

Message from the new President of PNZ



As you are no doubt aware a new board was elected at the recent AGM in Rotorua and since then they have elected me (Stefany Frost, Dunedin) as president and Richard Turfrey (Wanganui) as vice president for the coming year. The rest of the team is Barrie Anderson (Auckland), Sarah-Jane Wright (Hawkes Bay) and Claire Bradburn (Wellington). Both Brian Smith (Treasurer, Wellington) and Barbara Whittington (Secretary, Wellington) have confirmed their availability for the coming year also. I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself to members and outline some of the areas the board and I will be focusing on in the coming year.

I was born and bred in Dunedin and I still live in Dunedin by choice, despite the weather! I live with my husband Neville, whom many of you will know from the petanque circuit, daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren ranging from 8 to 16 years, in a large old Victorian house close to the beach at St. Clair. I work two days a week in a mobile counselling service for children called "ChatBus" and run a small private practice from home as a Clinical Psychologist. I do many other things, but my main interest in recent years has been Petanque. Initially as a member of the Caversham Club and more recently as a founding member of a new club Dunedin City Petanque. Getting Dunedin City club up and running has meant a constant round of fundraising and dealings with the local city council. Unfortunately having raised the money necessary to put down the terrains, we then found out that the site is an old landfill and as such it is deemed to be a contaminated site. This has caused delays and frustrations, but I believe we are now on the home straight with this and anticipate the terrains will be operational within the next few months....fingers crossed.

The strengths I bring to this position and to the board in general are business management (I have run a successful business for 26 years), communication and people skills and a clear and logical thinking process. I believe I am organised, efficient and hardworking and am fully committed to the role. While I am a relative newcomer to petanque compared to many of you, I know there is a wealth of experience on the board and in the petanque community in general that I/we can (and will) draw on.

There are many areas that the board needs to focus its attention on in the coming months, but perhaps the most significant of these is to improve communication both **to** members from the board via regular updates on the website, our facebook site, the magazine and directly to clubs and **from** members, clubs and regions. We will assist this by hosting an open forum on the Friday night before every National Tournament (5-6pm), which all members from the tournament and regional clubs will be invited to participate in. We really do want to know what members and clubs think (good and bad).

Other key areas the board will be focusing on are:-

- Finalising and distributing PNZ's strategic plan which has been developed over recent months.
- Distributing our draft youth policy for discussion and helping clubs to implement the plan once finalised.
- Increasing participation in the game (promoting and helping clubs to promote petanque, sharing ideas on what works and what doesn't work, developing resources for clubs to use and so on).
- Revitalising our umpiring and coaching systems and ensuring these are effective for all members from club level to national players.
- Undertaking a review of the constitution to ensure it provides the most effective governance for our sport
- Continuing to review our selection process to ensure maximum participation and to achieve the best possible balance between developing new players, cost effectiveness and improving our international experience and success.
- Promoting a strong message about the expected code of conduct for players at all levels and a zero tolerance for breaches to this code.

There are doubtless many other issues that will arise during the year, so it will be a busy but hopefully constructive year for the board. As a board we are just five people and obviously cannot achieve our goals without the help and support of the wider petanque community. Many of you have identified yourselves as ready, willing and able to help with various projects and I assure you we will be taking you up on these offers. Our first full board meeting is on 17/18 May and from then onwards we intend to have monthly skype meetings the dates of which will be published once a schedule has been produced, so that members or clubs know when the deadlines are to submit issues, queries, comments or concerns to the board. The board takes seriously any issue that members or clubs want us to consider, but these must be in writing to the secretary (Petanque New Zealand, P O Box 31127, Lower Hutt, New Zealand or secretary@petanquenz.com) at least 2-3 days before the board meeting.

I looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming year and I am always ready to listen to your thoughts and ideas so please feel free to bend my ear (except during a game).

See you on the piste
Stefany Frost