



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

Challenge Yourself

Hunter Netball Incorporated

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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: Mother and Son Margaret and Adam Manning

A message from the Chair

As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the commitment and hard work shown by our players, coaches, managers, and volunteers. Hunter Netball has continued to thrive on and off the court, thanks to the unwavering support of our netball community and community partners.

To all of the 13 Netball Associations that make up the Hunter Region, we couldn't be here without your ongoing support. We appreciate and value the contributions you make to Hunter Netball and to the grassroots athlete pathways that enable our Hunter Region to be truly represented at the Netball NSW DOOLEY's Metro League Competition.

This year we have seen significant growth, expanding our programs, launching the Future Partners Pathway, strengthening our coaching team, and achieving outstanding results in the Netball NSW DOOLEYS Metro League and state-level competitions. Our commitment to providing pathways and opportunities for all athletes remains at the heart of everything we do.

To our coaching staff and officials thank you for your commitment and to our amazing athletes and their families for never giving up and for your ongoing support. This year our Metro League Team 1 set really specific goals, and finished the regular season as Minor Premiers, a truly outstanding achievement. Making their way to the Final Series and straight through to the Grand Final where they faced Eastwood Ryde Netball Association and came home with the win and elevated in 2026 to Division 4.

I would like to thank our Board Members who were elected to take Hunter Netball forward in 2025, in October 2024. 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. I would like to thank Jodie Mortimer who has decided to stand down from the Hunter Netball Board at this AGM and acknowledge her contribution to Hunter Netball over recent years as our Treasurer.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Community Partners, Greater Bank, Purnells Awards and Apparel, McDonalds Bennetts Green and Bradford Creative and to all our amazing families and supporters who have played a crucial role in our success. Your contributions have enabled us to provide the best possible experience for our members.

I would like to sincerely thank our netball families, partners, and supporters whose contributions enable us to provide the best possible opportunities for our athletes. Looking ahead, we are excited to build on this momentum, continuing to grow our programs, nurture talent, and proudly represent the Hunter Central Coast region.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Jodi Cassar
Chair
Hunter Netball



The Year in Review: Building a Living Pathway

Culture before tactics - the quiet success of 2025 was cultural. Training sessions became the heartbeat of our program structured, intense, and collaborative.

Preseason conditioning with Aneeka Marcozzi elevated fitness baselines; technical sessions refined decision-making and skill under fatigue; specialist sessions with Julz Fox Lakeside Netball, Lauren Hill from Hunter Academy of Sport and Victoria Aoake from Central Coast Heart offered fresh perspectives. We learned to love the grind and to trust the process. That tone was set early when athletes, dressed in their home club, association, revisited their earliest netball memories at NUsport's The Forum, reconnecting with why they play and who they play for. It gave the season a narrative arc: from origins to opportunity.



The pathway architecture in 2025 marked the formal launch of the Future Partners Program, designed and led by Head Selector and Coach, Gail Mayers, with Erin Lemmon supporting across the back half of the season.

The program identified and nurtured athletes with the potential to step into training partner roles and, in time, Metro League squads. In its inaugural year, it delivered exactly as intended:

- Future Partners Cohort: Eve Nicol, Mackenzie Little, Taylor Brien, Logan Hopper, Ivy Cheetham, Ella Curtis, Lily Wolloff, Rebecca McGee, Paige Boyles, Chloe Boyles and Chloe Eyles.
- Training Partner Elevations: Elisabeth Bear (who, despite injury, remained an active and inspiring squad member) and Imogen Howard, who was further elevated into Team 2 during the season.
- Finals Support to Team 1: Rya Prestwidge and Abby Leach stepped into the pressure cooker of finals preparation, modelling the “be ready” standard for pathway athletes.

The lesson was clear: training partners work. They smooth the transition between development and performance, give coaches selection flexibility, and crucially show younger athletes what “next” looks like.

On-Court Performance

Team 1 - A season of statement wins; from the first centre pass of the regular season, Hunter Netball Team 1 looked ready. Co-Captains Paikea Aoake Puru and Isla Cullen provided the steel and smarts through the midcourt, while combinations across defence and attack matured quickly. The team coached by Cherie Aoake, a rolling substitute expert user and managed by Lyn Palywoda, benefited from consistent line-ups and clear internal accountability: every player understood her role and the team’s identity.

