



ANNUAL REPORT

Challenge Yourself

Hunter Netball Incorporated

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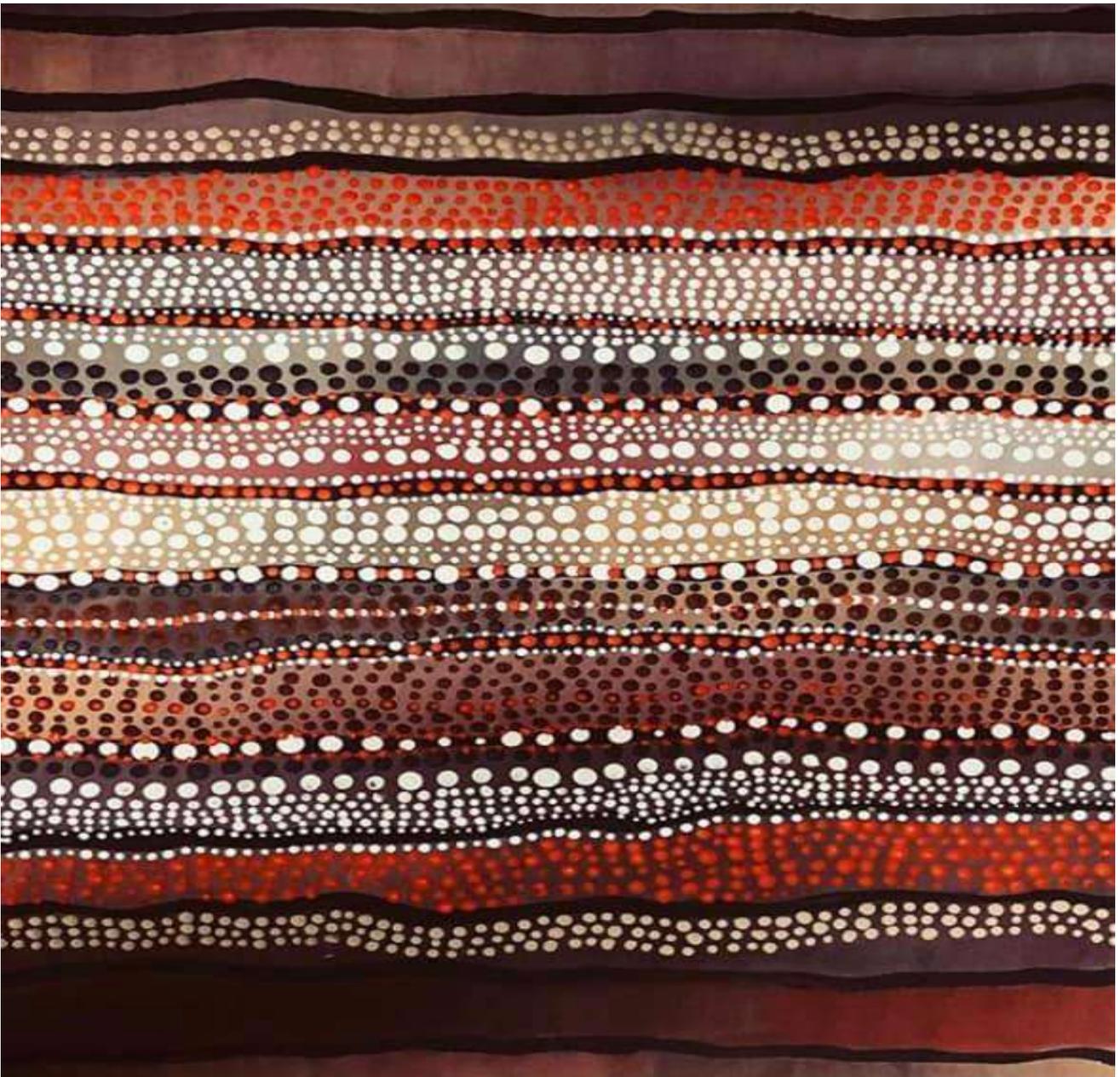
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Recruit. Train. Support. Retain.

Acknowledgement of Country

Hunter Netball acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands that make up the Hunter region where we live, work and play. 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 country, sharing with all Australians through story telling.



