

SOFTBALL NEW ZEALAND ANNUAL AWARDS CITATIONS

SNZ COMMUNITY, PLAYER AND OFFICIAL AWARDS FOR 2024-2025

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR – Paul Goodall (WBOP)

Paul Goodall is the heart and backbone of softball in the Bay of Plenty. As President of the Association, he wears countless hats, not by choice, but out of dedication to keeping the sport alive and thriving. He tirelessly runs the committee, organizes draws, sets up the diamonds weekly, handles conflicts, umpires on Saturdays, and even oversees junior games—often single-handedly.

Without Paul, softball in the Bay of Plenty would be almost non-existent. His passion and commitment are unmatched, and despite the enormous workload, he remains accessible, reliable, and always willing to step in when needed. It's a role few could handle, yet he does it without expectation of recognition.

Paul's impact goes beyond administration—he ensures that players, coaches, and families can continue to enjoy the sport. His efforts deserve to be acknowledged at a national level, as he truly exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding sports administrator. We congratulate Paul on being this year's recipient of the Administrator of the Year for 2025.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – Robert Brag (Otago)

Robert Brag is involved as a volunteer within softball in several capacities: as an umpire, Junior Coach, School Coach, Grounds man, Canteen helper and a board member for both his club and association.

When it comes to wearing his coaching hat, Robert is amazing with every child - from his own team to the opposition. He is patient with a gentle attitude towards teaching the children skills and strategy for their individual level. His contribution and passion to the junior softball teams is evident and shines through in his coaching where he knows exactly the right things to say to each kid to inspire, motivate and encourage them in their game, all while keeping it fun for the!

One of his nominations came from a teacher at a school which couldn't field a team. Rob was instrumental in helping them amalgamate so that the students could stay in the correct age group. He even volunteered to coach himself when the schools became unavailable. This is a testament to Robert, who goes above and beyond for his community and doesn't hesitate to put his hand up to help even when overcommitted.

We congratulate Robert on being the very deserving recipient of Volunteer of the Year for 2025.

PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR – Skylah-Breeze Joyce

For those who are not familiar with Skylah-Breeze, she is a bubbly and boisterous fixture within softball; known well for her commanding presence on the field, and loud support of her teammates in both club grade, regional representatives and in the national development pathway. If she is at a park, or on the field, you will certainly know as her loud (booming) voice can be heard far and wide, as can her jokes and clever comebacks / back-and-forth with teammates and umpires.

She is always one to lend a hand helping as an umpire, carrying gear or coaching younger players which is a true testament to how she was raised. This season, she has been doing several clinics around New Zealand (particularly in the far north) helping up-skill Tamariki and has even had a tournament run in her honour.

She continues to be passionate about the sport, all while making it a fun experience for others - and taking some great facials in photos along the way. She truly deserves a nomination for her unwavering dedication, sportsmanship and character that is brought to every field she stepped on this season.

We congratulate Skylah on being the very deserving recipient of Personality of the Year for 2025.

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DOMESTIC COACH – Callum Ryan (Northcote / North Harbour)

Callum has worked tirelessly over the season coaching Northcote Maroon Premier Men's team and overseeing and working alongside Reserve Coaches leading the way in creating a safe environment for both growth for Juniors while allowing the seniors players to flourish.

Callum has created a unique coaching style that allows players to be able to have a balance at both home and work giving players the opportunity to do what's right for their families and growth at work and in the game. When it comes to successes this season, Callum has led his teams to many. This includes Northcote's first final at the Ramblers Rock Chote Tournament, winning the Auckland United Vic Guth memorial Tournament, making the North Harbour premier finals and as head coach, lead the North Harbour men's team to the championship final at NFC, taking the win in a nail-biter.

With it only being Northcote Premier Men's 3rd year back into the Club Nationals after a hiatus of 3 years, Callum has led the team back into the top 8 club teams in the country. He deserves this award as he not only a coach but also as a local member of the Club that fought to bring back the Northcote Premier Men's team to give the youth gateway to top level softball. We congratulate Callum on being the very deserving recipient for Domestic Coach of the Year for 2025.