The results validated the method. Week after week, Hunter accumulated wins with a brand built on relentless work rate, disciplined structures, and moments of individual brilliance. The Minor Premiership was earned, not gifted. In the finals, the team lifted again accounting for Eastwood Ryde in the Semi Final to go straight through to the Grand Final.

When Eastwood Ryde returned to meet Hunter Netball in the Grand Final, the contest had storyline, history, rivalry, and a season's worth of ambition on the line. Hunter Netball led early, led at every break, and closed out the match 50-36. A 14-goal margin in a grand final says two things: composure and depth. Hunter Netball Team 1 will now be elevated in season 2026 to Division 4 of the Netball NSW Metro League Competition.



Team 1 athletes:

Eliza Brown (Lakeside); Hayley Morrison (Callaghan); Alyssa Slee (Callaghan); Isla Cullen - Co-Captain (Maitland); Paikea Aoake Puru - Co-Captain (Callaghan); Halle Clemente (Callaghan); Amy Oakey (Newcastle); Kenya Rees (Newcastle); Olivia Loughland (Callaghan); Emily Brown (Callaghan).

Coach: Cherie Aoake | Manager: Lyn Palywoda

Alongside collective success, individual excellence shone. Hayley Morrison was recognised by her peers with Players' Player, while Amy Oakey received the Coaches Award for her steadiness, growth and impact on the court.





And as the season narrative crystallised, the Executive conferred the Hunter Netballer of the Year on Paikea Aoake Puru, a midcourter whose leadership in warm-ups, drills, and in-game communication consistently lifted those around her.



Team 2 - The proof of our depth; the Development Series is where a region's pipeline is truly tested. Under Coach Leesa Mannix and then Sharon Aoake and Manager Jessica White, Team 2 handled that examination with maturity. Captain Shannon Bohan (Port Stephens) and Vice-Captain Zoe Armstrong (Callaghan) set the standards.



The squad moved from promise to productivity: cleaner exits, better timing through the middle, stronger ball protection, and a clearer sense of how to close out quarters by the end of the season on the guidance of Sharon.



Team 2 athletes:

Kirsten White (Callaghan); Ella Jones (Nelson Bay); Zoe Armstrong - Vice Captain (Callaghan); Ysabel Singleton (Callaghan); Shannon Bohan - Captain (Port Stephens); Mackenzie Bohan (Maitland); Makayla O'Neill (Wyong); Elizabeth Bear (Newcastle); Lily Walmsley (Charlestown); Bronte Bohan (Port Stephens); Rowan Rigby (Callaghan); Violet Langham (Callaghan). Coach: Leesa Mannix | Sharon Aoake | Manager: Jessica White

The human story inside Team 2 was no less powerful: athletes learning to respond to selection, to bounce back from defeats to process feedback, and to support each other.

That's culture you can build on.

Nominated by her peers as Team 2 Players Player was Mackenzie Bohan not only did, she receive this accolade from her peers but also from Team Coach Sharon Aoake.



Off the Court: Community, Pride and Recognition

Great programs reflect the values of their community. In 2025, Hunter Netball showed up at courts, in our community, and at events as a builder of inclusive sport.

We again supported Girls Day Out - Women in Sport in January and October, signalling our commitment to visibility and opportunity for women and girls.



We joined with partners and friends at the Aspire Netball 11s Development Day, creating an environment where Hunter Netball, Central Coast Heart, the Hunter Academy of Sport, GIANTS Netball and NSW Swifts aligned around the next generation.



We celebrated Shannon Bohan as Port Stephens Council's Australia Day Youth of the Year, a testament to leadership that extends beyond court lines.



As a Hunter region

We beamed with pride as Hope White a name many juniors in the Hunter Region have looked up to become the youngest player in Super Netball for 2025, debuting for the GIANTS in a story of dream, talent and relentless work, and later representing Australia in the Youth Team.

We championed representation of former Hunter Netball athletes Mason Cadogan, Riley Fraser, Brock Starkey and Jack Yeatman who made their debuts for Men's Netball NSW U17s.



Hunter Netball athlete Emily Brown was named in the Indoor Netball NSW 19U Team.

