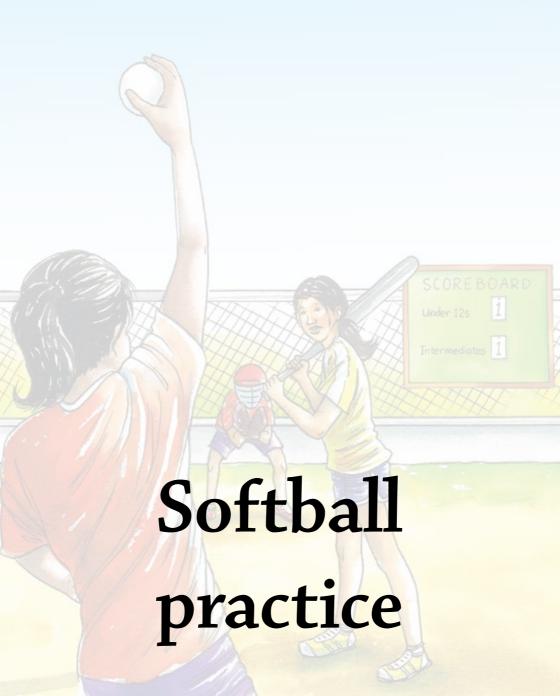


## Acknowledgements

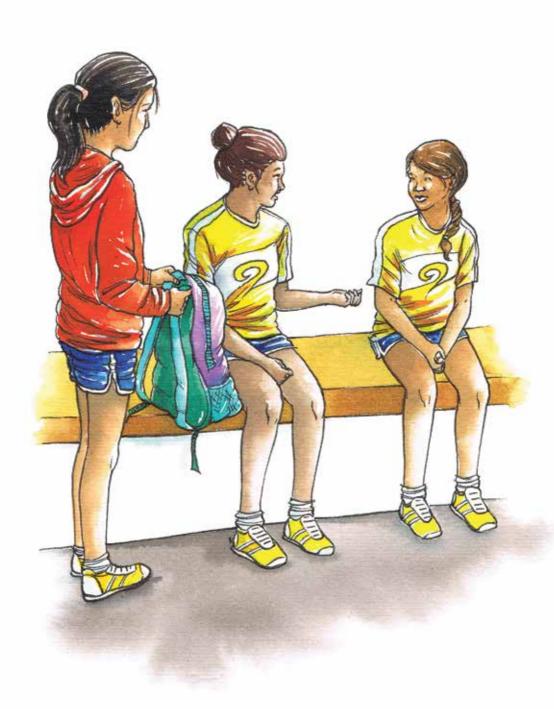
Illustrations by Nikki Slade Robinson.
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Kiri ran into the changing rooms at the softball club and dropped her sports bag on the seats.

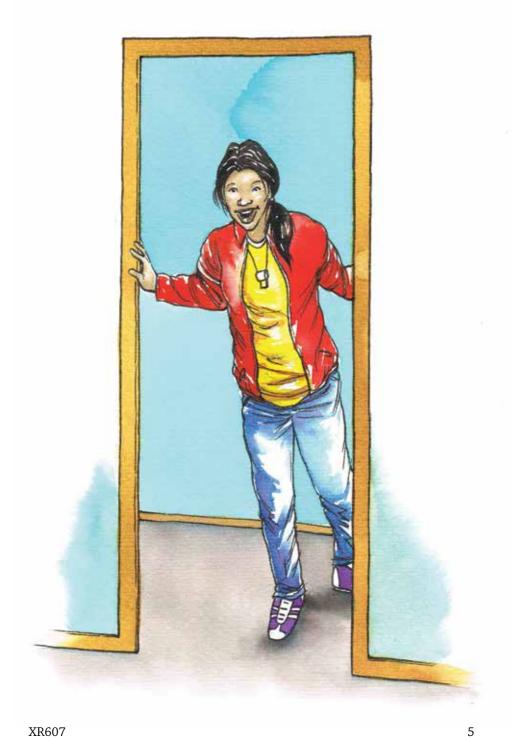
"Has anyone seen my Mum?" she asked her team mates.



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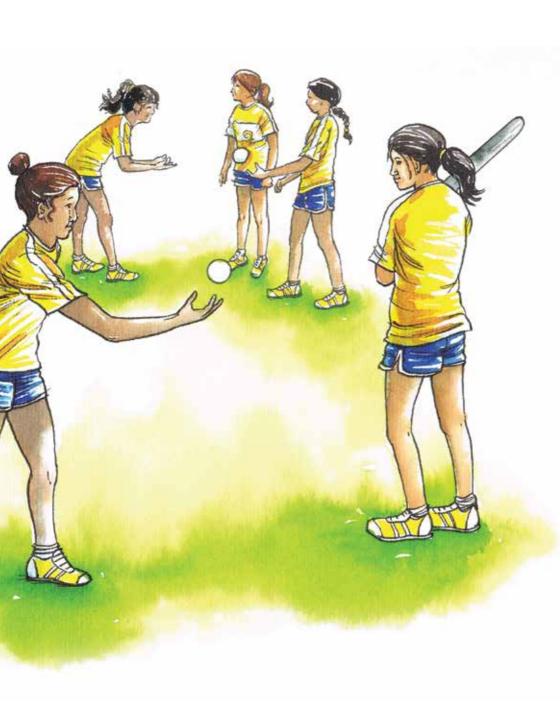
"Kia ora, girls," called Kiri's Mum, Joy as she came in the door.

"Hurry up and get changed. I will see you on the field for our warm up in five minutes."

