Activity Report 2007

‘an ocean of solidarity’
Contents

Message from the OFC President 5
OFC and its Member Associations 6
OFC Administration 8
International Relations 9
Festival of Football 10
OFC Football for Life 11
Communications, Media and Marketing 12
OFC TV Seminar 13
OFC Competitions 14
2006 OFC Beach Soccer Championship 15
FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup — Rio de Janeiro 2006 15
2006 OFC Club Championships 16
FIFA Club World Cup — Japan 2006 16
O-League 17
FIFA Club World Cup — Japan 2007 17
OFC U-20 Championship — New Zealand 2007 18
FIFA U-20 World Cup — Canada 2007 18
OFC U-17 Championship — Tahiti 2007 19
FIFA U-17 World Cup — Korea 2007 19
OFC Women’s World Cup Qualifiers — Papua New Guinea 2007 20
FIFA Women’s World Cup — China 2007 20
OFC Beach Soccer Championship — New Zealand 2007 21
FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup — Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 21
XIII South Pacific Games — Samoa 2007 (Men) 22
XIII South Pacific Games — Samoa 2007 (Women) 23
FIFA Development Office 24
Technical Development 25
Courses and Education 26
Women’s Football 27
Referee Development 28
Football Medicine 29
Futsal and Beach Soccer 30
OFC Office Bearers 31
OFC representation on FIFA Standing Committees 32
The past year has been one of intense activity throughout Oceania with the region beginning to take shape after the departure of Australia to the Asian Football Confederation nearly two years ago.

Many of our member nations that had never previously enjoyed sustained exposure of a FIFA world event have now enjoyed several sojourns to the finals in men’s, women’s and beach soccer and I am pleased to see our presence heightened on the world stage.

New Zealand Football has enjoyed journeys to the FIFA U-20 Men’s World Cup — Canada 2007, FIFA U-17 Men’s World Cup — Korea 2007, FIFA Women’s World Cup — China 2007 and Auckland City FC’s brave performance at the FIFA Club World Cup — Japan 2006.

Equally pleasing was Solomon Islands Bilikiki Boys — two times winners of the OFC Beach Soccer Championship — who have since made an impact on the sands of Rio de Janeiro in 2006 and 2007 defeating CAF champions Cameroon 5-2 and performing credibly against Mexico and Brazil in the group stage with both these exciting teams going all the way to the final itself.

Since becoming OFC President it has been my aim to utilize the power of football to address some of the challenges and issues facing the people of Oceania off the football pitch and to that end I have worked hard to establish relationships with Secretariat of the Pacific Community, European Union, United Nations and UNESCO, with a major success experienced during the XIII South Pacific Games — Samoa 2007 as captains and players from both men’s and women’s teams acknowledged the hard work of the UN in Oceania in its campaigns against HIV/AIDS, obesity and malaria.

The help of the French Government in establishing the OFC U-12 Festival of Football as a remarkable event that brings together the youth of our region in the spirit of cultural understanding, fair play, sharing and education cannot be understated.

I look forward to the future that OFC will continue to develop and mature into a competitive confederation within the global football family and that such a memorable year will live up to its promise of a fruitful future.

Finally I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all the members of the both the global and Oceania football family for its commitment to the sport of football and the youth of our region.

Reynald Temarii
OFC President
FTF President
FIFA Vice-President
As part of the approved FIFA Roadmap activities in collaboration with OFC to restore football under an elected administration in American Samoa, a Founding Congress of the Football Federation of American Samoa (FFAS) was held on Saturday 3 November 2007. With a clear mandate from the FFAS members, Chairperson Ms Pou Supapu confirmed that the date for the Inaugural Congress of the Football Federation American Samoa would be held on Wednesday 12 December 2007. On the football pitch American Samoa performed bravely against overwhelming odds at XIII South Pacific Games Men’s Football Tournament with the stars being the woman’s team who achieved a creditable draw against Cook Islands. The inauguration of the Pago Pago Stadium provided a fantastic venue in a scenic setting as a men’s and women’s competition got underway providing regular football for local people. Cook Islands CIFA Round Cup competition got underway at the tail-end of 2007 with Tupapa starting with an impressive eight match unbeaten run. In the women’s section of the competition it was Tupapa again that fired its muscles leading all the way until the end of October. The men’s national team – coached by Tim Jerks – delivered some encouraging performances at the XIII South Pacific Games in a tough group that included Fiji, New Caledonia, Tuvalu and Tahiti. The women’s team were eliminated at the group stage. Fiji flattered to deceive on the pitch with the men’s U-20 team pushing New Zealand closely for a birth at the FIFA U-20 World Cup World Cup Canada 2007. The emergence of Roy Krishna as a potent attacking force were amongst the highlights with the 19-year-old inspiring his district team Labasa to victory in the New World National League thus stripping perennial champions Ba of their coveted title. The women’s national team turned heads at the XIII South Pacific Games claiming the bronze medal while the men’s national team won the silver medal, but their performances at the OFC Nations Cup/2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa Qualifiers suffered. Fiji hosted the FIFA Football for Life Outdoor Games New Zealand-based OFC U-20 Championship and the national team were eliminated at the group stage. Papua New Guinea continued to slip under the radar in football terms with very little to boast about on the pitch. The men’s national team suffered a surprise elimination at the group stage. Tonga endured a difficult year on the football pitch with champion club AS Tefina losing its O-League section. The national men’s team achieved two 0-0 draws with a New Zealand XI offering a glimmer of hope but its performance at the XIII South Pacific Games tournament left much to be desired suffering a surprise elimination at the group stage. The Tahiti women’s national team performed admirably reaching the semi-finals. AS Maru’ara — Tahiti’s current club champion — has been drawn in the toughest group alongside former champions Auckland City FC and defending champions Waitakere United. OFC President Reynald Temarii was elected FFT President by a wide margin during the federation’s election process in October 2007. Tonga celebrated the inauguration of its FIFA Goal Project in the presence of FIFA Ambassador Christian Karembeu and OFC President Reynald Temarii and experienced most of its successes on the football pitch through the achievements of its women’s national team. Tonga achieved a XIII South Pacific Games silver medal after ousting host-nation Samoa at the group stage before yielding to Papua New Guinea in an absorbing final. Earlier in the year the women’s team were the only side to score against New Zealand’s Football Ferns during the OFC Women’s World Cup Qualifying tournament in Papua New Guinea. The Tongan men gave a strong account in the SPG competition but were eliminated at the group stage. Vanuatu celebrated the arrival of a new Vanuatu Football Federation (VFF) President in the shape of Lambert Malrock. The quietly spoken official assumed office following a FIFA Ordinary Congress in November 2007 just weeks after Vanuatu hosted its first official OFC Nations Cup/2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa Qualifier against New Zealand. Tefina won its 13th Vanuatu national title in a row and qualified for the O-League after winning the Preliminary tournament in New Caledonia. Vanuatu U-12 won the Pacific Festival of Football and the renovation of Port Vila Municipal Stadium gave hope the country will be able to host international matches for years to come.
OFCC ACTIVITY REPORT 2007

