

Nationals a tough ask

By ALAN APTED

Counties Manukau netball still has a way to go before it can make its mark on the national scene judging from the results of the under-19s and under-21s at the national age group championships in Nelson last week.

The under-19s finished 13th in their 16-team group and the under-21s were last out of eight in their championship.

The under-19s' only wins

were against Selwyn and Manawatu. The under-21s had one big win, a 50-49 thriller against Waikato who finished in the top four.

Netball Counties Manukau business manager Nicole Terrill says the losses don't reflect the gains being made.

"The final positions do not reflect the competitive performances our teams produced with each game and although we did not post many wins the gap between ourselves and the stronger

teams is getting closer."

The province's under-17s started their nationals in Hamilton on Monday.

The tournament finishes tomorrow.

■ The team is: Chanelle Campbell, Ashley Fennessy, Monique Fitzpatrick, Destinee Jansen, Nicole Jensen, Nadia Loveday, Olivia van Diepen (Papakura), Stephanie Collins, Elizabeth Ene and Akeneta Wacokecoke (Howick Pakuranga). Coach: Delwyn Sanders.