



‘an ocean
of solidarity’



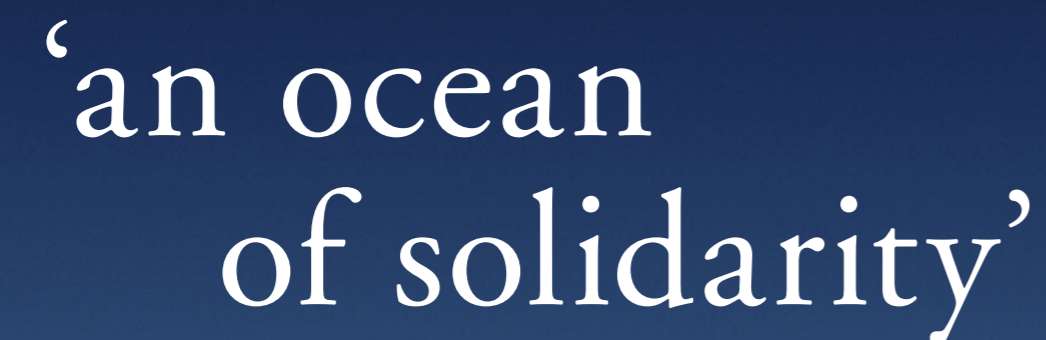
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Activity Report

March 2004 — September 2006





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Message from the OFC President

“As we look forward to the future the signs are good that the OFC will develop and mature into a force in world football in coming years.”



It gives me great pleasure to offer you a comprehensive account of the Oceania Football Confederation’s tasks and projects with the OFC Activity Report for the period March 2004 — September 2006.

The past two years have seen a transformation in the infrastructure of the game as the FIFA Goal programme together with our own infrastructure grants continues to improve the framework of the OFC Member Associations. These initiatives by FIFA and OFC have improved, promoted and strengthened development across the OFC region to an unprecedented level. We now have fully functioning offices and facilities in all of our Member Associations and this will help boost the development of the game in our region.

Since the departure of Australia from the OFC to the AFC, opportunities for our Member Associations to qualify for FIFA events has increased and I am pleased to see our presence heightened on the world stage. The New Zealand U-20 women’s sterling performance at the FIFA U2-0 Women’s World Championship in Russia, Auckland City FC qualifying for the FIFA Club World Cup in Japan, and the Solomon Islands qualification for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Brazil rank as excellent achievements and signals OFC’s arrival at the highest level of the game.

Since assuming the Oceania Football Confederation presidency in 2004 I have made it my priority to focus attention on utilising football as a development tool for the youth in our region. To that end, I have met with representatives of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, EU, UN, and UNESCO, among others to discuss proposals that will see the OFC playing an active role in youth education, leaders training, and policies of public health, economic development, cultural exchanges and community development. Football has the power to make the world a better place and the response to these initiatives has been very encouraging.

As we look forward to the future the signs are good that the OFC will develop and mature into a force in world football in coming years. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest thanks to all members of the global football family for their continued assistance which has been remarkable in every respect.

REYNALD TEMARII
OFC PRESIDENT



OFC and its Member Associations

OFC continues to maintain positive relationships with all Member Associations as the “Ocean of Solidarity” strengthens providing support and leadership when required but also allowing associations to keep their autonomy and grow.

The game in American Samoa is currently in a state of transition where a ‘Normalisation Committee’ continues to guide the future of football in the country. In September 2006 Pou Supapo was appointed as its new chairperson. This internal change within the ‘Normalisation Committee’ received full support from OFC and FIFA and is seen as another positive step of the ‘Roadmap Activities’ project that is in the process of reinstating football ownership to the American Samoan football community.

The inauguration of the FIFA Goal Project provided CIFA with a house of football and national academy and has played a significant role in football in the Cook Islands overtaking the traditionally popular codes of rugby and rugby league in terms of participation. CIFA continues to run its development programmes and regularly holds competitions on a national scale despite the geographical obstacles. A core of talented young players currently ply their trade in New Zealand and Australia.

Without doubt the pinnacle events of the Fiji FA calendar are the Inter-District Championship, the Battle of the Giants, and the Fiji FACT tournaments attracting wide interest across the Oceania region. These tournaments continue to provide revenue for the national association and are a sign of domestic supremacy. The highlight of the last 12 months was the successful OFC U-12 Festival of Football

with teams brought together from across the region to celebrate the 40th year of the OFC. Fiji performed with distinction as both competitors and hosts.

New Caledonia became the 205th member of FIFA during the 54th FIFA Congress in Paris, France in May 2004, and despite being a consistent performer at OFC tournaments since the 1950s, was officially be inducted as the 12th full member of the Oceania football family at the OFC Extraordinary Congress in Port Vila,

Vanuatu on 10 July 2004. New Caledonia also added another milestone in 2006 with their first participation in women’s football at confederation level at the U-20 championship in Samoa. New Caledonian footballs most famous son and Lifou-native Christian Karembeu, a FIFA World Cup with France in 1998 became a FIFA Ambassador for OFC in 2006 and has since undertaken several visits to the region.

New Zealand’s international profile has lifted considerably in recent years with the All Whites playing more international fixtures including a glamour tie against Brazil in the days leading up to the FIFA World Cup — Germany 2006. New Zealand’s 3-1 win against Georgia provided their first ever win on European soil and earlier in the year the All Whites also played their first home internationals in four years against Malaysia. The domestic competition — the New Zealand Football



Championship — was launched in 2004 and is now in its third season and showing signs of success. As well as providing domestic talent with a platform for further success the league also allows the region’s top talent to play at a higher level than their home leagues would allow. Auckland City FC claimed the first two NZFC titles and under Coach Allan Jones won the 2006 OFC Club Championship and qualified for the 2006 FIFA Club World Cup in Japan. The women’s game received a boost with qualification for the 2006 FIFA U-20 Women’s World Championship in Russia where the side performed with distinction. New Zealand’s commitment to developing the women’s game has seen them rewarded with the right to host the inaugural FIFA U-17 Women’s World Championship in 2008.

With no recognised national league, only an annual national club championship and a national association cup PNGFA took the step of introducing a franchise-based semi-professional National Soccer League featuring five clubs from around the country. However, perhaps the real success over the past years has been the continued development of women’s football. Traditionally, Port Moresby is where the strength of the women’s code currently resides, but results at recent national women’s club championship gives evidence that the balance of power was becoming more even with good performances from clubs representing other associations. The commitment to the development of women’s football is evident with the criteria for National Soccer League clubs including a requirement to field a women’s team.

The inauguration of the 2nd phase of the FIFA Goal Project a new House of Football incorporating national headquarters at the Tolefoa JS Blatter Football Fields took place in August 2005 and gave Samoa high hopes that the continued improvement of the game continues at pace. Samoa’s performances at the 2006 OFC U-20 Women’s Championship on home soil were nothing short of excellent. Samoa dominated their group with an unblemished winning record that saw them through to a semi-final against Tonga. The match of the tournament ended in a 2-3 defeat but only after Samoa surrendered a 2-1 lead. Samoa eventually finished in 4th position.

The big movers in Oceania the Solomon Islands emerged from years of civil unrest with football as the leading force in helping the country get back on its feet. The success of the senior national team at the 2004 OFC Nations Cup/ FIFA World Cup — Germany 2006 qualifiers sent the country into frenzy, and was followed up by the hosting of the OFC U-20 Championships in early 2005.

Also in 2005 the Solomon Cup returned to the event calendar with crowds in excess of 15,000 attending everyday of competition at Lawson Tama Stadium. Finally, the Solomon Bilikiki created history by qualifying for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, the first Pacific Island nation to reach a FIFA world finals event.

With the construction of the only specialised beach soccer pitch in the region, Tahiti can rightly claim to be the home of beach soccer in Oceania. The hugely successful hosting of the inaugural OFC Beach Soccer Championship, which doubled as a FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Qualifier, should ensure Tahiti retain this title in years to come. Tahiti’s 1st Phase FIFA Goal Project got underway in July of 2006 with the construction of a floodlit Technical Centre expected to be inaugurated later in the year.

Many were shocked by the death of His Majesty King Taufa’ahau Tupou IV who was the Patron of the Tongan Football Association and gifted the land that Tonga’s FIFA Goal Project was built on in 2004. The new facilities not only contain international standard fields, but also a national academy and new headquarters for TFA. Women’s football is in a healthy position in Tonga. After encouraging performances at the OFC U-19 Women’s Championship and in the South Pacific Games, Tonga finished runners-up to New Zealand at the 2006 OFC U-20 Women’s Championship.

The Vanuatu Football Federation inaugurated its FIFA Goal Project, a National Football Academy and two playing pitches in August 2005. Continued development will see further extensions added that include accommodation facilities and an education centre. The passing of long-serving VFF President Johnny Tinsley-Lulu was a blow for the nation and the Oceania football family as a whole. Tinsley-Lulu is credited with developing football as the number one sport in Vanuatu and was famed for his commitment to youth development.