OFC Administration

With OFC’s football and non-football activities increasing the administrative aspect of OFC’s operation has expanded to meet the extra demands placed upon it by key stakeholders.

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

Under the leadership of OFC General Secretary Tai Nicholas the General Secretariat has expanded.

The OFC General Secretary heads the OFC Administrative arm and is responsible for implementing and executing the decisions of the OFC Executive Committee.

The OFC General Secretariat has seen International Relations, Technical Development, Competitions, Media and Communications, and Finance development with International Relations becoming an increasingly important faculty for OFC in fostering relationships between the confederation and international and regional bodies within Oceania.

OFC Technical Development has undertaken the organisation of training courses for referees, coaches and the promotion of women’s football with futsal assuming focus as OFC looks toward the reinstatement of an OFC Futsal Championship. The performance of women at the XIII South Pacific Games — Samoa 2007 showcased the potential talent within Oceania.

OFC Technical Development is looking forward to a bright future with many of the confederation’s championship winning teams qualifying for FIFA world events becoming a normal occurrence with the hope results on the pitch continue to show the improvement that has taken place off the pitch.

OFC Media and Communications expanded toward the end of 2007 with a second media officer joining the departament as demand rose for information about the confederation’s activities with more OFC champions performing on the world stage than ever before.

The expansion of the FIFA development offices and the recruitment of new staff in areas such as referee development, technical development, beach soccer and futsal, and football medicine continue at a rapid pace as OFC seeks to increase its capacity to service its key stakeholders in a timely and professional manner.

Finance takes care of incoming and outgoing payments and produces financial strategies and budgets.

International Relations

The Oceania Football Confederation lifted its involvement with non-Government and Government organisations in 2007 to help its mission to assist development of the region using football as a tool for empowerment through education, public health, cultural understanding and economic development.

OFC’s close relationship with the French Government and Alliance Française saw an historic co-operation agreement signed between OFC President Reynald Temarii and French Ambassador Patrick Boursin at a media conference at the Holiday Inn, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, that ensured the French Government through its Embassy in Port Moresby, would provide financial assistance that would ensure the OFC U-12 Festival of Football was a resounding success.

The accommodation of youth football teams from around the region through the assistance of the French Government allowed Alliance Française to provide educational opportunities for the tournament participants to share cultures and experiences as an essential component of the event itself.

The cumulative attendances at the OFC U-12 Festival of Football in Port Moresby was well over 10,000 for the three match days with FIFA Ambassador Christian Karembeu a star attraction amid the football action.

Teams participated in cultural activities including visits to the Museum, Parliament and local primary schools with an active media presence keen to capture the spirit of the event through EMTV, Post-Courier News and National newspapers with radio reporting on matches and news stories throughout the event.

The co-operation of the PNGFA and the Papua New Guinea Government and, in particular, Dame Carol Kidu, enabled the tournament to be a major success and built upon the goodwill established with the first OFC mini-pitch built at Kila Kila Primary School in January 2007 and opened by OFC President Reynald Temarii and FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter.

Christian Karembeu was an effective FIFA Ambassador for OFC helping launch the OFC O-League in November 2006, making himself available for the launch of FIFA Goal Projects in New Zealand, Samoa and Tonga, and appearing at the Fiji vs. New Zealand XI FIFA Football for Hope/OFCC Football for Life charity matches held in Suva and Lautoka in August.

Australia international footballer Tim Cahill gave his support for OFC at XIII South Pacific Games Draw media conference held in Auckland, New Zealand in June helping perform the draw alongside his brother and Samoa international Chris Cahill with 140-times-capped German women’s international Doris Fitschen performing the women’s draw.

The FIFA Football for Hope/OFCC Football for Life charity matches were implemented to relieve the suffering of people involved in the Solomon Islands tsunami that struck the Western Province in Gozo, Fiji Football Association and New Zealand Football played two matches and with the assistance of FIFA, OFC, and a raft of local businesses attempted to raise funds not only for those in the Solomon Islands but also the children of Vatukoula in Fiji, suffering after the closure of the local mine.

The United Nations (UN) co-operation agreement with OFC saw the UN play an active role in the XIII South Pacific Games Football Tournament with key social and health awareness messages announced from the semi-final stage onwards in both the men’s and women’s competitions.

The UN erected a portable scoreboard that delivered messages before, during, and after the match at specified and agreed times with ground announcements made on wide ranging subjects such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, literacy, environmental awareness and the key values behind the UN’s Millennium Development Goals shared in principle by OFC.
U-12 Festival of Football

— Port Moresby 2007

The second edition of the OFC U-12 Festival of Football took place at Rugby League Stadium, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea amid scenes of delight, happiness, football and a celebration of education, culture and understanding.

