



Activity Report 2007

‘an ocean
of solidarity’



OCEANIA FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

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A person in traditional indigenous attire, including a large feathered headdress and white face paint, holds a sign. The sign features the FIFA logo and the text 'FIFA For the Good of the Game' on the left, and the Oceania Football Confederation logo on the right. The Oceania Football Confederation logo is a circular emblem with a blue background, a yellow sunburst, a green palm tree, and a white soccer ball. The text 'OCEANIA FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION' is written in a yellow arc at the bottom.



Message from the OFC President

It gives me great pleasure to present this activity report detailing Oceania Football Confederation’s tasks over the period September 2006 – December 2007.

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 relation-

ships 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



OFC and its Member Associations

OFC has strived to maintain positive relationships with all Member Associations working for mutual benefit and the improvement in governance of the game both on and off the pitch.

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 Supapo 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 women'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 flexed 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 berth at the FIFA U-20 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 Hope/OFC Football for Life charity matches in Suva and Lautoka, whilst Ba finished runners-up at the 2007 O-League losing on away goals to Waitakere United.

New Caledonia experienced rich success both on and off the pitch with the inauguration of its FIFA Goal Project in the presence of FIFA Ambassador Christian Karembeu and OFC President Reynald Temarii. The national team under the tutelage of Didier Chambaron enjoyed relative success at U-20 level in January and continued in that vein with the performance of the U-17 side in Tahiti in March. The senior side eclipsed all those achievements by winning the gold medal at the XIII South Pacific Games with the women's side making a brave exit at the group stage. New Caledonia club football continues to struggle



with their representative AS Mont Dore "relegated" out of the O-League and 2007 champion JS Baco unable to win their way back through the O-League Preliminary on home soil. AS Lossi won the 53rd New Caledonia Cup and will participate in the Coupe de France in the 2007/08 season.

New Zealand's international profile continued to rise with participation at four FIFA events including 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 the FIFA Club World Cup – Japan 2006 with NZFC champions Auckland City FC. Results have yet to show improvement but there is a feeling of optimism at NZF's North Harbour headquarters that success – though hard-earned – remains possible. Auckland City FC completed a third consecutive NZFC triumph with Wellington Phoenix retaining New Zealand's presence in the Australian A-League. Waitakere United won its first O-League title defeating Ba in a two-legged final on the away goals rule.



Papua New Guinea Football Association celebrated a busy year hosting two OFC events: the OFC Women's World Cup Qualifiers and the OFC U-12 Festival of Football. PNGFA President David Chung was re-elected at its Congress held to coincide with the OFC Congress in Port Moresby in January and OFC opened the Kila Kila Mini-Pitch with FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter on hand to conduct the formalities with the OFC President Reynald Temarii. PNG's star performers were its women's national team which won the XIII South Pacific Games gold medal and finished runners-up — its highest ever placing — in the race to qualify for China. The Telikom NSL Cup was launched as a semi-professional men's national league.

Samoa continues to slip under the radar in football terms with very little to boast about on the pitch. The men's national U-20 team suffered a torrid time losing every match at the New Zealand-based OFC U-20 Championship and the national women's team were eliminated from the XIII South Pacific Games at the expense of rivals Tonga. The men's team led by Chris Cahill played well at the South Pacific Games but it wasn't enough to mark the inauguration of its FIFA Goal Project — the magnificent floodlights at Toleafoa JS Blatter Football Fields.

Solomon Islands faced a mixed year with the disappointment of XIII South Pacific Games failure for the men's team punctuated by the over-achievement of the Bilikiki national beach soccer team at two FIFA Beach Soccer World Cups. The women's team performed encouragingly at the OFC Women's World Cup Qualifiers but was ultimately outclassed although showed significant improvement at the XIII South Pacific Games. Kossa FC won the National Club Championship to qualify for the O-League usurping Marist FC from the privilege for the first time in two years.

Tahiti endured a difficult year on the football pitch with champion club AS Temanava finishing adrift in 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 Manu'ura — Tahiti's current champion club — has been drawn in the toughest group alongside former champions Auckland City FC and defending champions Waitakere United. OFC President Reynald Temarii was elected FTF 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 success 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 Maltock. The quietly spoken official assumed office following a VFF 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. Tafea FC 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 OFC 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.



