



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Challenge Yourself

Hunter Netball Incorporated

E: Hunternetball@gmail.com

W: www.hunternetball.com

Recruit. Train. Support. Retain.

Acknowledgement of Country

Hunter Netball acknowledges the First People of Australia and of the lands that make up the major tribal groups in the Hunter region where we live, work and play.

Major Tribal Groups in The Hunter Region



We recognise the significant contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to our game.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and thank them for their ongoing cultural and spiritual connection to this country.



Artwork Credit: Adam Manning

A message from the Chair

I am pleased to present the 2023 annual report to our members. Off the back of a busy 2022 season, Hunter Netball has taken to 2023 with the same level of pace so that that we continue to provide netball pathways for athletes across the Hunter.

I would like to thank our Board Members who were elected to take Hunter Netball forward in 2023, in October last year. Our Board Members each bring high-level passion for netball in the Hunter region and to creating opportunities for our athletes across the Hunter, supporting the intent of the broader work of Netball NSW.

Throughout 2023 Hunter Netball, with the support of our 13 Member Associations has:

- Continued Hunter Netballs presence in the Netball NSW Dooley's Metro League Competition in 2023.
- Hunter Netball Boys team, participated in the Netball NSW Junior State Titles taking the 14Us Runner Up Title.
- Supported Hunter Member Associations to continue the men's pathways to participate in the Netball NSW Senior State Titles.
- Continued discussions with the incoming NSW Government Minister for Sport Stephen Kamper, on indoor infrastructure that is required for the Hunter region.
- Put forward to the Premier League Commission the Hunter Netball expression of interest to become the 10th Netball NSW Premier League Licence.
- Offered the Hunter Summer Series with the support of Netball NSW and our major Sponsor KBA Insurance Repairs for the second year.

We did this with the support of our Community Partners in 2023 being:

- KBA Insurance Repairs - Metro League Gold Sponsor
- Purnell Awards and Apparel - Uniform Partner
- Regent Street Physiotherapy
- Hunter Homes NSW
- McDonalds Bennetts Green
- Greater Bank
- Newcastle Weekly - Media Partner
- Newcastle Airport

Together, we look forward to forward to creating further opportunities for netballers (administration, players, officials) to participate in the Netball NSW pinnacle pathway competitions and programs.

Jodi Cassar PSM
Chair
Hunter Netball Incorporated.

On the court – Metro League

The DOOLEYS Metro League is one of the top netball competitions in the Netball NSW calendar of events. This offers our Hunter Netball athletes the opportunity to play week in, week out netball with teams from across NSW.

Our athletes and their supporters travel weekly each Monday night to be part of this event held at Netball Central in Sydney Olympic Park. Hunter Netball had one team entered the DOOLEYS Metro League in 2023.

They participated in division three of the 18-week competition and were led by Coach Lexi Unicomb and Team Manager Sally Unicomb who provided great on court advice, support, and leadership to the full training squad. The athletes put in solid performances each week coming away with three wins and one draw and continued growth and development across the season.

The 2023 team included:

- Kienna Clegg
- Zahlee Connolly
- Tara Fidock
- Lillian Howe
- Carrie Lind
- Mia Marshall
- Ella McCluskey
- Emily Morgan (Captain)
- Olivia Pirillo
- Xanthe Rheinberger (Vice Captain)
- Ella Smith (Vice Captain)
- Ella Tupou

2023 Training Partners:

- Erin Diazbell
- Famke McCallum ** elevated to team part way through season.*
- Lara Mellon
- Midori Rees
- Tahni Sunterton
- Lucy Webber



Photo Credit: NuLook

Hunter Netball would like to acknowledge Steve Fidock who supported the team as Official Photographer over the season at Netball Central, and the team from Newcastle Weekly for providing weekly media stories on each round played by our Hunter Netball athletes. Together this continues to help raise the profile of Australia's number one team sport played by females here is in the Hunter.