We acknowledge the athletes from the Hunter Region who were named in the 2025 NSW First Nations State Team - *The Waradahs*; Acacia Elers, Ellie Stacery. Jaylah Boney, Lily-Louise Walker and Assistant Coach Kellyanne Huggins.

netball FDC
NEW SOUTH WALES

2025 NSW FIRST NATIONS STATE TEAM
The Waradas

ACACIA ELMERS	WORIMI/AWABAKAL NEWCASTLE
ALIRAH WATTON	GAMILAROI DUBBO
CHARLOTTE RYAN	DHARAWAL RANDWICK
ELLIE STACEY	WONNARUA NEWCASTLE
JAYDA GRANT	WIRADJURI WYONG DISTRICT
JAYLAH BONEY	NGEMBA/BARKANDJI NEWCASTLE
LILY-LOUISE WALKER	WAYILWAN/WIRADJURI NEWCASTLE
MIA EVANS	KAMILAROI ILLAWARRA DISTRICT
PHOEBE HICKSON	DUNGHUTTI/WIRADJURI PENRITH DISTRICT
TAHLIA ROBERTSON	WHADJUK SUTHERLAND SHIRE

HEAD COACH COLLEEN MITCHELL WORIMI KU-RING-GAI	ASSISTANT COACH KELLYANN HUGGINS GOMEROI MAITLAND	APPRENTICE COACH SEAN GRAY YUIN SHOALHAVEN
UMPIRE MACKENZIE KNOX KAMILAROI NARRABRI	UMPIRE MARK MUNNICH YAWURU/GUNGGANDJI/YUED NORTHERN SUBURBS	

We joined the region in congratulating Jaylah Boney (Charlestown) and Acacia Elers (Newcastle) on selection to the First Nations Black Swans in the PacificAus Sports Netball Series.





**JAYLAH
BONEY**

**CHARLESTOWN
NGEMBA/BARKINJI**

We marked a special milestone as Wendy Archer AM who was recognised at the Sport NSW Community Awards with the Distinguished Long Service Honour, adding to her Netball NSW Hall of Fame induction. Her leadership from building pathways for officials to stewarding the creation of Netball Central continues to ripple through our sport and we are fortunate to have Wendy as part of our Hunter Netball family.

These stories matter. They show young players that netball can take you somewhere: to the next grade, to the next league, to new friendships, to new cities, to national teams, and above all to a lifetime in sport.

Regional Strength: State Titles, Academies and Events

The Hunter Central Coast Netball NSW region is a tapestry of Associations that believe in development. That belief showed up at the HART Senior and Junior State Titles, where teams from across our region delivered results that reflect depth and breadth.

Lakeside Netball Association were crowned 12U Championship State Champions a landmark result. Whilst Singleton Netball Association found second place in the 12U Division 3 and then backing up the same success with their 13U Division 4 team. Muswellbrook Netball Association took the Runners Up title in 12Us Division 4. Our junior representative programs are growing the future Hunter Netballers with great success.





