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Edebone-Weber Shield

Softball's Trans-Tasman Rivalry Expands¹

Softball Australia is pleased to announce the addition of the Edebone-Weber Shield to its national championship calendar. The Shield, which will be run in conjunction with the Open Women's Australian Championship (the Gilley's Shield), will be played between the New Zealand White Sox and the best Australian State teams.

The Edebone-Weber Shield recognises two Softball legends for their outstanding contributions to the game in their respective countries: Peta Edebone from Australia and Gina Weber from New Zealand.

Peta Edebone, who is known for her courage, dedication and commitment to the pursuit of success, began her representative career when she was chosen for the Victorian Under 16 Team in 1984. Following three years in the junior ranks, Peta represented the Victorian Open Women's team for 15 years, including as captain from 1994 - 2004. In 1993 Peta won the Sybil Turner Medal for Best Batter at the Australian Open Women's Fastpitch Championship and in 1997, at the same event, won the Midge Nelson Medal for Most Valuable Player.

In 1992, Peta made her debut in the Australian Open Women's Team at the Challenger Cup in Beijing. She was the 160th player to represent Australia. Peta played at three International Softball Federation (ISF) World Championships: 1994 in Canada (bronze); 1998 in Japan (silver); and 2002 in Canada (fifth). Peta also played in three Olympic Games: 1996 in Atlanta (bronze); 2000 in Sydney (bronze) ; 2004 in Athens (silver). Peta was highly regarded as one of the world's leading batters and defensive players in the positions of 1st base and outfield. At the Olympic Games in Sydney, Peta equalled the

¹ In July 2009 the *Aussie Steelers*, Australia's Open Men's Team, beat New Zealand 5-0 to become the International Softball Federation's (ISF) Men's World Champions

then Olympic Record of four home runs. From 1998 - 2000 Peta was named as Vice-Captain of the Australian Open Women's Team. In January 2001, she was given the honour of captaining the Australian Open Women's Team, a position she held until her retirement.

Peta retired having played a total of 328 international matches for the Australian Open Women's Team, at the time making her the second most capped Australian player ever, behind Sally McCreedy (356 caps).

New Zealand's Gina Weber is probably the best recognised name in New Zealand women's softball. The 1.90m (6'3") pitcher's first experience of international softball was with the New Zealand B team in 1982. She did enough in that side to be included in the New Zealand team that won the gold medal at the World Championship in Taiwan later that year. That world championship was to be her first of four such tournaments at that level. Gina also played in the 1995 Olympic Games qualifying tournament. After that Gina, who represented Wellington, Auckland and North Harbour during her playing career, took time out from the game, but returned to captain the White Sox at the Sydney Olympics in 2000. In 2004 she attended her fifth world championship as part of the White Sox coaching staff. In 2005, Weber was inducted into the Softball NZ Hall of Fame.

Peta was excited to receive the news that the Trans-Tasman Series was being named in honour of Gina's and her distinguished careers in Softball. *"Australia and New Zealand have endured great sporting rivalry in many sports and Softball has been no exception. To be recognised in this way is a great honour and I thank Softball Australia for this opportunity"*

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AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

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