

**OCEANIA FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION
ACTIVITY REPORT 2017**







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MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Finding new and unique ways to share the stories of football in Oceania can be a challenge but it is one the OFC media and communications team thrives on.

This year was no different with the desire to capture a snapshot of Oceania football in 2017 reflected in the content shared across the globe.

When New Caledonia qualified for their first FIFA tournament the sheer enormity of the occasion was captured in photo and in words by the team on the ground. But they were also right there when the team made the journey home, capturing the emotion of a nation when the New Caledonia U-17 team touched down at Tontouta to a heroes' welcome.

The stories were shared around the world with massive interest in the FIFA debutants coming from India in particular, with OFC assisting several major publications with background on and interviews with the team.

In terms of identifying what people most wanted to see in 2017, the results provided a cross-section of what football in this region is.

One of the most reacted to, most widely spread posts was

made in memory of Fiji U-19 women's goalkeeper Francine Lockington. The former OFC U-16 Championship Golden Glove winner passed away in July while her teammates were in New Zealand competing in the OFC U-19 Women's Championship. A short video featuring Lockington at the U-16 tournament and in camp ahead of the U-19 event reached an audience of just under 95,000 people.

Another popular piece on Facebook was a short clip of Oceania legend Bertrand Kai defying age to score an audacious overhead kick goal against Team Wellington in the OFC Champions League – a goal which reached almost 70,000.

The most reactions to a post will come of little surprise to anyone who understands the rivalry that exists between New Zealand's All Whites and their Oceania counterparts.

Although they were already out of the running for the Intercontinental Play-Off, when Solomon Islands drew 2-2 in the OFC Stage 3 Final Leg 2, it drew the most reactions on Facebook of any post made in 2017.

Twitter meanwhile had a much wider reach with Oceania teams and their appearances on the world stage the clear draw-card on this platform.

From New Zealand winning the OFC U-19 Women’s Championship and qualifying for the FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup drawing a reach of 11.2m to Vanuatu’s match against Mexico and Oceania’s support following the 3-2 loss reaching 10.8m, the top three twitter posts was rounded out by a preview of the Tiki Toa’s appearance in the final of the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup against No.3 Ranked Brazil which reached 10.7m.

FULL TIME | All over at Lawson Tama with the match ending 2-2 and New Zealand progressing to the Intercontinental Playoff



28,087	2,058	2,877	Reveal Post
People reached	Engagements	Clicks	

MYCUJOO



In 2017 OFC trialled a new platform for streaming football, mycujoo.

The Amsterdam-based company provides the opportunity to stream matches live, with the platform providing the graphics and the ability to tag key highlights.

The first full-tournament implementation was during the OFC U-16 Women’s Championship in Samoa and once fans got a taste the feedback came flowing in.

Not only did the platform prove user-friendly for both those running the behind-the-scenes and those watching from their mobile devices and computers, it also synched in with social media in a way that OFC hasn’t been able to previously.

In particular, clips of goals, saves and near misses are immediately available to be shared and the manner in which these clips were enjoyed demonstrated it was a step that OFC needed to take in this digital age.



In fact, a goal from Tahiti scored against New Zealand in the OFC U-16 Women's Championship was the most watched clip of the tournament racking up a whopping 34,000 views.

OFC MEDIA OFFICERS

In the past promoting football was very much reliant on convincing local news media outlets to cover the game.

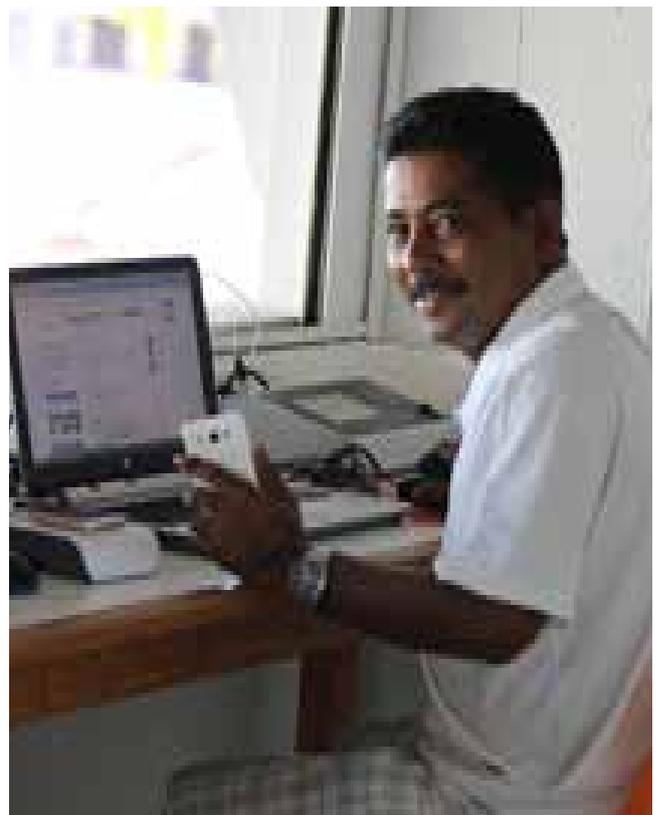
However times have changed and every OFC Member Association has had the means to promote the game via their own website and social media channels.

In order to use these channels to the best of their ability, media officers from across the region have been supported by the OFC Media and Communication department to increase their capacity for content creation.

The region's premier international club competition, the OFC Champions League, provided the initial environment for learning to take place.

Fiji Football Association and Cook Islands Football Association media officers Avikash Chand and Harriet Tuara travelled to New Caledonia, while Angela Pauga of Samoa journeyed to Auckland.

Leo Jakanduo of Papua New Guinea was involved in the FIFA World Cup Russia™ Qualifiers – OFC Stage 3 matches in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea in June







while Tonga Football Association's Adelaide Tuivailala and incoming CIFA media officer Alex Pere joined OFC for the U-19 Women's Championship in Auckland.

The focus for each media officer was how to structure a colour piece or a match preview/report focusing on the importance of being crisp and concise, but also creative.

The trio, in individual sessions, were taken through the interviewing a subject and developing the best angle for the resulting article. Finally, they were taken through live scoring from an OFC perspective which proved one of the toughest challenges for all those who attempted it due to the pace of the games played at Oceania competitions.

Tuara said the initiative was great for someone relatively new to sports reporting like herself.

"They've been very helpful in providing advice but also in guiding me through some of the tools I need for writing up stories," she said.

"My experience has been really insightful, learning how to do all the different elements required to successfully cover an OFC tournament and even just one match.

"Initially I was quite overwhelmed by all the work that was needed to be done, and I gained a deep respect for all the media officers involved in covering OFC events."

OFC Head of Media and Communications Jacqueline Tran Van said the method of bringing media officers to OFC tournaments for on-the-job training has proven successful.

"There's some very talented people from around the region who are just lacking some of the big event experience.

Bringing them along to OFC competitions means they will be better equipped when it comes time for them to deliver those events in the future, but also exposes the people within the MAs to a range of experiences and skills for them to take back and implement in their day-to-day work.

"There is a variety of tasks which need to be completed during a tournament, especially on match days which are very busy and there are a lot of different tasks to be completed across a multitude of channels.

"We want to expose them to the breadth of tasks to be completed, and get them to a level at which they are comfortable completing them, but also expose them to the pace of a tournament.

"Ultimately we want to see these learnings being applied back in their MAs in terms of the coverage they are providing via their own communication channels."





FACEBOOK

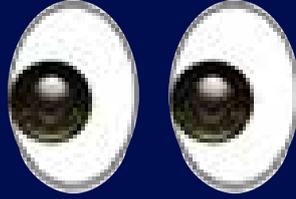


TWITTER



INSTAGRAM

21,254,167
IMPRESSIONS



▲▲▲ 29%

INCREASE FROM 2016



387,709
ENGAGEMENTS

▲▲▲ 53%

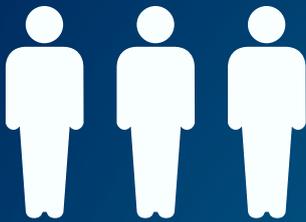
INCREASE ON PREVIOUS
DATE RANGE



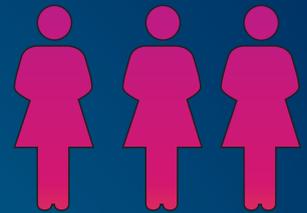
105,692
LINK CLICKS

▲▲▲ 80%

INCREASE FROM 2016



▲▲▲ 41%
INCREASE OF
TOTAL FOLLOWERS



YOUTUBE



3,709,799

MINUTES
WATCHED





OFC TV

Whether it be on a mobile phone, tablet or TV, The traditional way of viewing Football is changing to meet the demands of the marketplace and the viewer. In 2016 we saw a revolution and a shift in how media and video can be distributed.

Now we see more people, watching more media, on more devices, for more hours every day.

In 2017 OFC TV adopted a number of processes to become more efficient and adaptable to reflect the changing landscape of the digital environment.

In order to respond to this rise in technology and fans watching football across the various smart devices, we explored and acquired new solutions to drive and support our football broadcasts in order to deliver the best possible coverage for our fans across the 2017 schedule.

