



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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 2024 annual report to our members. Our Hunter Netball athletes started season 2024 giving back to their communities through the [Girls Day Out](#) at both Newcastle and Muswellbrook. Their mission is to create fun, safe and inclusive events for girls aged 5 to 16 years to try new sports, meet sporting heroes and to encourage girls to be brave and participate in sport.

Our Hunter Netball athletes certainly provided these young girls with that safe space to learn new skills and were treated like superheroes in the eyes of these young kids.



Our athletes then went on to support the ongoing work of the [Aspire 11s Development Day](#) and despite it being a little wet, ok well maybe very wet this year, our Hunter Netball athletes joined other athletes from the greater Hunter, Central Coast and North Coast and Northern Inland regions to provide focused development opportunities to the hundreds of aspiring 11 year olds from across regional NSW. This annual event also creates amazing opportunities and life long memories and friendships for young netballers.

Hunter Netball is always pleased to be able to participate in these community events.

I would like to thank our Board Members who were elected to take Hunter Netball forward in 2024, in October 2023. 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 Bronwyn Vosilla who has decided to stand down from the Hunter Netball Board at this AGM and acknowledge her contribution to Hunter Netball over recent years.

To our coaching staff thank you for your commitment in what has at times been a challenging year, and to our amazing athletes and their families for never giving up. The scoreboard does not always show the determination, grit and drive that has taken place and both teams have improved significantly over the playing season.

Across 2024 Hunter Netball, with the support of our 13 Member Associations has:

- Continued Hunter Netballs presence in the Netball NSW Dooley's Metro League Competition and the new Development Series.
- Continued discussions with Netball NSW and NSW Government Minister for Sport Stephen Kamper, on indoor infrastructure that is required for the Hunter region.
- Supported Hunter athletes to follow their Premier League pathways through Central Coast Heart, whilst continuing to champion Netball NSW for a Premier League franchise in future years.
- Offered the Hunter Summer Series with the support of Netball NSW and our major Sponsor KBA Insurance Repairs for a third year. This will again provide athletes and umpires with the opportunity to test their skills over the 8-week competition. Congratulations to Norths Netball Club who took out the KBA Hunter Netball Cup, with Charlestown Red coming in as runners up.



We did this with the support of our Community Partners in 2024 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

We are excited about the opportunities ahead in season 2025.

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 some of the best 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 2024.

They participated in division four of the 18-week competition and were led for the first part of the season by Coach Kelly Millevoi and Team Manager Belinda Marshall, before a change in coaching style was necessitated, and with thanks to Coach Lauren Hill, who jumped in for a couple of weeks, before Coach Lexi Unicomb saw them out to the end of this season. The turnaround in the athletes over the second half of the season was fantastic, and certainly took some of the leading teams by surprise.

The 2024 team included:

- Ella Ross (Captain)
- Mia Marshall (Vice Captain)
- Emily Morgan (Vice Captain)
- Paikea Aoake Puru
- Kienna Clegg

- Lilian Howe
- Shaylin Kennedy
- Molly Kirk
- Lara Mellon
- Sofia Pirillo
- Xanthe Rheinberger
- Lucy Webber



At the Hunter Netball Awards Night held in September 2024, at the Charlestown Leagues Club the following athletes from the Metro League were recognised:

- Most Valued Player - Kienna Clegg
- Players Player Award - Mia Marshall
- Most Consistent Player - Lillian Howe
- Coaches Award - Ella Ross



On the court – Development Series

In 2024 Netball NSW introduced a new pathway to the Netball NSW Metro League competition with the introduction of Development Series, offering athletes from 15 years (up to 3, 15yo per team) but no older than 22 years, offering up to 22 teams a pathway to the Metro League competition. With a slightly revised playing format to that of Metro League. Our emerging Hunter athletes had a fantastic season.

Our Hunter Netball Team 2 was led by Coach Kirsten Latter and supported by Team Manager Lyn Palywooda.