The OFC Football for Life programme was launched with the first Football for Life matches between New Zealand and Fiji as part of the OFC U-12 Festival of Football. The matches were the major employer in the settlement. Vodafone Fiji saw payments from OFC, or contributions from external parties such as government, non-governmental organisations, sports federations and football family of Solomon Islands and wider civil community. Identified this unfortunate event as a major catastrophe for the football family of Solomon Islands and wider civil community. At least 52 people lost their lives when a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Solomon Islands. At least 52 people lost their lives when a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Solomon Islands. All proceeds (over $50,000) from the two matches, development partners and regional inter-governmental organisations such as government, non-governmental organisations, sports federations and football family of Solomon Islands and wider civil community. Stated that Football for Life has been a powerful tool for the betterment of the Oceania youth and the FIFA Football For Hope movement which provided significant financial assistance.

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Communications, Media and Marketing

Media and Communication experienced a greater demand than ever before for results, news and breaking stories as the department embraced a “boom” in activity both on and off the pitch.

There has been a marked improvement in the flow of news between Member Associations and the confederation with regular updates of national men’s and women’s competitions provided in a timely fashion enabling fans and stakeholders to remain up-to-date with football competitions around the region.

OFC launched a new website on the eve of the XIII South Pacific Games and scored a major success with the advent of live text updates for every single match in both the men’s and women’s football tournaments. This service news and media outlets the world over with the latest news from Toleafoa J.S.Blatter Playing Field in an instant.

The OFC website is still a far from finished product with Technical Development, Women’s Football, Referee Development, FIFA Development Office, and Competitions, all in need of ongoing review in cooperation with service providers Oleole.com.

Live audio coverage of matches and the utilisation of new media technology via the OFC website or in conjunction with a suitable partner experienced success but is at a developmental stage.

The brief reappearance of a confederation magazine — ‘OFC Magazine’ — made its way across the radar but further issues were placed on hold with internal resources stretched.

OFC expanded the Media and Communications Department to include ‘part-time’ media officers to assist with tournament media operations.

Television coverage of OFC events experienced a spike with coverage given to OFC Women’s World Cup Qualifiers, OFC Nations Cup/2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa Qualifiers, XIII South Pacific Games Football Tournament, 2007 O-League Final (both legs shown on Sky Pacific and Sky Sport New Zealand), and OFC U-12 Festival of Football — Port Moresby 2007 on EMTV.

Television coverage was not limited to tournaments with the launch of the OFC O-League in November 2006 just one of many media conferences that attracted the interest of Fiji TV, EMVT’s Glenn Armstrong, KYVCK from American Samoa through Faamitai Puletasi, TNTV Yves Haupert and Olivier Hur, Cook Islands TV’s Jeanie Matenga, Tonga Broadcasting Siocii Maka Tos.

OFC, Solomon Islands Football Federation and Vanuatu Football Federation hope to develop a pilot television project in Solomon Islands with One News Limited and Vanuatu’s TVL respectively over the course of 2008-09.

Print media around Oceania continue to play a key role in OFC’s development with football dominating the back pages in most of Oceania’s countries with the possible exception of New Zealand.

OFC TV Seminar

The stunning setting of the Pacific Ocean lapping against the shores of a black sand beach at the Radisson Hotel provided the ideal backdrop for the first ever OFC Television seminar.

The OFC Television Seminar was opened with OFC President/FIFA Vice-President Reynald Temarii and President of French Polynesia Oscar Temaru speaking before delegates and media at a press conference at the Radisson Hotel, Papeete, Tahiti on the morning of Friday, 30 November 2007.

It was the perfect start to a groundbreaking concept that had for the first time brought experts from television within the OFC region alongside their colleagues and counterparts from the OFC member associations.

FIFA Technical Development Officer Jean Michel Benzet represented FIFA and presented Oscar Temaru with a pennant and medal on behalf of FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter.

OFC President/FIFA Vice-President Reynald Temarii was joined by the President of French-Polynesia Oscar Temaru in opening the OFC Television Seminar with invitees from Canal France International (CFI) Development arm Guy Muller, Hedi Hem and Thomas Roux, Maori Television’s Larry George Parr, Fiji TV, EMVT’s Glenn Armstrong, KYVCK from American Samoa through Faamitai Puletasi, TNTV Yves Haupert and Olivier Hur, Cook Islands TV’s Jeanie Matenga, Tonga Broadcasting Siocii Maka Tos.

Also in attendance representing Samoan Broadcasting was Faisese Matafeo, OSB’s Murray Roberts, TV Blong Vanuatu’s Patrick Manarewo, and One News Limited’s Dorothy Wickham.

FIFA was represented by FIFA Television official Paul Calder, FIFA Development Officer Glenn Turner and FIFA’s Jean Michel Benzet. The OFC General Secretariat was represented by OFC General Secretary Tai Nicholas and OFC Media and Communications Officer Gordon Glen Watson.

The OFC Television Seminar concluded at the Radisson Hotel with Solomon Islands and Vanuatu member associations and television stations named in a pilot project designed to train and upskill local people to film domestic football in what is a first for the region.
OFC Competitions

Football returned to the people of the Oceania region with the advent of the home-and-away O-League concept which saw a massive increase in the attendance of club football matches around the region. The O-League concept saw an unprecedented 60,000 spectators cram into venues around the Pacific to see the stars of the domestic game in action. With a similar concept used for the 2008 OFC Nations Cup/2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™ qualifiers being used in late 2007 and 2008 the sport is being exposed to the fans as never before seen in OFC.

In the youth sector New Zealand seized the opportunity created following Australia’s departure to the AFC qualifying for both the FIFA U-17 and U-20 World Cups. New Zealand also consolidated their position as the leading light of the women’s game in the region by qualifying for the FIFA Women’s World Cup in China.