Connecting with fans, friends, families and players through live streaming with the supply of video content across all forms of media became our focus.

The delivery of real-time live games, highlights and available replays was a crucial part of our 2017 strategy to satisfy the viewers.

With the converging of interactive and more cost effective methods of content delivery, the challenge for the TV department was to make a seamless integration of this technology into our current operation with minimum disruption to the viewer.

2017 indicated a clear pathway for the future - to connect with our fans, to embrace new methods of technology, and to deliver compelling viewing for our football followers in this new digital space.

OFC JUST PLAY



With continued support across the region, the OFC Just Play programme has recorded another memorable year.

Through collaboration with partners such as the Australian and New Zealand Governments, the Australian Football Federation, the UEFA Foundation for Children and UNICEF, OFC continues to use football as a tool to address social challenges affecting children and adolescents in the Pacific region.

Building on the programme's success over 30,000 children and adolescents were reached across the region.

31,719

Participated in 2017 in the Just Play 6-12 programme

48%

Of the participants were girls

646

Participated in the Just Play Emergency Programme

764

New teachers and volunteers were trained in 2017

344

Participated in the Just Play 13-16 Programme

5102

Teachers & volunteers were trained between October 2009 & December 2017

ENHANCING RESULTS

The inclusion of programmatic goals and objectives on key development agendas in the region has resulted in the engagement and development of collaborative partnerships with stakeholders at local and national levels.

Recognition of sport as a powerful vehicle through which broader developmental goals and objectives can be achieved has resulted in increased awareness and recognition of sport to support the sustainable development agenda.

A case study on the Just Play programme and its contribution towards the sustainable development agenda was published by the Commonwealth Secretariat in 2017.

The study published: *Enhancing the Contribution of Sport to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, outlines evidence on how the Just Play programme is contributing to the achievement of several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and impacting on children, communities and nations in the Pacific.

The on-going #ENDviolence campaign has continued to grow, helping to broaden community awareness in the region towards violence against women and children.

With activities taking place in nine Pacific Island countries and player advocates at all major OFC tournaments and competitions, the campaign is leveraging the power and potential of sport to highlight critical issues within the region.

Meanwhile, in an effort to enhance programming results, the Just Play programme collaborated with the University of Technology Sydney to enhance the capacity of community teams in Fiji and Vanuatu to evaluate the programme's overall impact.

Focus group activities with children in Vanuatu revealed that through participation in the Just Play programme, children could understand and identify the health and physical benefits of participating in sport.

Further recognition of the Just Play programme's impact on community health and wellness, came in the Cook Islands as part of the country's Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) Seminar for Parliamentarians and the 19th Annual Cook Islands Health Conference.





In Cook Islands, with high child obesity rates and at least one in every three adults having an NCD, programmes like Just Play are playing an important role in ensuring that children and adolescents learn, from an early age, the value of physical activity on health and wellness.

With a recognition that children who develop a preference for sport and physical activity from a young age are more likely to participate throughout their life, the Just Play programme works with Primary and Secondary Schools and communities to ensure every child is given a right to play.

As part of the 19th Annual Cook Islands Health Conference, Elizabeth Iro, former Cook Islands Secretary of Health and current Chief Nursing Officer for the World Health Organisation highlighted the importance of the Just Play programme for children and adolescents in Cook Islands.

"We see Just Play as an important factor in preventing childhood obesity. It provides the opportunity for young people to experience different sports in a fun and non-competitive environment."

Elizabeth Iro, Chief Nursing Officer, World Health Organisation

EMERGENCY PROGRAMME



Recognising the important role that sport can play in supporting the emotional recovery of children following a natural disaster, the Just Play Emergency Programme facilitated the delivery of activities on the island of Ambae in Vanuatu following the eruption of Manaro volcano.

Targeting Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) centres, primary schools and communities, the Just Play Emergency programme supported the dissemination of key messages through play-based sessions and festivals.

Well received by the community, the programme helped children and families to adapt to the new environment created by the volcano.

Emma Vira, mother of three from Nambangkahake Village on Ambae, explained how she felt the programme would

help her children and children in their community.

“I feel that the OFC Just Play Emergency Programme will help my children and the children of Ambae to adapt to the new situation the volcano has created. It is really important for parents to help children return to their regular routines, including returning to school, where they will learn how to live with the new environment.”

As part of the Just Play Emergency Programme, the Queen’s Baton debuted in Vanuatu on Ambae, the island of fire.

Then, as part of the lead-up to the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, the Queen’s Baton visited the Pacific region.



“Children are **afraid** to come to school. When they are at school and hear Manaro volcano **making noises**, they take their backpacks and want to **go home**. I am so happy that the **Just Play Emergency Programme** has come to help the children of Ambae. The messages that they will learn through participation in the programme will help to give them the **confidence to return to school.**”

Alice Bani
Teacher



“I was so **excited** when I heard the **Just Play Emergency Programme** was coming to visit my community. I could not sleep the night before they came to play with us. During their visit, we played games and learnt how we need to do things different now that the volcano is alive and making lots of scary noises. We played games that showed us how to **wash the ash off our food before we eat and cook** it. We also learnt how to make the **water safe to drink by boiling it.**”

—Rengsy, 9 years old—



Leveraging the power of sport as the baton was passed hand to hand, reinforcing messages of hope, recovery and perseverance for the children of Ambae.

In addition to children in Vanuatu, children from the Just Play Programmes in Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga also had the opportunity to celebrate the arrival of the Queen's Baton as it made its tour of the Pacific.

With festivals taking place in each country, more than 1,500 children and adolescents from the Just Play Programme were given the opportunity to touch, feel and hold the Queen's Baton.

In Cook Islands, eight-year-old Victor, an OFC Just Play participant with cerebral palsy, acted as an official Just Play baton bearer. He carried the baton around a community field where children from the programme, parents, teachers and community members had a chance to interact with the Baton.

In Samoa, more than 800 children from the Just Play Programme lined the baton relay route where OFC Just Play #ENDviolence ambassador Shalom Fiso, Samoa U-19 women's captain, was the official OFC Just Play baton bearer, and provided children with the opportunity to touch and hold the baton.

In Tonga, a Just Play Programme participant and 100m gold medalist from the Special Olympics carried the Baton

to a field, where more than 50 children from the programme had their photographs taken with the baton and the gold medalist.

Meanwhile in Fiji, the baton was featured at a festival where children were given the opportunity to engage with the Baton Relay participants and Fiji international Saula Waqa, one of Fiji's most recognisable young players.



TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT



In line with the OFC Technical Department's strategic goals, 2017 saw the staff focusing on three key areas:

- Improving the Member Association's football environment
- Increase and sustain participation in football
- To improve performances at national and international level

This meant the courses conducted by the department were focused on the developing coaches and equipping them with the knowledge and support systems the need to support these OFC strategic goals, and those of their own Member Association.

Two back-to-back courses held in May were focused specifically on strategic development from a football perspective - the OFC Education and Training Seminar and the FIFA Course for MA Technical Directors.

The OFC Education and Training Seminar was the first of its kind, facilitated by the OFC Technical Department and aimed at engaging MAs to create a positive and progressive learning environment, setting the highest standards possible for education towards professional.

The six-day course gave the attendees an introduction and refresher on the technical programmes offered by OF, with presentations from other OFC departments on their roles in the region and relationships with the MAs.

OFC Head of Coach Education Giovanni Fernandes said with the immediate need to prioritise and support the MAs' players and coaches as a cornerstone to the long-term success and health of football, this course was crucial.

"By enabling participants to gain knowledge about OFC programmes and coach education, we aim to empower them to develop their football environment, increase and sustain participation in coaching, improve performances at national and international level and serve the community

through football and education,” Fernandes said.

Representing Fiji at the seminar was technical director Ravinesh Kumar, who although familiar with the content and concepts being shared, helped him to consider it from a different perspective.

“For me, I was looking at this content from a different perspective but now I see that the same content is seen in a different perspective by other nations and other countries,” Kumar explained.

“Everyone here is sharing information regarding their objectives, what is happening in their country and how they are moving forward.

“At the end of the day, we are all dealing with children at grassroots level, youth at youth level and seniors at senior level so in some way or another things will match up.”

Kumar said the seminar highlighted key areas of focus for him in particular when it comes to improving the football environment and performances.

In particular, building up the lower levels to benefit high performance levels in the future.

“We covered a very good topic on football environments which is currently the focus as Fiji FA’s number one goal,” Kumar said.

“We’re trying to change the mentality in Fiji regarding the three levels of football environments - participation, performance and high performance.

“We need to understand that our national teams haven’t been performing at their best in the high performance level and the reason for that is our participation and performance level games. We do not have enough fully structured games at the participating level.”

Being able to look at the issues he faces from different perspectives was certainly one of the major benefits Kumar took from the seminar, with the collaborative environment providing great foundations for future football development.

A week later many of the same participants were in attendance at the FIFA Course for MA Technical Directors.

With the introduction of FIFA’s new development programme Forward, the position of a Member Association technical director became more important than ever for analysis, planning, implementation and monitoring of football projects.



