

HISTORY

Over a long weekend of sun-drenched, bowls-filled days, the NZ Under-18 and Under-25 side played hard and won an historic victory against Australia in the Junior Trans-Tasman Test Series at the Birkenhead Bowling Club.

Having lost the trophy every year since the Under-18 competition began in 2002, it was especially satisfying for the New Zealand side to not only win the elusive Under-18 Combined Trophy, but also take home five of the six trophies in the competition (Australia won the Under-25 Men's Trophy). "We're absolutely over the moon," says Bowls New Zealand National Coach Dave Edwards excitedly. "It's a proud moment for the side and for New Zealand." Of course it was no easy task; there were set backs, disappointments and some tough competition for all the teams involved.

From the first day, which augured well for the series as New Zealand won three of the four tests, the Under-18 Women Emma Le Lievre and Kirsten Griffin started what was to be an

unbeatable partnership throughout the series; a partnership that turned the tables on the Australians and all but won the trophy for the combined Under-18 side. "Kirsten was our outstanding Singles player," says Bowls New Zealand Under-18 Coach Terry Scott. "However, Emma's skills as skipper in the Pairs were outstanding, and were in evidence particularly in the last few ends where the girls' efforts went a long way to winning the title."

The Under-18 Men also made an excellent contribution, with Monte Pawa making a great debut at the tournament and Ryan Khan bringing his experience and skill to the team; winning a number of nail-biting Singles contests against Australians Aaron Teys and Martin Miller.

It was a different story for the Under-25 Women. Although all the women played superbly, Clare McCaul bowled particularly well against highly regarded Australian player Sam Shannahan to score some tremendous Singles wins. The Women's Four of Mandy Boyd (skip), Misty Arnold, Gemma Collett and Amy Brenton were equally exciting to watch.

For the Under-25 Men's team the reverse was true. With well-deserved and hard won points made on the first day, the New Zealand men couldn't keep the momentum going in tests two and three. Despite some fine bowling, the New Zealanders were outplayed by an exceptional Australian team that pulled out all the stops to win the trophy.



Pictured from left, back row - Monte Pawa, Clare McCaul, Kirsten Griffin, Misty Arnold, Amy Brenton, Gemma Collett, Emma Le Lievre and Dave Edwards (National Coach); front row - Sharon Sims (National Youth Bowls Coordinator and Coach - U25), Mark Watt, Mandy Boyd, Ryan Khan, Andrew Kelly, Greg Ruaporo, Matt Gallop, Chris Le Lievre and Terry Scott (NZ Selector and Coach - U18).

MADE AT JUNIOR TRANS-TASMAN TEST SERIES



Bowls NZ President Coral Wing with the winning New Zealand U25 Womens Side.

Results

26-28 February 2010

Nominal Overall Under-25 Trophy: New Zealand beat Australia 26 – 22 (game points)

Under-25 Women's Trophy: New Zealand beat Australia 16 – 8 (game points)

Under-25 Men's Trophy: Australia beat New Zealand 16 – 10 (game points)

Under-18 Combined Trophy: New Zealand beat Australia

Under-18 Women's Trophy: New Zealand beat Australia 10 – 8 (game points)

Under-18 Men's Trophy: New Zealand beat Australia 10 – 8 (game points)

Thanks!

To the Birkenhead Bowling Club for their assistance and the many volunteers who assisted with the event.



Gemma Collett.



Andrew Kelly.



Far North's Monte Pawa.



Kirsten Griffin and Dave celebrate the win.



Ryan Khan.

Images: Crispin Anderlini - www.crispinanderlini.com