The Solomon Islands created history by becoming the first OFC Member Association from the Pacific Islands to qualify for a FIFA world cup event in 2006. In 2007 they cemented their position in OFC and the world as one of the leading nations in beach soccer. Twice the Bilikiki were placed in a group with two countries who won through to the semi-finals of the tournament.

Women’s soccer in the region also continued to flourish with Papua New Guinea and Tonga leading the pack attempting to haul New Zealand in. The Solomon Islands and Vanuatu providing flashes of brilliance but inconsistency plagued their various campaigns. In the women’s game Papua New Guinea and Tonga lead the chasing pack attempting to haul New Zealand in.

The pinnacle event in the 2007 calendar was without doubt the FIFA U-17 World Cup in South Africa. The tournament was won by Brazil and only three groups were formed. While the Solomon Islands did not make it through to the knock-out stages of the tournament, the Solomon Islands Bilikiki turned heads at their first appearance in the competition. The Bilikiki were probably the most exciting team in the opening group stage of the tournament. Nowhere was this excitement greater than when playing the host nation South Africa. A 5-4 win over Cameroon in their opening match was a huge result and the Solomon Islands were chasing the captain Gideon Omokirio and veteran Henry Koto.

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 nature geographical 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 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.

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 New Zealand to find the final team 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.

2006 FIFA Club World Cup — Japan 2006
(Presented by Toyota)

FIFA Club World Cup — Japan 2007
(Presented by Toyota)

Auckland City FC’s preparations were hampered with the premature departure of coach Roger Wilkinson in the weeks leading up to the tournament. Former coach Allan Jones stepped in at the eleventh hour to guide the team weeks leading up to the tournament. Former coach Allan Jones stepped in at the eleventh hour to guide the team

2007 O-League

More than 60,000 accumulative spectators filled the stands in this years newly formatted OFC Champions League. The O-League moved away from the tournament design and introduced a league series of home and away matches, splitting the six teams into two groups, with the top of each meeting in the final.

New Zealand newcomers Waitakere United — who only entered the tournament after a late withdrawal from Tafea — beat defending champions Auckland FC on goal difference in Group A and went into the final against Fiji’s Ba, who dominated group B.

Ba gave their home fans plenty to shout about in the first leg with a 2-1 win thanks to strikes from Ronald Chandra and Josia Bukaili. The boisterous crowd of over 10,000 at Govind Park set a new record for the O-League and a precedent for future years.

Waitakere United bounced back in the second leg at Mt. Smart Stadium and secured a 1-0 win thanks to an Allan Pearce goal in the 55th minute. The win meant Waitakere United were crowned new champions based on the away goals rule and would represent Oceania at the FIFA Club World Cup Japan 2007.

2007 D-League

January — May 2007

Participating Teams
(1) AS Mont Dore (NCL), Auckland City FC (NZL), Tafea FC (VAN)

Rankings
4. Nikao Sokattak (COK), Nokia Eagles United (FIJ), AS Magenta (NCL), Auckland City FC (NZL), AS Temanava (TAH)

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Outstanding players from the O-League included Ba trio Osea Vakatalesau, Ronil Kumar and Peni Finau, as well as Commins Menapi of Waitakere United, who took home the golden boot after scoring five goals in six O-League appearances.

New Caledonia’s representatives were dropped to the preliminary stages for next year’s competition after AS Mont Dore finished bottom of the inaugural competition.
OFC U-20 Championship – New Zealand 2007

Fiji pushed New Zealand all the way at the OFC U-20 Championship. From the outset the young All Whites were on the back foot following an opening game draw with the Solomon Islands. However, the Solomon Islands hopes of claiming the title came unstuck with a 2-2 draw with neighbours Vanuatu that left them in third spot.

Victories against Samoa (7-1) and Tahiti (2-0) got the New Zealand campaign back on track to set up a decisive match with Fiji who had enjoyed a maximum return from their four matches going into this fixture. The Fijians took the lead when Roy Krishna weaved his way past three flat-footed New Zealand defenders and struck a shot past Jacob Spoonley in the eighth minute.

Chris James equalised from the spot two minutes before half-time, before Dan Keat nodded New Zealand in front. Fiji were back on level terms when Krishna scored from the penalty spot, but less than ten minutes later Keat headed home the winner from a Jeremy Brockie cross. The above result also introduced a potential contender for a place in Canada, New Caledonia, who had won their opening three games against Tahiti, Samoa and Vanuatu. But, tougher challenges were to follow for the French territory.

And so it all came down to the final day as Fiji played Tahiti and New Zealand met New Caledonia in simultaneous kick-offs. James, missed two first-half penalties against New Caledonia, but scored a last minute goal to ensure qualification. As it was, James’ concerns were ill-founded anyway as Fiji were upset 2-0 by Tahiti in a match that finished on an adjacent pitch just seconds before the dramatic late winner.

OFC U-17 Championship – Tahiti 2007

New Zealand enjoyed a 100 per cent record at the OFC U-17 Championship in Tahiti with their three wins from three games enough to book their place in the Korea Republic.

The Junior All Whites opened the tournament with a 3-1 win over Fiji, followed by a 2-1 w/v over the hosts Tahiti on Match Day 2 which confirmed New Zealand’s World Cup finals berth with none of the other sides in the tournament managing to win in the opening two games. They rounded out an impressive campaign with a 4-0 demolition of New Caledonia in the final game.

Costa Barbarouses emerged as the championships most impressive player leading the scoring charts with five goals and attracting the interest of French club FC Girondins de Bordeaux. Jake Matthews also shone with his energetic displays in midfield.

FIFA U-20 World Cup – Canada 2007

Things were never going to be easy for debutants New Zealand drawn in a group with youth powerhouse Portugal, reigning FIFA U-17 world champions Mexico, and surprise pack Gambia. Having to send their most influential player – Chris James — home on the eve of the finals did not help, and the young All Whites were ended with three losses from three games.