Premier League and Metro League Umpires from the Hunter

In 2023 the following umpires were selected by Netball NSW to officiate over games across both the Premier League and Metro League competitions:

Premier League - National A Group

- Alex Brown - Newcastle Netball Association
- Ben Hole - Lakeside Netball Association
- Leigh Whitehead - Newcastle Netball Association

Metro League Umpire Group included:

- Anthony Jarvis - Charlestown Netball Association
- Heidi Wesche - Lakeside Netball Association
- Kimberley Clement - Maitland Netball Association
- Leearna Bennett - Maitland Netball Association
- Melissa Comber - Maitland Netball Association
- Rachel Bennett - Newcastle Netball Association



Emerging Hunter Athletes Shine

Along side Hunter Netball Associations, Hunter schools play a key role in fostering athlete pathways for netballers. In 2023 both Primary and Secondary schools across the Hunter have had a successful netball year.

The Hunter Schools Sports Association selected the following athletes from across Hunter region schools to represent the Hunter in 2023.



SELECTION '23

HUN

Ella Forster - Stockton PS
Sophie McCallum - HSPA
Kaila Stringer - Floraville PS
Ruby Williamson - Kahibah PS
Tiarna Burton - Ashtonfield PS
Hollie McGuire - Jewells PS
Eva Debono - Old Bar PS
Halle Davis - Stockton PS
Willow Toomey - Kotara South PS
Jada Capriotti - Kotara South PS

PRIMARY GIRLS NETBALL
July 25 - 27 - Port Macquarie

SCHOOL SPORTS ASSOCIATION

From these three days of netball the following athletes were selected to represent NSW at Nationals held in Perth in September 2023.



- Halle McGuire and Jada Capriotti (Captain) from [Charlestown Netball Association Inc.](#)
- Kaila Stringer and Sophie McCallum from [Lakeside Netball Association](#) and
- Eva Debono from Great Lakes Netball Association.

The 2023 Primary Netball Boys trials for the NSW team, also sees several boys from the Hunter region participating in the Nationals in Perth including:

- Flynne Gordan - Dungog PS (Dungog, Hunter)
- Edison Kaluski - The Junction PS (Newcastle, Hunter)
- Beau Kinross - Ellebana PS (Newcastle, Hunter)
- Harry Leto - New Lambton South PS (Newcastle, Hunter) and
- Seb Longworth - Ellalong PS (Cessnock, Hunter).

This is an outstanding achievement by all these primary school athletes that sees the Hunter region represent more than half of both the boys and girls teams in 2023.

The Hunters Secondary School team selected included the following athletes:

- Grace Gadsby - Merewether HS
- Anna Vogt - Merewether HS
- Halle Clemente - Cardiff HS
- Kianna Clegg - Whitebridge HS (Hunter Netball)
- Lucy Webber - Warners Bay HS (Hunter Netball Training Partner)
- Midori Rees - Hunter Sports HS (Hunter Netball Training Partner)
- Mia Marshall - Warners Bay HS (Hunter Netball)
- Jaylah Boney - Hunter Sports HS
- Acacia Elers - Hunter Sports HS
- Sarah Graham - Hunter Sports HS
- Melanie Yorke - Callaghan College - Wallsend Campus





Hunter local Matilda Percival was selected to the All-Australian Netball 15 years team for 2023 in August this year.

Netball NSW announcements

Netball NSW announced the following athletes from the Hunter region to represent NSW at the 2023 National Netball Championships that were held in Darwin in April.

- Millicent Tonkin (19U Team)
- Hope White (17U Team)

Both athletes are members of Newcastle Netball Association.

Then in June 2023 Netball NSW announced the following athletes from across the Hunter Region as part of their Emerging Talent identification program:

Regional Emerging Talent

- Matilda Percival - [Newcastle Netball Association](#)
- Paiton Cook - Newcastle Netball Association

First Nations Emerging Talent

- Acacia Elders - Newcastle Netball Association
- Jaylah Boney - Newcastle Netball Association
- Sarah Graham - Newcastle Netball Association
- Maddison Ridgeway - Callaghan District Netball Association

The Netball NSW Regional State Cup brings the best regional athletes together in one competition to determine the States best regional team.

