



# Will to Win

## *New Zealand netball greats on team culture and leadership*

LANA MCCARTHY WITH ANDY MARTIN AND GEOFF WATSON



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### INSIGHTS AND REVELATIONS FROM SOME OF THE LEGENDS OF NEW ZEALAND NETBALL

A fascinating deep-dive into the development of the Silver Ferns' traditions, the evolution of team culture and the nuts-and-bolts of leadership at an elite level.

Legendary players and coaches — including Lois Muir, Leigh Gibbs, Bernice Mene, Ruth Aitken and Casey Kopua — candidly discuss the highs and lows of their careers, and of the Silver Ferns, the effect of the intense rivalry with Australia, coping with gut-wrenching losses, and the resilience of players and coaches.

For the first time the perspective of these key actors is the subject of serious analysis, and the book is a real insight into the psychology of a women's high-performance team. As such, it provides a practical guide for developing team culture and leadership for netball coaches at all levels.

It also includes comments from Farah Palmer on women in sport and leadership, and a brief history of New Zealand netball, including the gains and losses as netball moved into a semi-professional era, and the struggles for sponsorship and for media recognition, despite it being New Zealand's most popular team sport.

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Dr Lana McCarthy** is a lecturer in teacher education at Charles Sturt University, Australia. She was formerly an assistant lecturer in the School of Sport, Exercise and Nutrition at Massey University, Palmerston North.

**Dr Andy Martin** is a professor in the School of Sport, Exercise and Nutrition at Massey University, Palmerston North. He is the lead author of *Outdoor & Experiential Learning* (2004). He is also co-author of *Legends in Black* with Geoff Watson and Tom Johnson (2014).

**Dr Geoff Watson** is a senior lecturer in the School of Humanities at Massey University, Palmerston North, where he teaches history. He co-authored *Sport and the New Zealanders: A history* (2018).

### SALES POINTS

- A behind-the-scenes look at how an elite women's sport team functions, with insights into coaching, captaincy, team culture, and leadership
- Netball is New Zealand's most popular team sport, with approximately 350,000 players, and is consistently one of the highest rating sports on free-to-air TV
- The last history of netball in New Zealand, *Court in the Spotlight*, was published in 1999, well before the game became professionalised, so this book provides a much-needed new perspective
- Many practical insights that will benefit players and coaches at all levels

#### Massey University Press

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