Jack Pelter’s goal in the dying minutes of their final match brought a bit of consolation. It made no difference to the end-result, but it was a moment to cherish in what was a big learning experience. Pelter would later sign for FA Premier League outfit Sunderland. Others to impress were goalkeeper Jacob Spoonley who later graduated to the senior international side, and athletic defender Phil Edginton.
OFC Activity Report 2007

OFC Women’s World Cup Qualifiers — Papua New Guinea 2007

New Zealand dominated the OFC Women’s World Cup Qualifiers from start to finish in soaring temperatures in Lae. Victories over Tonga (6-1), Solomon Islands (8-0), and hosts Papua New Guinea (7-0) ensured a safe passage to China.

Kiwi pair Kirsty Yallop and Nicola Smith finished as joint top scorers with four goals from three matches. There was an array of outstanding individual performances, with Ali Riley and Ria Percival showing world-class pace and deadly accurate crossing that resulted in a host of goals.

Papua New Guinea’s Daisy Winas, Jacqueline Chalau and Deslyn Sinu shone throughout the tournament. 15-year-old Vao Feke stole the headlines on the opening match day netting for Tonga against the powerful New Zealanders – the only goal conceded by the Kiwis in the tournament. While at the other end Tongan ‘keeper Mele Likiki confirmed herself as a crowd favourite with her bravery, agility and charisma.

After turning heads at the OFC U-20 Women’s Championship in Samoa 12 months earlier Layda Samani continued her progress in women’s football with her technical skill and pace. But, ultimately it was the New Zealand team who were head and shoulders ahead of their Pacific Islands neighbours. The three combinations would later feature among the leading teams in women’s football with her technical skill and pace.

The newly unveiled Football Ferns spent a long time — China 2007

— Papua New Guinea 2007

The newly unveiled Football Ferns spent a long time — China 2007

FIFA Women’s World Cup — China 2007

The newly unveiled Football Ferns spent a long time in the international wilderness since appearing at the inaugural FIFA Women’s World Cup back in 1991, and this lack of tournament experience told in China.

After a heavy opening 0-5 loss to Brazil, successive 0-2 losses in their next two matches against Denmark and China only served to confirm the clear disparity that exists between New Zealand and the world’s strongest sides.

Despite the unfavourable results on the pitch John Herdman’s New Zealand team made a favourable impression off the pitch. The Englishman could be seen sporting a headset in the dugout and discussing the latest match statistics with his assistants and it seemed to have the right effect on his inexperienced charges.

Swedish-based skipper Rebecca Smith and the evergreen Maia Jackman stood out in a team who boasted a median age of 23 with six players under 21-years-old.

OFC Beach Soccer Championship — New Zealand 2007

The Solomon Islands won their second successive OFC Beach Soccer Championship (FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Qualifier — New Zealand) when they fought their way to a 5-3 victory against Vanuatu in the final in Auckland.

The Bilikiki outclassed Vanuatu, Tahiti, and tournament newcomers New Zealand to earn a return visit to the glamorous Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.

Narrow Neck Reserve on the North Shore provided the backdrop for a dramatic final in which the Solomon Islands took an early 2-0 lead before Vanuatu pulled the deficit back to 4-3 in the second half. Goal machine James Naka then quashed any hopes of a comeback by striking a decisive fifth goal that sent fans of the Bilikiki into delirium.

In the other playoff game New Zealand defeated Tahiti 5-3 to take third place after finishing fourth on points in the group stages.

Solomon Islands striker James Naka won the award for the tournaments best player while Tahiti’s Teva Zaveroni won the Fair Play award. Naka underlined his reputation as one of the world’s finest of 23 with six players under 21-years-old.

OFC Beach Soccer World Cup — Rio de Janeiro 2007

The Bilikiki entered their second FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup full of hope and with a dream opening encounter against the defending world champions Brazil. Mexico and Russia rounded out the group with the Solomon Islands capable of placing in the quarter-finals.

Unsurprisingly, Brazil proved too difficult a task running out 11-2 winners and pleasing their home fans with an emphatic performance. James Naka — a fan favourite in Rio following his exploits a year earlier — scored a huge cheer netting with a fine scissor kick, unfortunately for the Bilikiki talisman he was sent-off for his second bookable offence and would miss the crucial encounter with Russia.

Two goals inside two minutes against the Russians meant the Bilikiki were on the back foot from the outset and were unable to claw their way back into the match. They rounded off their campaign with a 3-6 loss against eventual finalists Mexico, Naka underlined his reputation as one of the world’s best with a hat-trick but it was not enough for the Bilikiki.

For the second year running Bilikiki were drawn in a group where the qualifiers advanced to the final four, in this case Brazil and Mexico contested the final of the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.

The Bilikiki had plenty to cheer about in the match against Vanuatu. The Solomon Islands won their third successive OFC Beach Soccer Championship (FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Qualifier — New Zealand) when they fought their way to a 5-3 victory against Vanuatu in the final in Auckland.

The Bilikiki outclassed Vanuatu, Tahiti, and tournament newcomers New Zealand to earn a return visit to the glamorous Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup. Narrow Neck Reserve on the North Shore provided the backdrop for a dramatic final in which the Solomon Islands took an early 2-0 lead before Vanuatu pulled the deficit back to 4-3 in the second half. Goal machine James Naka then quashed any hopes of a comeback by striking a decisive fifth goal that sent fans of the Bilikiki into delirium.

In the other playoff game New Zealand defeated Tahiti 5-3 to take third place after finishing fourth on points in the group stages.

Solomon Islands striker James Naka won the award for the tournaments best player while Tahiti’s Teva Zaveroni won the Fair Play award. Naka underlined his reputation as one of the world’s finest of 23 with six players under 21-years-old.
Fiji provided a shock in group play downing the seemingly dominant Papua New Guinea 1-0 and claiming top spot in Group A ahead of their Melanesian rivals. While in Group B it was Tahiti and Tonga who qualified for the semi-finals.