The 2024 team included:

- Shannon Bohan (Captain)
- Famke McCallum (Vice Captain)
- Emily Brown
- Millee Corcoran
- Isla Cullen
- Callie Dryburgh
- Marli Gilmour
- Olivia Loughland
- Charlotte Moore

- Amy Oakley
- Lily-Louise Walker



At the Hunter Netball Awards Night held in September 2024, at the Charlestown Leagues Club the following athletes from the Metro League were recognised:

- Most Valued Player - Famke McCallum
- Players Player Award - Isla Cullen
- Most Consistent Player - Isla Cullen
- Coaches Award - Olivia Loughland



Netball NSW Premier League, Metro League and Netball NSW Summer Series Umpires from the Hunter

In 2024 the following umpires were selected by Netball NSW to officiate over games across both the Premier League, Metro League and Netball NSW Summer Series competitions:

Premier League - National A Group

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

Ben Hole was also recognised for umpiring 50 Premier League games, during this year's Premier League competition.



Metro League Umpire Group included:

- Ellie Taylor - Newcastle Netball Association
- Emily Milton - Newcastle Netball Association
- Leearna Bennett - Maitland Netball Association

Netball NSW Summer Series:

- Kate Dash - Lakeside Netball Association
- Sophie Hill - Lakeside Netball Association
- Alyvia Lieb - Maitland Netball Association
- Monique Robertson - Maitland Netball Association
- Emily Bishop - Muswellbrook Netball Association
- Sophie Martin - Muswellbrook Netball Association
- Ella Sames - Newcastle Netball Association
- Emily Milton - Newcastle Netball Association
- Mia Squires - Newcastle Netball Association
- Zaara Alexander - Newcastle Netball Association

Emerging Hunter Athletes Shine

These young athletes from Floraville Public School took out the local Hunter Regional Final against Wallsend Sought Public School becoming the PSSA Netball Schools Hunter Champions, they then went through to the next stage of this competition and came home with a Silver Medal as part of the NSW Sports Association Schools Netball.



Callaghan District Netball Association had two of their boys shine with their selection into the NSW Maori U/12's Team.

- Ezekiel Sausaofai
- Declan Aoake



Netball Australia announcements

Hope White from Newcastle Netball Association was selected into the 2024 Australian 21U Squad.



Netball NSW announcements



Netball NSW announced Wendy Archer AM would be inducted into the Netball NSW Hall of Fame. We are so incredibly proud of all of Wendy's achievements and contributions to Netball in the Hunter, NSW and Australia and are proud to have Wendy on our Hunter Netball Board.

2024 National Netball Championships

Athletes and Officials from the Hunter who were part of the NSW teams included:

NSW 19U Team

- Hope White, athlete - Newcastle Netball Association
- Jess Harrison, Head Physiotherapist - Newcastle Netball Association

NSW 17U Team

- Acacia Elers - Newcastle Netball Association
- Ellie Stacey - Maitland Netball Association
- Matilda Percival - Newcastle Netball Association

In June 2024, off the back of a successes at Senior State Titles the following athletes were announced as emerging athletes from our Hunter Associations.

First Nations Emerging Talent 2024

- Ella Tighe - Newcastle Netball Association
- Jaylah Boney - Charlestown Netball Association
- Lily-Louise Walker - Charlestown Netball Association / Hunter Netball
- Sarah Graham - Newcastle Netball Association

Regional Emerging Talent 2024

- Ellora Greirson - Lakeside Netball Association
- Jade Stringer - Lakeside Netball Association
- Molly Brownell - Maitland Netball Association
- Sienna Live - Newcastle Netball Association

With the following players progressing to the **Netball NSW First Nations Team in 2024.**

- Acacia Elders - Newcastle Netball Association
- Ellie Stacey - Maitland Netball Association
- Jaylah Boney - Charlestown Netball Association
- Sarah Graham - Newcastle Netball Association
- Kellyanne Huggins (Assistant Coach) - Maitland Netball Association

Netball NSW Aboriginal Advisory Group

Netball NSW announced this group, to facilitate meaningful partnerships between Aboriginal people and Netball NSW to ensure First Nations voices needs are heard and respected in our Netball Community.

