



# ANNUAL REPORT



**Basketball Otago  
Association  
2022**



**BASKETBALL  
New Zealand**

# GENERAL MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

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The 2022 competition season was another very successful one for Otago basketball in terms of participation numbers and competition numbers where we once again had a year of significant growth.

Numbers of players and teams in Otago continued to increase, especially in our school teams which increased significantly from 325 teams to 353 (9% increase).

Overall our total number of teams playing basketball in 2022 increased from 523 to 550 (5% increase), and basketball continued to be the highest participation sport across Otago schools.

As we move into the start of the 2023 season, we have seen another huge increase in primary schools basketball with a 20% increase in these teams. This is fantastic for our sport and shows how incredibly popular basketball has become with our youngsters in Otago, however it does also create an increasing challenge for Basketball Otago regarding having enough courts to cater for so many teams, and finding enough referees. We will keep working on good solutions for this.

In representative basketball our Otago teams had a mostly very strong season, with five of our ten Otago representative teams finishing in the top 4 or higher.

Both our 13 Boys and Girls teams finished second in the South Island tournament in Ashburton which was a fantastic result for this age group.

Equally impressive was both the Otago 19 Men's and Women's teams finishing 4th at the 19 Nationals in Christchurch. Our 19 Women's team went very close to scoring a big upset win over Canterbury in their semi-final and were very close to making the national grand-final.

Our Otago Gold Rush Women's team went one step further and in a magnificent run of results they made the grand-final of the Women's national championships in Auckland. Along the way they scored impressive wins over Waikato in the quarter-finals and Canterbury in the semi-finals. Although they couldn't quite get past Auckland in the grand-final, it was a great result for our Otago women's team.

The Otago 17 girls also competed strongly to finish 6th at nationals, and our Otago 23 Men's team finished 7th after very narrowly missing out on the semi-finals.

A huge thank you to all the coaches, managers and other helpers for the Otago rep team programme in 2022. It is a massive task and we are extremely grateful for the passion and support from all those in our basketball community who work so hard to help make that possible.

At NBL level it was incredible to watch the Otago Nuggets late season surge to claim their second NBL title in three years in the play-offs up in Auckland

This is an amazing achievement for the Otago franchise, and huge congratulations go to the players, coach Brent Matehaere, General Manager Angela Ruske, the rest of the Nuggets support crew, and to the Otago Nuggets new franchise owners SEN (Sport Entertainment Network). The success of the Nuggets has a huge positive flow on effect right through the Otago basketball community and we congratulate everyone involved in this outstanding achievement.

On the women's NBL side it was a ground-breaking year for women's basketball in New Zealand with the introduction of the new Tauhi Women's National League which was the first ever professional women's league in NZ basketball.

This saw the creation of the new NBL franchise, the Southern Hoiho, representing professional women's basketball for southern NZ. The team was captained by Otago's former NZ Tall Fern Sammy Gallaher, and the Hoiho played hard throughout the opening season. The future evolution of this new women's league will be exciting to watch and will hopefully have a very positive impact on the overall women & girls basketball pathway.

***Peter Drew - General Manager***



# FINANCE REPORT

## 2022/2023

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2022 saw a significant increase in total income relative to previous years. Total income in 2022 was \$646,207 compared to \$561,155 in 2021.

This was due mostly to increased income from team entries and a significant increase in grant funding. This was an excellent result, however, alongside the increased income there was significantly increased investment into staff and people costs as basketball in Otago continues to grow and the delivery demands increase.

As a result of these investments into our infrastructure, Basketball Otago recorded a small end of year deficit of \$7,466 for the 2022 financial year. The potential of a small end of year deficit had been discussed by the board at the beginning of the financial year and was deemed to be an acceptable outcome as it was felt that investment into the workforce was necessary and a high priority. Overall Basketball Otago is still in a healthy position financially with total assets of \$270,000 at the time of writing.

# 2022 OTAGO REPRESENTATIVE RESULTS

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## Basketball New Zealand AON U13 Regional Championships, Ashburton

### A Grade

Otago 13U Girls - 2nd place

Otago 13U Boys - 2nd place

## Basketball New Zealand AON U15 National Championships, Auckland

Otago 15U Girls - 13th place

Otago 15U Boys - 15th place

## Basketball New Zealand AON U17 National Championships, Hamilton

Otago 17U Girls - 6th place

Otago 17U Boys - 15th place

## Basketball New Zealand AON U19 National Championships, Rangiora

Otago 19U Girls - 4th place

Otago 19U Boys - 4th place

## Basketball New Zealand U23 Mens National Championships, Auckland

Otago 23U Mens - 7th place

## Basketball New Zealand Womens D- League Tournament, Auckland

Otago Gold Rush - 2nd place

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### **Tournament team -**

Congratulations to the following Otago players who were named in the Tournament Team for their respective national event:

## Basketball New Zealand AON U17 National Championships, Hamilton

Otago 17U Girls - Laura Ring

## Basketball New Zealand AON U19 National Championships, Rangiora

Otago 19U Boys - Patrick Freeman

## Basketball New Zealand Womens D- League Tournament, Auckland

Sophie Adams

Hannah Matehaere

Caitlin O'Connell



# BASKETBALL OTAGO COMPETITIONS

## Club Basketball

2022 saw increased team numbers in both men's and women's club basketball, and we congratulate all of our winners in the 2022 Dunedin Basketball League.

Congratulations to St. Kilda Saints in claiming the Men's A-Grade title defeating Mid City Magic A in the grand-final, and congratulations to Ajax who won a tense Women's A-Grade grand-final against Varsity.

### Winners of the 2022 Dunedin Basketball League -

#### Men's Club Competition Winners

- Mens A Grade** - St Kilda Saints
- Mens A-Reserve 1** - City Rise Skyblazers
- Mens A Reserve 2** - Magic Mustangs
- Mens B Grade** - City Rise Stealth Bombers
- Mens C Grade** - City Rise Spitfires

#### Firebrand Women's Club Competition Winners

- Womens A Grade** - Ajax 1
- Womens B Grade** - Andy Bay Falcons Toru

## School Basketball

In the schools competitions it was great to see the continued increase in the number of teams playing.

With 350 teams playing in 2022 this shows just how popular a sport basketball is now across Otago schools.

Congratulations to Otago Boys High School Blue in winning the Senior Secondary Schools Boys title, and congratulations to Columba College who won the Senior Girls title.

### Winners of the 2022 Secondary School Basketball Competition

- Senior Boys Champions** - Otago Boys High School Blue
- Senior Girls Champions** - Columba College
- Junior Boys Champions** - Otago Boys Y10 Blue
- Junior Girls Champions** - Columba College

*Thank you and well done to everyone who did such good job in helping Basketball Otago to host the 2022 National Secondary Schools A Nationals in partnership with Basketball NZ.*



# 3X3 TOURNAMENTS

## Basketball New Zealand 3x3 Schick Cup

After the 2021 Schick Cup was cancelled due to COVID, it was great to have this fantastic national 3x3 tournament back on the basketball calendar.

Once again the event was played in Invercargill which made it more accessible for our Otago players and supporters.

There were two men's teams representing Otago (Otago Nuggets and Mid City Magic), and two women's teams (Southern Hoiho and Otago Gold Rush). Mid City Magic performed brilliantly to take the Bronze Medal, and only very narrowly missed out on playing for the championship title. Congratulations to the team of Richie Rodger, Josh Aitcheson, Pafe Momoisea, and Benji Freeman.

The Southern Hoiho got better as the tournament went and they finished strongly in 5th place.

The Otago Gold Rush played superbly for the first half of the tournament to win 7 of their first 8 games before being upset in the quarterfinals, and the Otago Nuggets similarly dominated the early stages of the tournament before an upset loss in the first round of the play-offs.



## Quest 3x3 National Tour

Basketball Otago again hosted one of the Quest 3x3 National Tour Events in partnership with Basketball NZ.

41 teams entered the tournament and it was Magic who took out the men's event with a power packed team of Josh Aitcheson, Pafe Momoisea, Dom Kelman-Poto, and Ben Hall.

The Hotshotz team, stacked full of current and former NZ Tall Ferns, dominated and won the women's event. Congratulations to Sammy Gallaher, Zoe Richards, Olivia O'Neill, and Nicole Ruske.



# NATIONAL HONOURS

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Otago continues to do well on a national level and it's been great to see so many of our Otago basketball community achieving national honours as players, coaches, managers, and referees. Special mention goes to Richie Rodger and Sam Timmins who were both selected for the NZ Tall Blacks, and Otago having both team managers for the NZ Tall Blacks (Gavin Briggs) and NZ Tall Ferns (Lisa Wallbutton).

A special mention also for Greg Brockbank who is a finalist for the upcoming Basketball NZ Awards Night for Coach of the Year.

Otago also had a number of referees who refereed at national events and performed with distinction. A special mention goes to Britt Young who is also a finalist for the upcoming Basketball NZ Awards Night for Young Official of the Year Award and was awarded NBL referee status by Basketball NZ earlier this year.