The semi-finals proved to be a different story with the group runners-up Papua New Guinea and Tonga contesting the final. The gold-medal went to Papua New Guinea who took the match 3-2 after extra-time in a gripping encounter to conclude the 12-day football festival.

Fiji claimed the bronze-medal over Tahiti who ran out of steam in the knockout phase despite impressing many during the group matches.

Overall standards improved with several youthful outfits on display most notably American Samoa, Cook Islands, and New Caledonia. For American Samoa it was their first foray into women’s confederation competition and they performed creditably with goalkeeper Filiga Kersiano stealing the show with several standout performances.

The Solomon Islands continued their development in the women’s game following their participation at the OFC Women’s World Cup Qualifiers. Surprisingly, traditional women’s favourites Samoa failed to qualify from the group stages despite home advantage. An opening match 0-4 defeat to Tahiti and 0-0 draw with rivals Tonga not enough to see the Manumea women through.

New Caledonia continued their initial steps in women’s football with the bulk of their U-20 side from 2006 returning to Apia. Teenager Virginie Houquet caught the eye with her range of skills.

And while New Caledonia’s name was in lights at the conclusion of the tournament it was also in the headlines at the beginning after inspirational captain Pierre Wajoka netted the first goal on the road to the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™ calmly slotting home a penalty against traditional rivals Tahiti in the 9th minute of their opening day clash.

Pre-tournament favourites Fiji claimed the silver medal as the 2003 final was repeated but result reversed, New Caledonian playmaker Jose Hmae’s goal enough to separate the sides in a dour final.

The intriguing battle however was the race for the bronze medal and the coveted final place in the Stage 2 Home-and-Away phase of qualifying. The highly-fancied Solomon Islands slumped to a 2-0 loss against previously subdued Vanuatu in an all-Melanesian affair.

While it was business-as-usual at the top of the pecking order, OFC Associate Member Tuvalu ensured the global football family stood up and took notice of their credentials with two standout performances. After crashing 16-0 at the hands of a rampant Osea Vakatalesau and his Fijian side, the tiny nation shocked the tournament by holding heavyweights New Caledonia 0-1, and following that result with a sensational 1-1 draw with a solitary point, also not advancing were Cook Islands and Tahiti.

Home-side Samoa who were cheered on by boisterous supporters and led by Chris Cahill were also unable to progress past the group stage. Others to fall at the first hurdle were Polynesian neighbours American Samoa and Tonga — whose skipper Unaloto Feao impressed. On the other side of the draw despite their encouraging performances Tuvalu finished with a solitary point, also not advancing were Cook Islands and Tahiti.

New Caledonia emerged as the leading Pacific Islands nation following the men’s football tournament of the XIII South Pacific Games which acted as the Stage 1 qualifiers of the 2008 OFC Nations Cup and 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™.
The FIFA Development Office is staffed by Glenn Turner and Lyn Shirley with activity continuing at a frenetic pace across the Oceania region. Tahiti received the benefits of a Technical Training Centre in November 2006 after the conclusion of the OFC Extraordinary Congress.

FIFA Vice-President Jack Warner helped open the facility alongside FFT and OFC delegates. Tonga received an international natural turf pitch replete with changing rooms, media and medical facilities at a ceremony attended by FIFA Ambassador Christian Karembeu and King of Tonga George Tupou V who continued his families support for the development of football. American Samoa enjoyed the opening of its football head quarters and Technical Centre featuring two turf playing fields, a youth tournament and medical facilities at a ceremony attended by FIFA Ambassador Christian Karembeu and King of Tonga George Tupou V who continued his families support for the development of football. Both senior international men’s and women’s teams were on hand to listen to the Prime Minister thank FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter for his vision and belief in developing football in Tonga. Tahiti is the latest recipient of floodlights with the illumination of the FFT Technical Centre in Papeete scheduled for November 2007. As well as the opening of a variety of Goal projects, there were groundbreaking ceremonies held in Papua New Guinea in 2007 with PNGFA Technical Centres opened in Kimbe in January and Wabag in April. New Caledonia’s football head quarters and Technical Centre was opened in March alongside the first stage of a football turf playing pitch. A raft of courses were held with New Caledonia, New Zealand and Tahiti all hosting Com-Unity Seminars with the Auckland-based seminar focusing on Women’s football and sustaining a legacy with the prospect of the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup — New Zealand 2008 looming for late next year.

A friendly match took place between the New Zealand U-17 men’s and women’s teams and a side comprised of past New Zealand men’s and women’s international players with Karembeu providing the star turn alongside OFC President Reynald Temarii. Samoa received a boost prior to the XIII South Pacific Games when the floodlights at Toleafoa J.S.Blatter Playing Fields were inaugurated prior to the Men’s and Women’s football tournament in Apia. Samoa Football Soccer Federation (SFSF) President Tautulu Roebeck was on hand to enjoy the moment with men’s international captain Chris Cahill. Both men and women’s teams were on hand to listen to the Prime Minister thank FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter for his vision and belief in developing football in Samoa. Tahiti is the latest recipient of floodlights with the illumination of the FFT Technical Centre in Papeete scheduled for November 2007.

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The success of the TSG saw the concept progress to the FIFA U-17 Men’s Championship — Tahiti 2007 with a technical study team formed and active on the ground during the race for qualification for the FIFA U-17 Men’s World Cup — Korea 2007. The six match tournament was filmed, analysed and broken down into a technical analysis that took into account the method of goal scoring, training, physiology, coaching techniques, preparation, and common challenges faced by all participating nations.

The TSG provided technical analysis of the XIII South Pacific Games from the semi-final stage upon the request of NZF and the participating member associations at the tournament. This helped build upon the success of the Vanuatu U-12 team that won the OFC U-12 Festival of Football in Papua New Guinea. With grassroots, junior and youth football experiencing an upturn in fortunes, the future for football at senior level in Vanuatu and across Oceania looks bright.