CLUB OF THE YEAR - Tōtara Park (Hutt Valley)

Tōtara Park is one of the largest clubs in the Hutt Valley and Wellington softball association regions. Historically strong in the junior ranks, this year being no exception with eight tee ball and five softball teams entered the Hutt Valley (HV) junior competitions, the club has invested considerable time and effort growing and retaining a player base to strengthen the senior side of the club to throw off the mantle of being a "feeder club". This season has seen the club field nine senior and age grade teams with the highlight being the return to the Premier One Hutt Valley and Intercity competitions with both male and female teams, the first time in several decades, along with participation in the recent Open Club National Championships in both North Harbour and Christchurch.

The facilities continue to improve with the ongoing renovation of leased clubrooms, the upgrade of the park's primary skin diamond to full length and fully fenced men's dimensions, the increased standard and usage of second and third grass diamonds, the acquisition of maintenance equipment along with tentative plans for a fourth diamond for the 2025/26 season.

Behind the scenes the club has a strong and active committee and a massive parent and supporter base. They organise Saturday night clubroom gatherings to perform result notifications, game debriefs and player-of-the-day awarding. Facebook is used frequently to issue calls-to-action along with sharing information and results with excess of 1,000 users now following the club page. In summary, Tōtara Park is a club going places, a club that is bucking the trend on declining player numbers and a club that will be on the New Zealand softball landscape for some time to come. Congratulations Tōtara Park on winning Club of the Year for 2025.

ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR – Marlborough

Marlborough Softball association has shown considerable growth for the past few seasons, having their tee-ball module alone triple in size, along with an increase in Juniors which made this season a success. Not only have they been working tirelessly to build their junior programme, but their senior numbers have also flourished with the ability to enter a Heartland Women's team and have five members compete for Southern Pride at NFC.

While some regions have seen a decline in participants, Marlborough have shown that a resurgence can be achieved with volunteers who have a passion for the game, and support from the local council. With the assistance of grant funding this season, a big purchase of training aids has helped with the development of all levels throughout Marlborough and made the sport more accessible as it continues to grow.



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For Marlborough, upgrades and improvements on facilities are now on community plans, and we cannot wait to watch softball continue to thrive in the region. Congratulations to Marlborough Softball, winners of Association of the Year for 2025.

SNZ SCORER OF THE YEAR – Cheryl Dahms (Southland)

Cheryl Dahms from Southland, started scoring as many do, with her son's team. Under the expert tuition of the late Elaine Karsten, Cheryl earned her scorers badge in 2013. With Elaine's illness and passing, Cheryl stepped into her shoes and took over the Chief Scorer role in Southland. This involves co-ordinating a team of scorers to officially score 5 grades each week and then record the statistics for those grades. Cheryl can be found down at the diamonds all day each Saturday, and score at least two if not three games each game day. Often, she will appoint herself to lower grade games involving high scores and a lot of action.

She acts as a mentor for all her scoring team and trains new scorers. She also scores at the Intercity club and regional fixtures with Otago, organising the team of scorers and providing the stats when it's Southland's turn to host. Cheryl attends at least one National tournament each season. This has meant travelling to other centres, most often driving to Canterbury. Cheryl took on the role of Statistician at tournaments and has proven to be a very accomplished statistician. This season Cheryl was appointed to her first solo Tournament Chief Scorer role at the Under 19 Girls tournament in her hometown Invercargill. The job was made even more challenging when Cheryl received word on the eve of the tournament of the failing health of her father in Australia. Cheryl battled on throughout the tournament leading her team of scorers through a particularly busy and trying tournament.

Not only is Cheryl the backbone of Southland softball scoring, but she is also a shining example of one of our grassroots scorers who just gets in and does what she must (and more) without a fuss and without expecting any reward. Cheryl received word on the eve of the tournament of the failing health of her father in Australia. Cheryl battled on throughout the tournament leading her team of scorers through a particularly busy and trying tournament.

SNZ UMPIRE OF THE YEAR – Tony Kaiaruna (Wellington)

Better known to his softball whānau as TK, he has had an extraordinary year enhancing the mana of officiating and lifting where he stands. A member of the Wellington Umpires' Group and Softball New Zealand (SNZ) umpires since 2008, a World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) umpire since 2014 and a leading Tournament Chief Umpire at SNZ national tournaments, TK opened his umpiring season representing SNZ on the world stage at the Under 18 Women's World Cup, Group B in Pingtan, China, August 2024.

Leading into the domestic and national season, umpiring locally in his Wellington catchment, TK led the Under 19 Men's as Tournament Chief Umpire before plating the National Fastpitch Championship Men's semi-final and securing the position of second-base umpire on the men's final. To round out his incredible season TK led the Women's Open as Tournament Chief Umpire. A role that would see TK showcase his mana, manaakitanga and lift to 18 international candidates being assessed for their WBSC international umpire licence.