Australia ended their second stint in OFC on January 1, 2006 having qualified for the FIFA World Cup for the first time in 22 years. After a structural and constitutional reform the rebranded Football Federation Australia undertook several key tasks including the launch of the new A-League, providing a platform for the senior national team to succeed, and entry into Asia. Australia continues to provide support to OFC despite their departure.

With five Associate Members to be admitted in 2006 OFC looks forward to assisting in the development and growth of its newest additions as well as continuing its support for the full Member Associations.

‘an ocean of solidarity’



OFC Administration

In order to meet the needs of the Member Associations and stakeholders it is essential that the OFC Administration is effective in its operations. OFC currently has a staff of nine and works closely with the FIFA Development Office.

The OFC President is supported in his role by the members of his executive office.

Under the leadership of General Secretary Tai Nicholas the OFC General Secretariat continues to grow and develop. The General Secretary heads the OFC Administration and is responsible for implementing the decisions of the OFC Executive Committee.

The OFC General Secretariat has grown to include International Relations, Technical Development, Competitions, Media and Communications, and Finance.

Internal Relations are becoming increasingly important for OFC as partnerships between the confederation and international and regional bodies, as such a dedicated division has been established within the OFC administration.

Under the umbrella of technical development falls the organization of training courses for coaches and referees, and the promotion of women's football, futsal and beach soccer. The technical department is at the forefront of many innovations for the confederation.

The competitions take care of the organisation of OFC championships and qualifying tournaments for FIFA competitions,

making sure that all FIFA requirements are fulfilled, and working closely with local organizing committees and Member Associations in terms of their domestic competitions.

Finance takes care of incoming and outgoing payments keep the accounts and produce financial strategies and budgets. In 2005 OFC introduced a Financial Assistance Programme based on the FIFA FAP model.



International Relations

The Oceania Football Confederation has a role to play in developing education, public health, cultural understanding, community development and economic development for all of its young stars of tomorrow.

With this in mind OFC has entered a series of formal discussions to develop partnerships with leading agencies and organisations with the view to improving the standard of life for the football family of Oceania.

Organisations such as UNESCO, the Secretariat of Pacific Community, the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum, the European Union, Alliance Francaise, the French Government, the French Polynesia Government, and the United Nations have all signalled their intention to partner with football to achieve their key missions.

In a similar vein football bodies such as FIFA and the English FA have also pledged to lend a hand with a series of national and regional development policies designed to help football grow in the region.

In 2006 the OFC President initiated the OFC U-12 Festival of Football as a way to foster relations and understanding between Member Associations of the region. The Festival of Football concept was designed to use football as a learning tool, exposing the youth of the region to useful experiences within the South Pacific, helping them to become more aware of their surroundings and the differences and uniqueness of the region, through a four-day celebration of Oceania culture.

The first day of the Festival was dedicated to cultural exchange, where all participants are encouraged to share experiences and learn about each other, followed by a further three days of exchange on the football field.

With the assistance of the French Embassy in Fiji and the cooperation of the Fiji FA the Festival was an outstanding success.

The FIFA Ambassador Programme in OFC also continues to assist Member Associations reach out to the wider community with



Wynton Rufer visiting Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Christian Karembeu visiting Tahiti and New Caledonia.

In July 2006 Karembeu, together with the OFC President and OFC Deputy General Secretary attended the South Pacific Youth Conference in Tahiti. Over 2,000 youth from 18 Pacific Island countries traveled to Papeete and with assistance from the FIFA Football for Hope fund OFC was able to provide a message of education and capacity building through football to the future leaders of the region.



Communications, Media and Marketing

Without doubt communications, media and marketing are all some of the most crucial areas of the organisation and areas of continued development and improvement for OFC.

The biggest demand is always for results from OFC competitions, with the help of technology information can be transmitted quicker than before. Despite this, as with many areas within the region, the lag for parts of the Pacific to “catch up” to the rest of the world is an issue that needs to be treated on a case-by-case basis.

Not only has there been an effort to increase and improve communications from the confederation to the rest of the world, but also a push for Member Associations to do the same with OFC.



The OFC website is currently under review with a re-launch scheduled for late 2006. The success of the creation of websites for some Member Associations has been hit-or-miss with some utilizing it to its potential and others without the internal resource to maintain it.

A long-awaited e-newsletter is under construction, there is potential for the rebirth of the popular Wave magazine along with several other communications vehicles, as increased visibility and communication is the focus for OFC in the next 12 months.

Sponsorship is on the increase as the confederation looks to diversify its income sources, already fruitful partnerships have been forged with Lotto and Razorgator. Both were part of the family of sponsors at the 2006 OFC Beach Soccer Championship, the first self-funded OFC event.



With futsal still in its infancy in the Oceania region, we are encouraged by its steady growth which has culminated in the return of the OFC Futsal Championship after a five year hiatus. Along the same lines another event that has been recently restored is the OFC Club Championship. Having debuted in 1999 in Fiji, the OFC Club Championship was successfully reinstated in 2005 after the announcement of the return of the FIFA Club World Championship Toyota Cup in Japan.

OFC Competitions

In the youth sector, Australia continued their dominance at both U-17 and U-20 level capturing both titles in 2005. While the Young Socceroos and Joeys monopolized places at FIFA tournaments it was the emergence of Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands as real contenders at youth level that caught the eye.

Like futsal, women's football still in its infancy within most Member Associations and it was Australia and New Zealand — both with a history in women's football development — who claimed FIFA spots in the Olympic Women's Qualifiers and Women's U-20 tournaments.

The geography and lifestyle of the region lends itself naturally to Beach Soccer, and in 2006 it was welcomed to the competitions calendar. The OFC premiere on the island of Moorea near

Tahiti was proof to the potential packed into this attractive form of football. It was here that the Solomon Islands created history by becoming the first OFC Member Association from the Pacific Islands to qualify for a FIFA world championship.

Without doubt the pinnacle events within the Oceania football family are the OFC Nation's Cup and FIFA World Cup qualifying tournament. Previously held as stand-alone tournaments OFC introduced a new format which combined the two. Qualifiers were held in Samoa and the Solomon Islands, before a six-team round robin in Australia to find two teams to play in two home and away series for places in the FIFA Confederations Cup and FIFA World Cup — Germany 2006.

2004 OFC U-19 Women's Championship

Australia breezed through the OFC qualifiers overwhelming the Solomon Islands 13-0 and hosts Papua New Guinea 14-1. Both Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands selected squads with a view to developing the best players. The Solomons made their debut on the women's international scene by holding their more fancied opponents Papua New Guinea to a nil all draw in the opening match of the tournament.

While the Solomon Islands players lacked international experience, Papua New Guinea could boast only one player who had represented her country at senior level.



2004 OFC U-19 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Lloyd Robson Oval, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
20 – 24 April 2004

Participating Teams

Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands

Rankings

1. Australia
2. Papua New Guinea
3. Solomon Islands



FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship Thailand 2004

The tournament raised the bar and set a new standard for age-group women's football following the inaugural competition two years earlier. European heavyweights Germany continued to assert their dominance on women's football.

Australia opened with a 1-2 loss against Canada and a 0-4 defeat to eventual champions Germany. A resounding 5-0 victory over hosts Thailand guaranteed the Young Matildas place in the quarter finals as one of the two top finishing third placed teams. The quarter final against USA ended 0-2 with the Aussies resilient in defence but unable to effect their opponents goal.

Sally Shipard continued to impress with her ability at international level as did leading scorer Collette McCallum.

FIFA U-19 WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP — THAILAND 2004

10 – 27 November 2004

AUSTRALIA

Group Stage	10/11/04	1-2 vs. Canada
Group Stage	13/11/04	0-4 vs. Germany
Group Stage	16/11/04	5-0 vs. Thailand
Quarter Finals	21/11/04	0-2 vs. USA

Final Ranking 7th

Goal Scorers

Collette McCallum	(3)
Selin Kuralay	(1)
Kylie Ledbrook	(1)

REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

Jacqui Melksham — Australia

ASSISTANT REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

Sarah Ho — Australia
Michelle Treloar — Australia

FIFA APPOINTMENTS

Carol Waller — New Zealand
Committee for Women's Football and FIFA Women's Competitions
Dr. Selina Fusimalohi — Tonga
Sports Medical Committee

2004 OFC Olympic Women's Qualifiers

Australia continued to pull away from their OFC rivals in women's football as they comfortably qualified for the Olympic Football Tournament — Athens 2004 finishing as the only unbeaten team in the three team tournament with 10-0 and 7-0 victories over Papua New Guinea and Fiji respectively.

Papua New Guinea — the only island nation to have competed in every senior women's Oceania qualifiers to date — defeated Fiji 2-0 in the other match. Regarded as the top performing island nation in the women's game, Papua New Guinea selected an experienced side for the Olympic Women's Qualifiers with the bulk of the side that featured in the 2003 World Cup Qualifiers and South Pacific Games where they finished third and first respectively. Many expect PNG to push New Zealand as Oceania's number 1 women's football nation after Australia's departure.