 **HART JUNIOR STATE TITLES**

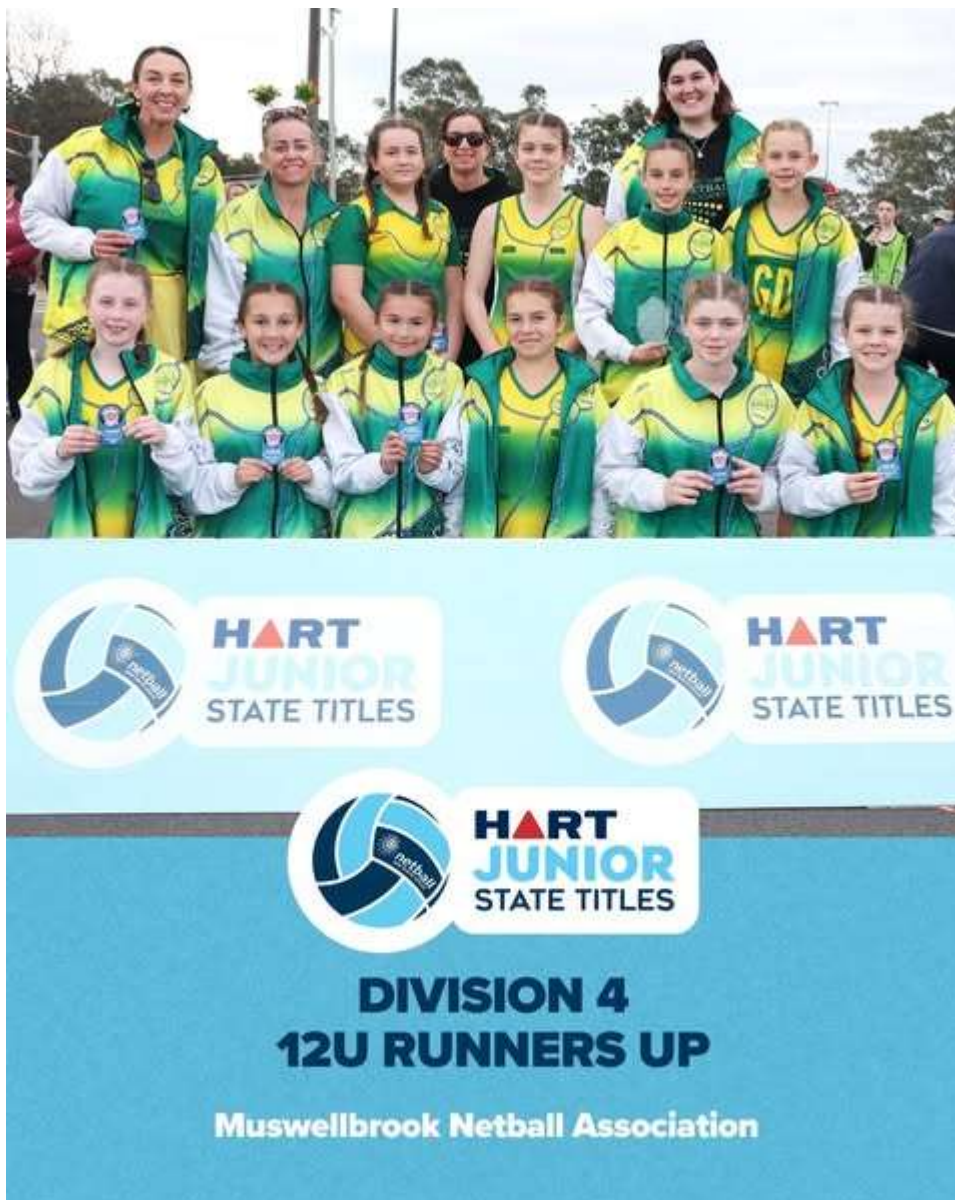
 **HART JUNIOR STATE TITLES**

 **HART JUNIOR STATE TITLES**

**DIVISION 3
12U RUNNERS UP**

Singleton Netball Association





At the Senior State Titles Charlestown Netball Association 15s finished Runners Up in the Championship division, while Port Stephens Netball Association came home with the blue patch in 17s Division 4, and Kurri Kurri claimed 14U Division 3, bring home the blue patch. Our Future Partners, and Metro League athletes are being created right here in our Hunter region.



Lakeside 12s Winners Championship Division



Charlestown 15s Runners Up Championship Division



Port Stephens 17s Winners Division 4



Maitland All-Abilities Runners Up

Maitland Netball Association dominated at Senior State Titles with their All-Abilities Netballers coming home Runners Up in 2025.

And our very own Hunter Netball athletes shone on court across the State Titles representing their home Associations.



#teamHAS 11th - 13th Apr Tamworth Sports Dome

NETBALL

DIV 1 DIV 2 UMPIRES

Ella Tighe
Ellazae Elers
Emma McCallum
Eve Power
Jade Stringer
Lexi Manning
Lilly Bell
Marli Gilmour
Molly Brownell
Piper Bullen
Violet Langham

Annabelle Dunne
Anya Reynolds
Bowey Manning
Carly Walters
Eiza Brown
Grace Mueller
Hayley Morrison
Isla Walsh
Lexi Leyshon
Mackenzie Bohan
Mila Baker
Penny Vogt

Jorja Douglass
Taneisha Twitchin
Tania Sheeden



Your local club




GreaterBank



Our athletes also featured at the Hunter Academy of Sport and the Regional Academy Games, with Violet Langham, Hayley Morrison, Mackenzie Bohan and Eliza Brown among those proudly representing the Academy at Tamworth.