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 all experience growth 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 reinstitution of an OFC Futsal Championship. The performance of women at the XIII South Pacific Games — Samoa 2007 showcased the potential talent within the confederation.

OFC Competitions 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 department 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 Francaise 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 Francaise 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/OFC 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/OFC 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 Gizo. 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 Vatuloula 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 opening ceremony capped off a memorable day with the OFC President joined by Mr. Patrick Boursin of the French Embassy, PNGFA President David Chung, FIFA Ambassador Christian Karembeu and Dame Carol Kidu on the dais as the youth teams from around the region in an array of cultural performances that captured the imagination.

Tournament favourites New Zealand (represented by United Soccer1) met stiff opposition from New Caledonia's 'les Cagous', Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with the four Papua New Guinea teams each enjoying the opportunity to host visiting teams from around Oceania in the spirit of fair play.

Such was the success of the tournament that EMTV's nightly sports programme selected the OFC U-12 Festival of Football as its lead story with events in Australia's professional Rugby and Rugby League competitions relegated to second and third in the evening's main stories.

The cultural element of the OFC U-12 Festival of Football was to the fore with teams entertained by visits to a variety of local schools including St. Theresa Primary, Wardstrip Demonstration Primary, Sacred Heart Primary, Port Moresby Grammar, St. Francis, Bavaroko Primary, Coronation Primary and Ted Diro Primary all of which extended warm welcomes, open arms and wide smiles for their overseas visitors.

Further visits to Port Moresby Museum, Papua New Guinea Parliament and exposure to the French culture courtesy of Alliance Francaise guaranteed a rich football and educational environment with children of all nationalities mixing freely.

Vanuatu emerged victorious from the football event guaranteeing the OFC champion team a berth at the 2007 Danone Nations Cup. Vanuatu's U-12 team became instant heroes and represented their country and Oceania with distinction achieving a creditable 19th place finish in a field boasting 40 teams from around the globe.



OFC Football for Life

OFC believes football has an important role to play in the social development of its member associations. OFC is supportive of campaigns that challenge a wide range of social and humanitarian issues that face the people of the region. OFC Football for Life helped the people of Gizo face life after the tsunami damage last year.

The funds allocated by OFC may be increased by additional payments from OFC, or contributions from external parties such as government and non-governmental organizations, commercial partners, private persons, and other sources.

On April 2 2007, an earthquake with a magnitude of 8.1 struck near the island of Gizo, in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands. At least 52 people lost their lives when a tsunami triggered by the earthquake struck the Western and Choiseul Provinces, with many more unaccounted for.

Entire villages and amenities were washed away leaving over 12,000 homeless and millions of dollars in damage, many of whom are still living in makeshift shelters. The remote location of this part of the world has made the assessment of the true nature of the damage difficult, as well as getting aid to those in need.

The football family of Oceania and its partners such as FIFA, identified this unfortunate event as a major catastrophe for the football family of Solomon Islands and wider civil community. As such OFC endeavored to rally the football family to organize the first Football for Life matches between New Zealand and Fiji in aid of the tsunami victims of the Solomon Islands.

The OFC Football for Life programme was launched with the above mentioned charity matches between New Zealand and Fiji, and all proceeds (over \$50,000) from the two matches will be used to assist the tsunami relief efforts in the Western and Choiseul provinces of Solomon Islands.

Furthermore these matches were a symbol of solidarity as well as a symbol of unity thought sports in the South Pacific by bringing together two nations (Fiji and New Zealand) who were undergoing diplomatic tensions at the time.

Following initial meetings with potential commercial partners OFC learned of the Vodafone Fiji project — Feed our Vatukoula Children — which centred on providing relief for the families affected by the closure of a gold mine which was the major employer in the settlement. Vodafone Fiji saw the benefit in using the Football for Life matches as an ideal platform to raise awareness of the campaign and sought a partnership with OFC. Other commercial partners to support the Football for Life matches included Fiji TV, Lotto Sportswear, OleOle.com and Vuksich & Borich.

Perhaps most significant was the support of the FIFA Football for Hope movement which provided significant financial support for the Football for Life matches. The matches were a concrete example of the power of football through its reach (a cumulative audience of over 700,000 people) within Oceania.

