

# *Strike Zone*

## **Day One – Thursday, February 14**

Welcome to the 2013 Open Women's Club Championship.

It's been an unbelievable couple of weeks for NZ Softball, with our Black Sox taking out their sixth world title at Rosedale Park.



Now it's time for the country's best women to strut their stuff.

Good luck, ladies ... play hard!

## ***Champs with point to prove***

Surely not that much has changed in the past 12 months.

Mt Albert Ramblers coach Venita Hokai shakes her head and tries to understand how her defending open women's club champions have slipped to third seeds for this year's tournament, which begins today at Lower Hutt's Fraser Park.



Western Magpies – the Auckland club champions – have been installed as favourites, with runners-up Otahuhu in second and then Ramblers.



**2013 OPEN WOMEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**FRASER PARK, LOWER HUTT**



Nothing much has separated those three clubs and fourth-ranked Waitakere Bears – beaten by Ramblers in last year's final – all season, but the titleholders are feeling a tad unloved at their slide down the rankings.

That can only mean bad news for their rivals.

"I think it's pretty much open to anybody from Auckland," says Hokai, who stepped down from the day-to-day coaching role this season to concentrate on her Junior White Sox duties. She has taken up the reins this week to allow player/coach Tuhi Cooper to focus on her playing role.

"I think an Auckland team will win it. We probably should have been seeded one or two – I don't see how we could drop from first to third."

Hokai reasons that the weekly Auckland competition is no real guide to tournament form and with four strong pitchers, she's confident her team is better equipped than most for this format.

The Ramblers battery is spearheaded by Michal Tangaroa – daughter of Black Sox pitching legend Chubb – who named top pitcher last year, while playing for the Bears.

"We have a pretty decent pitching staff compared to the other teams, so we'll be tough on the mound," says Hokai. "We're not as experienced as last year, especially in the outfield, and I don't think we're as fast, but we've got some very good hitters."

Last year's success broke a 23-year title drought for the proud Auckland club, so they won't be giving their crown without a fight.

Ramblers will get an idea of where they stand, when they take on Otahuhu at 3pm today, while Magpies and Bears clash at 5pm.

**2012 Open Women's Championships**  
**Saxton Fields, Nelson**

**Winners:** Mt Albert Ramblers

**Runners-up:** Waitakere Bears

**Top Batter:** Rebecca Hicks  
(Western Magpies) 0.640 BA

**Top Pitcher:** Michal Tangaroa  
(Waitakere Bears) 0.48 ERA

**Most Valuable Player:** Rebecca Hicks  
(Western Magpies)

**Final Placings**

- 1 Mt Albert Ramblers
- 2 Waitakere Bears
- 3 Western Magpies
- 4 Te Aroha
- 5 Johnsonville
- 6 Otahuhu
- 7 Auckland Marist
- 8 Papanui
- 9 Richmond
- 10 Albion
- 11 PCU
- 12 Howick
- 13 Saints
- 14 Newlands
- 15 StokeEagles

## 2012 Open Women's Club Championship

# Stat Leaders

### Batting

#### Runs

14	Kingsley Avery (Ramblers)
	Kuraroa Ratu-James (Te Aroha)
13	Melisa Tupuivao (Te Aroha)

#### Bases on Balls

6	Four players
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#### Hits

19	Kuraroa Ratu-James (Te Aroha)
17	Melisa Tupuivao (Te Aroha)
16	Rebecca Hicks (Western Magpies)

#### Home Runs

2	Melisa Tupuivao (Te Aroha)
1	11 players

#### Runs Batted In

12	Kuraroa Ratu-James (Te Aroha)
	Melisa Tupuivao (Te Aroha)
	Katrina Stockford (Ramblers)

#### Struck Out

7	Samantha Andrell (Stoke Eagles)
	Kirsty Lakay (Auckland Marist)
6	Two players

#### Stolen Bases

10	Te Reo Powhiri Matautia (Marist)
7	Kingsley Avery (Ramblers)
6	Katarina Hiku (Mt Albert Ramblers)

#### On-Base Percentage

0.765	Kingsley Avery (Ramblers)
0.750	Te Reo Powhiri Matautia (Marist)
0.654	Rebecca Hicks (Western Magpies)

### Batting Average

0.640	Rebecca Hicks (Western Magpies)
0.625	Jordan-Leigh Koni (Porirua City)
0.560	Kingsley Avery (Ramblers)

### Pitching

#### Batters Faced

220	Breanna Gibson (Howick)
192	Destiney Stirling (Stoke Eagles)
178	Jasmin Kaiaruna (Johnsonville)

#### Strikeouts

38	Megan Farrell (Ramblers)
29	Jennifer Feret (Western Magpies)
24	Michal Tangaroa (Waitakere Bears)

#### Hits

11	Jordan-Leigh Koni (Porirua City)
18	Michal Tangaroa (Waitakere Bears)
20	Megan Farrell (Ramblers)

#### Runs

6	Megan Farrell (Ramblers)
8	Michal Tangaroa (Waitakere Bears)
13	Krysta Hoani (Otahuhu)

#### Earned Runs

2	Michal Tangaroa (Waitakere Bears)
3	Megan Farrell (Ramblers)
6	Krysta Hoani (Otahuhu)

#### Earned Runs Average

0.48	Michal Tangaroa (Waitakere Bears)
0.73	Megan Farrell (Ramblers)
1.31	Krysta Hoani (Otahuhu)

## Today ...

### Thursday, March 14

9am	D2	Saints v Western Magpies Scorer: Don Karsten	Umpires: N Ogier (P), L Kawana (1)
	D3	Howick v Waitakere Bears Scorer: Leigh Grinlinton	Umpires: T Harris (P), T Ratu (1)
	D1	Te Aroha v Melville Scorer: Ngaire Clarke	Umpires: J Hart (P), C Gaze (1)
11am	D3	Porirua City v Mt Albert Ramblers Scorer: Leigh Grinlinton	Umpires: K Cox (P), D Shedlock (1)
	D2	Dodgers Hawke's Bay v Richmond Keas Scorer: Rose Noble	Umpires: R Emerson (P), J Tangitutu (1)
	D1	Otahuhu v Johnsonville Scorer: Ngaire Clarke	Umpires: J Okada (P), R Taylor (1)
1pm	D2	Howick v Te Aroha Scorer: Rose Noble	Umpires: L Kawana (P), J Hart (1)
	D1	Melville v Western Magpies Scorer: Don Karsten	Umpires: T Ratu (P), T Harris (1)
	D3	Newlands v Waitakere Bears Scorer: Joanne Hyde	Umpires: C Gaze (P), N Ogier (1)
3pm	D3	Porirua City v Dodgers Hawke's Bay Scorer: Ngaire Clarke	Umpires: D Shedlock (P), K Cox (1)
	D2	Otahuhu v Mt Albert Ramblers Scorer: Leigh Grinlinton	Umpires: J Tangitutu (P), R Emerson (1)
	D1	Johnsonville v Richmond Scorer: Don Karsten	Umpires: R Taylor (P), J Okada (1)
5pm	D3	Melville v Saints Scorer: Rose Noble	Umpires: T Harris (P), J Hart (1), J Tangitutu (2), C Gaze (3)
	D1	Newlands v Te Aroha Scorer: Joanne Hyde	Umpires: N Ogier (P), J Okada (1), D Shedlock (2), R Emerson (3)
	D2	Waitakere Bears v Western Magpies Scorer: Leigh Grinlinton	Umpires: L Kawana (P), T Ratu (1), R Taylor (2), K Cox (3)