Off the field you can find TK tinkering around his home but not too far away from examining and reviewing our mechanics while inspiring his region and those around him to keep lifting as we continue to serve our great game. TK is a very deserving winner of the SNZ Umpire of the Year Award for 2025.

EMERGING MALE OF THE YEAR – Arron Gollan (Wellington)

A key figure in the success of Poneke Kilbirnie, Arron was a dominant presence throughout the domestic season. His consistency, composure, and clutch performances culminated in a standout showing at the Under 19 National Championships, where he was deservedly named Most Valuable Player — a clear reflection of his leadership and impact on the field.

Building on that momentum, Arron earned selection to the Under 23 Major Sox Qualifying Series held in Palmerston North. Competing against top-tier national talent, he didn't just hold his own — he excelled,



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emerging as one of the leading hitters of the tournament. His ability to deliver under pressure, combined with his work ethic and high-level game sense, has made him a name to watch on the national stage.

Arron's rise this season is a testament to his dedication and natural talent, and his performances have not only earned him recognition today but also opened the door to greater opportunities at the elite level. With a bright future ahead, Arron Gollan is a thoroughly deserving recipient of the 2025 Emerging Male Player of the Year award.

EMERGING FEMALE OF THE YEAR – Yvanni Gibson (Hutt Valley)

Yvanni's season was nothing short of remarkable. Representing Hutt Valley, she achieved a rare and impressive trifecta—winning three national titles at the Under 17, Under 19, and NFC Women's Championships. At every level, Yvanni was more than just a contributor—she was a standout. Playing shortstop at both the age-grade tournaments, she was a defensive anchor and offensive threat, earning MVP honours at the Under 17 Nationals in Christchurch and finishing as one of the top 3 hitters at the U19 tournament in Invercargill.

Recognizing her rising star status, Yvanni was selected as one of just three development players invited to the White Sox trial weekend. There, she impressed with her batting power, poise, and positional versatility, proving that she belongs on the path to international representation. With her exceptional all-round skill set, unwavering work ethic, and maturity beyond her years, Yvanni Gibson embodies what this award represents. She is not only one of the most exciting young talents in New Zealand softball today—but a future leader in the making.

MALE PITCHER OF THE YEAR – Pita Rona (North Harbour)

This year's recipient is a player who thrives in high-pressure moments and leads with both talent and heart — Pita Rona. A proven leader and undeniable big-game performer, Pita has been a driving force on every mound he's stepped onto. His ability to rise to the occasion was on full display as he guided the Black Sox to World Cup qualification, showcasing his poise, precision, and competitive fire when it mattered most.

Pita's year was also marked by a historic victory with North Harbour, helping to end a 20-year title drought by delivering a clutch performance in the National Fastpitch Championship (NFC). With his club side Northcote, he has been a rock—anchoring the pitching staff with consistency, composure, and a relentless work ethic. As the Black Sox prepare for the upcoming World Cup, Pita Rona stands ready to play a pivotal role, continuing to exemplify what it means to be a top-tier pitcher and an inspiring teammate. His leadership on and off the field, coupled with his outstanding performances under pressure, make him a worthy recipient of the 2025 Male Pitcher of the Year award.

FEMALE PITCHER OF THE YEAR – Tyneesha Houkamau (Auckland)

A commanding presence on the mound, Tyneesha was simply unstoppable throughout the season. Whether representing her local club, competing at the National Fastpitch Championship (NFC), or leading Otahuhu to a National Club Championship title, she delivered elite-level performances time and again. Her ability to control games and shut down offenses was unmatched, regardless of the stage or stakes.

Tyneesha's numbers speak volumes: a 0.70 ERA across the club season, a flawless 0.00 ERA at NFC, and a 1.65 ERA at the Club Nationals—where she played a central role in Otahuhu's title-winning campaign. Her sharp command, composure under pressure, and relentless drive were also on display at the White Sox trials, where she continued to prove her readiness for the international stage.

More than just a stat sheet standout, Tyneesha brings intensity, focus, and a team-first mentality every time she steps onto the diamond. Her remarkable season is a testament to her skill, work ethic, and unwavering commitment to excellence. For her dominance across all competitions and her critical role in team success, Tyneesha Houkamau is the deserving recipient of the 2025 Female Pitcher of the Year award.