Throughout the entire process of the Football For Life



matches, development partners and regional inter-governmental organisations such as the Pacific Islands Forum, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the United Nations were associated with the project with the objective to reinforce the role of sports and football in social development in our region.

Under the leadership of the OFC Committee for Social Responsibility and in cooperation with development partners, projects will be identified in the Western and Choiseul provinces of Solomon Islands which will receive financial support from the proceeds of the Football For Life matches.

Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat—Greg Urwin, UN representatives, and several diplomats including the acting High Commissioner of New Zealand attended the Football for Life launch in Suva where the OFC General Secretary expressed the OFC vision to use football as a development tool for the betterment of the Oceania youth and the FIFA Ambassador for OFC, Christian Karembeu exposed the objectives and principles of FIFA Football For Hope programme.

As a result of the Football for Life matches and its constant work to promote football as a development tool, OFC was invited to take part to the Pacific Islands Forum Education Ministers meeting late November where Pacific Islands education ministers discussed on regional education strategies.

Football, through OFC, was the only sport represented and asked to make a presentation to the assembled education ministers representing 16 Pacific Islands countries (including Australia and New Zealand) on sport and education. This forum was an excellent medium to promote the role of football in formal and non-formal education within the Pacific.



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 serviced 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 co-operation 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 Communication 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, EMTV, New Zealand's TV One, TV3, Sky Sport and Prime News Channels.

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 Vanuatu 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 Benezet 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 Heml and Thomas Roux, Maori Television's Larry George Parr, Fiji TV, EMTV's Glenn Armstrong, KYVCK from American Samoa through Faamitai Puletasi, TNTV Yves Hauptert and Olivier Huc, Cook Islands TV's Jeane Matenga, Tonga Broadcasting Sioli Maka Tohi.

Also in attendance representing Samoa Broadcasting was Faisea 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 Benezet. 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.

The pinnacle event in the 2007 calendar was without doubt the XIII South Pacific Games Samoa 2007 which acted as the stage one qualifiers for the 2008 OFC Nations Cup/2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™ for men, and the stage one qualifiers for the OFC Women's Olympic Tournament. The XIII

South Pacific Games Samoa 2007 was the largest tournament ever attempted by OFC with 19 teams participating over a two-week period as part of a wider sporting festival.

Fiji and New Caledonia emerged as the up and coming challengers to New Zealand's dominance at men's level, with 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.



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 Beach Soccer World Cup —Rio de Janeiro 2006

The Solomon Islands Bilikiki turned heads at their first FIFA world cup event outing accounting for African champions Cameroon 5-3 first up in an historic victory.

Although the Bilikiki notched another five goals in their second match, they never looked capable of worrying the hugely determined Uruguay and eventually succumbed to a 5-10 to loss, leaving them needing a second surprise win this time over one of the tournament favourites, Portugal. The win did not come and despite outclassing the Solomon Islands the Portuguese treated their opponents with respect in the 14-2 win.

Despite only taking up the sport a few months prior to the OFC Beach Soccer Championship the Bilikiki impressed FIFA experts with their "unrefined yet mightily effective style". And Bilikiki can take heart from their opening efforts, especially when taking into account the two qualifiers from the group stage Portugal and Uruguay advanced to the semi-finals, with Uruguay defeated by Brazil in the final itself.

James Naka — who prior to the trip to Tahiti, had never left his country — emerged the hero capturing attention with 5 goals in the tournament. Naka was ably supported in the goal scoring department by captain Gideon Omokirio and veteran Henry Koto.

FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP RIO DE JANEIRO — BRAZIL 2006

2 – 12 November 2006

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Group Stage	02/11/07 5-4 vs. Cameroon
Group Stage	04/11/07 5-10 vs. Uruguay
Group Stage	06/11/07 2-14 vs. Portugal

Ranking 12th (16)

Goal Scorers

James Naka	(5)
Gideon Omokirio	(2)
Henry Koto	(2)
Richard Anisua	(1)
Joe Luwi	(1)
Sylvester Rogy	(1)

FIFA APPOINTMENTS

Vairani Davio — Tahiti

Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee

Lambert Maltock — Vanuatu

Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee

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 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.