To their credit the Fijians, big in physical stature and power, were a vastly improved side from previous tournaments. With the experience gained from hosting the South Pacific Games and the introduction of a women's Inter-District Competition Fiji continue to improve amongst their peers.

FIFA Olympic Football Tournament—Athens 2004 (Women's)

The introduction of continental qualifying competitions ensured that, for the first time, all six confederations were represented in the Women's Olympic Football Tournament. The two previous events in 1996 and 2000 saw only the eight best teams from the FIFA Women's World Cup compete.

Australia joined women's football heavyweights USA and Brazil and the hosts Greece in the group stage. The Matildas lost narrowly to finalists Brazil (0-1) but a 1-0 win over the Greeks, and an unexpected point against eventual champions USA (1-1) was enough to secure a passage to the quarter-finals.

An entertaining game in the quarter finals saw a 1-2 loss to Sweden — one of the leading lights in European football — and ended Australia's representation of Oceania at FIFA women's events.

The defensive pairing of Dianne Alagich and Cheryl Salisbury, teenage anchor Sally Shipard and impact player Lisa De Vanna all earned praise from the FIFA Technical Study Group and with the majority of the squad still in their 20's the future looks bright for the Matildas as they enter new territory in the Asian Football Confederation.

OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT — ATHENS 2004 (WOMEN'S)

11 – 28 August 2004

AUSTRALIA

Group Stage	11/08/04	0-1 vs. Brazil
Group Stage	14/08/04	1-0 vs. Greece
Group Stage	17/08/04	1-1 vs. USA
Quarter Finals	21/08/04	1-2 vs. Sweden

Final Ranking 5th

Goal Scorers

Lisa De Vanna	(1)
Heather Garriock	(1)
Joanne Peters	(1)

REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

Krystyna Szokolai — Australia

ASSISTANT REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

Airlie Keen — Australia
Jacqueline Leleu — Australia

2004 OFC WOMEN'S OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS

Govind Park, Ba, Fiji

2 – 4 March

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea

RANKINGS

1. Australia
2. Papua New Guinea
3. Fiji

FIFA Olympic Football Tournament—Athens 2004 (Men's)

The Men's Olympic Football Tournament was dominated by South America, with both teams from CONMEBOL fighting for the gold medal.

Boasting a team featuring no less than 12 players who featured in previous FIFA youth events and backed by the experience of current Socceroos John Aloisi, Tim Cahill, and Craig Moore Australia caught the eye with attacking football.

A 1-all draw against Tunisia was backed up by the 5-1 thumping of Serbia and Montenegro, and they rounded out their group matches with 0-1 loss to eventual gold medalists Argentina.

The suspension of key players Moore, Cahill and Ahmad Elrich — all standouts according to the FIFA Technical Study Group — hurt the Australians chances in the quarter-finals against the tournaments surprise package Iraq where they missed several crucial chances. Solid defender Adrian Madaschi was also nominated for praise by the experts.

The strength of the Olympic side will form the basis for future Socceroos campaigns.

OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS — ATHENS 2004

11 – 28 August 2004

AUSTRALIA

Group Stage	11/08/04	1-1 vs. Tunisia
Group Stage	14/08/04	5-1 vs. Serbia and Montenegro
Group Stage	17/08/04	0-1 vs. Argentina
Quarter Finals	21/08/04	0-1 vs. Iraq

Final Ranking 7th

Goal Scorers

John Aloisi	(3)
Ahmad Elrich	(2)
Tim Cahill	(1)

REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

Charles Ariiotima — Tahiti

ASSISTANT REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

Tony Meltetamat — Vanuatu

Michael Mouauri — Cook Islands

FIFA APPOINTMENTS

Reynald Temarii — Tahiti
Organising Committee for the Olympic Football Tournaments

Tautulu Roebeck — Samoa
Organising Committee for the Olympic Football Tournaments

Johnny Tinsley Lulu — Vanuatu
Referees' Committee

Jim Selby — Australia
Technical Study Group

2004 OFC Nations Cup/FIFA World Cup Germany 2006 Qualifiers

STAGE 1 (SAMOA, SOLOMON ISLANDS)

Due to logistical and financial issues the OFC Nations Cup and FIFA World Cup — Germany 2006 Qualifiers were held together for the first time in a three stage process. With Australia and New Zealand seeded through to Stage 2 the remaining Member Associations were drawn into two pools of five teams with the top two teams from each group advancing to the second stage in Adelaide.

Cook Islands, New Caledonia, Tahiti and Tonga traveled to the Solomon Islands in Group 1. It was the hosts and Tahiti who qualified for Stage 2 both boasting unblemished records. A 2-0 win by the Solomons over New Caledonia securing Tahiti's berth after the two French Territories had battled out a nil-all draw.



Samoa hosted neighbours American Samoa, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu. After receiving a bye on the first match day Fiji won three out of three matches to ensure their advancement from Samoa. The Fijians then suffered a 0-3 defeat at the hands of Vanuatu which pushed Papua New Guinea out of contention.

With Stage 1 of the OFC Nations Cup and FIFA World Cup — Germany 2006 Qualifiers completed Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, and Vanuatu joined traditional favourites Australia and New Zealand in Adelaide. Many expected the trans-Tasman rivals to prevail and face off in the home and away playoffs for the FIFA Confederations Cup and twelve months later for Oceania's half a spot in the FIFA World Cup — Germany 2006, but it was not to be.

STAGE 2 (ADELAIDE)

Ten days after the conclusion of the Stage 1 Qualifiers the six teams were in action. On paper the results went as expected in the opening eight matches of the Stage 2 Qualifiers, Australia had booked a place in Stage 3 with victories over New Zealand (1-0), Tahiti (9-0), and Fiji (6-1). New Zealand too, despite their opening loss to the Socceroos, were on track to join their neighbours in the playoffs until previously winless Vanuatu blew the competition open with a shock 4-2 victory over the All Whites.

With goal difference looking as though it would be the deciding factor between New Zealand and the Solomon Islands, the All Whites responded by thrashing Tahiti 10-0 and accounting for Fiji 2-0. The Solomons edged Fiji out 2-1 before an unlikely 2-all draw with Australia.

With the Socceroos expected to roll over the Solomons, the underdogs responded in kind to the lofty challenge with Commins Menapi the hero, scoring both goals for his side. Menapi opened the scoring and helped his team to shock 1-0 lead at half-time. However, the Socceroos maintained their composure to reply with goals to Tim Cahill and Brett Emerton in the second half. But with a quarter of an hour left in regulation time, Menapi equalised with a well taken goal.

Handicapped by the sending off of defender Patrick Kisnorbo, the home team was unable to find the winner and the Solomons held on for the draw and more importantly, a historic result to propel them into the final qualifying round for both the Nations Cup and the World Cup playoffs, denying New Zealand the runner up spot.



FIFA CONFEDERATIONS CUP PLAYOFF

Four months after the Stage 2 Qualifiers Australia and the Solomon Islands were playing for the OFC Nations Cup and a place in the FIFA Confederations Cup.

Australia arrived to football fever in the Honiara, the Solomons team returned from Adelaide months earlier as national heroes amid scenes of unbridled joy. The feel-good factor was immeasurable and there was an air of anticipation that another boil over was possible.

Despite the cautious confidence before the match the Socceroos claimed a 5-1 victory at Lawson Tama Stadium in Honiara. The Solomons team never looked like threatening the power of the Socceroos, despite a small fight back in the form of a Batram Suri goal.

Despite the long odds the Solomons fans certainly came out in force to cheer their national team, with a crowd estimated at 21,500 showing their support for the team that has done its country proud and helped reunify a nation.

In the return leg at Aussie Stadium in Sydney the Socceroos cruised to a 6-0 win to claim the OFC Nations Cup for the fourth time but their first since 2000.

FIFA WORLD CUP—GERMANY 2006 OFC PLAYOFF

12 months later Australia and the Solomon Islands renewed their new rivalry in a second home and away playoff to determine who would go forward to represent the Oceania and continue the chase for a spot at the FIFA World Cup — Germany 2006 against the fifth placed South American side in another home and away fixture.

Both teams had a less than ideal build-up. A friendly match against New Zealand, three losses in the FIFA Confederations Cup, a new coach with a legendary reputation, and a four-day training camp in the Netherlands, was Australia's preparation. In contrast, the Solomon Islands warmed up for the biggest match of their 26-year history without a coach until one month before the playoff and a one win, two loss mini-tour of New Zealand, their first competitive matches since the OFC Nations Cup final 11 months prior.

The Socceroos killed the tie in the first leg running out 7-0 winners at home in a match they completely dominated from start to finish and should have won by a larger margin.

Australia then won its last ever competitive match in the Oceania Football Confederation with a 2-1 win over the improved Solomon Islands side in a well-contested second leg at Lawson Tama Stadium, taking the tie 9-1 on aggregate.



