

PLAYER PROFILE

GREG RUAPORO

Blockhouse Bay's Greg Ruaporo was named in the 2011 Black Jacks Squad – achieving what he describes as his proudest moment, and "long term goal". Now that his first goal is out of the way Greg has a new one – to represent New Zealand at the Commonwealth Games and become "world number one".

The young bowling star was introduced to bowls through his godparents; "I became a member at Grey Lynn Bowling Club where they played and my first ever game of bowls I played was indoor - which I won." His parents are also a huge support.

Greg first arrived on the national scene at the National Secondary Schools Championships in 2006, where he took out the singles title. Following this up with a second title at the 2007 tournament, he established himself as one to watch in the future. His first call up to a New Zealand team was in 2009, where he represented

NZ in the U18 Trans Tasman Test Series, which he followed up with an U25 call up in 2010.

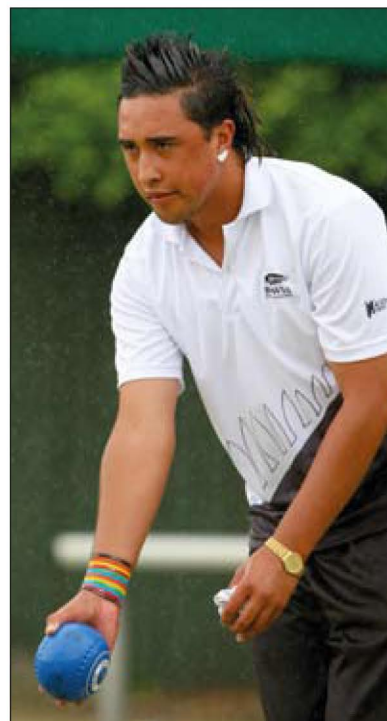
The 2010-2011 season saw the young Aucklander really come into his own on the green, starting with a win in the prestigious Burnside Pairs tournament alongside Shaun Scott in what was described as the "best final in years". Greg then went on to win the Auckland Centre Men's Singles Title, and after winning the regional play off in Kerikeri was rewarded with a place at the NZCT National Club Championships where he narrowly missed out on first place. In the final round he faced Black Jack Shannon McIlroy, defeating him 21-15 – a huge achievement in anyone's books.

Greg credits his success on the green to his commitment to coaching and personal development; particularly through giving him "the ability to manage time with training, work, and social life" as well as helping "with ability to have shot selections on the green and increased my skill level a lot."

When he's not on the green Greg enjoys playing touch and basketball, as well as computer games and watching cartoons.

He comments that working with a mentor helps him to keep up to date with regulation changes, but also teaches him about other NZ players' achievements – showing him just how high a level it is possible to aspire to. And with an aim to become world number one, Greg will definitely be one to watch in the future.

2011 NZCT National Club Championships.



At the 2009 U18 Trans Tasman Test Series.



Winning the 2006 National Secondary Schools Championships.

Quick Facts:

- **Favourite Movie:**
The Express: The Ernie Davis Story
- **Time in Bowls:** 11 years
- **Favourite Food:**
Chicken fried rice
- **Dream Job:** Police Officer
- **Dream Destination:** Las Vegas