The course was led by FIFA Head of Technical Development Services Jurg Nepfer and FIFA Technical Consultants Hans-Ruedi Hasler and Francesco Bruscoli, the goal was to update participants on Forward, build a better understanding of the role and expectations of a technical director, and provide them with tools and processes to enhance the work they are doing.

The main focus was to provide the administrative skills to manage football development in an organised manner.

“I’m not going to teach you anything about football,” Hasler said.

“My role is much more about how you organise and how you plan. To give you the management skills to help you perform in your roles.”

For Tonga Football Association technical director Kilifi Uele, the objective was simple.

“I want to gain more experience and knowledge and build a deeper understanding of the roles and responsibilities of technical directors.

“At the same time, I want to think about challenges i face in this job and to keep working towards my vision - to help Tonga lift from the level of participation, to the level of performance.”





Fellow attendee Ruben Luvu, Football Federation American Samoa technical director, also found the course enlightening.

Luvu has held his position for five years and relishes every opportunity to exchange with his colleagues in the region, but remarked this particular course felt more interactive than courses he's participated in in the past.

"We did a lot of group work and discuss all of the issues we are having back home, what we've been doing in our own environment and then we get help from the other technical directors," Luvu said.

"The participants are helping me a lot. They're showing me how to get from where I am now to where I want to be.

"I want to continue developing myself as a technical director when I return home and I want to use my new knowledge to develop our coaches and help them get to where we want to be."

FIFA Technical Consultant Francesco Bruscoli was blown away by the enthusiasm and dedication of the participants.

"From my perspective it has been the most successful course we've had in Oceania in terms of participation,

individual contribution and adapting learning patterns," he said.

"What impressed me most is that everybody is doing programmes at the scale of their countries. Their programmes are well-chosen in terms of objectives and cost and they are very realistic in terms of approaches which are the most suitable to their situations.

"With relatively small populations and complicated countries in terms of logistics, I think overall they have very good organisation."

OFC Technical Director Patrick Jacquemet was left feeling confident about the future development of football in the region following the course.

"The technical directors have proven that they have a good understanding of how to develop football and what their specific priorities are," he said.

"We can see great focus on coach education, club improvement and competitions.

"In order to grow the game we need to develop better people, and this course has reinforced our focus to continue working together as a team."

OFC JUST PLAY GRASSROOTS



In 2017 the OFC Technical Department and OFC Just Play Programme technical coordinator Emmie Sope collaborated to deliver a 12-week pilot programme.

The objective of the pilot was to provide a Grassroots Coaching Course to the coaches of Development Centres which also incorporates social messaging.

The initial week-long introductory workshop was launched in Tonga where 16 experienced coaches were trained to harness the power of Just Play to create pathways for talented children to continue improving in football.

Split into two sections the first half focused on Grassroots Football with theory and practical exercises presented to participants by OFC Instructor Paul Toohey and Tonga Football Association technical director Kilifi Uele.

The final two days were covered by Sope and the TFA Just Play staff who led sessions on topics including Social Issues in the Pacific, Just Play Sports for Development and How to Deliver the Social Messages.

“To grow the game we need to build up our team of coaches so that they can start building up players and improving the performance of Tonga’s national teams in the future,” Uele said.

“The majority of participants are from Tongatapu Development Centre but we’ve also invited coaches from the out-

er islands. If we want to develop the football community here in Tonga, we need the remote islands to participate.”

The main appeal of the hybrid course is to draw on key aspects of grassroots football and Just Play and combine them to reinforce the player development pathway.

The adapted Just Play curriculum integrates technical elements into sessions allowing talented players who have shown potential to continue improving in football, while still participating in the social aspects and learning of Just Play.

Aspiring athletes would be able to take the next step and start developing their football skills at an earlier age, incorporating the four corner model and following the OFC Player Development Programme, in order to enhance the development of young players.

FOUR CORNER MODEL



OFC EDUCATION CENTRE



The OFC Education Centre was first implemented in September as a pilot project in the Polynesian nations of Tonga and Cook Islands.

The premise was to create an Oceania-wide programme which would provide each of the OFC Member Associations with an educational institute from which to administer courses and host workshops or seminars.

In the past OFC has delivered structured courses which offer regionally-recognised qualifications, which require participants to travel overseas to regional courses.

The OFC Education Centre is different in that it provides access to education through centres based in each Member Association, with local OFC-trained instructors leading.

The OFC Education Centre is earmarked to offer training and qualification in various areas of football including: OFC Education Centres will offer training and qualification in various areas of football including:

- Coaching
- Refereeing

- Administration and management
- Sport medicine and fitness
- High performance and elite development
- Club management and development
- Event management

Within each area of study the curriculum is divided into four levels from which they can obtain qualifications recognised throughout the region:

- Foundation courses – introductory courses in each topic
- Certification courses – qualification recognised at member association level
- Licenced courses – qualification recognised and Oceania level
- Refresher courses – On-going training for certified or licenced participants

At the time of launch OFC President David Chung said the locally-implemented but Oceania-aligned curriculum would





help OFC better provide for the future by offering a clear development pathway for participants and qualifications which are transferrable across the 11 Member Associations.

OFC Head of Education Giovanni Fernandes said the format of the OFC Education Centre meant instructors and participants could develop through the programme together.

“By empowering local leaders to deliver the course we are able to create an accessible and environmentally tailored educational institute,” he said.

“Our instructors have practical knowledge based on years of working in football and other sports environments which they will use to enhance participants’ learning experiences.

“This will help participants improve their abilities and further develop in their careers while also providing an opportunity for our instructors to build on their experience and learn while education others.”

The launch of the pilot in the Cook Islands came on the end of strong period of milestones and positive development for Cook Islands.

“Football in the Cook Islands continues to develop; our women finished third at the Pacific Games in 2015 and we

made the semi-finals of the OFC U-16 Women’s Championship this year,” CIFA President Lee Harmon said.

“However, to keep improving and reaching new milestones we must establish a solid foundation of football leaders and the OFC Education Centre is going to help us to do that.”

In Tonga, the second nation to pilot the OFC Education Centre, the sentiments regarding the benefits this project could offer the community were very similar.

“The OFC Education Centre will open doors and opportunities for Tongans passionate about a career in football,” Tonga Football Association President Lord Ve’ehala said.

“Tongan youth and players will have an education institute to gain knowledge, skills and experience in football.

“It will be a foundation for development of sport in Tonga by providing structured pathways to qualification and careers for those interested in football and any sport.”

Following the launch of the two pilot projects, the OFC Education Centre was officially inaugurated in New Caledonia by FIFA President Gianni Infantino, OFC President David Chung, Fédération Calédonienne de Football President Steeve Laigle and President of the Comité Territorial Olympique et Sportif (CTOS) Charles Cali.





Laigle was excited by the opportunities the OFC Education Centre would bring to the country.

“The OFC Education Centre will contribute enormously to the development of football here,” Laigle said.

“We talk a lot about Caledonian football being an amateur sport and needing to have structure in our football. This will assist us greatly in providing that structure with courses for administrators, for coaches and for referees.

“Also in terms of those administrators there will be courses in management, marketing and also medical, so it’s a complete set of courses.”

Based at the CISE, the Centre International Sport et Expertise in Dumbea, the OFC Education Centre is well placed to have an impact in New Caledonia according to FCF Technical Director Dominique Wacalie.

“For us in the technical department, it’s great to have something concrete like this to help us implement our development projects in terms of coaching and youth football, and for Caledonian football in general,” he said.

“Our long-term objectives are already set and the OFC Education Centre will be our plan, our guide, to achieving those objectives.”

OFC Technical Director Patrick Jacquemet said the pro-

gramme in New Caledonia would set an example for the rest of the region in terms of the implementation of the OFC Education Centre.

“With the infrastructure and competencies in this country, we could say that New Caledonia can be an example for the other Member Associations,” Jacquemet said.

“We hope this initiative will serve the federation in New Caledonia, but also motivate other countries and set in motion the path for its successful launch across Oceania.”



REFEREE DEVELOPMENT



2017 marked the second year of the three-year programme being implemented by the OFC Referee Development Officers aimed at widening the pool of match officials in the region.

The foundations of the OFC Accredited Officials programme were laid in 2016 giving developing referees and assistant referees the opportunity to attend OFC tournaments and experience the demands and expectations required to be an international match official.

Each identified match official was provided with the chance to work alongside their FIFA-accredited counterparts during OFC Competitions Pre-Tournament Seminars. In order to earn an appointment each of the participants must pass the following;

- Category 1 FIFA Fitness Test
- Laws of the Game Test
- Fouls and Misconduct Test
- Offside Test

Bringing in OFC Accredited match officials began at the OFC Champions League Qualifier and included the women's U-16 and U-19 Championships and the OFC Youth Futsal Tournament.

Among those making their regional debut as an OFC referee was Tahiti's Rani Perry.

The 19-year-old has shown great promise domestically with her performances managing matches in the senior men's league and made her regional debut at the OFC U-19 Women's Championship in Auckland, New Zealand.

Her first match in charge was between Tonga and Fiji, a physical encounter which saw the young referee rightly award two penalties.

She was also on hand for the OFC U-16 Women's Championship in Samoa where she further enhanced her reputation as one of the region's future elite officials.



Rani Perry had her first taste of refereeing as a 16-year-old, encouraged by her father.