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MALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – Reilly Makea (Wellington)

The *Male Player of the Year* award honours a player whose all-round excellence, consistency, and game-changing presence have set them apart at every level of competition. This year's recipient, Reilly Makea, has delivered a truly exceptional season—one that not only solidified his place as a core member of the Black Sox, but also confirmed his reputation as one of the most versatile and dynamic talents in the game.

Reilly has been a force across the diamond throughout the season. Representing Ponake Kilbirnie, he put together a dominant domestic campaign, launching an incredible 21 home runs, anchoring the outfield with solid defensive play and stepping up with clutch pitching performances when his team needed it most. Whether at the plate, in the field, or on the mound, Reilly consistently delivered under pressure, showcasing his rare combination of power, composure, and athleticism.

His performances have not gone unnoticed at the highest level. As a key figure for the Black Sox, Reilly has proven himself as a reliable, game-ready asset with the ability to impact outcomes in multiple ways. His versatility, leadership, and relentless drive make him not only a standout performer, but a true cornerstone of both his club and national teams. For his all-round brilliance, consistency in high-stakes moments, and unwavering value to every team he represents, Reilly Makea is the well-deserving recipient of the 2025 Male Player of the Year award.

FEMALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – Tyneesha Houkamau (Auckland)

The *Female Player of the Year* award recognises an athlete who has delivered excellence at every level of the game—demonstrating elite performance, leadership, and a deep commitment to the sport. This year, that honour goes to Tyneesha Houkamau, whose 2024 season was nothing short of remarkable.

As highlighted by her Pitcher of the Year award win, Tyneesha had a dominant run with her club side, culminating in a national title win where she was deservedly named Tournament MVP. Her leadership and performance throughout the campaign were central to Otahuhu's success, but her impact reached far beyond a single tournament.

In January, at the highly competitive White Sox trial weekend, Tyneesha stood out among the country's top talent and was selected as the Team Weber MVP, reinforcing her status as one of New Zealand's premier players. She followed that up with a strong showing at the National Fastpitch Championship (NFC) in February, where she was a key contributor for Auckland's second-place finish and placed second overall in hitting statistics, showcasing her offensive power and consistency on the national stage.

What makes Tyneesha's accomplishments even more impressive is her dual role as a Player-Coach for the Otahuhu Premier Women's team. Balancing high-level performance with coaching responsibilities, she demonstrated maturity, leadership, and a genuine passion for developing the game and those around her. For her unmatched performance, versatility, and inspirational leadership throughout the season, Tyneesha Houkamau is the well-deserving recipient of the 2025 Female Player of the Year award.

SOFTBALLER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Softballer of the Year award is one of the highest honours presented by Softball New Zealand, recognizing individuals who exemplify exceptional commitment, leadership, and passion for the sport. This accolade is open to players, administrators, or volunteers who have made significant contributions to the game.

The Softballer of the Year award is a testament to the recipient's unwavering dedication and significant impact on the softball community. This year, we are proud to award this honour to Paul Goodall.

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SOFTBALL NEW ZEALAND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – Christine Nukunuku (Auckland)

This season our Distinguished Service Award recipient's contributions to the sport of softball span decades, and her unwavering dedication to the game has made her one of its most respected figures. Her career is a true testament to the passion and commitment required to elevate the sport at every level, both on and off the field.

Christine Nukunuku began her service to softball in the mid-1970s, first taking on the role of Secretary of the Hawkes Bay Saints Club from 1975 to 1977. This marked the beginning of a remarkable journey that would see her become a cornerstone of the Hawkes Bay Softball community, where she served as Secretary of the Hawkes Bay Softball Association from 1977 to 1986. During this time, she not only contributed to administrative duties but also took on leadership roles in the region's scoring community, serving as Secretary/Treasurer of the Hawkes Bay Scorers Association from 1980 to 1986 and earning her New Zealand Scorers Badge in 1981.

In 1979, Christine's dedication to the game expanded to the national level, as she began working as an official scorer for New Zealand tournaments, a role she has held continuously for over four decades. Her vast knowledge and precision as a scorer made her a key figure in New Zealand's major softball events, and her talent for capturing every moment of the game through statistics has set a standard for excellence in the sport. Christine's service to the game also includes roles with numerous clubs and teams across New Zealand. She has been a long-standing team scorer for Auckland Marist, Pakuranga Pacers, and Ramblers men's teams, and has also supported the Auckland Representative teams. Her work in the Auckland Premier competition and as a statistician for New Zealand National Tournaments from 1990 to 2006 has been invaluable in maintaining the high standards of play at the top levels.