FIFA Club World Cup – Japan 2006

(Presented by Toyota)

FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP JAPAN 2006 — PRESENTED BY TOYOTA	
10 – 17 December 2006	
AUCKLAND CITY FC (NZL)	
Quarter Final	10/12/07 0-2 vs. Ahly Sporting Club (EGY)
Match for 6th Place	15/12/07 0-3 vs. Jeonbok Hyundai (KOR)
Ranking	6th (6)
FIFA APPOINTMENTS	
Mark Burgess <i>Organising Committee for the FIFA Club World Cup</i>	

2006 OFC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS, PRELIMINARY	
Govind Park, Ba, Fiji 6 – 10 February 2006	
Participating Teams Nikao Sokattak (COK), Nokia Eagles United (FIJ), Tuanaimato Breeze (SAM), Lotoha’apai FC (TON)	
Rankings 1. Nokia Eagles United (FIJ) 2. Tuanaimato Breeze (SAM) 3. Lotoha’apai FC (TON) 4. Nikao Sokattak (COK)	
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)	

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 through their matches in Japan. The OFC club champions pulled a marketing coup enticing former Japan international midfielder Teru Iwamoto, to New Zealand before making a welcome competitive return to his homeland.

In the opening contest, Auckland City FC proved a match for African Champions League winners Al Ahly Sporting Club for a good 50 minutes, before Portuguese star Flavio struck the opener. Despite an eventual 0-2 loss, the men from Auckland earned praise for a courageous display against one of the best teams in Africa.

A 0-3 loss to Asian champions Jeonbok Hyundai Motors was next as Auckland City FC ended their Japan sojourn in 6th place however, the experience garnered at this level will stand them in good stead for the future.

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 Josaia Bukalidi. 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.

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.



2007 O-LEAGUE	
January – May 2007	
Participating Teams Ba (FIJ), AS Mont Dore (NCL), Auckland City FC (NZL), Waitakere United (NZL), Marist FC (SOL), AS Temanava (TAH)	
Rankings 1. Waitakere United (NZL) 2. Ba (FIJ) 3. Auckland City FC (NZL) 4. AS Temanava (TAH)	

FIFA Club World Cup – Japan 2007

(Presented by Toyota)

Two goals inside five minutes from Emad Mohammed gave Sepahan the perfect start. A goalkeeping error from Simon Eaddy gifted Abdul Wahab Abu Al Hail a third within two minutes of the restart. However, a courageous Waitakere United side refused to give in and 16 minutes from time they reduced the deficit. Darren Bazeley’s free kick deflected off Sepahan ‘keeper Hadi Aghily and crept into the net.

FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP JAPAN 2007 — PRESENTED BY TOYOTA	
7 – 16 December 2007	
WAITAKERE UNITED (NZL) Playoff for Quarter Finals	7/12/07 1-3 vs. Sepehan (IRN)
Final Ranking	7th (7)
Goal Scorers Own Goal	(1)
FIFA APPOINTMENTS	
David Chung <i>Organising Committee for the FIFA Club World Cup</i>	
REFEREE APPOINTMENTS	
Peter O’Leary NZL	
ASSISTANT REFEREE APPOINTMENTS	
Brent Best — New Zealand Matthew Taro — Solomon Islands	

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-20 CHAMPIONSHIP NEW ZEALAND 2007
Douglas Field, The Trusts Stadium, Henderson, Auckland 19 – 31 January 2007
Participating Teams Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Vanuatu
Rankings 1. New Zealand 2. Fiji 3. Solomon Islands 4. New Caledonia

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 package Gambia. Having to send their most influential player — a 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 ‘keeper Jacob Spoonley who later graduated to the senior international side, and athletic defender Phil Edginton.