2004 OFC NATIONS CUP/2006 FIFA WORLD CUP — GERMANY™ QUALIFIERS			
Stage 1 Qualifiers — Group A			
Lawson Tama Stadium, Honiara, Solomon Islands			
10 – 19 May 2004			
Participating Teams			
Cook Islands, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga			
Rankings			
1. Solomon Islands			
2. Tahiti			
3. New Caledonia			
4. Tonga			
5. Cook Islands			
2004 OFC NATIONS CUP/2006 FIFA WORLD CUP — GERMANY™ QUALIFIERS			
Stage 2 Qualifiers — Group B			
Toleaoa JS Blatter Football Fields, Apia, Samoa			
10 – 19 May 2004			
Participating Teams			
American Samoa, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu			
Rankings			
1. Vanuatu			
2. Fiji			
3. Papua New Guinea			
4. Samoa			
5. American Samoa			
2004 OFC NATIONS CUP/2006 FIFA WORLD CUP — GERMANY™ QUALIFIERS			
Stage 2 Qualifiers			
Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide, Australia			
29 May – 6 June 2004			
Participating Teams			
Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Vanuatu			
Rankings			
1. Australia			
2. Solomon Islands			
3. New Zealand			
4. Fiji			
5. Tahiti			
6. Vanuatu			
2004 OFC NATIONS CUP FINAL			
First Leg	09/10/04	Solomon Islands vs. Australia	1-5
Second Leg	12/10/04	Australia vs. Solomon Islands	6-0
2006 FIFA WORLD CUP – GERMANY™ OFC PLAYOFF			
First Leg	03/09/05	Australia vs. Solomon Islands	7-0
Second Leg	06/09/05	Solomon Islands vs. Australia	1-2



FIFA Confederations Cup

FIFA's decision to use its Confederations Cup as a dry run for the World Cup host country a year ahead of the main event proved to be a masterstroke as the 2005 tournament in Germany was a resounding success in every respect.

And while many fans left with an appetite whet for what would lay ahead in a year's time, Australia departed Germany with sour memories after losing all three games. Undoubtedly, it would have been an impressive feat for the Socceroos to progress in a group that contained Argentina and Germany, but they were bitterly disappointed that they failed to gain a positive result.

Despite impressing the football family all over the world with astonishing comebacks against Germany (3-4) and Argentina (2-4), the entertainment factor masked defensive lapses as in just three matches, they shipped ten goals. The Socceroos would be particularly disappointed with the 0-2 loss against Tunisia.

Soon after the tournament long-serving coach Frank Farina ended his six-year reign as national coach by mutual consent with the Football Federation Australia.

FIFA CONFEDERATIONS CUP – GERMANY 2005			
15 – 29 June 2005			
AUSTRALIA			
Group Stage	15/06/05	3-4 vs. Germany	
Group Stage	18/06/05	2-4 vs. Argentina	
Group Stage	21/06/05	0-2 vs. Tunisia	
Final Ranking	8th (8)		
Scorers			
John Aloisi	(4)		
Josip Skoko	(1)		
FIFA APPOINTMENTS			
Jacques Tronquet — Vanuatu			
<i>Organising Committee for the FIFA Confederations Cup</i>			
Richard Ott — American Samoa			
<i>Referees' Committee</i>			
Dr. Tony Edwards — New Zealand			
<i>Sports Medical Committee</i>			
REFEREE APPOINTMENTS			
Matthew Breeze — Australia			
ASSISTANT REFEREE APPOINTMENTS			
Matthew Cream — Australia			
Jim Ouliaris — Australia			



2004 OFC Futsal Qualifiers

With the last Oceania qualifiers held in 1999, the 2004 edition was a highly anticipated event. The Solomon Islands made their futsal debut in Canberra but at the conclusion it was again Australia who confirmed their passage as OFC's representative unbeaten and scoring 20 goals and conceding none in the process. With the long gap between tournaments and given the developing status of futsal regionally, OFC brought in a Brazilian-born futsal expert Guilherme Costa, who was sent to Fiji, Samoa and New Zealand to assist in the preparation of the respective national squads. Coaching clinics were held for local officials and players. Elsewhere, the Solomon Islands were loaned the services of a futsal coach from Sydney.

Traditionally Australia's toughest foes, New Zealand is not as strong in futsal and lacks the numbers and profile which Australia enjoys. Without doubt the depth of Australian futsal with over 20,000 registered and active players at their disposal nationwide meant they would have an advantage. But with 1-0 victories over Fiji – runners up to Australia in 1999 – and Vanuatu the gap is closing.

As part of their preparation Fiji organised an Inter-District futsal tournament to select their squad with all the players brought in from the 11-a-side game due to futsal's low profile. The use of national 11-a-side players in futsal was common throughout most teams with Samoa and the Solomons also using this method, in fact the latter selected a team of fringe national team players that trained on outdoor basketball courts due to the lack of facilities.

One country blessed with a dedicated facility is Vanuatu who also have a organised league run annually in the capital Port Vila at Korman Stadium, which is perfect for futsal.

To develop OFC as a whole work must be done at grassroots level to improve players' skills and knowledge of the tactical aspects of the game.

2004 OFC FUTSAL QUALIFIERS	
Canberra, Australia	
25 – 29 July 2004	
Participating Teams	Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu
Rankings	
1. Australia	
2. New Zealand	
3. Vanuatu	
4. Fiji	
5. Solomon Islands	
6. Samoa	

FIFA Futsal World Championship Chinese Taipei 2004

Australia went to Chinese Taipei determined to make the second phase of the tournament for the first time in their fifth appearance in the FIFA Futsal World Championship. Prior to the tournament the Futsalroos embarked on a 14-day, nine match preparation tour of Brazil.

Having not recorded a win at the world showdown since 1992 when they defeated Costa Rica 8-6 in Hong Kong, the Aussies again failed to secure a point, scoring two goals but conceding 18. Unsurprisingly goalkeeper Gavin O'Brien caught the eye with his impressive performances.

Australia opened with a predictable defeat the heavyweights to Brazil (0-10) and went on to lose to the Czech Republic (0-5) which ended their hopes of advancing to the second stage of the competition for the first time in their appearances at the FIFA Futsal World Championships.

However, a 3-2 loss against Thailand in their final game of the tournament should be looked at fairly positively considering their move to Asia, with the Thais rated fairly highly in the region.

FIFA FUTSAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP — CHINESE TAIPEI 2004			
21 November – 5 December 2004			
AUSTRALIA			
Group Stage	22/11/04	0-10 vs. Brazil	
Group Stage	24/11/04	0-5 vs. Czech Republic	
Group Stage	26/11/04	2-3 vs. Thailand	
Final Ranking	15th (16)		
Goal Scorers			
Ben Singleton	(1)		
Adrian Vizzari	(1)		
FIFA APPOINTMENTS			
Martin Alufurai — Solomon Islands			
<i>Organising Committee for the FIFA Futsal World Championship</i>			
Johnny Tinsley Lulu — Vanuatu			
<i>Organising Committee for the FIFA Futsal World Championship</i>			
Alejo Perez Legizamon — New Zealand			
<i>Referees Fitness Trainer</i>			
Dr. MS Sahu Khan — Fiji			
<i>Disciplinary Committee</i>			
Bob Patterson — New Zealand			
<i>General Coordinator</i>			
REFEREE APPOINTMENTS			
Robert Porritt — Australia			



2005 OFC U-20 Championship

Australia continued their monopoly of places at FIFA age group tournaments with victory at the 2005 OFC U-20 Championship, but the tournament also marked a coming age for several Member Associations.

The OFC U-20 Championship was one of the most competitive and entertaining tournaments in recent memory and bodes well for an even U-23 chase for the OFC Olympic spot in 2008. Australia were deserved champions, sweeping aside all before them in group play with scores of 12-1 (New Caledonia), 19-0 (Tonga), and 9-2 (Vanuatu).

Naturally the Solomon Islands were expected to perform well in front of a boisterous home-crowd upwards of 10,000 on most match days and peaking at just over 20,000 for home matches. The hosts qualified for the final against the Young Socceroos eventually going down 0-3 in a match that was stopped 14 minutes before full-time due to crowd trouble.

Fiji showed ominous glimpses of their potential for the future with a 1-0 win over New Zealand in the opening match of the tournament – the Junior All Whites later lost 1-2 to the Solomons and missed a place in the semi-finals – and pushed Australia all the way in the final four before succumbing 2-3 deep into time added on.

With many players having already represented their senior national team or on the fringes the future promises a lot for the nations of OFC.

2005 OFC U-20 CHAMPIONSHIP

Lawson Tama Stadium, Honiara, Solomon Islands
21 – 31 January 2005

Participating Teams

Australia, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu

Rankings

1. Australia
2. Solomon Islands
3. Vanuatu
4. Fiji

FIFA World Youth Championship — Netherlands 2005

Representing Oceania for one of the last times, the Young Socceroos failed to advance from an evenly balanced group. Australia, Japan, and tournament newcomers Benin were all locked on two points after a series of 1-all draws and ultimately it was the 0-3 defeat at the hands of their Dutch hosts that sealed their exit at the group phase.