Her contributions went beyond just scoring and statistics—Christine also served as a manager for the Auckland Under 15 Boys team in 1994 and took on multiple leadership roles, including Secretary of the Pakuranga Pacers Softball Club from 1997 to 2004 and Media Coordinator for the Auckland Softball Association from 2002 to 2009. Her leadership and organizational skills have consistently supported the success of teams and competitions.

Her service has not been limited to administrative roles alone. In 2003, she became a Northern Deputy on the New Zealand Scorers Panel, a position she held until 2010, and she continued to serve as a statistician for the New Zealand White Sox at the Olympic Qualifier in Taiwan in 2006. Additionally, she made significant contributions to New Zealand's international teams, including as statistician for the New Zealand Junior White Sox during their World Series in China (2002-2003) and as statistician for the New Zealand All Stars team in 2002.

Beyond her technical expertise, Christine's long-standing commitment to the game has been recognized by her peers and organizations. In 1987, she was named a Life Member of the Hawkes Bay Softball Association, and she continues to serve the sport in various capacities, including as Treasurer of the Auckland Scorers Association since 2000, and has been the Manager for the Ramblers Premier Men's team since 2015. Christine's tireless work ethic, leadership, and passion for softball have made her a true trailblazer in the sport. Her contributions have left an indelible mark on New Zealand softball, and she is a highly deserving recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

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SOFTBALL NEW ZEALAND LIFE MEMBERSHIP

SNZ LIFE MEMBERSHIP – Lyn Lockhart

It is with immense respect and gratitude that we present Lyn Lockhart with Life Membership for her unparalleled dedication and tireless service to the sport of softball in New Zealand. Lyn's career has spanned decades, and her contributions have left an indelible mark on the softball community, both domestically and internationally.

Lyn's journey in softball management began with her role as the Junior White Sox Manager from 2003 to 2007, a period during which she made history by leading the team to their first-ever participation in the Canada Cup. This was just the beginning of a storied career that would see her take on key roles with New Zealand's premier women's team, the White Sox. As White Sox Manager from 2004 to 2010, Lyn guided the team through four major international campaigns, including the 2006 World Championship in Beijing, the 2007 Olympic Qualifier in Taiwan, the 2010 World Championship in Caracas, Venezuela, and the 2018 World Championship in Tokyo, Japan, where she stepped in as a cover for a manager facing a medical emergency.

Lyn's leadership and organisational skills extended beyond the White Sox, as she served as Head of Delegation for multiple international events, including the 2012 Yukon Canada, 2014 Haarlem Netherlands, and 2015 Oklahoma USA tournaments. Most recently, in 2023, she served as Head of Delegation for the Black Sox and U18 Girls teams in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

Her involvement with Softball New Zealand has been pivotal on many fronts. As a Board Member from 2008 to 2011, Lyn served as both Chair of the Personnel Sub Committee and Deputy Chair, making key decisions that shaped the future of the sport in New Zealand. Her leadership skills were further recognised when she was appointed President of Softball New Zealand from 2013 to 2016, where she worked tirelessly to advance the sport's development.

Lyn's commitment to the game extended to her role as a Dispensation Committee Member/Chair from 2007 to 2022, as well as her significant contributions to tournament organisation and coordinating the Gillies Shield entry for the White Sox in Australia in 2007. Her administrative and event coordination expertise continued with her volunteer management for the 2004 Men's World Championship, where she served as the Co-ordinator of Volunteers.

In addition to her leadership roles, Lyn's work behind the scenes has been equally impactful. She was an active Scorer for Softball New Zealand from 2000 to 2004 and has been a Tournament Representative from 2006 to 2021. Her influence continued to be felt as a Facilitator and Presenter at SNZ Annual Workshops in 2024, where she shared her extensive knowledge with the next generation of softball leaders.

As a Manager's Mentor for the New Zealand White Sox in 2024, Lyn has planned and coordinated tours, including the 2024 Canada Cup, and shared her expertise with new managers, ensuring the continuity of excellence in the team's operations. Her contribution to the sport's institutional knowledge is further reflected in her creation of the Manager's Manuals, detailing everything from how to approach team communications to logistics of international softball tours.