Although she loves playing all forms of football, little-by-little, she found a passion for officiating and being incorporated into the OFC Match Officials Pathway has provided an opportunity for her to seriously pursue it.

"This tournament is truly about discovery for me," Perry said of her first outing at the OFC U-19 Women's Championship.

"It's the first time a female Tahitian referee has taken part in an OFC tournament and I'm incredibly happy to be here because my efforts are paying off and I can't wait to see what comes next."

Perry's ultimate goal is to become the first female referee from Tahiti to be appointed to a FIFA tournament and she is confident she is on the right pathway.

In addition to being involved in the OFC Match Officials Pathway, Perry has support on the ground in Tahiti laying the foundations for her development.

Among them is FTF Competitions Director Charles Ariiotima who not only makes referee appointments for domestic competitions but put Perry forward as a candidate for the OFC pathway.

Perry said it is the support from Ariiotima and other local colleagues who have had a major impact on her, including giving her the confidence to officiate men's matches.

"You have to have a lot of courage to carry the whistle in the face of all these men," she explained.

"I've done a lot of courses and started as an assistant referee before becoming a referee.

"I try to get the men to respect my authority as a referee, it's not always easy for them to accept a female referee, who will sometimes make mistakes, just like a man does."

Perry wants to become a FIFA referee and said putting in the hours at home in Tahiti, combined with the OFC Match Official Pathway, will help make that dream a reality.



ELITE MATCH OFFICIALS



OFC elite match officials continued to showcase their qualities on the world stage with appointments to five major tournaments in 2017.

While Tahiti captured all the attention in Bahamas with their silver-medal grabbing performances, but they weren't the only ones representing Oceania.

Also making an impact of the Bahamian sands was Solomon Islands referee Hugo Pado. In his third-consecutive

major tournament, Pado was appointed to five matches in all manner of roles, including Referee for Bahamas vs. Ecuador.

It was a busy year for Matt Conger and his assistant referees Simon Lount and Tevita Makasini as they were appointed to the FIFA U-20 World Cup and the FIFA Club World Cup.

In Korea Republic the trio were in charge of two group matches, while Conger was also called on as Fourth Official for the quarter-final between Portugal and Uruguay. Lount meanwhile was also called on as a Video Assistant Referee 2 for that same quarter-final, and also the final between Venezuela and England.

FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP

Hugo PADO	REFEREE	(SOL)
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FIFA CONFEDERATIONS CUP

Abdelkader ZITOUNI	REFEREE	(TAH)
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FIFA U-20 WORLD CUP

Norbert HAUATA	REFEREE	(TAH)
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Matt CONGER	REFEREE	(NZL)
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Philippe REVEL	ASSISTANT REFEREE	(TAH)
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Bertrand BRIAL	ASSISTANT REFEREE	(NCL)
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Simon LOUNT	ASSISTANT REFEREE	(NZL)
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Tevita MAKASINI	ASSISTANT REFEREE	(TGA)
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Nick WALDRON	VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE	(NZL)
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FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP

Abdelkader ZITOUNI	REFEREE	(TAH)
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Anna-Marie KEIGHLEY	REFEREE	(NZL)
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Folio MOEAKI	ASSISTANT REFEREE	(TGA)
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Bernard MUTUKERA	ASSISTANT REFEREE	(SOL)
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FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP

Matt CONGER	REFEREE	(NZL)
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Simon LOUNT	ASSISTANT REFEREE	(NZL)
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Tevita MAKASINI	ASSISTANT REFEREE	(TGA)
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Also present at the FIFA U-20 World Cup was another OFC trio made up of referee Norbert Hauata and assistant referees Philippe Revel and Bertrand Brial. The trio were appointed to the group match between France and Vietnam, while Hauata was also Fourth Official for three other matches including the Round of 16 game between Mexico and Senegal.

New Zealand referee Nick Waldron traveled to Korea Republic along with his colleagues as VAR. He was VAR 1 for the group match between South Africa and Japan and AVAR for four other matches with the Round of 16 match between France and Italy his final appearance.

The FIFA U-17 World Cup featured an OFC trio made up of Abdelkader Zitouni, Folio Moeaki and Bernard Mutukera who took control of two group stage matches. Zitouni and Moeaki were also called on as Fourth Official and Reserve AR for two further matches including the Round of 16 Mali vs. Iraq match.

Also making an historic appearance in India was Anna-Marie Keighley, one of a handful of female match officials appointed to a men's FIFA tournament for the first time.

Keighley was fourth official during four matches featuring high profile teams such as Brazil, Spain, USA and Mexico.

Zitouni appeared at one other tournament in 2017, as a Support Referee at the FIFA Confederations Cup where he was appointed for two matches as Fourth Official - Portugal vs. Mexico and Mexico vs. New Zealand.









COMPETITIONS

The OFC Competitions Department had a busy 2017 not only running a full calendar of tournaments but also managing the implementation of Analyticom's COMET system and the training of competition coordinators.

COMET

Having committed to Croatia-based Analyticom's COMET as the future of competition management for the Confederation, the introduction of the system was made for the first competition of the year, the OFC Champions League Qualifier held in late January, early February 2017.

The registration and competition management system replaced the out-dated O-Link, enabling OFC to efficiently manage the registration of players, team officials and referees from their club all the way through to participation in matches for OFC competitions.

Having successfully migrated the data from the previous system into COMET, more comprehensive records of all OFC competitions are now available and much more accessible than in the past.

Following on from its successful introduction in the OFC Champions League Qualifier, COMET was utilised in all remaining competition to great success. In addition, a decision was taken to also roll-out the system into the OFC Member Associations in order to unify the registration of players and competition management across the region.

COMET allows the OFC Member Associations to take more direct control of the registration of their players, team officials and referees and automates many functions and procedures which previously required manual input.

OFC COMPETITION COORDINATORS

The OFC Competitions Department has always worked closely with its counterparts in each Member Association when it comes to delivering successful competitions in their countries.

However in 2017 they took a more active role in developing competition managers to increase their knowledge and understanding of the role of an OFC Competition Coordinators.

For the OFC U-19 Women's Championship in Auckland, Tonga Football Association competition manager Penateti Feke was brought in, while Cook Islands Football Association competitions manager Pauline Dean traveled to Samoa for the OFC U-16 Women's Championship.



OFC Competitions Director Chris Kemp stressed the importance of developing the capacity of competition staff in OFC Member Associations not only for the benefit of OFC competitions, but also to help with the running of competitions in their respective countries.

OFC Competitions Coordinators are given hands-on training and experience in the day-to-day management of an OFC Competition.

For Feke and Dean, this meant participating in Tournament Coordination Meetings, transport logistics, match venue set-up and match management in particular, and the added benefit is to take the knowledge gained back to the MAs to constantly improve the operation of their own competitions.

FIFA COMPETITION COORDINATORS

In previous years Fiji Football Association Competition Manager Amitesh Pal has developed his skills as a competitions co-ordinator at MA level and with OFC.

In particular his previous experience as an OFC Competitions Coordinator during OFC Champions League, OFC U-17 Championship and OFC U-20 Championship tour-

naments culminated in his appointment as FIFA Competitions Coordinator to the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017, where he was based in Mumbai.



It was an incredible experience for the 34-year-old who was able to draw on the experience he gained working on OFC competitions and building on it to make the leap to the standard expected by FIFA.

The expertise of OFC Competitions Director Chris Kemp was also called upon as a FIFA General Coordinator in India, while OFC Competitions and Events Manager Michal Song was a FIFA General Coordinator at the FIFA U-20 World Cup Korea Republic.

TOURNAMENTS

OFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUALIFIER

20 January – 3 February / Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Participating Teams

Puaikura FC (COK), Utulei Youth FC (ASA),
Lupe Ole Soaga (SAM), Veitongo FC (TGA)

The year began with the opening round of the region's premier international club competition the OFC Champions League in Tonga.

The Qualifier brings together the top club sides from Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga and American Samoa and for the first time, two sides would be progressing to the next stage.

Puaikura, under the guidance of former Team Wellington coach Matt Calcott, qualified with a game in hand after defeating the club champions of both host Tonga and Samoa's Lupe Ole Soaga.



On the final day they beat Utulei Youth of American Samoa to claim top spot in the qualifier and a place in the Group Stage.

They were joined on the final day by Lupe Ole Soaga who scraped through ahead of Veitongo on goal difference after the both finished with four points following their 1-1 draw on Match Day 3.



OFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUP STAGE

GROUP A

25 February – 4 March / Nouméa, New Caledonia

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

AS Magenta (NCL), Central Sport (TAH), Madang (PNG), Lupe Ole Soaga (SAM)

Central Sport made a strong start to their campaign with an outstanding 7-3 win over competition newcomers Madang while hosts Magenta managed only a narrow 2-1 victory over the Qualifier runners-up Lupe Ole Soaga.

However Match Day 2 proved the separator as Magenta earned a 4-2 win over Central to move to the top of the group.

They finished with a resounding 5-0 win over Madang on the final day of action to claim their place in the semi-finals.