Britt had an outstanding year as a referee in 2022 where she refereed two national grand finals and a number of other high-level games on the NZ basketball calendar.

Congratulations to the following people from Otago who have been recognised at a national level:

## **National Players -**

- Richie Rodger - New Zealand Tall Blacks and New Zealand 3x3 Tall Blacks. New Zealand 3x3 Tall Blacks 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- Sam Timmins - New Zealand Tall Blacks
- George Grant - New Zealand Junior Tall Blacks

## **National Coaches/Managers -**

- Natalie Visger - Head Coach New Zealand Junior Tall Ferns
- Brent Matehaere - Assistant Coach New Zealand Under 15 Boys
- Gavin Briggs - Team Manager New Zealand Tall Blacks
- Lisa Wallbutton - Team Manager New Zealand Tall Ferns
- Maine Mareko-Johnson - Team Manager New Zealand Under 15 Girls



## Referees at National Events -

- Brittney Young - NZ Secondary Schools Nationals - AA Girls Grand Final, NZ Tertiary Games - Men's Grand Final, Under 19 Nationals - Women's Bronze Medal game.
- Tamatea Bennett - Under 19 Nationals - Men's Bronze Medal game, Under 23 Men's National, and Women's D-League Tournament.
- Dylan Mead - Under 23 Men's Nationals, and Women's D-League Tournament.
- Nathan Buchanan - Under 19 Nationals, and NZ Secondary Schools Nationals.
- Charlie Bauchop - NZ Secondary School Nationals.
- Kiana Brown - Under 13 Regional Tournament - Girls B Grade Grand Final.



# COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES

The Basketball Otago community programmes have developed and grown enormously in 2022/23.

We now have over 100 children signed up in the weekly programmes of Diggers, Miners, and Girls Got Game at the Edgar Centre, and we are now getting numbers of several hundred for Holiday Camps.

This is great for building the future player base, and has also now become a valuable and critical additional income stream for Basketball Otago.

In addition to the programmes at the Edgar Centre, we have engaged in a comprehensive schools outreach programme, including the Girls Got Game programme, and also working in partnership with the Otago Nuggets and Southern Hoiho to get the star players out into our schools to inspire the next generation.

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# STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

At the end of the 2022 winter season we said farewell to Britt Richards as she took up a new position.

We thank Britt for the fantastic job she did, particularly with our schools competitions, and Britt is still well involved in the Otago basketball scene as coach of our Otago Under 17 Girls team, and helping out with the Nuggets.

Taking over from Britt we welcomed Tim Gillan to the Basketball Otago team. Tim brings fantastic basketball experience and expertise to Basketball Otago having previously been a high level player and represented the Otago Nuggets, and also very experienced with running his own sports development business in Australia and New Zealand. We wish Tim all the best heading into his first full competition season in his new role.

A very big thank you to the huge number of people who have given their time and effort to helping to support Otago basketball over the past year. We can't do any of this without that incredible support.

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# PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

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Once again I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported and helped Otago basketball in 2022/23.

Thank you to our sponsors, Firebrand and Uptown Work Room. Thank you also to all our funding partners Otago Community Trust, Bendigo Valley, Lion Foundation, Aotearoa Gaming Trust, Air Rescue, Kiwi Gaming Foundation, and Grassroots Central Trust.

Thank you also to our local sports industry partners including Sport Otago and Otago Secondary School Sports Association, and thank you to our national sports partners Basketball NZ and Sport NZ.

Big thanks again to Blair Crawford and the Edgar Centre team who always go above and beyond to support us and help make everything work when it needs to.



**Air Rescue**  
and Community  
Services



# LOOKING AHEAD

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2022 was an excellent year in terms of continued growth of our playing numbers and many of our Otago representative teams. But we also have to keep looking ahead to what we need to do better as an organisation, and how we need to keep changing and adapting for the future.

Grant funding and sponsorship are getting increasingly challenging, so we need to keep maximising our other revenue streams, particularly through our grass roots player programmes.

We will also continue working towards other key strategic points in our Strategic Plan. These include providing more capacity and resources into our referees and officials workforce, more opportunities and better retention of our female participants, and further developing new and different basketball formats such as 3x3.

We look forward to developing those opportunities during the rest of 2023 and over the next several years.

Thank you again to everyone who has helped to make 2022/23 such a successful time for Basketball Otago.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Drew', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

***Peter Drew***  
***General Manager - Basketball Otago***



Photo Courtesy - Basketball New Zealand/Roshysportfolio



BASKETBALL  
New Zealand