Hunter Central Coast region the inaugural winners of this event will be looking to maintain their title again in 2023.

The follow Hunter Central Coast team has been selected and will be led by Natalie Hilder and Jade Nichols with Samantha Rumbel as Team Manager.




HUNTER CENTRAL COAST

PLAYERS	ASSOCIATION
Mackenzie Ryan	Wyong
Ellie McCaughan	Gosford
Charlee Belcher	Callaghan
Charlie Proctor	Gosford
Taylah Belcher	Callaghan
Sav Angelozzi	Newcastle
Tynisha Faasisila	Newcastle
Matilda Lidbury	Newcastle
Allie Reid	Gosford
Ella Smith	Newcastle
Tiah Cox	Wyong
Grace Gadsby	Maitland
UMPIRE	
Noah Stephenson	Woy Woy Peninsula

On the court – Hunter Boys

Hunter Boys were led by Coach Anthony Jarvis and supported by Team Manager Ashley Robinson in 2023.

Our Hunter boys had the opportunity to participate in several representative carnivals in the lead up to their State Titles showcase event and came together on and off the court nicely.

The Junior State Titles hosted by Camden Netball Association, saw Hunter Netball Boys 14Us have a successful title, coming away as Runners Up in 2023 and taking away the highly regarded blue patch and trophy, with four wins and just two losses.

The excitement and enthusiasm that the male inclusion has created demonstrates the opportunities that lay ahead for boys and men's netball across all of our regional Hunter Netball Associations, and we look forward to Hunter Netball Associations taking the lead in the mens and boys representative pathways from season 2024.





On the court – Mens pathways

In 2023, Hunter Netball was pleased to see our Hunter Netball Associations take the lead for this representative pathway at the Senior State Titles.

With Hunter Netball Associations well represented which showed on the final ladders of each division.

Newcastle Netball Association Open Male Division 1 team placing 5th with five wins and seven losses across their weekend.

Open Male Division 2 saw Charlestown Netball Association take home 3rd place with ten wins and four losses, whilst Kurri Kurri Netball Association came away placing 6th on the ladder with five wins and 9 losses.

On the court – Hunter Netball Summer Series

Off the back of a successful 2022 KBA Insurance Repairs - Hunter Netball Summer Series, Hunter Netball is again offering this competition in 2023.

Whilst this competition offers the Hunters best teams to come together in female, male and mixed divisions for athletes over the age of 15 years. It has also proven to be a strong competition for Hunter umpires to obtain coaching weekly that they may not receive throughout the playing season. This has been particularly important pathway for several smaller Associations where umpires are often required to support and develop locally their umpires through the regular season often at the neglect of their own development as National Badged umpires.

The umpiring program has been led by National A Umpires Monique Smith and Lauren Hill and will continue again in 2023.

Coaches also benefited in season 2022 with Marion Van Muster providing coaching guidance to team coaches across the Summer Series.

The 2023 KBA Insurance Hunter Summer Series will kick off again in October, for 8 exciting weeks of netball hosted across several Hunter Netball Associations.

Off the court – Community Engagement

Hunter Netball has strong, and positive working relationships with the Councils in each of the Hunter Local Government Areas, as well as our State and Federal Members of Parliament. With a strong acumen in government

relationships, Hunter Netball understands the importance of working with and for our community.

Hunter Netball supported Aspire Netball again in 2023 for the 11 Years Development Day, that brings together literally hundreds of excited 11-year-olds from across NSW to participate in a great day of learning and netball fun.



Aspire Netball bring together local Academies, Hunter Netball, and the Central Coast Heart to collectively provide the program that promotes sport, netball, fun and all whilst raising money for Confident Girls Foundation.



Hunter Netball further partnered with Aspire Netball through their development programs offering match play for athletes.



Hunter Netball participated in the Girls Day Out (Women in Sport) event in January, aimed at girls aged 6 to 16 to try new sports, and to meet

professional athletes, learn new skills and be inspired. This year's event in the iconic Newcastle foreshore district.