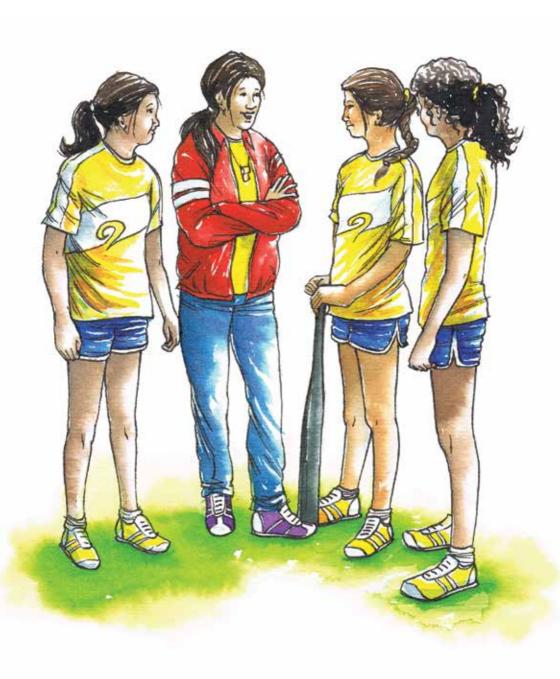


The team practised their batting and ball skills. Kiri was pleased when she did some good hits.

"That's great, Kiri. Your practice at home is really helping your batting," said Joy.



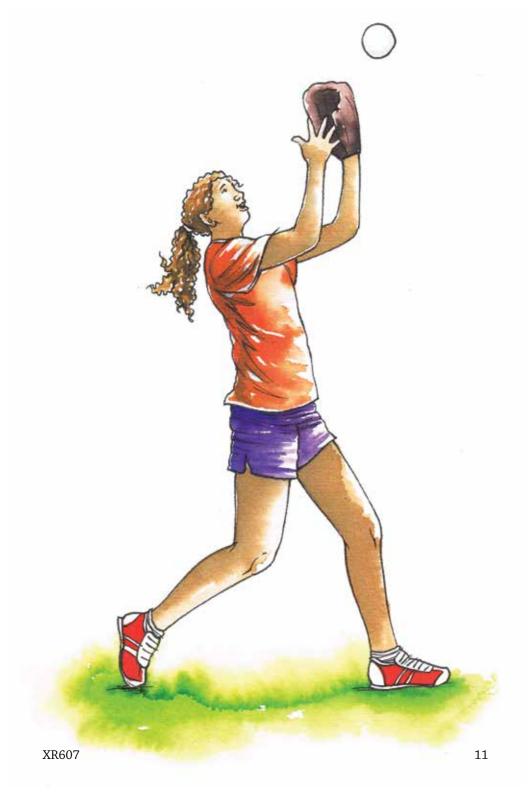
"Now, we are going to have a practice game with the next grade team. It will be good to get us ready for our competition game on Saturday," said Joy.



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The two teams got into their positions. The other team was older and had a fast pitcher.

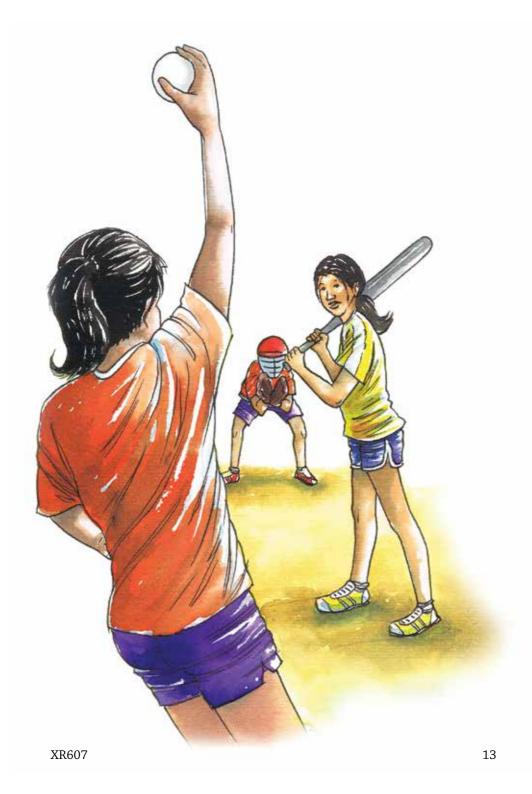
One by one, Kiri's team was run out or the ball went high in the air and was caught by a fielder.



Kiri was the team's last player. She faced the pitcher and kept her eye on the ball. The ball came towards her as a white blur. Kiri swung her bat and hit the ball hard.

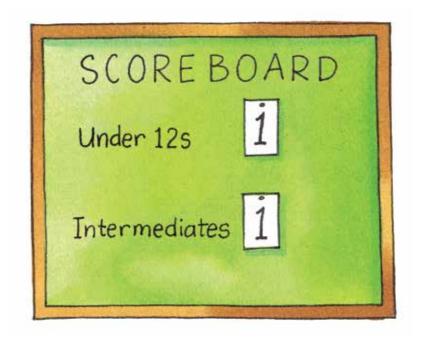
The ball sailed into the air, over the head of the fielder and out of the park. Kiri ran as fast as she could around the bases and slid into home base just in time.

"Safe, home run to Kiri's team, well done Kiri!" said Joy.



Next it was time for the other team to bat. Kiri's team did well catching balls and getting players out on first base. One girl hit the ball hard and low and got her home run.

At the end of the game the scoreboard showed it was a draw.



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After the game Joy talked with her team.

"Great game today, girls. You should do well against the top team on Saturday. Tino pai!"