FIFA U-20 WORLD CUP CANADA	
17 August – 3 September 2007	
NEW ZEALAND	
Group stage	02/07/07 0-2 vs. Portugal
Group stage	05/07/07 0-1 vs. Gambia
Group stage	08/07/07 1-2 vs. Mexico
Final Ranking	22nd (24)
Goal Scorers	
Jack Pelter	(1)
FIFA APPOINTMENTS	
Lee Harmon <i>Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 World Cup</i>	
Thierry Ariiotima — Tahiti <i>Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 World Cup</i>	
Dr. Tony Edwards — New Zealand <i>Medical Officer</i>	
Massimo Raveino — Tahiti <i>Referees’ Committee</i>	
Alejo Perez Legizamon — New Zealand <i>Referees’ Fitness Trainer</i>	
Seamus Marten — OFC <i>Assistant General Coordinator</i>	
Gordon Glen Watson — OFC <i>Media Officer</i>	
Jim Selby — OFC <i>Technical Study Group</i>	
REFEREE	
Peter O’Leary — New Zealand	
ASSISTANT REFEREE APPOINTMENTS	
Brent Best — New Zealand	
Mahit Chilia — Vanuatu	

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 win 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 a 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.

OFC U-17 CHAMPIONSHIP TAHITI 2007
Stade Pater, Papeete, Tahiti 20 – 24 March 2007
Participating Teams Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Tahiti
Rankings 1. New Zealand 2. Tahiti 3. Fiji 4. New Caledonia



FIFA U-17 World Cup – Korea 2007

The defensive frailties of Colin Tuaa’s were all too cruelly exposed against the might of Brazil and England, who together scored 12 goals past the Junior All Whites in their opening two matches.

New Zealand fought back and credit must go to the youngsters, who showed good organisation and spirit to hold Korea DPR for 80 minutes, but a defensive mix-up consigned the Kiwis to a third successive defeat.

Despite the heavy losses Jacob Gleeson, Chris Wood and Lance Heslop caught the eye of several English scouts. Gleeson, who played in the first two matches and produced several stunning saves to deny the rampant Brazilians a double-figure score-line, completed stints trialing with FA Premier League heavyweights Manchester United and Everton. Elsewhere, Wood and Heslop have been accepted into academies at West Bromwich Albion and Aston Villa respectively.

FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP KOREA	
18 August – 9 September 2007	
NEW ZEALAND	
Group stage	18/08/07 0-7 vs. Brazil
Group stage	21/08/07 0-5 vs. England
Group stage	24/08/07 0-1 vs. Korea
Final Ranking	24th (24)
FIFA APPOINTMENTS	
Jacques Tronquet — Vanuatu	
Neil Poloso — Solomon Islands <i>Referees’ Committee</i>	
Aristole Malticwon — Vanuatu <i>Media Officer</i>	
Patrick Jacquemet — Tahiti <i>Technical Study Group</i>	
REFEREE APPOINTMENTS	
Rakesh Varman — Fiji	
ASSISTANT REFEREE APPOINTMENTS	
Andrew Achari — Fiji	
Matthew Taro — Solomon Islands	

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 Siniu shone throughout the tournament. 15-year-old Vasi 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 Likiliki 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 nations at the XIII South Pacific Games Samoa 2007.



OFC WOMEN'S WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS
— PAPUA NEW GUINEA 2007

Sir Ignatius Kilage Stadium, Lae, Papua New Guinea
9 – 13 April 2007

Participating Teams
New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga

Rankings
1. New Zealand
2. Papua New Guinea
3. Tonga
4. Solomon Islands

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.

FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP CHINA
10 – 30 September 2007

NEW ZEALAND
Group stage 12/09/07 0-5 vs. Brazil
Group stage 15/09/07 0-2 vs. Denmark
Group stage 20/09/07 0-2 vs. China PR
Final Ranking 14th (16)

FIFA APPOINTMENTS
Michele Cox — New Zealand
Committee for Women's Football and FIFA Women's World Cup
Vairani Davio — Tahiti
General Coordinator
Connie Selby — OFC
Technical Study Group

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 new comers 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 golden boot with 11 goals. Chikau Mansale of Vanuatu was honoured as best goal keeper for the second year running, while New Zealand won the fair play trophy.



OFC BEACH SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP NEW ZEALAND 2007

Narrow Neck Reserve, Devonport, New Zealand
7 – 8 July 2007

Participating Teams
New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Vanuatu

Rankings
1. Solomon Islands
2. Vanuatu
3. New Zealand
4. Tahiti

FIFA 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 Solomons eyeing a possible place 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.

