

HISTORY OF WANGANUI HOCKEY

- The sport of Hockey has been present in Wanganui forever. Photos and Trophies date back to the 1900's.
- Gonville Domain has been the centre for most of that time with periods at Victoria Park (Women) and Springvale Park during the 70's when 13 grass fields were in use.
- 1963 became first Assoc in NZ to build and own its facilities with further extensions in 1978.
- 1940's through to advent of artificial surfaces in late 80's ran the biggest Five aside tournament in NZ with over 100 teams competing.
- While being a 'Minor' assoc in size competed in the National with the Men's team throughout the 60's never being out of the top eight and finishing runner up to Canterbury (1968, 0-1 at Cooks Gardens)
- Always on list of hosting International visiting teams. India 1935/38/55(Cooks Gardens 500 in attendance) and 75. Pakistan and Australia 1958/67. Canada 1975. Japan 1961.
- 1990. Amalgamation of Men's and Women's Assoc into Hockey Wanganui Inc. (Along with Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Taranaki, Horowhenua, Rangitikei form 'Central Districts)
- 1980's saw the arrival of artificial playing surfaces in NZ with turfs at the three main centres. In 1990 Wanganui along with Manawatu and Whangarei became the first regional turfs and the only one to own its turf – all others Council provided. The start of the end of 'grass hockey' at competitive level.
- 2010 Collegiate School establishes it's own 'Water turf' which has been in use by the WHA as a satellite facility.
- 2006 'sand carpet' replaced with 'wet and dry' which in turn is now reaching the end of its life.