RESULTS		
1	AS MAGENTA	9
2	CENTRAL SPORT	6
3	MADANG FC	3
4	LUPE OLE SOAGA	0



GROUP B

26 February – 4 March / Koné, New Caledonia

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

Hienghene Sport (NCL), Team Wellington (NZL), Ba FC (FIJ), Puaikura (COK)

Team Wellington set their campaign on course early on with a 4-1 win over Puaikura to open Group B, while Ba and their hosts Hienghene Sport couldn't be separated after a 90th minute strike from Malakai Tiwa levelled things up after a Bertrand Kai opener.

On Match Day 2 it was only one goal which separated Ba from Qualifier winners Puaikura, who very nearly caused an upset. Meanwhile Team Wellington continued their dominance with a 3-1 win over Hienghene.

Ba were still in with a chance should they have been able to beat Team Wellington in their final match, however once the Tom Jackson put the first goal in from the penalty spot it was Team Wellington's match as they went on to win 8-0 to secure their place in the semi-finals.

RESULTS		
1	TEAM WELLINGTON	9
2	HIENGHENE SPORT	4
3	BA FC	4
4	PUAIKURA FC	0



GROUP C

11-18 March / Auckland, New Zealand

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

Auckland City FC (NZL), Western United (SOL), Lae City Dwellers (PNG), Malampa Revivors (VAN)

Making their competition debut, Malampa Revivors made things interesting for Papua New Guinea club champions Lae City Dwellers on the opening day of Group C.

However experience proved priceless as the PNG side went on to secure a 5-2 win. Meanwhile Auckland City were given a shock of their own when Western United took the lead in their opening match at Mangere Centre Park before eventually claiming a 2-1 win.

Western United's opening loss to the hosts came back to haunt them after a win over Malampa was followed up with a 5-3 victory over Lae to give them six points.

But when Auckland scored a record-equalling 11 unanswered goals against Malampa they sealed top spot and a return to the semi-finals.

RESULTS		
1	AUCKLAND CITY FC	9
2	WESTERN UNITED FC	6
3	LAE CITY DWELLERS	3
4	MALAMPA REVIVORS	0

GROUP D

11-17 March / Papeete, Tahiti

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

AS Tefana, (TAH), Marist FC (SOL), Rewa (FIJ), Erakor Golden Star (VAN)

Both Marist and Tefana got off to the best possible starts as each side beat their opponent 4-2 to claim three points on opening day.

But when Marist met Vanuatu's Erakor on Match Day 2 things didn't quite go to plan with Tony Kaltack bringing his side back into the race with a goal in either half helping them come back to a 2-1 victory. Tefana meanwhile had continued their winning ways against Rewa to earn a further three points.

When Tefana and Marist met on the final day of group action the Solomon Islands side needed a win to make it to their first OFC Champions League semi-final. Despite an exhilarating display of football, the game ended with the two sides locked at 2-2 meaning the hosts would progress for the second year in-a-row.



RESULTS		
1	AS TEFANA	7
2	MARIST FC	4
3	ERAKOR GOLDEN STAR	3
4	REWA	3





OFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEMI-FINALS

8-16 April

Participating Teams

AS Tefana (TAH), AS Magenta (NCL),
Auckland City FC (NZL), Team Wellington (NZL)

The draw for the 2017 OFC Champions League semi-finals were held at the OFC Headquarters in Auckland, New Zealand on 20 March.

In a repeat of the 2016 semi-finals, AS Tefana were drawn against Auckland City FC while AS Magenta would meet Team Wellington. The difference this time is that the semi-finals would be played on a home-and-away basis.

Auckland City made a good start with a 2-0 win over Tefana at Stade Pater in Tahiti courtesy of second half goals to two of the side's younger members, Cameron Howieson and Clayton Lewis.

They followed that win up a week later with another 2-0 victory, this time Joao Moriera and Emiliano Tade getting on the scoresheet to help their side to a 4-0 aggregate victory.

It was much tighter in the first match between Magenta and Team Wellington with a Kevin Nemias opening the scoring in just the 6th minute.

Team Wellington took the lead in the second half with a Tom Jackson penalty followed by an Andy Bevin goal.

However Magenta were able to even things up in the second minute of additional time when Frenchman Nicolas Marin converted from the penalty spot.

David Farrington Park welcomed its first OFC Champions League match a week later and proved itself a tough cauldron for visiting sides when Team Wellington outshone their opponents to claim their place in the final with a resounding 7-1 victory.



OFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINALS

30 April & 7 May / Auckland & Wellington, New Zealand



Like the semi-finals, the final was also played home-and-away with Kiwitea Street in Auckland welcoming leg one before the teams traveled to New Zealand's capital for leg two at David Farrington Park.

Auckland City made it clear why they were the long-time defending champions after running out to a 2-0 lead within the first 30 minutes of leg one thanks to Joao Moreira's two goals. Ryan De Vries then sealed a 3-0 victory for the Navy Blues when he scored in the 89th minute.

The return leg was no more favourable to Team Wellington than the first was as De Vries picked up where he left off, scoring the opening goal of the fixture in the 63rd minute.

Emiliano Tade then struck in the 76th minute to make it a 5-0 win on aggregate for Auckland City FC – who claimed their ninth OFC Champions League title.

RESULTS		
WINNERS	AUCKLAND CITY FC	(NZL)
RUNNERS-UP	TEAM WELLINGTON	(NZL)
THIRD	AS TEFANA	(TAH)
FOURTH	AS MAGENTA	(NCL)
AWARDS		
GOLDEN BALL	Angel BERLANGA	AUCKLAND CITY
GOLDEN BOOT	Joao MOREIRA	AUCKLAND CITY
GOLDEN GLOVES	Enaut ZUBIKARAI	AUCKLAND CITY
FAIRPLAY	AUCKLAND CITY FC	(NZL)



FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP

6-16 December / United Arab Emirates

The 14th edition of the FIFA Club World Cup had Oceania club champions Auckland City FC appearing for the ninth-time.

Their first round opponent on this occasion was Al-Jazira, winners of the 2016-17 UAE Pro-League.

As old-hats, Auckland City were impressive in their form on the world stage once more but they struggled to break down an organised Al-Jazira backline. Despite an imposing themselves on the first half it was the home side who took the lead with their only shot on goal finding the back of the net.

That lone goal proved the difference and despite Auckland City enjoying 59 per cent of possession, 16 shots to five and six shots on goal to two, they were unable to find the back of the net to progress to the next round of the competition.



AUCKLAND CITY FC REPRESENTED OFC

GROUP STAGE vs. AL-JAZIRA 0-1

FINAL RANKING 7 (7)

2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Qualifiers – OFC Stage 3

7-15 November / Tahiti, Solomon Islands, New Zealand, New Caledonia



Participating Teams

Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands,
Tahiti, New Zealand, New Caledonia

The OFC Stage 3 Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Russia™ continued in 2017 with two teams from Group A and Group B getting things underway in March.

From Group A that meant a chance for Fiji to play New Zealand and prevent them from topping the group in a home-and-away play-off which began with the first match at Churchill Park in Lautoka, Fiji.

A massive crowd turned out for the first match at the re-vamped stadium in which New Zealand brought back their

big guns including Premier League striker Chris Wood.

Fiji, under new coach Christophe Gamel, were outstanding in the first half especially as they kept their opponents in check. However when a penalty was given in New Zealand's favour it was quickly dispatched by Wood to open the scoring, before Marco Rojas added a second to give the All Whites a decent advantage going into the second leg.

Over 10,000 packed into Westpac Stadium in Wellington, New Zealand three days later to watch as New Zealand once again saw off a spirited effort from the Fijians. This time it was rising star Ryan Thomas who scored in both halves to see New Zealand into the Stage 3 Final.

In Group B Papua New Guinea entered the action, taking on Tahiti in the first leg at Sir John Guise Stadium in Port



Moresby. Danish coach Flemming Serritslev, who had seen Papua New Guinea through to their first-ever OFC Nations Cup final less than 12 months earlier, remained in charge of the Kapuls in their first match since losing to New Zealand in a penalty shootout.

Things started well for PNG as they heaped pressure on the visitors. Making his first appearance for his birth country was former Auckland City player David Browne, who led the attack with skill and technique. However a dream debut this was not as the youngster was shown a red card in the 22nd minute for a perceived violent action.

Despite being down a man Papua New Guinea were first to score through Nigel Dabinyaba just before the break. However the man advantage soon fell in Tahiti's favour as they struck three times before the full-time whistle.

Forced to play the second leg without Browne, but with 11 men on the field, PNG kept their campaign on track at Stade Pater five days later when they beat Tahiti 2-1.

The final round of Group games were played in early June.

With New Zealand already assured of their place in the Stage 3 Final, the final matches between Fiji and New Caledonia provided little more than an opportunity for the two sides to test out their tactics, while also hopefully improving their world ranking at the same time.

The first match at Churchill Park ended in a 2-2 draw, while New Caledonia took the advantage in the second match with a 2-1 victory.

In Group B, Tahiti had watch and hope that results would go their way while Solomon Islands returned to action against Papua New Guinea. The first leg was played at Lawson Tama Stadium in Honiara in front of a massive crowd of over 14,000 and it lived up to expectation. Atkin Kaua thrust the home side into the lead with a 12th minute goal before veteran striker Benji Totori added a second.

