

Poi Tarawhiti O Waitakere

Poi Tarawhiti O Waitakere is a strategic objective of Netball Waitakere - "Honours the principles of Te Tiriti O Watiangi and acknowledges the unique status of Maori as Tangata Whenua in Aotearoa "

There are a large number of netball players in the Netball Waitakere (Poi Tarawhiti O Waitakere) region who are of Maori descent and NW is committed to exploring and expanding pathways for the development of players who are of Maori descent. Its objective is to increase the pathways for the development of netball players who are of Maori descent.

Netball Waitakere Board were presented with a proposal re Maori Netball which presented a rationale an objective and an action plan. One of the actions was to identify and create new pathways for Netball Waitakere. It was agreed by the board at the September meeting and the CEO to enter teams to compete at the Pacifica Cup Challenge on 15 October. The roopu was headed by Pauline Harrington who organised a committee, players, coaches and managers to enter teams into the challenge to represent Poi Tarawhiti O Waitakere – Netball Waitakere.

The teams entered were U19s, U17s, U15s made up of girls who play their club or school netball in the Waitakere competitions being WASC, winter, summer league, and Monday night competitions. PTOW were invited by Niue to participate in the Challenge and were grouped as a nation with Counties Manukau, and Aotearoa Maori. The U15 teams came second in their grade with the U17s finding it tough playing against nations who have representative players from NAW, Netball North, and Counties Manukau but nevertheless enjoyed their days out. Leading up to the competition day found injuries arife within the roopu, school holidays player numbers dropped from 11 in one team to 8.

The roopu was well supported by the organising committee made up of avid supporters of netball who looked after team management and players, with hydration, kai and shade. We were offered by the nation of Samoa the use of their Osteopath who looked after our players when required. Our whanau supporters, thank you for coming out again to support your daughters at another tournament.

We thank our 3 umpires Rob Tai, Maru Delamere, and Tania Parker for taking them away from their respective families to help officiate our teams playing in the challenge.

Thank you to Niue for the invitation to participate and to the Cook Islands who were the host of the Challenge, it was great day had by all. Thank you to the other nations, Tonga, and Fiji who as per normal are great competitors and we thank all the nations for their contribution to ensure we all had great games of netball.

Pauline Harrington

Representative Convenor