Hunter Netball Athletes also participated in a wet, season opening at Newcastle Netball Association in 2023. Supporting some of the NetSetGo netballers of our future with a training session from some of our Hunter Netballers.



Congratulations also goes to the Hunter Netballers who give to the game through umpiring and who in 2023 received the National C Accreditation, Carrie Lind, Xanthe Rheinberger and Lara Mellon.

Off the court



Hunter Netball remains committed to being an enabler for Hunter netballers to progress through their pathway, as part of the broader netball ecosystem across the Hunter.

Through our relationships with each of the 13 Hunter Netball Associations that provide grassroots and Representative Netball pathways, to the Hunter Academy of Sport, and through the supporting netball programs provided by ASPIRE Netball, NettyHeads and similar offerings across the Hunter.

Hunter Netball is committed to supporting the boys and mens growth in the game, whilst maintaining a positive Metro League experience. Our aim remains to obtain a future Premier League licence but in the meantime as the Netball NSW Premier League Commission works towards their ideal competition, we will continue to support Hunter athletes to pursue opportunities with existing licensees, including Central Coast Heart as our nearest licence.

Hunter Netball Premier League

Hunter Netball put forward expressions of interest in the 2023 selection process for a 10th licence to the Netball NSW Premier League Competition from season 2024.

On 22 August Hunter Netball was advised that we had not been successful, with a later announcement that week advising the netball community that South West Mounties Magic was the successful contender for the 10th licence from season 2024.

Hunter Netball Board met with Netball NSW CEO Tracey Scott and General Manager Communities Tim Fava to further discuss on 4 September. The following feedback was shared with Hunter Netball Board Members.

- Premier League Commission received three submissions from Hills Alliance, South West Mounties Magic and Hunter Netball
- Due to the high quality of all three submission Netball NSW explored moving to a 12-team model for the competition with a possibility of a phased approach to 12 teams over 2 years.
- Netball NSW held discussions with the existing 9 Premier League licences as is required under their agreements on moving to a 12-team model for the competition. The existing licensees were not advised who the applications were received from.
- Based on their feedback and further exploration by Netball NSW on sustainability and growth data of athlete participation in all areas it was considered best to remain with a 10-team model in 2024.
- South West Mounties Magic was considered to have greater athlete growth based on current registration volumes (including growth through COVID impacted years) and noted the footprint covers an NSW population growth corridor and will draw from Liverpool, Camden and Bankstown Associations.
- Netball NSW acknowledges because of the engagement with Premier League teams on a 12-team model this impacted on the original timeframe advertised for the process and note that they impacted to the delay in communication of the outcome.
- Netball NSW acknowledges that they have an obligation to consult on new models but do not want that to mean long drawn-out process - it is Netball NSW view that there should be progression towards an extended competition within the next 3 years - the format of what this looks like would be based on consultation and must ensure the financial viability of all license holders.

- Netball NSW advised they felt it was important that there was a South Western Sydney opportunity if the competition was to remain at a 10-team model.
- Netball NSW advised that further discussions will be held with the 9 Premier League licences 6 September as part of the postseason engagement, where they expected to discuss further expansion of the Premier League Competition as part of their vision, and possible standards and measures of success to be introduced under future models for the betterment of the game.
- Netball NSW noted that there is also a need to look at the relationship between Premier League and Metro League so that both competition pathways create the value proposition that is required to support netball pathways.
- Netball NSW are committed to working with Hunter Netball and NSW regions more broadly about regional pathways / models.

Hunter Netball will continue to support our athletes in their endeavours to progress to the Premier League.

Hunter Netball also acknowledges the new Premier League community partners who committed to supporting our bid for Premier League and will continue to work with these partners on other opportunities over the coming years.

Hunter Netball Infrastructure

With a change of government in NSW in March 2023, Hunter Netball has allowed the incoming government time to find their feet before connecting further on Infrastructure opportunities.

Informal and formal engagements have occurred with Minister for Sport, Stephen Kamper and his office since June, with further meeting with Sports NSW, Netball NSW and Hunter Netball to occur in the near future.

