

## **Wairarapa Award Winners 2008**

### **Contribution to Umpiring – Suzannah van Woerkom**

Over the last few years Suzannah has worked extremely hard and developed into an excellent umpire. She has previously umpired at 2 Collier Tournaments in 2006 and 2007 and locally she has umpired games in the Senior Mens and Womens grades, and also the Premier College Grade both in the Wairarapa and in Wellington. This year Suzannah represented the Wairarapa at the U16 Girls National Tournament in Christchurch where she was assigned a semi final and a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> place play off game on finals day. She was also awarded a certificate at this Tournament for the most improved umpire and invited to umpire at the top secondary schoolgirls tournament, The Federation Cup. NZ Hockey have recommended that she continue to umpire and seek selection to higher age groups of National Tournaments. Suzannah is very dedicated to umpiring and I'm sure with support from the Association she will continue to improve and achieve even bigger things.

### **Supporter of the Year – Bernard Lett**

Bernard has shown his support to Wairarapa Hockey in many capacities over the last few years. This year has been no different. He has held the position of assistant coach to the Wairarapa College Boys 1<sup>st</sup> XI, and also to the U16 Boys...ever present, taking fitness training and also full training sessions when the Coaches weren't available. Bernard was also Manager of the successful U18 Boys team in Levin. He organised every aspect of the season in a very efficient and calm manner. At both tournaments he was van driver, physio, masseur, BBQ meister and launderer. Bernard shows his experience in a team sports environment and is renowned for his inspirational and motivational pre-match team talks.

### **Coach / Administrator of the Year – Lance Hare**

This year Lance was successful in bringing together an U18 Boys Rep. Team who won their Championship Tournament and gained promotion to next year's Premier Competition. He did this despite there being only 7 or 8 boys present at both the trials. Lance's knowledge of hockey is vast and his commitment to his favourite sport is unquestionable. At the same time Lance has also coached a successful Wairarapa College Girls 1<sup>st</sup> XI. This dedication of endless hours to practices and games is invaluable in helping to develop young Wairarapa talent.

### Contribution to Wairarapa Hockey – Bruce Perry

Within the next couple of months the Wairarapa are going to be seeing work start on the installation of a second full sized hockey turf here at Clareville. Anybody who has been involved in some of the work leading up to this point will know that without the involvement of one person this would never be happening. Bruce Perry has worked tirelessly for the last 6 months researching information, arranging and attending meetings, presenting power point presentations and putting together grant applications, plus much more. His work alone has secured the Wairarapa Turf Trust with enough capital to start what has been seen by many for the last few years as an impossible dream.

### Young Achievers of the Year – Chloe Stevens & Trent Lett

At just 15 Chloe Stevens has become a valuable member of the Dalefield Premier Women's team that this year finished 4th in the Wellington Competition. She has had an outstanding season and has played consistently well and with the confidence of a player that is well above her age and experience. Chloe was also the Captain of the Wairarapa U16 team that completed at National Tournament in Christchurch finishing 14th. She performed well and was a credit to the Wairarapa.

Trent was Captain of last year's U15 Team in Napier, a job that he was again given at this year's U16 Tournament in Dunedin. Trent proved to be ever dependable in his midfield role, a natural leader who always applies himself fully whether it be to a practice session or a game. He is a great role model and an inspiration to the other players in his team, he has shown maturity well beyond his years and has been identified by our RDO as a player with great potential.

### Colt of the Year (Girls) – Meagan Parker

Meagan has been an important member of several teams this year; Wairarapa College 1<sup>st</sup> Girls Hockey Team [vice captain] Finishing with a National ranking of 9<sup>th</sup>, Wairarapa under 18's Girls Hockey; Finishing with a National Ranking of 8<sup>th</sup>, and also Dalefield Women's Premier Team; Finishing in the Top 4 in the Wellington Competition.

Meagan has also represented Wairarapa at National Tournaments for the past 8 years for a total of over 140 games and has represented Wairarapa College for the past 5 years for a total of 135 games.

The above figures can only give an indication of the countless hours that Meagan has put into training and practicing with 2008 being her best year yet. She won MVP at this year's Federation Cup while playing at Centre Half....a pivotal role in maintaining Wai Coll's position at this prestige tournament.

Meagan has developed over the years into a very skillful and committed player with a vision to achieving a place in an NHL team over the next 2 years.

### Colt of the Year (Boys) – Rowan Yeo

Rowan was this year selected to play in the Wellington U21 Team that finished 3rd in the National Tournament in May. During this tournament Rowan used his skill as a striker to score 4 goals. He has played his club hockey for Dalefield Premier Men's Team, they finished 5th in the Wellington Competition. Rowan became captain for this side for the 2nd half of the season. He has used his ability and experience to become an inspirational leader and a great team player to a team that included young inexperienced players who at times lacked guidance on the field.

### Sportswoman of the Year – Ana May Playle

Ana has again this year played her hockey for the Dalefield Club in the Premier Wellington Competition. She is an inspiration to those players around her, many of whom are young and relatively inexperienced at this level of hockey. She leads by example, plays fair and always gives 110%, she expects the same of those that play with her. Her commitment to Wairarapa Hockey is unquestionable.

Ana was this year selected to play for Capital in the NHL Competition and also to represent the NZ Moari Team.

### Sportsman of the Year – Dane Lett

Dane has been a member of the Wai Coll Boys 1<sup>st</sup> XI for all of his 5 years at Wairarapa College. This team won the India Shield in 2006, and with Dane as Captain have maintained a position in the top secondary schools hockey competition for 2007 and 2008 – The Rankin Cup.

This year Dane has also captained an U18 Boys Team who won their National Tournament. He is a quiet captain, who leads by example and always gives his very best.

Dane has played his club hockey for Dalefield, this exposure to a higher level led to Dane being selected for the Central Mavericks NHL Squad, and making all subsequent cuts to securing himself a place in the final team to play in Auckland, what a fantastic achievement!