The OFC Technical Department worked alongside The FA in the Solomon Islands at a Referee Course based in Honiara. Former Solomon Islands national team coach Alan Gillet joined FA referee development officer John Baker and OFC Technical Director Jim Selby for the course that lasted six days and helped promote and educate referee numbers in the capital.

The promotion of grassroots football programmes took focus in Vanuatu with the implementation of the “Just Play” programme. This helped build upon the success of the Vanuatu U-12 team that won the OFC U-12 Festival of Football in Papua New Guinea. With grassroots, junior and youth football experiencing an upturn in fortunes, the future for football at senior level in Vanuatu and across Oceania looks bright.

2007 proved to be a busy year for the OFC Technical Department with Jim Selby continuing the good work with the Technical Study Group (TSG) observing technical trends across the region beginning with the OFC U-20 Men’s Championship – New Zealand 2007.

The TSG was bolstered by the inclusion of coaching talent from around the region such as Patrick Jacquemet, Colin Tuau, John Herdman who were all charged with identifying tactical trends in this age group tournament.

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Women’s football and the OFC Women’s World Cup Qualifying — Papua New Guinea 2007 saw a similar-sized tournament analysed by OFC Head of Women’s Football Connie Selby in tandem with OFC Technical Director Jim Selby. The hot conditions in Lae, Papua New Guinea, made for a difficult challenge for players with dehydration in the sweltering conditions commonplace. Matches in Papua New Guinea were filmed with technical analysis performed identifying trends such as goalkeeping, tactical approach, and physiology.

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Courses and Education

This year saw the implementation of several relationships OFC shares with various international organisations. OFC’s partnership with The FA saw Referee Instructors courses held in Solomon Islands and Fiji with The FA’s John Baker facilitating two programmes in two of the stronger OFC member associations.

OFC Technical Director Jim Selby conducted a coaching course in Lae, Papua New Guinea, with 22 of the countries top men’s coaches joining him during the two day block programme.

FIFA Com-Unity Courses were another source of success with New Zealand – host of the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup – New Zealand 2008 – enjoying a particularly positive programme that featured Prime Minister Helen Clark, OFC President/FIFA Vice-President Reynald Temarii as well as FIFA Ambassadors Brandt Chastain and Doris Fitschen. FIFA Instructors Ed Coan and Marc Gleeson were amongst those in attendance as well as FIFA Development Officer Glenn Turner, FIFA Development Officer David Borja and FIFA Media Officer and FIFA Magazine Chief Editor Andreas Werz.

For stakeholders outside the existing football family it was an insight into the power of football and the potential it holds to touch all people in all areas of life in their country. For New Zealand this is especially important after being bestowed the right to host the inaugural FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup next year following the performance of the New Zealand U-20 women at the FIFA U-20 World Cup – Russia 2006 and FIFA Women’s World Cup – China 2007.

New Caledonia and Tahiti were the other recipients of the FIFA Com-Unity Courses with FIFA Ambassador Christian Karimbeu making his presence felt in the French-speaking member associations.

FIFA conducted several Member Association Courses in the areas of administration hosted by the now defunct American Samoa Football Association (ASFA) in Pago Pago with OFC Deputy General Secretary Frederic Guillenmoint presenting the programme.

New forms of football received a massive boost in 2007 with Futsal a popular choice. No less than four FIFA Member Association Courses speculating in Futsal were held as Tahiti enjoyed visits from FIFA Instructor James Doyen in July and a rapid-fire follow-up visit from Perry Gautier in late July/early August. James Doyen followed this up with another FIFA MA Course in Futsal in New Caledonia before visiting Vanuatu in September/October 2007 to deliver a two week programme on the only FIFA-approved indoor version of the global game.

Women’s Football

Women’s football in Oceania enjoyed a successful year on and off the pitch with 2008 promising more to come. OFC Head of Women’s football Connie Selby is confident that 2008 will yield a new crop of talented women players as Oceania teams strive to qualify for FIFA world events.

On the pitch, New Zealand dominated at the OFC/FIFA Women’s World Cup Qualifying — Papua New Guinea 2007. The ‘Football Ferns’ were clear victors defeating Solomon Islands, Tonga and Papua New Guinea en route to the FIFA Women’s World Cup — China 2007. Performances in China saw the ‘Football Ferns’ lose all three matches but captain Rebecca Smith was nominated for FIFA Women’s World Player of the Year and Maia Jackman played for the FIFA All-Stars XI against China just prior to the FIFA Women’s World Cup itself.

Papua New Guinea – which achieved its highest ever OFC placing when it finished runners-up to New Zealand in the qualification tournament — proved beyond doubt they are Oceania’s “second force” after winning the gold medal at the XIII South Pacific Games Women’s Football Tournament in Apia, Samoa, after beating Tonga in the final.

The victory ensured Papua New Guinea will face New Zealand in a qualification play-off for a berth at the Olympic Games Women’s Football Tournament in China next year.

New Zealand hosted a FIFA Com-Unity Course at North Harbour Stadium in Auckland aimed at bolstering the image of women’s football ahead of the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup – New Zealand 2008. New Zealand’s U-17 team under the tutelage of coach Paul Temple embarked on a three match series against Korea Republic in Auckland in preparation for next year’s FIFA event.