The Netball NSW Selectors named Hunter Netball athletes appearing in the Emerging Talent Program wrapped with strong Hunter representation, including Alyssa Slee and Chloe Eyles from the Hunter Netball

REGIONAL EMERGING TALENT

Ava Francisco	Dubbo
Chloe Eyles	Charlestown
Emma McCallum	Lakeside
Eve Power	Newcastle
Gemma Humphery	Illawarra District
Isabella Christian	Illawarra District
Jade Stringer	Lakeside
Molly Brownell	Maitland
Molly Stephen	Wagga Wagga
Paiton Cook	Newcastle
Skye Hutchison	Barellan & District
Sophie Lockyer	Illawarra District



Head Coach - **Linda Macleod** | Dubbo
 Assistant Coach - **Charli Wright** | Armidale District
 Apprentice Coach - **Alex McNeil** | Illawarra District

FIRST NATIONS EMERGING TALENT

Abbey Giltrow	Illawarra District Dharawal/Darkinjung
Alyssa Slee	Callaghan & District Koa/Wakka Wakka/Anaiwan
Ava Greig	Eastwood Ryde Wallumedegal/Wiradjuri
Charli Cummings	Charlestown Awabakal
Ella Tighe	Newcastle Gomerol/Gamilaraay
Emma Thompson	Dubbo Gamilaraay/ Wiradjuri
Emma Tremble	Orange Wiradjuri
Eva Ahokava	Penrith District Worimi
Lashae Mundine	Sutherland Shire Bundjalung/Wiradjuri
Mia Harris	Wyong District Awabakal
Phoebe Hickson	Penrith District Dhungutti/Wiradjuri
Zsa Zsa Millward	Wyong District Biripi



Head Coach - Renee Sini	Blacktown City Dunghutti
Assistant Coach- Sean Gray	Shoalhaven Yuin
Apprentice Coach - Tori Trist	Hawkesbury City Muruwarri/ Darug/Yuin

We celebrated Hunter athletes named for NSW's Marie Little Shield team, with Ellen Monaghan and Jessica Harrison appointed as officials.

We were present as supporters, too: standing courtside at Netball NSW Premier League to cheer Central Coast Heart, acknowledging our region's unique advantage with five Metro League teams across Hunter and Central Coast pathways and a Premier League home for ambition to grow.



CENTRAL COAST HEART BEATING AT ONE

CENTRAL COAST HEART VS NSU

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Hunter Netball athletes representative of our region.

Coaching, Specialist Input and Athlete Care



Great netball is never an accident; it is designed. In 2025 we codified our coaching architecture:

- Head Coach (Program + Team 1): Cherie Aoake oversaw alignment across the program, terminology, drills, match review language, and clarity in roles.
- Team 2 Coach: Sharon Aoake led a high-trust, high-challenge environment in the Development Series.
- Head Selector and Future Partners Lead: Gail Mayers brought a discerning eye to selection and development, focusing on habits that translate to the next level.
- Future Partners Pathway support: Erin Lemmon lifted Future Partners across the back half of the year, adding individual feedback loops and consistency across sessions.
- Specialist coaches: Julz Fox and Lauren Hill sharpened positional craft; Central Coast Heart athlete, Victoria Aoake, brought elite match insight into session detail.

- Fitness: Aneeka Marcozzi helped athletes find another gear, building conditioning that held in Round 1 and lasted into finals—evidenced by Team 1’s late-season composure.



Our Athlete Manager, Lyn Palywoda, knitted the wellbeing pieces together—injury management pathways, communication links to families, and bridgework between coaching intent and athlete capacity. That care was visible in the way our training partners and future partners stayed engaged across the season.

Communications and Storytelling

Thanks to Bradford Creative, our story reached more people, more consistently. High-quality images from Netball Central, consistent match-day look-and-feel, and smart social cut-downs amplified our athletes and coaches.

Our partners appeared where they should on uniforms, in captions, on slideshows during events because celebration and Community Partners must be mutually reinforcing. The result is more than promotion; it is identity.

