

SECONDARY SCHOOL CHAMPS FOUND

This year's Bowls NZ National Secondary School Champions were Forest View High School's Ryan Khan and Napier Girls High School's Mandy Boyd taking out the singles titles at the Pakuranga Bowling Club in Auckland, mid December.

Defending girls singles champion Boyd successfully went back to back

winning her second and last National Secondary Schools title defeating Oamaru's Lanah Craik 16-8 in the final. Despite Meadowbank's Craik beating Boyd on two occasions during the main event, she was unable to hold out the former under-25 New Zealand representative in the final to finish as runner-up at this year's event after previously being unbeaten.

Putaruru's 17-year-old Khan became the National Secondary Schools king after defeating tournament dark horse Monte Pawa from Kaiti College in convincing style 20-6 in a one sided final. Pawa had earlier defeated Khan in the main event, but again the experience of the former under-18 representative proved too much for Pawa to complete a double giving Pawa the runner-up position after putting on some fantastic displays on the road to the final.

The boy's pairs discipline saw defending champions Josh Boyd and Tu Solomon unable to complete the double after a great display of bowls from Cameron Higgins and Nicholas Tomsett from Tauranga Boys College put a stop to any celebrations of a back to back title by a solitary shot 13-12.

The girl's pairs final was won more comfortably, with Nelson's talented duo of Julia Hodgson and Kelly Brenton defeating the previously unbeaten combination of Napier Girls High School's Tessa Hocking and Malia Begley 12-4 in a dominating fixture.

Stoke's Josh Thompson ran out comfortably in third place in the boys singles after beating St Patrick's Tim Toomey 20-10 in the play-off. James and Greg Bishop from Kavanagh College took away third place in the boys pairs after beating Thomas Coulman and Scott Johnson 13-7.

In the girls singles Rebecca Jelley of Westlake Girls High School smashed Linwood College's Connie Rowlands 21-2 to finish in third place and third place for the girls pairs went to Katelyn Inch and Brittany Tyson from St Margarets College after they defeated defending champions Kate Willyams and Olivia Smith 11-4 in the play-off game.

Shortly after the tournament's finish, the under-18 New Zealand representative sides were named and based on a stellar performance, Far North's Monte Pawa will debut against Australia at the upcoming Trans-Tasman fixture later this month. Bowls NZ National Coach Dave Edwards believed the standard of this year's play was up a notch and said it was good to see the newer players putting pressure on some of the big names. "Once again it was a fantastic event and this year a host of names that we (selectors) had never heard of emerged from the field which was pleasing to see. "They are really great prospects for the future," Edwards said.

The next National Secondary Schools Championships will be held in Dunedin.



Pictured, from top left: Khan, Hodgson and Brenton; from middle left: Higgins and Tomsett, Boyd; bottom: medal winners.