Connie Selby took part in a FIFA Strategic Workshop on women’s football in Fiji during a busy June in a campaign designed to promote football to girls from the Indian culture. FIFA representative Femis Shoji joined Selby and the FIFA Development Officer Glenn Turner in presenting the workshop held in Ba.
A "needs" analysis carried out in 3 countries namely PNG, Solomon's and Vanuatu in April 2007 identified the need to coordinate, maintain and sustain these football medicine programs in the region. The programs that existed varied from country to country ranging from non-existent to a fully fledged program. A solid infrastructure within the MAs was needed to not only strengthen these programs but monitor it on a long term basis. A dedicated and proactive MA was essential to bring these programs to fruition. Financial costs of programs and injury management was seen as a limitation to its progress and sustainability was essential. The MAs need to continue to evaluate these programs during the process and impact phases with OFC playing a major role in monitoring these programs in all MAs. In addition, due to the increasing health problems within the Pacific region, linking football to health initiative programs was seen as an asset in bringing a greater recognition to the game in Oceania. It also allowed OFC to use football as a tool for social and human development as is in FIFA's mission of 'Develop the game, touch the world, build a better future'.

A ‘Balls to AIDS’ project initiated by an English student Amy Gill as part of her research project in 2006 is addressing how OFC can collaborate with other organizations to positively contribute to AIDS in PNG. The study is close to completion and the recommendations from the study will be of interest to OFC and football. OFC has thus developed a strategic plan in football medicine for 2008-2011 which looks at three areas including football medicine, doping control and football for health community program.
Futsal coaching courses were held in American Samoa, Fiji, New Caledonia, Tahiti and Vanuatu, with futsal refereeing courses conducted in Fiji, New Caledonia, Tahiti and Vanuatu. Domestic competition within Member Associations continues with many preparing for the OFC Futsal Championship scheduled for mid-2008.

A beach soccer referees course was held in conjunction with the OFC Beach Soccer Championship – New Zealand 2007 and featured match officials from Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tahiti and Vanuatu as the popularity of the sport continued. Two beach soccer pitches are earmarked for the Solomon Islands and similar developments are planned for New Caledonia, Vanuatu and other Member Associations.

The OFC Technical Department together with the FIFA Development Office will continue to assess the situation of the two forms of the sport in Oceania and a second FIFA Futsal and Beach Soccer seminar is scheduled for 2009.

### OFC Office Bearers

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Reynald Temarii Tahiti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Vice President</td>
<td>David Chung Papua New Guinea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Fred de Jong New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Claude Faure New Caledonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Member</td>
<td>Les Harron Cook Islands</td>
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<td>Martin Mafiana Solomon Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Member</td>
<td>Whangaka Fuszimandhi Tonga</td>
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<td>Lambert Matuck Vanuatu</td>
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### FIFA Executive Committee

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### OFC General Secretariat

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>General Secretary</td>
<td>Tai Nicholas New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy General Secretary</td>
<td>Frederic Guilmont France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Director</td>
<td>Jon Selby Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of Women’s Football</td>
<td>Crissie Selby Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of Competitions</td>
<td>Saneed Harris New Zealand</td>
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<td>Competitions Administrator</td>
<td>David Frosa Solomon Islands</td>
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<td>David Nick New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media Officer</td>
<td>Gordon Glen Watson New Zealand</td>
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<td>Media Officer</td>
<td>Steven Holloway New Zealand</td>
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### OFC Honorary Members

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<tr>
<td>Honorary President</td>
<td>Charles Dempsey New Zealand</td>
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<td>Honorary Vice President</td>
<td>George Nick Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Member</td>
<td>Sashi Singh Fiji</td>
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<td>Honorary Member</td>
<td>Ahmad Hussain Fiji</td>
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## OFC representation on FIFA Standing Committees

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- **Vice President**
  - Reynald Temarii
  - Tahiti

### EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
- **Member**
  - Reynald Temarii
  - Tahiti

### FINANCE COMMITTEE
- **Member**
  - Reynald Temarii
  - Tahiti

### INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE
- **Member**
  - Rajesh Patel
  - Fiji

### BUREAU 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP SOUTH AFRICA™
- **Member**
  - Reynald Temarii
  - Tahiti

### ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE FIFA WORLD CUP
- **Member**
  - Fred De Jong
  - New Zealand
  - Tahiti

### ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE FIFA CONFEDERATIONS CUP
- **Member**
  - Reynald Temarii
  - Tahiti

### ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS
- **Member**
  - Martin Afolani
  - Solomon Islands

### ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE FIFA U-20 WORLD CUP
- **Member**
  - Lee Harwood
  - Cook Islands
  - Tahiti

### ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP
- **Member**
  - Jacques Tronquet
  - Vanuatu

### COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN’S FOOTBALL AND THE FIFA WOMEN’S WORLD CUP
- **Member**
  - Michael Cox
  - New Zealand

### ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE FIFA U-20 AND U-17 WOMEN’S WORLD CUPS
- **Member**
  - Graham Seatter
  - New Zealand

### FUTSAL AND BEACH SOCCER COMMITTEE
- **Member**
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  - Vanuatu

### ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP
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  - New Zealand

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  - Tahiti
  - **Member**
  - John Morris
  - New Zealand

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  - New Zealand
  - **Member**
  - Dr. Silina Fusimalohi
  - Fiji

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  - Papua New Guinea

### LEGAL COMMITTEE
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  - Fiji

### ETHICS COMMITTEE
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  - Papua New Guinea

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  - New Zealand

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  - New Caledonia
  - **Member**
  - Tahita Rebeke
  - Samoa

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  - France/New Caledonia

### STRATEGIC STUDIES COMMITTEE
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  - Tahiti

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  - New Zealand

### GOAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
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  - New Zealand

### FIFA MEDICAL ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH CENTRE
- **Member**
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  - New Zealand

### FIFA CLUB TASK FORCE
- **Member**
  - Rex Dawkins
  - New Zealand

### DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE
- **Member**
  - Dr. MS Sahu Khan
  - Fiji

### APPEAL COMMITTEE
- **Chairman**
  - Charles Alafaci
  - Solomon Islands
  - **Member**
  - Albin Parker
  - Cook Islands

### STADIUM AND SECURITY COMMITTEE (AD HOC)
- **Member**
  - Seamus Marten
  - New Zealand
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