Partners Who Make It Possible

Greater Bank supported our community footprint and athlete families. Purnells Awards & Apparel ensured our players looked and felt like a team from day one, supplying uniforms and awards with precision timing.

McDonald's Bennetts Green continued their generous community engagement with the kind of grass-roots investment that keeps sport accessible. Bradford Creative helped us frame the season visually and narratively.

To every partner: thank you. Your support turns ambition into action.

Association Collaboration: One Region

Hunter Netball is not an island; it is a hub. Our success depends on deep respect and partnership with Associations across the region from Westlakes in the south to Muswellbrook in the west and Nelson Bay in the east, and all Associations between make netball thrive.

With almost 14,000 thousand registered members across the Hunter Central Coast Region, Associations create the first representative experience and are the reason our pathway is rich, diverse and resilient.

We remain committed to listening, co-planning and supporting Association objectives because when Associations thrive, the region wins.

Good Governance

Hunter Netball is committed to operating in line with strong governance practices and ensuring compliance with its constitution and regulatory requirements.

Hunter Netball has continued to meet its reporting obligations under the Act, which include:

- Submission of financial statements at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Lodgement with Fair Trading NSW, within one month of the AGM and no later than seven months after the end of the financial year, of an Annual Summary of Financial Affairs - Tier 2 (Form A12-T2), by a person authorised by the Committee.

Hunter Netball Executive Committee has met its obligation to convene at least three committee meetings every 12 months, with meetings in February, April, June, August.

Hunter Netball's Treasurer has fulfilled their responsibilities to:

- Collect all monies owed to Hunter Netball.
- Authorise and make payments approved by the Committee.
- Maintained accurate books and accounts showing the financial position of Hunter Netball, including full details of receipts and expenditure.

As of 30 June 2025, Hunter Netball's accounts are as follows:

- Hunter Netball Visa: \$761.68 CR
- Main Account: \$1,336.44 CR
- Hunter Netball Savings: \$43,244.70 CR

Hunter Netball remains in a stable financial position and continues to uphold its governance and compliance responsibilities to ensure transparency and accountability for all members.

Hunter Netball - 01/07/2024 - 30/06/2025

Hunter Netball Working Account	
1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025	
Opening Balance	\$ 2,972.42
Income	
Association Payments	\$ 4,287.00
Player Payments	\$ 6,242.00
Play HQ Payments	\$ 4,873.93
Sponsorship	\$ 4,500.00
Transfer from a/c	\$ 1,000.00
Total Income	\$ 20,902.93
Expenses	
Court Hire	\$ 4,982.00
Transfer to a/c	\$ 6,000.00
NNSW Player Passes	\$ 5,000.00
Uniforms/Trophies	\$ 1,942.70
Presentations	\$ 1,605.00
Photos	\$ 420.00
Equipment	\$ 610.21
Fitness Training	\$ 719.00
Refund	\$ 100.00
Umpires (Summer Series)	\$ 1,160.00
Total Expenses	\$ 22,538.91
Closing Balance	\$ 1,336.44

21/09/2025

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Looking Ahead to 2026: Momentum is measurable.

As we close this report, more than 70 athletes have already nominated to join Hunter Netball in 2026.

We enter 2026 with a stronger baseline: a proven pathway → Future Partners → Training Partners → Development Series → Metro League, a consistent coaching language, elevated expectations of training, and the confidence that comes from seeing a plan deliver on court.

Our aspiration is not just to win; it is to be known for standards, for care, for opportunity, and for a distinctly Hunter way of playing the game.

Gratitude

To the parents and families: thank you for everything you give, time, travel, and heart. To officials, volunteers, managers and coaches: thank you for your expertise and your patience. To Associations: thank you for trusting us with the Metro League part of your athlete's pathway. To our partners: thank you for being the difference.

To our athletes: thank you for making training brighter, courts louder, and the Hunter prouder.

You are the reason.

The story of 2025 is the story of a region discovering what it can do—together. We found a way to win today while building for tomorrow.

We honoured our past, amplified our present, and invested in our future.

We celebrated the volunteers who feed the room, the coaches who craft the session, the managers who hold the details, the partners who pay it forward, and the athletes who make it all sing.

Hunter Netball is ready for 2026. Let's go again.



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