SOLOMON ISLANDS
2 – 11 November 2007
Group Stage 02/11/07 2-11 vs. Brazil
Group Stage 04/11/07 2-5 vs. Russia
Group Stage 06/11/07 3-6 vs. Mexico
Ranking 16th (16)
Goal Scorers
James Naka (4)
Benjamin Mela (1)
Fred Hale (1)
Richard Anisua (1)

FIFA APPOINTMENTS
Marco Herrominly — Vanuatu
Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee
Michel Paille — Tahiti
Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee
Olivier Huc — Tahiti
Media Officer



XIII South Pacific Games Samoa 2007 (Men)

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™.

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 disappointing Tahiti outfit who failed to qualify for the semi-finals after defeats to both New Caledonia and Fiji.

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.

XIII SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES SAMOA 2007
— MEN’S FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

2008 OFC Nations Cup/ 2010 FIFA World Cup
— South Africa™ Qualifiers

Toleafoa JS. Blatter Football Fields, Apia, Samoa
25 August – 7 September 2008

Participating teams
American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Rankings
1. New Caledonia
2. Fiji
3. Vanuatu
4. Solomon Islands

XIII South Pacific Games Samoa 2007 (Women)

The XIII South Pacific Games Samoa 2007 proved an ideal vehicle for the Stage 1 qualifiers for the OFC Women’s Olympic Football Tournament, with New Zealand awaiting the gold-medallist for a home-and-away playoff in early 2008.

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.



XIII SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES SAMOA 2007
— WOMEN’S FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

OFC Women’s Olympic Football Tournament

Toleafoa JS. Blatter Football Fields, Apia, Samoa
25 August – 7 September 2008

Participating teams
American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Rankings
1. Papua New Guinea
2. Tonga
3. Fiji
4. Tahiti



FIFA Development Office

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 FTF 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 pitches and grandstand renovations with a youth tournament and celebration providing a colourful backdrop.

New Zealand celebrated the opening of its Goal project in May with FIFA Ambassador Christian Karembeu joining in the festivities as a junior tournament took place at North Harbour Stadium in Auckland.



A friendly match took place between the New Zealand U-17 women's team 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 Roebek was on hand to enjoy the moment with men's international captain Chris Cahill. 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 Samoa. Tahiti is the latest recipient of floodlights with the illumination of the FTF 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 focussing 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.



Technical Development

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 Tuua, John Herdman who were all charged with identifying tactical trends in this age group tournament.

The success of the TSG saw the concept progress to the OFC 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.

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.

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 offered New Zealand – who were not involved with the South Pacific Games – an opportunity to analyse matches as there was no television coverage on networks in its own country.

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.



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 Brandi 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 has 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 Women’s 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 Karembeu 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 Guillemont 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 specialising 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 M/A 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 Permi Jhooti joined Selby and the FIFA Development Officer Glenn Turner in presenting the workshop held in Ba.

The course highlighted some of the key challenges in promoting women’s football in the region with cultural barriers providing an obstacle to many aspiring female footballers’ dreams.

These barriers include cultural mores that suggest women play a more active role as parents, pursue education and/or bear children in preference to following a career pathway in football. Facilities available to women’s football in the region remain rare with the ones that are unable to sustain the growth of the increased popularity of the sport amongst women.

The visit to New Zealand of former USA women’s international Brandi Chastain and 144-times-capped Germany women’s international Doris Fitschen at the NZF-hosted FIFA Com-Unity Course on women’s football helped boost the image of the sport not only locally but across Oceania.



