

## Report on Youth Squad Canberra 2017



Nik Mitchell, Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin, Brad Johnston, Feitong Chen, Andi Boughey, Matt Brown (Captain), Matt Hughes and Jacob Kalma

Well what a team!

The squad that went to Canberra for the youth week and Festival would have to be one of New Zealand's current success stories in the bridge world.

Thank you to New Zealand Bridge who provided them with the accommodation and to the NZ Bridge Foundation who covered their airfares. A big thanks to the bridge community in general who helped with fund raising efforts to help make this happen.

Bruce Crossman who ran the event at the Canberra Bridge Club expressed his admiration for the squad, as did David Thompson the Australian youth co-ordinator.



(Winners of the teams event; Brad, Nik, Matt B and Andi)

The week started well with Matt Brown and Andi Boughey winning the Youth pair's event. This was followed by Matt B, Andi, Nik and Brad winning the youth teams event. That also resulted in them winning the Cliff Wake challenge against Pete Hollands, Justin Howard, Nick Jacob and Jamie Thompson.

David Thompson reported that this is only the second time that NZ has achieved this. Last time was in 1992 by Ashley Bach, Ishmael Delmonte, Michael Prescott and Michael Ware.



After this success Andi went to play in the women's teams event with her mother and they made the final four. Nik, Brad, Feitong, Jeremy and Jacob then played in the Canberra Spring festival National Red Plum Life Masters teams Championship and once again did New Zealand proud finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. Brad and Nik were on fire and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the datums with Jacob and Jeremy a very good 7<sup>th</sup> place.

## The Test Match



(Feitong and Matt H playing the 2<sup>nd</sup> round)

The Australian squad comprised of; Jamie Thompson, Ella Pattison, Cesca McGrath and John and Charles McMahon.

Both teams were competitive but it was our youth who played solidly and won the Trans Tasman trophy for New Zealand.



The Youth squad with David Stern

There were many people who helped make this happen and I am grateful for all their support. In particular I would like to thank Douglas Russell who put hours of his time helping the squad with their bidding and play on BBO prior to Canberra. Douglas has also committed some of his time to continue this training and the benefit of this I think is reflected in their results.

Tracey Lewis (youth co-ordinator)