But in the second half the visitors hit back through captain Michael Foster and Patrick Aisa to draw them level once more. A 74th minute strike from Micah Lea'alafa restored the lead to Solomon Islands giving them a slight advantage going into leg two.

Four days later the two sides met for the second time with Papua New Guinea taking the lead this time through Raymond Gunemba. Two goals for Solomon Islands in the first half had them coming from behind to claim their second win and with it a place in the final alongside New Zealand.

2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Qualifiers – OFC Stage 3 Finals

1 & 5 September / Auckland, New Zealand & Honiara, Solomon Islands

Participating Teams

Solomon Islands, New Zealand

Following the draw at the OFC Headquarters on 15 June it was determined that the first leg of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Qualifiers – OFC Stage 3 Final would be played in New Zealand.

Scheduled for 1 September the match was played in front of a 10,000 strong crowd at North Harbour Stadium. It didn't take long for the All Whites to gain the upper hand with Chris Wood hitting the first of his eventual hat-trick in the 18th minute with further goals from Ryan Thomas, Kosta Barbarouses and Michael McGlinchey.

A mere consolation goal came to the Bonitos when captain Henry Fa'arodo slotted in a 53rd minute penalty.

The return leg ran a little closer with New Zealand opening the scoring via Myer Bevan, in his first senior appearance,

in the 14th minute with Haddis Aengari adding a second through an own-goal.

Two penalties for the home side were converted by Micah Lea'alafa and Fa'arodo to claim a 2-2 draw, however the damage had been done in leg one with New Zealand progressing to the Intercontinental Play-off 8-3 on aggregate.





2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Qualifying Intercontinental Play-Off

11 & 15 November / Wellington, New Zealand & Lima, Peru



The final ticket to the 32-nation field at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ would be determined by the outcome of two matches between Oceania representative New Zealand and CONMEBOL's fifth-placed nation Peru.

For both nations qualification would be a milestone with Peru not having competed since 1982 – the same year New Zealand made their debut.

It also marked the first intercontinental play-off for Peru, while New Zealand were facing their third in succession, with leg one coming eight years and one day since New Zealand qualified for South Africa 2010.

Leg one took place on Wellington's Westpac Stadium, the same stage for the All Whites success against Bahrain in 2009.

Peru started strong and it was a near disastrous start for New Zealand when a defensive mix-up required goalkeeper Stefan Marinovic to scramble the ball off the line. But that was about the best chance of the match with the final result a scoreless draw.

This set things up for a final showdown in Lima, with New Zealand 90 minutes from a return to the FIFA World Cup.

Peru certainly started in stronger fashion but it was actually on a counter attack that Jefferson Farfan put his side in the lead.

New Zealand started to get a foothold following the introduction of Chris Wood, but when they failed to deal with a corner Christian Ramos latched onto the loose ball fired in from close range.

The loss meant New Zealand missed out on a return to the FIFA World Cup.

RESULTS

LEG 1	vs. PERU	0-0
LEG 2	vs. PERU	0-2

OFC U-17 CHAMPIONSHIP

11-24 February / Papeete, Tahiti

Participating Teams

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



For the first time in the history of this competition there were two berths for Oceania at the FIFA U-17 World Cup up for grabs.

New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea got the competition underway with a thrilling encounter at Stade Mahina. Paul Gope-Fenepej scored the first goal of the tournament after just five minutes and had a second on the half-hour mark. Papua New Guinea came back strong to equalise but a late penalty had New Caledonia taking the full three points. Hosts Tahiti also opened with a win, going 1-0 up over Vanuatu.

The second day of action in Group A saw mixed results as Vanuatu and PNG both bounced back from their opening losses to draw 3-3 while Tahiti and New Caledonia also couldn't be separated, sharing the points from a 1-1 draw.

Adverse weather conditions meant the final day of Group A was moved to Stade Pater but that didn't seem to bother New Caledonia who returned to their winning ways, just, with a 3-2 win over Vanuatu. Tahiti meanwhile were knocked out of semi-final contention on home soil after losing 2-1 to Papua New Guinea who progressed due to their superior goal tally.

In Group B New Zealand got started in fine fashion going up by five goals in the first half against Samoa before adding a further six in the second half to secure an 11-0 victory, with an impressive six players getting on the scoreboard. There were much less goals in the other match which saw Fiji and Solomon Islands draw even with a goal apiece.

Match Day 2 pitted New Zealand against a rebounding Solomon Islands who, after conceding in the 3rd minute

equalised early in the second half. However New Zealand hit back in the 84th to earn a narrow 2-1 win. Fiji got their campaign back on track with a 3-0 win over Samoa. Solomon Islands then made a strong shout for their inclusion in the semi-finals with a 12-0 victory over Samoa before New Zealand claimed top of the group with their 5-0 win against Fiji.

With two berths in the FIFA U-17 World Cup, the semi-finals took on greater significance than usual which was evident in the fashion the four teams played. New Caledonia

met Solomon Islands in the first semi-final at Stade Mahina with the Francophone side opening the scoring in the first half. Four goals were scored in the second half – two goals each – but Solomon Islands left it all too late which meant New Caledonia were not only through to the final, but to their first FIFA tournament thanks to the 3-2 victory.

In the second semi-final it was New Zealand against Papua New Guinea and it was by no means easy passage for the defending champions despite them having taken the lead within the first five minutes courtesy of an own goal.



Instead Papua New Guinea equalised and the match was only moments from going to extra time but for an Oliver Whyte goal in the third minute of added time to see New Zealand through to the FIFA U-17 World Cup once more.

With a lot of the pressure having dissipated with their respective qualifications for the world cup, the final lost some of the usual excitement. It became somewhat of a rout for New Zealand who won 7-0 with six different goal scorers in the match for the second time in the competition.

RESULTS		
WINNERS	NEW ZEALAND	(NZL)
RUNNERS-UP	NEW CALEDONIA	(NCL)
AWARDS		
GOLDEN BALL	Charles SPRAGG	(NZL)
GOLDEN BOOT	Charles SPRAGG	(NZL)
GOLDEN GLOVES	Zac JONES	(NZL)
FAIRPLAY	NEW ZEALAND	(NZL)



U-17 WORLD CUP
INDIA 2017

next stop
#India2017

A DREAM REALISED



Finally.

It took just one word for Federation Caledonienne de Football President Steeve Laigle to sum up his feelings following the historic qualification of the nation's U-17 side to the FIFA U-17 World Cup India.

"Finally, with all the time that has passed. Finally, with the opportunities we've had and missed out on at the final moment.

"Finally."

Laigle is not the only one who has been waiting for this day to come.

FCF Technical Director Dominique Wacalie only recently retired from international football himself.

A member of the 2012 OFC Nations Cup side, he knows first-hand the heartbreak of coming within spitting distance of qualifying for a prestigious global event. But he's never experienced the joy and elation that comes with that final, and crucial, victory.

"In our generation of players we also tried to qualify," Wacalie said.

"What these youths have achieved, it alleviates some of the pain we felt at missing out.

"That they have done what seemed like the impossible and qualified, we're proud. The joy they have at this achievement, us former players, we share that too." Goalkeeper Unë Kecine struggled to find the words to express just what it means to him.

"I guess I am proud. I'm just so happy," he said.

"When we return from events our parents, our families, they're always there to greet us no matter what.

"This time it's all different because we've qualified. We did it."

Assistant coach Leon Waitronyie never once doubted that this generation of footballers had the ability to make this dream a reality.

"I was so relieved when the final whistle blew in the semi-final," he recalled of his immediate emotions.

"We'd played a massive game against Tahiti and we didn't want to miss this chance.

"So I started with relief, then happiness and pride followed."

Waitronyie has been working with many of these players for three to four years now and believes they are a special generation.



“We’ve been doing a lot of work in the islands and across the country. This truly is the culmination of what we have been doing to develop our young footballers.”

For these players it is an achievement and a journey they will never forget, but perhaps the significance of what they have done is yet to sink in.

But for Waitronyie, and coach Michel Clarque, they know exactly what it means.

“We can definitely say it’s a dream becoming reality,” Waitronyie said.

“New Caledonians have really experienced this qualification with us, Clarque continued.

“It’s been long awaited, for so many years. That it’s us, this group, who have done it, it’s amazing, incredible.

“To be able to share our please with them - it’s magic.”

With India 2017 on the horizon the hard work starts again for this side following their extended celebrations, and Kecine for one is keen to show the world what New Caledonia can bring to the table.

“It’s going to be quite different to what we just completed with OFC.

“We’ll be rubbing shoulders with some massive teams, teams that aren’t like us. But we’ll still be trying to exit our group all the same.”

FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP

6-28 October / India



For the first time Oceania was represented by two nations at the FIFA U-17 World Cup with six-time regional champions New Zealand joined by first-timers New Caledonia at this prestigious youth tournament.

New Zealand were drawn into Group B alongside Paraguay, Turkey and Mali. Their opening encounter of the tournament was against Turkey, a team they last met at this level in 2009.

Turkey had the better of the first half and could have opened the scoring as early as the sixth minute, but it wasn't until the 18th minute that Ahmed Kutucu was able to head home the opener.