In fact it was only a late, late equalizer in the 87th minute by Japan in their final pool match denied the Young Socceroos a place in the second phase for the first time since 1999.

As with teams gone by the Australians proved they could mix it with the world's best at this age group. An encouraging aspect was the number of the squad who played their football domestically, 14 of the 21 players played in Australia with 11 signed for newly created A-League clubs.



FIFA WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP — NETHERLANDS 2005

10 June – 2 July 2005

AUSTRALIA

Group Stage 10/06/05 1-1 vs. Benin
Group Stage 15/06/05 0-3 vs. Netherlands
Group Stage 18/06/05 1-1 vs. Japan

Final Ranking 20th (20)

Goal Scorers

Ryan Townsend (1)
Nick Ward (1)

FIFA APPOINTMENTS

Lee Harmon — Cook Islands

Organising Committee for the FIFA World Youth Championship

Thierry Ariiotima — Tahiti

Organising Committee for the FIFA World Youth Championship

Johnny Tinsley Lulu — Vanuatu

Referees' Committee

Ken Wallace — New Zealand

Referees' Assessor

Alejo Perez Legizamon — New Zealand

Referees' Fitness Trainer

Dr. Siri Kannangara — Australia

Sports Medical Committee

REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

Mark Shield — Australia

ASSISTANT REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

Nathan Gibson — Australia

Ben Wilson — Australia



2005 OFC U-17 Championship

As with the OFC U-20 Championship three months prior, teams from the Pacific Islands rose to the fore but were unable to topple recurrent champions Australia. The tournament was rocked with the eleventh hour withdrawal of New Zealand, however without one of the traditional powerhouses of youth football in the region others flourished.

In January it was the Solomon Islands who captured the imagination of the football family of Oceania with their displays at the U-20's and in March it was the turn of neighbours Vanuatu to threaten the established hierarchy, but it was not to be with Australia claiming a 1-0 win in Noumea.

Budding star David Williams was the hero for the Joeys (Australia) scoring the all-important goal just 8 minutes from full time. Williams, who also finished as the tournament's top scorer, headed home after his side had dominated lengthy periods of the game.

The Solomon Islands, led by another emerging talent in Judd Molea, claimed third place ahead of hosts New Caledonia.

As with other youth age groups within Oceania this crop of U-17's will shine in the future with a very competitive U-20 Championship set for early 2007 where New Zealand will return as hosts.

2005 OFC U-17 CHAMPIONSHIP

Numa Daly Stadium, Noumea, New Caledonia
March 2005

Participating Teams

Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Vanuatu

Rankings

1. Australia
2. Vanuatu
3. Solomon Islands
4. New Caledonia

FIFA U-17 Championship — Peru 2005

Faced with the European champions Turkey, Mexico, and Uruguay, the Joeys faced a difficult task to qualify for the second phase. Defeats against the Turks (0-1) and eventual champions Mexico (0-3) curtailed hopes of participation beyond the group phase. A 2-1 victory over Uruguay meant the team departed Peru on a high.

The Joeys won many friends across the football world including the FIFA Technical Study Group who praised the fact that "they never gave up, relying on their fighting spirit". Captain Kaz Patafta was also singled out for praise linking the defense and attack.

FIFA U-17 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP — PERU 2005

16 September – 2 October 2005

AUSTRALIA

Group Stage 16/09/05 0-1 vs. Turkey
Group Stage 19/09/05 0-3 vs. Mexico
Group Stage 22/09/05 2-1 vs. Uruguay

Final Ranking 12th

Goal Scorers

Nathan Burns (1)
Robbie Kruse (1)

FIFA APPOINTMENTS

Jake Numanga — Cook Islands

Organising Committee for the FIFA U-17 World Championship

Jim Selby — Australia

Technical Study Group

REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

Mark Shield — Australia

ASSISTANT REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

Nathan Gibson — Australia

Ben Wilson — Australia



2005 OFC Club Championships

After a five-year absence from the OFC events calendar the premier club competition for the Oceania region returned in 2005 with eight clubs representing seven Member Associations battling for a place at the reinstated FIFA Club World Championship. The launch of the A-League in Australia added extra gloss to the tournament with the pre-competition favourites Sydney FC winning a quick-fire shootout to earn a place in Tahiti for the club champs. Boasting World Cup winner Pierre Littbarski at the helm, Sydney FC continued Australian clubs dominance of the OFC Club Championships with a 2-0 win over surprise-package AS Magenta of New Caledonia.

Vanuatu's Tafea FC, champions each year since 2000 despite the country not running an organised national league, continued their impressive history in the competition achieving third place at the expense of local favourites AS Pirae.

Prior to the final competition in Tahiti a series of preliminary qualifiers involving all Member Associations were held to determine who would join AS Manu Ura and AS Pirae. Several matches during the process highlighted the varying levels of club football within the region.

2005 OFC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS, TAHITI

Stade Pater, Papeete, Tahiti
May 2005

Participating Teams

Sydney FC (AUS), AS Magenta (NCL), Auckland City FC (NZL), Sobou FC (PNG), Makuru FC (SOL), AS Pirae (TAH), AS Manu Ura (TAH), Tafea FC (VAN)

Rankings

1. Sydney FC (AUS)
2. AS Magenta (NCL)
3. Tafea FC (VAN)
4. AS Pirae (TAH)

2005 OFC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS, PRELIMINARY

Participating Teams

Nikao Sokattak (COK), 4R Electrical Ba (FIJ), AS Magenta (NCL), Auckland City FC (NZL) Sobou FC (PNG), Tuanaimato Breeze (SAM), Makuru FC (SOL), Lotoha'apai FC (TON), Tafea FC (VAN)

FIFA Club World Championship—Japan 2005

Australia was still buzzing after the Socceroos had qualified for the FIFA World Cup, Sydney FC were flying high atop the fresh A-League and at the helm was “marquee signing” former Manchester United star Dwight Yorke was also celebrating leading Trinidad and Tobago to Germany and impressing in his new role as creative midfield playmaker.

The FIFA Club World Championship was Australian football's final honour as part of OFC, which ironically took Sydney FC to Asia. Australia was ready to become a member of the Asian Football Confederation on the first day of 2006 and the ties were already strong at national level and also at Sydney FC.

Sydney FC officials then pulled a masterstroke by signing iconic Japanese international Kazuyoshi “Kazu” Miura as a guest player in the A-League, and including him in their squad to travel to Japan.

Coach Pierre Littbarski was similarly well regarded in Japan having spent many years coaching in the J-League, added to that was experienced midfield duo Steve Corica and Matthew Bingley also played in the J-League and it was easy to understand why Sydney were so popular in Japan.

Sydney FC turned heads with their performances at the FIFA Club World Championship Toyota Cup – Japan. A spirited performance against CONCACAF's Costa Rican representatives Deportivo Saprissa was undeserving of the 0-1 result which denied them a glamour tie against Liverpool.

But despite the setback the Australians bounced back with a 2-1 win over African champions Al Ahly (Egypt) to claim fifth place.

FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP — TOYOTA CUP 2005

Japan

SYDNEY FC (AUS)

Quarter Final 0-1 vs. Deportivo Saprissa (CRC)
Match for 5th Place 2-1 vs. Al Ahly (EGY)

Final Ranking 5th (6)

Goal Scorers

David Carney (1)
Dwight Yorke (1)

FIFA APPOINTMENTS

Mark Burgess — New Zealand

Organising Committee for the FIFA Club World Cup

Gabriel Suri — Solomon Islands

Disciplinary Committee



2006 OFC U-20 Women's Championship

The 2006 OFC U-20 Women's Championship marked the beginning of a bright new era for women's football in the region. Now more than ever the cream of our women's talent has the opportunity to shine on the world stage. New Zealand proved worthy winners of the championship scoring 33 goals in the process and conceding just one.

In 2006 we welcomed New Caledonia and Vanuatu to age-group women's football, indeed this was the highest number of participating teams at any OFC women's tournament clearly indicating the popularity of the sport amongst the female football family.

Tonga were the surprise package of the tournament downing the host nation Samoa 3-2 in the semi-finals in one of the more entertaining matches of the championship. It seemed no coincidence that the top four places at the tournament – New Zealand, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and Samoa – were filled by teams that had a pre tournament training and game schedule.

The event calendar shows there are many varied opportunities for these players to participate in both FIFA Women's World Cup and the Olympic Football Tournament in the near future. In truth, some of the competitors will still be eligible for both the 2008 OFC U-17 Women's Championships and 2008 OFC U-20 Women's Championships.

OFC U-20 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Toleaofo JS Blatter Football Fields, Apia, Samoa
30 March – 8 April 2006

Participating Teams

Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu

Rankings

1. New Zealand
2. Tonga
3. Papua New Guinea
4. Samoa

FIFA U-20 Women's World Championship — Russia 2006

New Zealand were faced with the daunting task of qualifying out of a group containing Australia, Russia, and Brazil.