INTERNATIONAL COURSES	
OFC/FA Referee Instructors Course <i>Honiara, Solomon Islands 7 May - 12 May 2007</i> <i>OFC Technical Director Jim Selby joined The FA's John Baker and Referee Tutor in this course aimed at introducing new OFC Referee Education & Training Methods to beginner referees and instructors.</i>	FIFA MA Seminar - Administration <i>Pago Pago, American Samoa 4 July – 9 July 2007</i> <i>Instructor: Guillemont Frederic (FRA)</i>
OFC/FA Referee Instructors Course <i>BA, Fiji 14 May - 19 May 2007</i> <i>OFC Technical Director Jim Selby joined The FA's John Baker and Referee Tutor in this course aimed at introducing new OFC Referee Education & Training Methods to beginner referees and instructors.</i>	FIFA MA Course – Futsal <i>Tahiti 23 July – 28 July 2007</i> <i>Instructor: Doyen James (FRA)</i>
OFC Men's Football Coaching Course <i>Lae, Papua New Guinea 19 - 20 May 2007</i> <i>OFC Technical Director Jim Selby conducted this course with 22 coaches in attendance on community football development.</i>	FIFA MA Course – Futsal <i>Tahiti 30 July – 2 August 2007</i> <i>Instructor: Gautier Perry (BEL)</i>
FIFA Com-Unity Course <i>Auckland, New Zealand 10 June – 14 June 2007</i> <i>Instructors: Stone A., Fitschen Doris (Ger), Simmons Kelly, Coan Ed, Gleeson Mark (RSA), Millar HI, Ullrich H</i>	OFC Community Football Workshop <i>Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 30 July - 2 August 2007</i> <i>OFC Technical Director Jim Selby conducted this grassroots program workshop in PNG with representatives the Education Department, Schools, PNGFA, and NGO's. The aim was to exchange experiences about the challenges specific to PNG and to discuss the creation of a tailor-made grassroots program that has Active & Healthy for Life benefits.</i>
FIFA Com-Unity Course <i>Tahiti 13 June – 15 June 2007</i> <i>Instructors: Leou Jean-Jacques, Huc Olivier, Boudet Jean-Michel (FRA), Asse Alain (FRA), Kukawka Christophe (FRA), Hamel Hedi (FRA)</i>	FIFA MA Course – Futsal <i>Noumea, New Caledonia 10 September – 20 September</i> <i>Instructor: Doyen James (FRA)</i>
FIFA Com-Unity Course <i>New Caledonia 18 June – 20 June 2007</i> <i>Instructors: Asse Alain (FRA), Kukawka Christophe (FRA), Boudet Jean Michel (FRA), Hamel Hedi (FRA)</i>	FIFA MA Course – Futsal <i>Vanuatu 22 September – 1 October 2007</i> <i>Instructor: Doyen James (FRA)</i>
FIFA Strategic Planning Workshop <i>Ba, Fiji 27 June – 30 June 2007</i> <i>A Strategic Planning Workshop was presented by FIFA Goal Development Officer and OFC Head of Women's Football Connie Selby and was also attended by Permi Jhooti a representative from FIFA to promote football to the Indian girls.</i>	



Referee Development

Developing world-class match officials throughout the region continues to be a driving factor for the Oceania Football Confederation and it took a big step in achieving that goal in 2007 with the appointment of several trios to attend FIFA world cup events.

Peter O'Leary (NZL) and Rakesh Varman (FIJ) were selected among FIFA's elite referees programme and consequently were selected to attend the FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007 and FIFA U-17 World Cup Korea 2007 respectively. O'Leary then followed that up with an appointment to the FIFA Club World Cup Japan 2007 in December.

Joining O'Leary in Canada were assistants Brent Best (NZL), and Mahit Chilia (VAN), while Varman was assisted by countryman Andrew Achari and Matthew Taro (SOL). Best and Taro also made the trip to Japan.



Under the guidance of the OFC Technical Department OFC match officials have shown continued improvement of fitness levels and temperament. There has also been excellent cooperation with the Football Federation Australia for the OFC Women's World Cup Qualifiers, the 2006 O-League and the XIII South Pacific Games Samoa 2007 providing opportunities for both parties to learn from one another.



Football Medicine

Football medicine practiced within the region has a wide spectrum of standards with some member associations having minimal resources and skill-sets in injury management and prevention.

A "needs" analysis carried out in 3 countries namely PNG, Solomons 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.

The programs in these areas will look at basic first aid training for the football community in the MAs. Continued training in injury management and prevention and continued education on doping control.

The heightening of health awareness initiatives on diseases such as HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STI), dangers of tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse has been the main aim of OFC's Dr. Selina Fusimalohi. The promotion of physical activity, healthy eating habits, working alongside member associations and local health ministries, non-government organisations as well as regional and international organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organisation (WHO) is seen as a key strategy in using the power of football to address these issues.





Futsal and Beach Soccer

Following the initial course in Tahiti in 2006 the growth of futsal and beach soccer in Oceania continued in 2007 with an emphasis on developing human resources in the both forms of the sport.

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.



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