Artwork Credit: Adam Manning

A message from the Chair

I am please to present the 2022 annual report to our Hunter Netball Associations. In late 2021 the Hunter Academy of Sport advised Netball NSW that they were not able to continue to support the Hunter Netball program under their athletes' program, they did however want to see the Hunter Netball pathway for athletes continue and with this came a new opportunity.

There remained the need to provide athlete pathways into the Netball NSW competition pathways under the brand of Hunter Netball, so a working group was formed to establish the basic principles to continue. In October 2021, the working group presented these to Hunter Regional Netball Associations, and a new Committee was elected to take Hunter Netball forward in 2022.

We asked our netball community to stay with us as we continued to forge a new path forward.

And together we have:

- Continued Hunter Netballs presence in the Netball NSW Dooley's Metro League Competition in 2022, with two teams entered.
- Actively contributed to the Premier League review conducted by Netball NSW.
- Provided boys and men's pathways for athletes across the Hunter Region with the opportunity to participate in the inaugural State Titles (Junior and Senior), with great success and enthusiasm.
- Created the momentum for indoor netball infrastructure, partnering with the University of Newcastle with a decision pending by NSW Government.
- Launched the Hunter Summer Series with the support of Netball NSW and our major Sponsor KBA Insurance Repairs.

We did this with the support of our key partners in 2022 being:

- KBA Insurance Repairs - Gold Sponsor
- Purnell Awards and Apparel - Uniform Partner
- Regent Street Physiotherapy
- Hunter Homes NSW
- McDonalds Bennetts Green
- Nettyheads
- Greater Bank

This momentum has been enough to start the ball rolling for the next iteration of Hunter Netball.

We are excited about the years ahead and what is to come for Hunter Netball as leads the charge to:

- Secure committed funds as the enabler for the Sporting Centre of Excellence and the home of Hunter Netball.
- Place Hunter Netball in viable position as a contender for future Netball NSW Premier League franchise pathways.
- Secure a Mens League team for the 2023 Netball NSW competition.

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



Jodi Cassar
Chair
Hunter Netball

On the court

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 (Monday / Thursday) nights to be part of this event held at Netball Central in Sydney Olympic Park.

Hunter Netball had two teams enter the DOOLEYS Metro League in 2022.

Team 1, participated across the 18-week competition in Division Two, led by Natarlia Manning and supported by Helen Wilson. The athletes had a tough season impacted by ongoing bouts of COVID-19 and player injury. This impacted on their on-court performance with just one win across the season. Despite this, this group of athletes demonstrated strong resilience and commitment to the game across the season for which they are to be commended for.



Team 2, participated in Division Four of the 18-week competition and were led by Lexi Unicomb and Sally Unicomb. The athletes put in solid performances each week coming away with three wins and one draw and continued growth and development across the season. A few athletes also had the opportunity to support Team 1 when impacted by injury or illness and stepped up to the opportunity.



We had the exciting opportunity to expand beyond the Metro League pathway in 2022 with the inclusion of male divisions added to the Junior and Senior HART State Titles in 2022. This has been the first time that male divisions have been added as a competition pathway and no longer a demonstration game.

In collaboration with Associations from the Hunter, we held selections to enable male participation from the Hunter region, whilst Hunter Netball Associations continue to growth the male participation. Along side Kurri Kurri Netball Association it was great to have such depth of men from the Hunter participating.

Mens Netball NSW Board Members, David and Jann Huey led our Hunter Men to a successful Senior State Titles coming home a respectful third place in Division Two of the Competition. Dropping just two games on day one and one game on day two.



Hunter Boys were led by Anthony Jarvis and supported by Ashley Robinson. 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. At Junior State Titles at the end of day one they had dropped just one game to Liverpool City before a significant weather event saw the event cancelled for the remaining days.

Hunter Boys were invited by Mens Netball NSW to be part of the pre-game State of Origin Tournament which saw NSW take on QLD. This was an amazing opportunity for our boys to be part of the experience that is playing netball in Rod Laver Arena at Sydney Olympic Park.

The excitement and enthusiasm that the male inclusion has created demonstrates the opportunities that lay ahead for boys and men's netball across all regional Hunter Netball Associations. Our aim is to create the momentum that Hunter Associations take forward as part of their regular Representative Programs to enable Hunter Netball to focus on the M-League

Pathway with Netball NSW in the years ahead. Until then we will continue to offer out support of the grassroots representative opportunities.



