

### From the Chair

Hey everyone,

Welcome to the first edition of Titans' Times for 2025!

I hope you have all had an excellent summer and managed to take a break from hockey. North Harbour likes to keep us on our toes and start the season pretty early, so we have already been up at the turf with our promised pre-season trainings. These have been awesome and something we look forward to doing even more with next year. We've now rolled straight into trials - selections will be tough!

Keep an eye on our socials and website for more news this year. We will be communicating some of the feedback and planned improvements as a result of our end of year survey, as well as other fun planned for the season ahead. Read below to see our key dates and block these out in your diary now!

We are still on the lookout for a couple of coaches and managers this year so if you're keen to give back to the club, get amongst it! It takes a lot of hard work to keep the club operating, so the more people we have to help, the easier it becomes.

Excited for a great 2025 and hope to see you all at Taka Day on the 8th of March!

Jo



2024 Takapuna Youth teams after their final matches

## Youth Hockey 2024

### The future of Takapuna Hockey Club

Catering for Years 7-10, the Youth Hockey season runs over Oct-Dec each year; for 2024, we entered 4 boys and 2 girls teams into the competitions. Games were played on Monday evenings and a number of training/skills sessions were held throughout the season as well.

Whilst there are points on the line for every game (& yes, in true Taka style our teams filled spots at the top end of the table), the development and growth of the next generation of Takapuna Hockey Club superstars is the primary focus. Each team has 1-2 experienced adults playing alongside the children, helping them gain an understanding of team-play and strategy in a live game situation; invaluable skills that are designed to prepare our next generation for the next step - senior club hockey.

Massive thanks to the Jo's (Neves, Hollis & Windust) for organising everything this season!



<https://www.mitoq.com/nz>



[www.gohockey.co.nz](http://www.gohockey.co.nz)

## Post-season highlights

On the back of a highly successful 2024 season, a number of club members took out categories at the NHHA Awards. This culminated in Takapuna winning Club of The Year – testament to the countless volunteer hours put into organising everything from uniforms to social events, the fantastic coaches and managers, the fill-in umpires, and of course the talent of our players. Just some of the awards our members took home were:



Celebrating winning Club of The Year

- The Merv Huxford Award – Harley Kopa
- NHC P1 Players Player – George Muir & Robbie Capizzi
- Contribution to Pasifika Hockey – Seb Vanui
- Service to Sustainability – Sheryl Blythen
- U16 Boys Player of The Year – Ethan Swanepoel
- Services to Umpiring – Jack Bramah
- U18 Boys Player of The Tournament – Tanner Kusch

## NZ U21Men

Two of our P1 Mens side from 2024, Rocco Ludolph and Aiden Bax, are taking part in the Oceania Junior World Cup Qualifying tournament, being held on home soil at Lloyd Elsmore Park over January 29<sup>th</sup> to February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025.

This tournament serves as a pivotal platform for this group of talented young athletes aspiring to secure a spot in the team for the Junior World Cup (to be held in India) in December 2025.

All games will be streamed via [Hockey TV](#) or better still, head on out to LEP and make some noise for the NZ side.

Congratulations Rocco and Aiden; the club is proud of your achievements.



## 2025 Season

The start of the season is just around the corner so it's time to get these dates in your diary now! Particularly important is **March 8<sup>th</sup>** – the return of the “Taka Day” that has been so popular in the pre-covid era. This year it will also incorporate the AGM; we have to mix a short bit of serious amongst all the fun, sorry!

Have you registered for this season? Visit <http://takapunahockeyclub.org.nz/register> to get it done!