Trans-Tasman rivalry resumed at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Championship despite Australia's departure to AFC with the traditional foes locking horns in the opening Group A encounter. The Young Matildas claimed the match 0-3.

A 2-3 result against hosts Russia handed the kiwis an early exit from the tournament, but they could count themselves unlucky after coming back from 0-2 down and conceding the late winner in the 93rd minute. The result left the team playing for pride against heavyweights Brazil, and they did themselves and the whole of Oceania proud with a scoreless draw with the footballing superpower providing New Zealand Soccer with their second result at a FIFA tournament.

Many in the football family are tipping this crop of youngsters to shine in years to come with nearly half the squad eligible for the 2008 U-20 competition and New Zealand hosting the inaugural FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in 2008.



FIFA U-20 WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Russia

17 August – 3 September 2006

NEW ZEALAND

Group Stage 17/08/06 0-3 vs. Australia
Group Stage 20/08/06 2-3 vs. Russia
Group Stage 23/08/06 1-1 vs. Brazil

Final Ranking 13th (16)

Goal Scorers

Emma Humphries (1)
Abby Erceg (1)

FIFA APPOINTMENTS

Tilomai Solia — Samoa

Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 & U-17 Women's World Cups

Carol Waller — New Zealand

Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 & U-17 Women's World Cups

Alejo Perez Legizamon — New Zealand

Referees' Fitness Trainer

Dr. Selina Fusimalohi — Tonga

Sports Medical Committee

Vairani Davio — Tahiti

Assistant General Coordinator

Connie Selby — OFC

Technical Study Group



2006 OFC Club Championships

The 2006 edition of the OFC Club Championships marked an end to the tournament format of the competition with plans for a home-and-away “Champions League” launched mid-way through 2006.

Nevertheless, with the absence of an Australian presence and the substantial financial windfall at stake for the winner, the competition was fierce. Culminating in an exciting exhibition of club football unfortunately played in the worst weather conditions that Auckland had seen in the month of May for years. Days of continuous driving rain left the North Harbour Stadium surface unplayable for several match days causing massive disruption to tournament organizers.

The six highest finishing National Associations club champions were seeded through to the final competition along with a second host team. Prior to the final tournament a preliminary competition was held in Fiji to find the final club for the tournament.

Despite the adverse conditions, hometown Auckland City FC managed to oust the challenge of 2005 nemesis AS Pirae of Tahiti 3-1 in the final earning the right to attend the 2006 FIFA Club World Cup in Japan. Auckland City’s gain would also benefit their rivals in the New Zealand Football Championship as a percentage of the prize-money would be split between the remaining seven franchises.

AS Pirae were entertaining in their performances in New Zealand and their semi-final with second kiwi representatives Youngheart Manawatu was undoubtedly the match of the tournament. Nokia Eagles Nadi of Fiji also impressed in the group stages but were crushed in their final four match with Auckland City.

Due to time restrictions following the 2006 event the leading six National Associations from the tournament would nominate their representatives for the inaugural OFC Champions League. The initial line-up will feature the champion clubs of Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, and Vanuatu.

2006 OFC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS, NEW ZEALAND

North Harbour Stadium, Albany, New Zealand
10 – 21 May 2006

Participating Teams

Nokia Eagles United (FIJ), AS Magenta (NCL), Auckland City FC (NZL), Youngheart Manawatu (NZL), Sobou FC (PNG), Marist FC (SOL), AS Pirae (TAH), Tafea FC (VAN)

Rankings

1. Auckland City FC (NZL)
2. AS Pirae (TAH)
3. Youngheart Manawatu (NZL)
4. Nokia Eagles United (FIJ)

2006 OFC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS, PRELIMINARY

Govind Park, Ba, Fiji
6 – 10 February 2006

Participating Teams

Nikao Sokattak (COK), Nokia Eagles United (FIJ), Tuanaimito Breeze (SAM), Lotoha’apai FC (TON)

Rankings

1. Nokia Eagles United (FIJ)
2. Tuanaimito Breeze (SAM)
3. Lotoha’apai FC (TON)
4. Nikao Sokattak (COK)

2006 OFC Beach Soccer Championship

The Solomon Islands created OFC history when they defeated Vanuatu in the final of the inaugural OFC Beach Soccer Championship (FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Qualifier – Tahiti), becoming the first Member Association outside of Australia and New Zealand to qualify for a FIFA world championship.

The purpose-built beach soccer facility at the picturesque Temae Beach on the island of Moorea off Tahiti proved the ideal backdrop for the tournament. Four teams – Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Vanuatu – all with little or no formal beach soccer experience put on a display that captured the imagination of the watching public and showcased the enormous potential the new form of the game has in the Oceania region.

The natural geography of the confederation lends itself to this form of the game, and resource wise it provides an attractive alternative for some of the smaller Member Associations, especially in terms of required equipment and ground maintenance.

During the tournament a FIFA Futsal and Beach Soccer Seminar was held in order to facilitate development of the sport in Member Associations. The seminar provided a chance to exchange experiences and best practices between countries and see how FIFA and OFC could provide assistance in establishing or strengthening beach soccer activities.

Perhaps most importantly, the seminar gave the all parties an opportunity to promote and develop a long-term approach to the relatively new form of football.



2006 OFC BEACH SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Temae Beach, Moorea, Tahiti
31 August – 3 September 2006

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Vanuatu

RANKING

1. Solomon Islands
2. Vanuatu
3. Tahiti
4. Cook Islands



FIFA World Cup—Germany 2006

FIFA WORLD CUP — GERMANY 2006 PLAYOFF

Australia had been here before and it had ended in tears. In the 1997 campaign against Iran the away leg was drawn 1-1 and it looked like the Socceroos would qualify for the finals in France, taking a 2-0 lead in the home game in Melbourne, Iran managed to score two late goals to shatter those dreams. Four years later Australia took a 1-0 lead to Uruguay however, the 2002 qualification campaign ended unsuccessfully as they lost 3-0 in the away leg in Montevideo.

For the 2006 FIFA World Cup playoff the Socceroos were to face Uruguay again. The first leg of the playoff was always going to be a tough one with memories fresh from the last campaign. A goal from Dario Rodriguez separated the teams in an open and attacking match as Australia were defeated 0-1 by in Montevideo in the first leg playoff.

In the return leg in Australia the Soccerross beat its old nemesis, in a pulsating penalty shootout in front of a magnificent crowd of 83,000 at Telstra Stadium in Sydney. Marco Bresciano was the hero leveling the tie with a 34th minute goal, after 90 minutes the aggregate score was tied 1-1 and the match headed into extra-time. Neither team scored after two entertaining periods, bringing the game to a penalty shootout. The Socceroos won the penalty shootout 4-2 with Australian goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer made two saves.

It was a night to remember and a night that will long live in the memory of Australian sports fans.



FIFA WORLD CUP — GERMANY 2006

Farewelled by a record breaking crowd of 95,103 in a friendly against European champions Greece. Australia entered their first FIFA World Cup in 32 years full of confidence, steely determination and hoping to progress to the Round of 16 from a group containing Japan, Croatia, and defending champions Brazil.

With a core of experienced professionals under the guidance of experienced coach Guus Hiddink, who took Korea to the semi-finals in 2002, Australia exceeded the expectations of many onlookers.

Victory over Japan (3-1) in their opening match sent the nation into raptures coming from behind with three goals in the final eight minutes. The ramifications of the victory were intriguing as the two nations now shared a confederation, and presumably, would battle for a place at the 2010 installment of the FIFA World Cup.

In their second group game with Brazil (0-2) two second-half goals ended their hopes of gaining a draw. But already the football family had begun to sit up and take notice.

Needing a point to qualify for the knockout phase against Croatia (2-2), they came from behind twice to score the point they needed. The match was packed with passion with seven members of the Socceroos squad with Croatian roots. Meanwhile, three of the Croatians, were born and raised in Australia, but chose to play for the land where their parents were born.

A mixture of euphoria and disbelief that Australia had qualified for the second round shook the nation following the Croatia result.

In the Round of 16 match against Italy, an upset looked as it was on the cards with the Italians down to 10-men. However, the Socceroos were denied by a last-minute penalty. Surveys in Australia claim that 6.7 million Australians (1 in 3) watched the Socceroos face the eventual winners Italy.

On their final duty as Oceania's representatives the Socceroos inspired a new interest in football back in Australia and enhanced the image of football within the region. Their performances showed that Australia could hold their own against some of the world's finest footballing sides and even do better against teams who had more recent FIFA World Cup™ experience under their belts.

