rylan Stephen

U19 Girls

Final Placing – 6th

Coach – Amber Schisler

Coach – Steve Sila

Manager – John Waipara

Statistician – Elaine Hiroki

Lily Beattie
Siobhan Bolger
Eva Gibbs
Kostyn Manson
Chelsey Moananu
Ella Mullane
Brianna Olds
Raukura Parata-Mua
Tyla Pita-Kani
Matilda Sipeli
Jayelle Temarama
Maiarangi Waipara
Jessica Wairau



REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

Grade	Tournament Team
Under 17 Boys	Mason Carey
Under 17 Girls	n/a
Under 19 Boys	Olly Smith Arron Gollan Mason Carey (Rest Team) Nino Mason (Rest Team) Ethan Grant (Rest Team)
Under 19 Girls	n/a

NEW ZEALAND HONOURS

Squad	Selections
Junior Black Sox	Joe Simpson-Smith, Ciaran Bolger, Arron Gollan
Junior White Sox	Maiarangi Waipara, Siobhán Bolger, Tyla Pita-Kani, Nahliah Tagatauli-Tolova'a
Black Sox	Te Wera Bishop, Reilly Makea, Jerome Raemaki, Wayne Laulu, Damon Creasy, Te Kirika Cooper-Nicola, Jayden Stratford
White Sox	Emma Francis

Award	Recipient
Distinguished Service	Jeremy England
Volunteer of the Year	Tivi Sila

WSA AWARDS

Award	Recipient
Scorer of the Year	Elaine Hiroki
Coach of the Year	Tivi Sila
Volunteer of the Year	Corina Adamson
Umpire of the Year	Viv Tippet
Administrator of the Year	Mike Popata
Emerging Female Player of the Year	Siobhán Bolger
Emerging Male Player of the Year	Kiharoa Landon-Lane
Women's Top Batter	Lisei Pettett
Men's Top Batter	Jerome Raemaki
Women's Top Pitcher	Talia Salas Giorgio
Men's Top Pitcher	Sam Marley
Women's Premier MVP	Emma Francis
Men's Premier MVP	Reilly Makea
Club of the Year	TOA Softball Club

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



An active Wellington region

BRING ON 2024/2025