Ben Hole Hunter Umpire from Lakeside Netball Association was awarded his National A Badge as he officiated over the pinnacle games in Netball NSW competition Premier League in April 2022.

Hunter Netball Committee Member **Narelle Eather** who has been part of the foundation Hunter Jaegers and remains an active player within Newcastle Netball Association extended her netball coaching accreditation and successfully obtained her Advanced Coaching Accreditation in August this year.

KBA Insurance Repairs - Hunter Summer Series will commence on Wednesday 12 October and offer a new competition for the Hunter.

Off the court

Your supporters are key to your success, and it was fantastic to bring on board a group of committed sponsors in 2022.

KBA Insurance Repairs, demonstrates the values of respect, learning, quality, and performance - these values resonate with the direction of Hunter Netball, and it was great to on board KBA for a three-year partnership. KBA Insurance Repairs is the sponsor of our Hunter Netball Summer Series in its inaugural year of competition as well.

Purnell Awards and Apparel came on board as our official uniform and award supplier. Purnell has kitted out all our athletes and coaches with quality playing uniforms and provided all 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.

Nettyheads helping you to grow through their coaching and mentoring programs building capable netballers and quality people.

We would encourage all who support Hunter Netball to support our supporters too.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of Ed Herando from **Photolook Newcastle** who donated his time at both our season launch and in supplying the team photographs of our Hunter Netball Metro League teams and officials. We all had way too much fun in these photoshoots.



Hunter Netball Infrastructure Working Group has been collaborating since early 2022 on the opportunity to design and deliver an indoor netball facility, right here in the Hunter. We have had the opportunity to engage with Members of Parliament across State and Federal Governments as well as meet with many of the Local Councils from across the broader Hunter region and beyond.

More recently we have met twice with NSW Government, including the NSW Treasurer to progress this idea into a business case at the upcoming midyear budget review with an aim of obtaining a confirmed funding allocation.

In collaboration with the University of Newcastle we will present a business case for a Sporting Centre of Excellence right here in the Hunter that will showcase netball and importantly Hunter Netball as part of its program.

An early concept design (which is subject to change) has been drafted by the architects engaged by the University of Newcastle to inform our business case to government and would include 6 indoor netball (multi use) courts that convert to a show court with a 4500-seating capacity.

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



L-R Dianne Pascoe, NSW Member of Parliament, and Treasurer - Matt Kean, Jodi Cassar and Netball NSW Director - Vincent de Luca

Hunter Netball Premier League our aim remains to be a viable option for a Premier League franchise in the future, so that Hunter athletes, administrators and officials can represent the Hunter instead of having to travel to other franchises for this opportunity.

Hunter Netball participated in the Netball NSW Premier League Review and provided a submission to Netball NSW on the review on April 2022.

Netball NSW has now undertaken a full review of Premier League to ensure that the competition continues to meet its objectives and is providing the best possible competition for aspiring athletes, coaches, umpires, and officials in NSW.

Netball NSW intent is to confirm or establish the ideal model and guiding principles for the Premier League competition into the future.

Netball NSW at the time of writing is yet to confirm the outcome of the Premier League Review publicly, however we understand that the review has now been finalised.

Our Governance like all organisations, Hunter Netball is evolving and to ensure it remains both compliant with Australian, and NSW laws and creates stability for our future Hunter Netball become incorporated in May 2022 under the name of Hunter Netball Incorporation.

With this a review of our foundational Guiding Principles have occurred and determined that to best place Hunter Netball moving forward we would create and develop the Hunter Netball Inc. Constitution that would be supported by our Guiding Principles. These documents will be presented at the 2002 Annual General Meeting for consideration and adoption.

Our Finances

During the 2021-2022 financial year the total revenue of Hunter Netball was \$39,148.60. Sponsorship from our partners was the prime revenue source, followed by player levies.

Our expenditure for the same period was \$17,407.76, with our main expenses being associated with the State Title expenses to support our Boys and Men's pathway and the Netball NSW fees and season passes required for Metro League, closely followed by court hire.

Closing balance at 30 June 2022 of bank accounts \$19,325.34.

Remembering our history

It is important to remember that the 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 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.

Hunter Netball is proud to be part of the netball community.