Hunter Netball will continue to work in the best interests of netball across the Hunter as we progress this work.

Awards and Recognition

Netball NSW Awards and Recognition 2022

- Jodi Cassar PSM - Dot McHugh OAM Administrator of the Year Award for outstanding leadership in the administration of netball.

Sports NSW - NSW Community Sports Awards - 2023

- Jodi Cassar PSM - Finalist Volunteer Director of the Year.
- Charlestown Netball Association - Koori Netball Inclusion Achievement Finalist

Our Governance

Hunter Netball is compliant with Australian and NSW laws and has maintained incorporation with Fair Trading NSW since May 2022 under the name of Hunter Netball Incorporation.

With this registration Hunter Netball is required under the Act to report the following:

- Financial Statement must be submitted to the Annual General Meeting
- Must lodge with Fair Trading annual summary of financial affairs.
- Lodge / notify of any changes to appointment of public office within 28 days of any changes to person / address.

Our Finances

During the 2022-2023 financial year the total revenue for Hunter Netball was \$32,937.00 Sponsorships from our Community Partners was the prime revenue for the period, followed by Association Memberships.

Our expenditure for the same period was \$17,858.20, with our main expenses being court hire for training venues.

Closing bank balance as of 30 June 2023 being \$37,442.64.

As of 31 August 2023 being the period immediately before the Annual General Meeting our Account Balances were:

- Hunter Netball Working Account: \$ 953.79 CR
- Hunter Netball Savings Account: \$35,244.70 CR
- Hunter Netball Visa Account: \$ 500.00 CR
- **TOTAL** **\$36,698.49 CR**

Community Partners

Your supporters are key to your success, and it was fantastic to bring on board a group of committed Community Partners in 2023.

KBA Insurance Repairs, Metro League major partner and Hunter Summer Series naming partner, KBA Insurance Repairs demonstrates the values of respect, learning, quality and performance - these values resonate with the direction of Hunter Netball, KBA is a three-year partnership across seasons 2022 - 2024.

Purnell Awards and Apparel continues as our official uniform and award supplier. Purnell has kitted out all our athletes and coaches with quality playing uniforms and provided many of our Hunter Netball awards. We look forward to their ongoing partnership with Hunter Netball.

Regent Street Physiotherapy highly experienced in the treatment of netball injuries from grassroots to elite level they provide preventative, diagnosis and treatment using a range of therapies.

Hunter Homes NSW innovative, fresh and vibrant - a trusted relationship is always the key to big commitments and that's what Hunter Homes and Hunter Netball have in common - both wanting to make individual and team dreams come true.

McDonalds Bennetts Green an active part of communities across Australia, and Naomi and her team are no different right here in the Hunter. McDonalds has a key focus on activities that improve health and wellbeing and that is pivotal in our relationship.

Greater Bank has been supporting grassroots netball across the Hunter for many years, providing support to most regional Netball Associations. The Greater has a strong sense of providing young athlete pathways, and this is why it was important for them to partner with Hunter Netball.

Newcastle Airport joined the Hunter Netball team in January 2023, with a common vision of growing the region. We are excited to have this growing airport join the Hunter Netball community.

Newcastle Weekly joined Hunter Netball in January 2023 as our Official Media partner. Hunter Weekly is a community focused editorial team dedicated to bringing Newcastle and the Hunter the latest sports news.

A proud history of netball in the Hunter

Hunter Jaegers was a Hunter netball team that represented Netball NSW in the National Competition known as the Commonwealth Bank Trophy.



Making their debut in 2004 and continued to play in the competition until 2007, where the competition evolved to the ANZ Championship and the Hunter Jaegers and Swifts merged to form the NSW Swifts.

Many of the Hunters grassroots association players have worked their way through the pathways to play at the highest level of netball in Australia.

Netball is part of the big netball community providing local connections to empower participants to shine.

Netball has a unique power to motivate, and inspire boys, girls, women, and men of all ages.

Netball is a sport for all ages, abilities, backgrounds, and genders.

Contact us

For further information or to discuss the details in the attached contact:
Hunternetball@gmail.com