FIFA WORLD CUP — GERMANY 2006™

Germany

9 June — July 2006

AUSTRALIA

Group Stage	12/06/06	3-1 vs. Japan
Group Stage	18/06/06	0-1 vs. Brazil
Group Stage	22/06/06	2-2 vs. Croatia
Round of 16	26/06/06	0-1 vs. Italy
Final Ranking	16th (32)	

Goal Scorers

Tim Cahill	(2)
John Aloisi	(1)
Craig Moore	(1)
Harry Kewell	(1)

FIFA APPOINTMENTS

Martin Alufurai — Solomon Islands

Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup

Tai Nicholas — OFC

Match Commissioner

Lee Harmon — Cook Islands

Match Commissioner

Ken Wallace — New Zealand

FIFA Referees' Committee

Massimo Raveino — Tahiti

FIFA Referees' Committee

Alejo Perez Leguizamon — New Zealand

Referees Fitness Instructor

Dr. MS Sahu Khan — Fiji

Disciplinary Committee

Charles Ashley — Solomon Islands

Disciplinary Committee

Allen Parker — Cook Islands

Appeal Committee

Dr. Tony Edwards — New Zealand

Medical Committee

Seamus Marten — OFC

Media Officer

Olivier Huc — Tahiti

Media Officer

Kent Gray — New Zealand

Media Officer

Jim Selby — OFC

Technical Study Group

Jake Numaga — Cook Islands

FIFA Protocol Officer

FIFA Goal Programme

The FIFA Goal Programme has had a profound on the ongoing development of OFC and its Member Associations. Unlike other confederations, OFC takes an active role in facilitating the development of the FIFA Goal Projects through infrastructure grants and other assistance.

The creation of national training academies, national headquarters, education centres, grass and artificial playing pitches, regional technical centres, stadium renovation and upgrades have taken place throughout the confederation and ensures a future of good health for the game in the South Pacific.

The first phase of the American Samoa Football Association Goal Project began in earnest in September 2006 with significant support from OFC as part of the Infrastructure Grant Scheme. Pago Park will see a major transformation with the construction of international standard football pitches, national Headquarters and a technical centre. With construction to start immediately and a completion time frame of six months, planning for the Inauguration in January 2007 is already underway.

Following construction the benefits of the facility to the sport will be significant, with increased participation for boys and girls, men and women, increased competition opportunities at all levels, educational courses and hopefully a catalyst to assist in taking national teams to a competitive level in the Oceania region.

The Cook Islands Football Association first phase Goal Project saw the construction of the headquarters, new national academy and two state-of-the-art, international calibre pitches and represents an eye-popping focal point for a bright footballing future in the picturesque environs of Matavera on the main island of Rarotonga. The second phase will commence in October 2006 with the creation of facilities for players, officials and medical facilities with a mini-grandstand.

The Dr. MS Sahu Khan National Football Academy in Ba represents the initial success of the first phase Goal project. Second phase development will see the addition of a regional technical centre near Suva with work commencing in early 2007.

Federation Caledonienne De Football's first phase project will realize a national technical centre with accompanying playing fields including an artificial turf pitch. The project is currently under submission with the Goal Bureau.

Work will also begin on an artificial turf pitch at North Harbour Stadium, Auckland toward the end of October 2006 and represents the first phase Goal Project in New Zealand.

The Papua New Guinea Football Association sports a new national academy and playing pitches in Lae due to the work of their first phase Goal Project. The second phase project will see the creation of two regional technical centres and the upgrade of playing pitch two at the national academy.

The creation of the first ever dedicated football pitches at the Toleafoa JS Blatter Football Fields laid a foundation for future football success for Samoa. The inauguration of a new National Football Academy incorporating national headquarters took place in August 2005 as the second phase.



The renovation and upgrade of Lawson Tama Stadium in Honiara heralded the inception of the first phase GOAL Project in the Solomon Islands which kick-started a whole host of new domestic and international sporting activities. This success was followed up by the second phase of the GOAL project which was to erect a national football academy and Federation Headquarters. The building includes administration headquarters, an education centre, dining hall, player's changing facilities, and accommodation for 32 players and also for 2 coaches. One of the outstanding features within the eight-acre site was the 'state-of-the-art' laid pitch - a fully drained and irrigated international standard playing field. The new academy with facilities for women's and youth teams was inaugurated in late November 2005.

Work has been underway since July 2006 to provide Federation Tahitienne De Football with a Technical Centre that will incorporate two floodlit playing pitches. The facility will be inaugurated in November 2006.

Tonga's GOAL Project consisting of building a "House of Football" comprising national headquarters and football academy and four natural-turf playing fields which grace a 23-acre area, making a proper home for the beautiful game in picturesque Tonga. The second phase will see the upgrade of player amenities and pitches finished by November 2006.

The National Football Academy and two playing pitches at the Vanuatu Football Federation were inaugurated in August 2005. This will move into its second phase with further extensions planned including accommodation and changing facilities and education centre.

FIFA GOAL PROJECT ACTIVITY MARCH 2004 — SEPTEMBER 2006
Inauguration FIFA Goal Project Cook Islands <i>Rarotonga, Cook Islands — 2 April 2004</i>
Inauguration FIFA Goal Project Tonga <i>Nuku'alofa, Tonga — 29 May 2004</i>
Inauguration FIFA Goal Project Vanuatu <i>Port Vila, Vanuatu — 27 August 2005</i>
Inauguration Second Phase FIFA Goal Project Samoa <i>Apia, Samoa — 16 August 2005</i>
Inauguration Second Phase FIFA Goal Project Solomon Islands <i>Honiara, Solomon Islands — 26 November 2005</i>
Ground Breaking FIFA Goal Project Tahiti <i>Papeete, Tahiti — 28 November 2005</i>
Ground Breaking FIFA Goal Project American Samoa <i>Pago Pago, American Samoa — 13 July 2006</i>



Technical Development

The arrival of new OFC Technical Director, Jim Selby, heralded the beginning of a new phase in the progress and development of football in the region. Prior to Selby's appointment, a technical programme existed but was fragmented and in need of an overhaul.

At present the OFC Technical Department is currently in the process of submitting a series of proposals that will provide a structured framework from grassroots level through to advanced senior level of ability.

Selby – a member of the FIFA Technical Study Group at the 2006 FIFA World Cup - has identified a raft of key challenges his department faces in furthering the development of the game in the region. Some of these challenges include developing Education Programmes to provide high quality training and education to coaches, instructors, referees, medical support personnel and administrators throughout the region; Development programmes to foster community football and participation at clubs and schools; attracting men and women into coaching and refereeing.

Additional activities have included the formation of the first OFC Technical Study Group and Technical Report for the 2006 OFC U-20 Women's Championship. The OFC Academy is now equipped to host and provide visiting national teams with state-of-the-art equipment. Video testing and data collection of physiological traits of international players across all age groups is being undertaken.



“At present the OFC Technical Department is currently in the process of submitting a series of proposals that will provide a structured framework from grassroots level through to advanced senior level of ability.”



Courses and Education

Continuing education and upskilling members of the Oceania football family are elements crucial to the development of the region.

Four OFC Member Associations have been lucky enough to host FIFA Com-Unity Courses and all have received huge spin-offs from them. Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu all benefited from having representatives from the Member Association, government, media, current and potential sponsors, NGO's together in one room with FIFA acting as a "referee". For many stakeholders outside the existing football family it was an insight into the power of football and the potential it has to touch all people in all areas of life in their country.

Oceania benefits with the FUTURO III programme due to its philosophy of "teaching the teachers". The courses increase the number of skilled people within the region able to pass on the expertise gained at the courses to their colleagues in their respective countries expanding the knowledge base at each Member Association. FUTURO III courses and refreshers held in the region include referee instructors and coaching instructors.

OFC has also been the site of several FUTURO III 'pilot' courses including Administration and Management and the Foot-

ball Medicine Instructors' courses. Another first held in the region was a FIFA organized seminar on the development of women's football where the representatives of the member nations of OFC met in Rarotonga, Cook Islands and unanimously agreed to promote women's football according to a jointly agreed declaration.

A number of countries have utilized the various Member Association courses available in FIFA's selection to develop specific areas of their organisation, key areas concentrated on by OFC nations include women's coaching, refereeing and futsal.

Supplementing and building the variety of courses available at Member Associations disposal has been the introduction of OFC-based qualifications and courses to further develop key areas within the region. The rationale is to develop a set of whole-of-confederation standards to promote best-practice and streamline teaching methods. The first of these were launched in Papua New Guinea (Senior Coaching Certificate) and Solomon Islands (Junior and Youth Coaching Certificate). Courses for match officials have also been held within Oceania.