New Zealand grew into the match and were eventually rewarded for some quick thinking when Elijah Just took a quick free-kick, finding captain Max Mata alone in the box to finish. New Zealand then had a couple of really decent chances to take the lead however just couldn't quite find the winner. They then lost Mata for their next match after he picked up a second yellow card late in second-half stoppage time.

Next for New Zealand were CONMEBOL side Paraguay

who had finished third in qualifying behind Brazil and Chile.

It was a high scoring encounter with Paraguay scoring two late goals to come out on top. Paraguay went ahead in the second minute through a speculative long free-kick but Alexis Duarte then scored two own goals in a 14-minute stretch to give the Kiwis the lead. Anibal Vega led the fight back scoring twice in three minutes before a stoppage time goal sealed the 4-2 victory.





New Zealand's final group match was against the Confederation of African Football champions Mali who made sure they progressed to the knockout stage with a 3-1 win over the Kiwis. However that also meant it was all over for the New Zealanders who missed out on the knockout stage after claiming just one point from their three matches.

Making their debut in Group E, New Caledonia found themselves with some big name sides to beat in the form of France, Japan and Honduras.

First on the agenda was France who had no mercy for their Pacific cousins scoring six times in the first half on their way to a big 7-1 victory.



New Caledonia were unlucky in that their campaign started with an own goal in the first five minutes which set France on course.

The second half was a much better performance from the newcomers with goalkeeper Unë Kecine producing a series of excellent stops including a penalty save. The second half was also when New Caledonia scored their first-ever goal in a FIFA competition courtesy of Cameron Wadenges.

CONMEBOL side Honduras were next and although New Caledonia started strong, they were unable to keep pace with their opponents eventually allowing them to take control of the match midway through the first half.



Honduras were three goals up at half-time and added a further two in the second half to claim the side's biggest win at an U-17 World Cup.

The final match for the young Cagous in India saw them pitted against Asian Football Confederation side Japan, who made a number of changes to their line-up to take on the Group E minnows. However it didn't quite work out as Japan intended despite them taking a first half lead.

The second half was probably their most balanced of the competition with several decent chances for New Caledonia. It wasn't until the 83rd minute that the Oceania side were finally able to break down their opponents when Abiezer Jenou met a corner delivery to nod the ball into the back of the net.

The 1-1 draw meant Japan still progressed to the knock-out stage as group runners-up, but more importantly it was an historic result for New Caledonia as they nabbed their first point at a FIFA tournament.



NEW ZEALAND		
GROUP STAGE	vs TURKEY	1-1
GROUP STAGE	vs PARAGUAY	2-4
GROUP STAGE	vs MALI	1-3
FINAL RANKING	17	(24)

GOALSCORERS	
Max MATA	1
Charles SPRAGG	1

NEW CALEDONIA		
GROUP STAGE	vs FRANCE	1-7
GROUP STAGE	vs HONDURAS	0-5
GROUP STAGE	vs JAPAN	1-1
FINAL RANKING	22	(24)

GOALSCORERS	
Cameron WADENGES	1
Abiezer JENO	1



FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP

27 April – 7 May / Bahamas

Oceania representative Tahiti returned to the world stage in 2017 with high hopes of bettering their runners-up finish of 2015. But it didn't appear they would have an easy path when they were drawn into Group D alongside Brazil, Japan and Poland.

The first match started well for the Tiki Toa as Patrick Tapa scored the opening goal, but Brazil easily bounced back and were soon 4-1 up. Match two was a much closer encounter against Japan with Tahiti once more taking an early lead. Japan hit back with three of their through Takuya Akaguma but some heroics from Raimana Li Fung Kuee saw him fire Tahiti into the lead for a 4-3 win.

The momentum from that victory carried over into Tahiti's final group game as five different players got on the board in the 8-4 victory over Poland which helped Tahiti through to the next round as Group D runners-up to Brazil.

The quarter-finals paired the Tiki Toa with Paraguay and once goalkeeper Jonathan Torohia opened the scoring in the 9th minute Tahiti were on their way. Paraguay pushed back and equalised at 3-3 but Tearii Labaste put his side back in the lead. Although three goals were scored in the 36th minute – two were in Tahiti's favour which saw them through to the semi-finals with a 6-4 victory.

Tahiti met a tough Iran in the semi-final, who had seen off Switzerland to claim their place in the final four. The Asian side took the lead in the 19th minute before Patrick Tapa hit back late in the final period to equalise. With no further goals in extra time the match went to a penalty shootout which Tahiti won 3-2 to see them through to their second consecutive final.

The final was a repeat of the Group D opener against beach soccer heavyweights Brazil. It proved a much more one-sided encounter than the Tiki Toa might have hoped for. Brazil scored in the first minute and continued scoring through the rest of the match to claim first place with a 6-0.



TAHITI		
GROUP STAGE	vs BRAZIL	1-4
GROUP STAGE	vs JAPAN	4-3
GROUP STAGE	vs POLAND	8-4
QUARTER-FINAL	vs PARAGUAY	6-4
SEMI-FINAL	vs IRAN	1-1 (3-2 PSO)
FINAL	vs BRAZIL	0-6
FINAL RANKING	2	(16)

GOALSCORERS	
Patrick TEPA	5
Tearii LABASTE	1
Hearii TAVANAE	4
Raimana LI FUNG KUEE	3
Angelo TCHEN	1
Naea BENNETT	3
Jonathan TOROHIA	1
Heimanu TAIARUI	1

FIFA U-20 WORLD CUP

20 May – 11 June / Korea Republic

The 21st edition of the FIFA U-20 World Cup featured two OFC nations for only the second time in its history with New Zealand and Vanuatu representing the region.

Making their FIFA tournament debut, Vanuatu were drawn into Group B alongside Venezuela, Mexico and Germany. First up were CONCACAF side Mexico in a match which announced Vanuatu's arrival on the world stage in incredibly fashion. Mexico initially looked to be cruising and after two forgettable moments for goalkeeper Daniel Alick, the Mexicans were leading 2-0.

However Bong Kalo slotted past Abraham Romero to score his first at a FIFA tournament, in what many thought may have been a consolation goal for the Pacific Islanders.

Mexico continued their dominance but then Ronaldo Wilkins shocked them with an equaliser as he found a gap between three defenders. It seemed history was on the horizon for Vanuatu despite the Mexico onslaught which

ensued however in the 94th minute Mexico found the goal they needed to secure the three points.

Venezuela was up next and after giving their all against Mexico, Vanuatu found themselves completely outgunned against the South American side who beat them 7-0. Going into the final match against Germany, Vanuatu fans couldn't have known what to expect based on two very different results in their opening two U-20 World Cup matches. Germany hadn't had the best results either, losing 2-0 to Venezuela before a 0-0 draw with Mexico.

Needing a win, Germany launched into attack mode from the outset although some standout saves from goalkeeper Dick Taiwia kept them at bay, at least until the 27th minute when Germany finally scored their first goal of the tournament.

Five minutes later and Germany had a two goal lead which almost became three when they were awarded a penalty,





only for it to be saved, although they eventually had their third shortly after the second half got underway.

But Vanuatu weren't going down that easily and a spill from the German keeper Svend Brodersen was swept up by Bong Kalo and placed in the back of the net. He then, to the absolute delight of the crowd, curled a sweet free-kick in to make it 3-2. But unfortunately that was all Vanuatu had in the tank and they were unable to find one more to equalise against the European giants.

New Zealand found themselves drawn into Group E alongside France, Honduras and U-20 World Cup debutants Vietnam.

The first match was in Cheonan against the newcomers Vietnam who proved an energetic, fast and frenetic opponent for the Oceania champions.

The high paced match had Vietnam with the better chances as goalkeeper Michael Woud was forced to make some impressive saves.

But as the clock wound down, so too did the Asian side's energy which allowed the Kiwis to start pressing higher. However in the end neither side was able to finish their chances and had to make do with a share of the points.

Next up was Honduras and things went a lot better for the Kiwis on this occasion as a Myer Bevan rocket, with just 45



seconds on the clock, crashed in off the bar.

Hunter Ashworth looped the ball over Javier Delgado in the 23rd minute to make it 2-0, giving New Zealand hopes of qualifying for the next round a boost. Honduras pulled one back but then Myer Bevan was given a chance for his brace from the spot which he duly accepted to send New Zealand to a 3-1 win.

The final group match was against the European champions France who were already through to the quarter-finals





and looking to seal their place at the top of the group.

It was all sealed in the first half when Allan Saint-Maxim scored twice to claim the three points from their antipodean opponents. With a win, draw and loss in the group, New Zealand progressed to the Round of 16 as Group E runners-up behind France.

This set up a showdown with Group F winners USA who proved too tough a hurdle for the New Zealanders to overcome. It was always going to be a tough ask, with the result when these two sides last met in 2015 a 4-0 loss for the Kiwis.

This time they put up a good first half performance which saw USA up by just one goal at the break, however the CONMEBOL U-20 champions added five more in the second half to make it 6-0.