Lyn's long-standing commitment to the sport also extends to her work with the Softball Foundation New Zealand, where she has served as Trustee and Chair since 2022, continuing her legacy of leadership and dedication to the sport's growth and recognition.

For her decades of service, visionary leadership, and unwavering commitment to softball at every level, Lyn Lockhart is a true icon of the sport in New Zealand. Her work has shaped the futures of countless athletes, coaches, and volunteers, and her impact will be felt for generations to come. It is with great pride that we recognise her with Life Membership, an honour she richly deserves.

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Lyn's contribution to softball is both vast and deeply respected. Her legacy is not only written in titles, tours, and executive roles—but also in the relationships she has built, the lives she has influenced, and the admiration she has earned from those who have worked closely with her.

To truly capture the impact Lyn has had on our softball community, we've gathered a few words from those within our softball community who have had the privilege of working alongside her. Their reflections speak to Lyn's leadership, tireless dedication, and the quiet strength with which she has supported countless athletes and teams over the years.

Sina Hunkin, former WSX Player, Manager and Mental Skills coach said:

As a WSX player, Lyn was an amazing manager! Later in life when I became involved in various WSX management roles, I had the privilege of working alongside her and seeing first-hand what made her so good. Lyn cared about the welfare of athletes and had a commitment to excellence in her role which was impressive and inspiring. This was reflected in her meticulous planning, wealth of knowledge, strong communication skills, and ability to build good relationships. Lyn has a way about her that makes you feel like everything is going to be ok. As a player, and even more so as a former member of WSX management, she has provided a great deal of reassurance, especially during challenging times. For this, and so much more, I will always feel extremely grateful and privileged to have had Lyn in my softball life!

Mike Walsh, former New Zealand White Sox Head Coach said:

"It was a privilege to have Lyn as the WSX manager for our various campaigns including the 2006 world Champs in China. Her planning & delivery of all her roles was superb, she handled all issues efficiently, at times over & beyond whatever was required to ensure the team & all members were her priority. Always honest in her decisions making, no BS or spin. Lyn has been a wonderful administrator for our sport plus a super friend, truly worthy of Life Membership, congrats mate!!!"

Rebecca Bromhead, a former New Zealand White Sox athlete, shared:

"When I first met Lyn, I was terrified. Not because she is an overtly scary presence - though, to a new White Sox squad member, her no-nonsense efficiency as a manager absolutely made you want to stay in her good books. No, I was terrified, because from the very first time I heard her address us as players, it was undeniable how much she loves and respects the White Sox program, what a privilege it is to be a part of it, and the responsibility we now all bore as new members. In those few minutes, she set the tone for my entire international career, and for a moment, the weight of that expectation, the idea of failing to live up to the picture she had painted, to disappoint her or the program in any way...well, as I said, terrifying - but in the best possible way. I was awed, and inspired, and determined. Almost 20 years has passed since then, and I have had the privilege of playing with and for a large number of passionate and proud White Sox whanau. I have heard more beautiful speeches, witnessed people put their heart and soul into the fern, and been inspired over and over again. However, in all my time, nobody - nobody - has stood with, fought for, and supported our program with the passion, determination and strength of character that Lyn Lockhart has. She has been the cheerleader in the stands, the guardian angel behind the scenes, the fighter in our corner - and she has been doing it for decades. I am so happy to hear that Softball NZ is recognising Lyn with this Life Membership. Back in that first speech, she spoke of the legacy we needed to carry, the shoulders of giants we now stood on. I was inspired, and awed, thinking of the legends who had come before me. I didn't realise it fully at the time, but I was in the presence of another legend, another giant that was during creating her own legacy. What an absolute honour and privilege to have been a part of it. Thank you, Lyn,"

The words shared by the softball community only begin to reflect the depth of appreciation, respect, and admiration for Lyn. Her tireless dedication, wisdom and grace have left a lasting mark on generations of players, coaches, officials, and administrators. Lyn has given so much more than time and service—she has given heart, integrity, and unwavering support to the game we all love. Her influence will continue to echo through our fields, dugouts and boardrooms for years to come.

Tonight, we honour not only a remarkable career, but a remarkable person. On behalf of everyone across New Zealand softball—past, present, and future—congratulations, Lyn, and thank you for everything. Your Life Membership is a tribute well earned, and so richly deserved.