COURSES AND EDUCATION MARCH 2004—SEPTEMBER 2006		
OFC Referee Instructors Course <i>Adelaide, Australia</i>	3 – 4 June 2004	
OFC Junior Coaching Course <i>Lae, Papua New Guinea</i>	9 – 11 August 2004	
FIFA Futuro III Referee Instructors Course <i>Ba, Fiji</i>	1 – 7 November 2004	
FIFA Com-Unity Course <i>Honiara, Solomon Islands</i>	24 – 26 November 2004	
FIFA Financial Assistance Programme Seminar <i>Auckland, New Zealand</i>	15 – 16 December 2004	
FIFA Futuro III Administration and Management Course <i>Auckland, New Zealand</i>	24 – 30 April 2005	
FIFA Futuro III Coaching Instructors Course <i>Auckland, New Zealand</i>	12 – 22 July 2005	
FIFA Member Association Women's Coaching Course <i>Port Vila, Vanuatu</i>	8 – 13 August 2005	
FIFA Com-Unity Course <i>Apia, Samoa</i>	17 – 19 August 2005	
FIFA Com-Unity Course <i>Port Vila, Vanuatu</i>	24 – 26 August 2005	
FIFA/OFC Symposium on Women's Football <i>Rarotonga, Cook Islands</i>	17 – 21 September 2005	
FIFA Financial Assistance Programme Seminar <i>Auckland, New Zealand</i>	27 – 29 September 2005	
FIFA Member Association Futsal Coaching Course <i>Noumea, New Caledonia</i>	24 – 26 November 2005	
FIFA Member Association Futsal Coaching Course <i>Papeete, Tahiti</i>	28 November – 2 December	
OFC New Referees Course <i>Ba, Fiji</i>	5 – 10 February 2006	
FIFA Futuro III Sports Medicine <i>Auckland, New Zealand</i>	8 – 12 February 2006	
FIFA Member Association Women's Coaching Course <i>Nukualofa, Tonga</i>	6 – 11 March 2006	
Fifa Member Association Women's Coaching Course <i>Apia, Samoa</i>	13 – 18 March 2006	
OFC Women's Referees Course <i>Apia, Samoa</i>	27 – 29 March 2006	
FIFA/OFC Symposium on Women's Football <i>Apia, Samoa</i>	6 – 9 April 2006	
FIFA Com-Unity Course <i>Lae, Papua New Guinea</i>	27 – 29 April 2006	
FIFA Futuro III Referee Instructors Refresher Course <i>Auckland, New Zealand</i>	8 – 12 May 2006	
FIFA Member Association Sports Medicine Course <i>Nadi, Fiji</i>	14 – 15 July 2006	
OFC Senior Coaching Certificate <i>Lae, Papua New Guinea</i>	7 – 10 August 2006	
FIFA Member Association Referees Course <i>Rarotonga, Cook Islands</i>	21 – 25 August 2006	
FIFA Futsal and Beach Soccer Seminar <i>Papeete, Tahiti</i>	1 – 4 September 2006	
FIFA Futuro III Coaching Instructors Refresher Course <i>Auckland, New Zealand</i>	8 – 15 September 2006	
OFC Junior and Youth Coaching Certificate <i>Honiara, Solomon Islands</i>	18 – 22 September 2006	
OFC Elite Referees Course <i>Auckland, New Zealand</i>	22 – 23 September 2006	



Women's Football

The appointment of Connie Selby as OFC Head of Women's Football has supported the progress of the women's game in the region. Selby is a former Australian women's international captain with 10 caps and boasts an impressive coaching pedigree that includes FIFA Instructor for Women's Coaching Courses conducted in Oceania since 2001.

New Zealand U20 women's achievement in qualifying for the 2006 FIFA Women's World Cup in Russia and the announcement that the inaugural FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup will also be hosted by New Zealand in 2008 have provided an even bigger boost for the game within the Oceania region.

With increasing opportunities available for the regions top female football players representatives from all Member Associations met in Rarotonga, Cook Islands for a FIFA organized seminar on women's football in the region.

Many women's development programmes still in their infancy around the Pacific the delegates together with OFC and FIFA unanimously agreed to promote women's football according to a jointly agreed declaration.

The key points to emerge from the three-day workshop included the confederation establishing an OFC Women's Football Committee and management department operating out of the secretariat in Auckland. In addition, ten FIFA/ OFC Women's Football Coaching Courses will be conducted in every national association and a marketing plan to encourage and foster women's participation in football will be developed.

Each member nation has also agreed their own individual requirements based on their current situation, but all agreed to ensure women's representation on their Executive Committee and in each of their standing committees, to set up a women's football committee, and nominate a person to coordinate and lead the development process.

In terms of competitions and structure, it was agreed to promote mixed football for children (up to 12 years) to challenge cultural barriers and ensure good technical physical development principles. It is also essential that positive female role models are readily accessible and visible.

Each member nation recorded their own commitment to the task and set their own objectives for women's football.

Key challenges for the women's game in the OFC include technical development for coaches, instructors, referees, medical support personnel and administrators at all levels. Currently, the women's game in Oceania faces several key challenges such as the lack of facilities to sustain the growth of the increased popularity of the sport amongst women. The increase in opportunity to progress in coaching and other high performance areas of football is seen as a key area for improvement.



Referee Development

Developing world-class match officials in the Pacific region is a driving factor for Oceania Football Confederation. The development of match officials is defined by three key objectives; the recruitment of more referees; improved knowledge and skills of Referee Development Officers in National Associations; and an increase in OFC referee's at FIFA competitions.

In line with these objectives and under the guidance of the Technical Department, OFC has embarked on a series of courses and seminars to up skill the match officials of the region. To add an element of practicality to the modules the courses are held in conjunction with OFC competitions.

To this end a New Referees Course was held with the 2006 OFC Club Championships — Preliminary in Fiji and Samoa hosted the Women's Referee Course during the 2006 OFC U-20 Women's Championship.

Without doubt the match officials of the region have benefited from the expertise of New Zealand-based OFC/ FIFA Referees' Instructor Alejo Perez Legizamon. Legizamon has put all FIFA-listed officials through their paces on the FIFA Fitness Test and provided valuable resource and information on nutrition, fitness, and mental preparation for match officials.

19 OFC match officials have been nominated to officiate in FIFA competitions in the period March 2004—September 2006.



Football Medicine

Football Medicine remains an area in need of increased development as standards differ greatly within the region.

A desire to improve football medicine standards led FIFA to organize the “pilot” FUTURO III Football Medicine Programme in Auckland, New Zealand from February 8 – 12 2006.

The FUTURO III Football Medicine Programme was dedicated to sport doctors from all Oceania countries and dealt with a series of topics in football medicine ranging from practical sessions such as the role of the team physician, to injury prevention and doping control.

The entire course was recorded on video, for the production of a DVD resource forming a key learning tool that the participants can utilize on their return to their Member Associations. The participants also received all the educational material from the course to take back to their respective countries including the Football Medicine resource kit, videos and the course presentations themselves.

All participants will now become members of the international network of FIFA medical officers linked to the FIFA data source for continuous education.

New Zealand was an ideal choice to host the inaugural course due to their leading role in the development of the worldwide FIFA injury prevention programme, “The 11”.

Doping control was carried out in several OFC competitions as the confederation looks to up its professionalism and come



inline with worldwide standards. The logistical challenges of the developing region make it difficult and costly to undergo doping control in all islands but OFC is hopeful this challenge will be met in future years.

In the future OFC will use football as a vehicle to launch public awareness campaigns against health issues prevalent in the region including obesity, HIV/ AIDS, alcohol, drugs and smoking, promoting good nutrition and physical fitness.

Also planned for future years is the supply of football medicine equipment such as massage tables and stretchers, along with a greater number of football medicine courses in a bid to fast-track the development of this aspect of football.



Futsal and Beach Soccer

The picturesque setting at Temae Beach on the island of Moorea off Tahiti proved an ideal afternoon off for the participants at the FIFA Futsal and Beach Soccer Seminar. The trip was not an excuse for fun in the sun as it provided an opportunity for the course participants to see beach soccer live for the first time in the region.

FIFA is committed to developing futsal and beach soccer into a global phenomenon and the popularity of both continues to soar in all corners of the world. Oceania is no different and the impending arrival of the first Pacific Island nation at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup — with the Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, and Vanuatu fighting to represent OFC — provided added impetus and interest in the course content.

Following comprehensive assessments by the FIFA Development Office based in New Zealand investigating the current and planned activities in both forms of the game technical and administration staff from around the Pacific region descended on Papeete, Tahiti for the 1 to 4 September seminar.

The four days in Tahiti gave FIFA the opportunity to inform the Member Associations of OFC their development plans for futsal and beach soccer. In a similar sense OFC was able to present its plans on the two forms of football.

For many of the course participants, and indeed their Member Associations, it provided a chance to exchange experiences and best practices between each other and see how FIFA and OFC could provide assistance in establishing or strengthening futsal and beach soccer activities.

Perhaps most importantly, the seminar gave the all parties an opportunity to promote and develop a long-term approach to the relatively new forms of football.

The natural geography of our region lends itself to this form of the game, and resource wise it provides an attractive alternative for some of our smaller National Associations, especially in terms of the simple things like not needing to have football boots”.

Along the same lines futsal is an attractive option for players to show their skills and small-sided games will play a big part in the development of quality players at all levels within OFC.

Initially for some National Associations futsal and beach soccer will be heavily used at grassroots level due to the lack of infrastructure within some countries. In this regard facilities such as mini-pitches in schools, beaches, villages, and churches will be utilized therefore becoming an increasingly important part of football development.

The seminar in Tahiti should prove to be the first step towards ensuring futsal and beach soccer growth in the OFC.



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(To be validated at the OFC Executive Committee meeting, November 2006)		
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