VANUATU		
GROUP STAGE	vs MEXICO	2-3
GROUP STAGE	vs VENEZUELA	0-7
GROUP STAGE	vs GERMANY	2-3
FINAL RANKING	24	(24)

GOALSCORERS	
Bong KALO	3
Ronaldo WILKINS	1

NEW ZEALAND		
GROUP STAGE	vs VIETNAM	0-0
GROUP STAGE	vs HONDURAS	3-1
GROUP STAGE	vs FRANCE	0-2
ROUND OF 16	vs USA	0-6
FINAL RANKING	16	(24)

GOALSCORERS	
Myer BEVAN	2
Hunter ASHWORTH	1



FIFA CONFEDERATIONS CUP

17 June – 2 July / Russia



As the Confederation champions, New Zealand headed to the FIFA Confederations Cup in Russia to join the hosts Russia, UEFA champions Portugal and CONCACAF champions Mexico in Group A.

The All Whites opened their campaign in front of a massive 50,000-plus crowd of locals against the hosts Russia.

Although New Zealand put up a good fight, an own goal from defender Michael Boxall set Russia on their way, and they sealed the victory with a second half goal.

Next up were Mexico, a side which had beaten the All Whites 9-3 on aggregate during the Intercontinental Play-Off for the 2014 FIFA World Cup. Just before the break talismanic striker Chris Wood opened the scoring for the All Whites, and they could have been up more if he'd been able to convert some of the chances the side created.

However Mexico struck back early in the second half before sealing three points with a 72nd minute strike which also ended New Zealand's hopes of progressing to the next round.





The final match of the group was against the European champions who proved a jump too high for the All Whites who went down 4-0.

They fought hard, with 42 per cent of possession, and several attempts on goal, but Portugal with Cristiano Ronaldo at the centre of attack proved too strong for the Oceania champions.

NEW ZEALAND		
GROUP STAGE	vs RUSSIA	0-2
GROUP STAGE	vs MEXICO	1-2
GROUP STAGE	vs PORTUGAL	0-4
FINAL RANKING	8	(8)
GOALSCORERS		
Chris WOOD		1



OFC U-19 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

11-24 July / Auckland, New Zealand

Participating Teams

New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Fiji,
New Caledonia, Samoa

The OFC U-19 Women's Championship became the first regional competition to be hosted at the OFC Home of Football at Ngahue Reserve in Auckland.

Six nations took part in the round-robin tournament which meant three matches were played per day with kick-offs scheduled for 10am, 12.30 and 3pm.

The opening encounter saw defending champions New Zealand go up against Papua New Guinea, who hosted the 2016 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup and therefore had not taken part in the regional qualifier since 2014 when they finished runners-up.

Despite boasting a number of players who had enjoyed their first taste of women's elite football in Port Moresby in 2016, Papua New Guinea's opening performance was a forgettable one for the usually competitive nation. New

Zealand ran rampant over their Melanesian opponents to record a 12-0 victory. It was much more competitive in the other matches with Fiji and New Caledonia notching opening victories over Tonga and Samoa respectively.

New Zealand continued their dominance with a 9-1





ELITE



win over Fiji on Match Day 2, while Papua New Guinea bounced back to score big over New Caledonia with a 7-0 win.

Another 12-0 romp was had by New Zealand when they outshone New Caledonia while Samoa put in a strong showing to hold Fiji to a 2-2 draw.



Papua New Guinea had a second win of the competition after seeing off Tonga 4-1. Samoa forced New Zealand to reign things in a little, but the Kiwis still managed a 6-0 victory. Fiji meanwhile put an end to Papua New Guinea's run with a tightly contested 3-2 win.

With their place at the top of the standings confirmed and tickets to France booked, the final match day was somewhat of a formality for the free-scoring New Zealanders who beat Tonga 9-0 to be crowned champions with a whopping 48 goals scored and just one conceded.

RESULTS		
WINNERS	NEW ZEALAND	(NZL)
RUNNERS-UP	FIJI	(FIJ)
THIRD	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	(PNG)
FOURTH	NEW CALEDONIA	(NCL)
AWARDS		
GOLDEN BALL	Luisa TAMANITOAKULA	(FIJ)
GOLDEN BOOT	Emma MAIN	(NZL)
GOLDEN GLOVES	Ateca TUWA	(FIJ)
FAIRPLAY	NEW ZEALAND	(NZL)



OFC U-16 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

4-18 August / Apia, Samoa



Participating Teams

American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Samoa, Tahiti, Tonga

The draw for the OFC U-16 Women's Championship was held in June in Auckland, New Zealand drawing the 11 participating teams into the two groups.

However following the withdrawal of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu the draw a draw was held in July which saw Tonga moved from Group A to Group B to create two even groups of four teams.

The competition got underway at the J.S. Blatter Football Complex in Apia, with the hosts Samoa taking on New Caledonia with the Francophone's romping to a 6-0 win.

Meanwhile Tahiti made their U-16 regional debut with a heavy loss at the hands of the defending champions New Zealand, but did manage to score what would prove to be the only goal against the regional heavyweights. Samoa bounced back with a win against Tahiti, while New Zealand

continued their winning run with a 7-0 drubbing of New Caledonia. Tahiti finally found their feet in their final group game, taking the lead against New Caledonia – who struck back in the second half with two goals to take the win and secure second place in the group.

In Group B Fiji started strong with a 4-1 win while Cook Islands also saw off Tonga 3-1 to ensure their campaign got off to a strong start. For their second match Tonga hit back with a strong defensive effort to keep Fiji locked at 0-0 while Cook Islands continued their run to the semi-finals with a second consecutive victory, this time over American Samoa. Tonga then got their first win after going 6-1 up over American Samoa. Fiji meanwhile sealed their place at the top of the group after beating Cook Islands, who joined them in the semi-finals.

Although they hoped to stem the free-scoring New Zealanders, Cook Islands had little response to the pressure from the Kiwis who won through to the final with a 9-0 victory. New Caledonia meanwhile had to work hard to retain their lead against a fired up Fiji, but managed to hold on to book their place in the final against New Zealand.

Having already lost to the Kiwis in the group stage New Caledonia went into the final with an optimistic approach, however once again the New Zealanders proved too strong taking out the title for a fifth time with a 6-0 win.

RESULTS		
WINNERS	NEW ZEALAND	(NZL)
RUNNERS-UP	NEW CALEDONIA	(NCL)
THIRD	FIJI	(FIJ)
FOURTH	COOK ISLANDS	(COK)
AWARDS		
GOLDEN BALL	Maya HAHN	(NZL)
GOLDEN BOOT	Kelli BROWN	(NZL)
GOLDEN GLOVES	Lorenza HNAMANO	(NCL)
FAIRPLAY	TONGA	(TGA)



OFC YOUTH FUTSAL TOURNAMENT MEN

4-7 October / Auckland, New Zealand

Participating Teams

American Samoa, New Caledonia, New Zealand,
Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu

The men's matches kicked off at Bruce Pulman Arena in Auckland with New Zealand putting 13 goals past Tonga who could only reply with one of their own.

Solomon Islands also got underway with a big win, putting 18 past American Samoa – eight of which went to Raphael Le'ai. New Caledonia also got a win, albeit narrow, when they beat Vanuatu 3-2. Vanuatu got their first win in their next encounter, beating Samoa 6-4, while New Caledonia continued their winning streak with a 9-3 victory over Tonga.





Solomon Islands meanwhile kept their bid for a place at the Youth Olympic Games alive with a 6-1 win over New Zealand.

It was only a narrow win for Solomon Islands in their next match with New Caledonia keeping them to just 3-2 but they were soon back to their big-scoring ways with an 8-0

over Samoa followed by a 12-2 against Vanuatu and then a 17-2 over Tonga.

With a full set of six wins from six, Solomon Islands secured their place at Buenos Aires 2018 with a massive 64 goals scored, while conceding just seven.

RESULTS		
WINNERS	SOLOMON ISLANDS	(SOL)
RUNNERS-UP	NEW ZEALAND	(NZL)
THIRD	VANUATU	(VAN)
FOURTH	NEW CALEDONIA	(NCL)
AWARDS		
GOLDEN BALL	Raphael LE'AI	(SOL)
GOLDEN BOOT	Raphael LE'AI	(SOL)
GOLDEN GLOVES	Patrick STEELE	(NZL)



OFC YOUTH FUTSAL TOURNAMENT WOMEN

4-7 October / Auckland, New Zealand

Participating Teams

New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga,
Auckland Football Federation (Invitee)

The women's tournament was played in a double round-robin format which meant each of the four teams taking part – New Zealand Samoa, Tonga and invitational side Auckland Football Federation – would meet twice over the course of the event.

New Zealand made the strongest start possible with a 10-1 win over Tonga while Samoa beat the Auckland side 4-2 for a strong start of their own.

The big wins continued in the afternoon session as New

Zealand were 12-2 winners over Samoa while Tonga were held to a 2-2 draw by Auckland.

When Samoa and Tonga met it was a close match up with Tonga prevailing 4-2 while New Zealand were kept to one of their smallest margins by the Auckland side, winning just 3-1.

Tonga closed the gap on New Zealand who beat them just 6-0 in their second meeting. Samoa also closed the gap to just 6-2, but with these four victories New Zealand secured their place at the top.

Tonga meanwhile made sure to finish close behind them with a 5-1 win over Samoa in their final match.



