

# **North Taranaki has noticed the difference with Sport Taranaki Development Advisor role of what has been done in the last few years.**

## **Starting in 2011**

We only had one cluster event at Okato and the Secondary school event with all the regions secondary school represented, which was assisted by TSSSA and about 98 students having a go. Stratford High, NP Boys high and SHGC had sessions from local bowlers before event. A team of players were selected to represent North Taranaki and Taranaki to play against Wanganui and Manawatu areas.

A few (2 or 3) junior members went to the NZ Secondary School event.

Not a lot happen.

## **2012**

The position was created between NZIB and Sport Taranaki due to seeing the outdoor bowls position being advertised. A thought was that NZIB could develop Indoor Bowls in the same way to develop our sport and Michelle Watt started in late May.

Within the month some schools all over the region were contacted and within two months delivery was started in the south and coastal areas. Eleven schools with 610 students having a go. Planning then went onto 2013 and see what could be created.

That year the Taranaki secondary schools numbers drop but this wasn't due to any reason of the position.

A few juniors went to the NZ secondary school event again. One did go to the North Island secondary school event in Tauranga.

Michelle started to attend Centre Meetings, to update the committees on the work and development that was happening out in the Community.

## **2013**

A group of juniors went to the North Island Secondary school champs and was organized by Michelle and taken to Tauranga for the event. This was to be the only time due to the clashes of the NZ Mixed fours playoffs and unable to confirm until the last minute.

Michelle continued to go to Centre meetings with reports and update for us with information on upcoming events, sessions and how to help promote the sport in the region.

A full plan was set up for the year and schools were able to set and plan with their schools having five sessions. We had 19 confirmed schools in the region and 1065 students having a go.

An idea to have a Year 7-8 tournament for the schools who had sessions, was a great event to show case the skills learnt. Assistance from North Taranaki volunteers and executives this event was held and was a complete success. 38 teams from different schools took part and following the success wanted more sessions the following year. Other rewards was some clubs had new junior members, joining with parents and making a success.

Other cluster events were started with biggest held at Okato. The sub centre run this but find problems with schools not turning up on the day due to a number of reasons. Michelle also put together another cluster event at Patea for the senior classes of primary schools.

Michelle attended the NZIB AGM with a presentation of her role and how the sessions worked in the schools and I am sure that the rest of NZ wanted her in their areas doing the same.

## **2014**

Michelle planned the year in late 2013 which show a strong interest in requesting more sessions and started to ask many of the local bowlers to assist with sessions.

28 schools were booked for the three or four sessions each interested class, by the end of the year we had 1760 students having a go and being interested in the sport.

The cluster event at Okato had increased numbers and Michelle continued to work the Bowls academy. Only one school didn't turn up and there was still more work to refine the problem.

Michelle attended the AIMS games with Coastal Area School, with a team of ten and some of the members have gone on to become members of local clubs.

The Year 7-8 tournament was growing in size that Central hall was getting too small, so a mat went down in the supper room for the first time. 45 teams and some of the students are now representing the Taranaki and North Taranaki in the junior rep teams.

The interest in the Taranaki Secondary school event is starting to show the Central Hall is not big enough as more schools wish to enter more teams. Each team has 7 members (pairs, singles and four team).

Some students supported the North Island Secondary school event in Tauranga but numbers were not great. Mainly due to a clash in the North Taranaki Programme and the timing of the event.

NZ Secondary schools numbers started to increase due to the work Michelle has done with High school sport coordinators and we had new schools taking part, as we had nine students attend the event and we had the player of the tournament and of course the Hawera High won the Pairs event.

AT North Taranaki we were offered to do a ODT (Operational Development Trial) for the Centre to see if we were compliant with Sport Structure. This was free from the Sport Trust. An interesting in depth look into the structure of North Taranaki Indoor Bowls. We found out a few things that needed a look and started to act on them.

## **2015**

41 schools confirmed with 269 sessions for the year.

Taranaki Secondary School event in May was huge with entries and a waiting list (Yes a waiting list due to limited numbers) not all the secondary school entered. During the event and after, there was talk the 2016 event will be held at the TSB stadium and numbers will climb now that there is no limit to the school teams. This was done with the work though Michelle and the boys from TSSSA.

To add to this at the end of the year when the older students are on leave for exams there is a sport week for Year 9-10 students and Michelle made a new speed game and the numbers that competed was 140 students and everyone enjoyed the day and this will only increase the game promotion and next year the May tournament will be huge. But the new event will continue to grow also.

Taranaki Year 7-8 tournament in 2015 was huge by numbers for the tournament and we needed to move the event to the star gym as the hall held 31 mats and 62 teams entered. As the stadium was

not available for the day and there were a few new schools involved and this will only continue to grow. Now who would have thought four years ago from 0 to 62 teams. Wow

Numbers for the juniors in clubs are doing well in Taranaki as this year we had to change the rep match between Taranaki and North Taranaki to 12 members in each team as we have so many to pick from and we believe Taranaki could have picked from at least 16 members. Most of the juniors are in their second year and show some real natural talent. Now we just need to keep them in the sport and show how great this sport can be for them. Including making a new event for them this next coming year.

NZ Secondary School event was supported well again with our numbers up around the 20 mark and so many new schools going for the first time. This came from the work Michelle is doing within the schools. Waitara High and St Mary School enjoyed their first experience so much, they have started planning of next year. Along with Hawera High, Spotswood College, Inglewood and Coastal Area School they are continuing to support it. So I hope there is a plan for a larger hall for the event next year.

Volunteers this year received two lots of thankyou's and this was due to the role at the sport trust. Firstly in May, ten people received hoodies and were presented and thanked for their work in the schools, positions in executives, coaching and coordination of juniors. The second one was Val Webster, nominated for lotto monthly draw and won and received more merchandised to the value of \$500. Plus in our region the sport trust give out to the their volunteers a discount card to use at some store around Taranaki another thing that we got once this role was started.

Michelle was involved with events at Tui Ora and just last month Tu Mai event which bowls had the biggest entries over the event.

## **Summary**

So to wrap this report up , 2011 we didn't support the Taranaki Sport awards, but every year since, we are pushing our sport alongside the rugby, baseball, surfing etc. winning the event in 2012. It's all about promotion and showing people how good our sport is out there. If you heard the small amount we did in 2011 and the growth each year now with Michelle's role is more than ever important now to our region and our sport. With the growth, no unpaid volunteer could put the time in and keep the growth continuing. We must thank the forth sight of NZIB along with funding support of NZ Community Trust and Sport Taranaki or making our Sport Co-Ordinator position work.

In the future North Taranaki and Taranaki Centre need to find other ways to fund this position to continue and kept this sport alive. We just wish other centres could take on the huge step we did (believe me it was huge and there where many out there saying what a waste of time. But you don't hear a thing from them now)

Thank you