Callaghan and District Netball Associations, Steven Slee was announced as a Co-Chair of this group.

2024 NSW Marie Little Shield Team

Since 2013, the Marie Little Shield has provided the opportunity for female athletes with an intellectual disability to participate at the National level.

Hosted in 2024 at the Brisbane Nissan Arena, NSW took on Victoria in the Gold medal match, with NSW taking the win.

Newcastle Netballs' Ellen Monaghan supported the NSW team as a Team Manager again in 2024.

2024 Netball NSW State Cup

Hunter Central Coast Region made it three from three in 2024, an outstanding achievement for all the athletes in this team representing Hunter Associations.

- Ellora Greirson Lakeside Netball Association
- Molly Young Maitland Netball Association
- Ella McCluskey Charlestown Netball Association Inc.
- Sienna Liva Newcastle Netball Association
- Sophie Murdoch Maitland Netball Association
- Tynisha Faaisisila Newcastle Netball Association

- Meg Haylen Maitland Netball Association
- Ella Smith Newcastle Netball Association
- Zara Clark Newcastle Netball Association
- Sam Keogh Maitland Netball Association
- Ella Tupou Lakeside Netball Association
- Xuela Faaisisila Newcastle Netball Association

Coach: Jade Nicoll

Assistant Coach: Kirsten Latter

Apprentice Coach: Savannah Angelozzi

Team Manager: Samantha Rumbel

Umpire: Ellie Taylor

The Regional State Cup brings the best regional athletes together in one competition, to determine the State's best Regional team.





Hunter Associations shined at this years Netball NSW HART Junior State Titles across all age groups and divisions.th the traditional female competition and the boys competition. Recognising our Hunter Athletes

U12s in Championship Division

- Maitland Netball Association 8th
- Lakeside Netball Association 17th
- Charlestown Netball Association Inc. 20th

U12s Division 2

- Newcastle Netball Association 1st
- Callaghan-District Netball-Association 5th
- Westlakes Netball 16th
- Cessnock District Netball Association 17th

U12s Division 3

- Kurri Kurri Netball Association / KKNA 4th
- Nelson Bay Netball Association 10th

U12s Division 4

- Singleton Netball Association 4th
- Port Stephens Netball Association 10th
- Muswellbrook Netball Association 12th

U13s Championship

- Charlestown Netball 4th
- Maitland Netball 9th
- Lakeside Netball 12th

U13s Division 2

- Newcastle Netball 2nd
- Callaghan Netball 5th
- Cessnock Netball 12th
- Westlakes Netball 15th

U13s Division 3

- Kurri Kurri Netball 5th
- Nelson Bay Netball 6th
- Port Stephens Netball 17th

U13s Division 4

- Muswellbrook Netball 13th
- Singleton Netball 15th

U14s Boys

- Charlestown Netball 2nd

U14s Championship

- Charlestown Netball 5th
- Newcastle Netball 12th
- Maitland Netball 14th

U14s Division 2

- Lakeside Netball 4th
- Kurri Kurri Netball 14th
- Callaghan Netball 16th
- Westlakes Netball 17th

U14s Division 3

- Singleton Netball 1st
- Cessnock Netball 6th

U14s Division 4

- Nelson Bay Netball 6th
- Port Stephens Netball 10th

Netball NSW Senior State Titles

HART SENIOR STATE TITLES



Open Divisions - Championship

Runner Up: Newcastle Netball Association

Division 3

Runner Up: Cessnock District Netball Association

17U Division

Division 4

Winners: Port Stephens Netball Association

15U Divisions

Division 2

Winner: Maitland Netball Association

Division 3

Runner Up: Cessnock District Netball Association



Several of our Hunter Netball Athletes were hitting the courts with their home Associations over the June long weekend too.



The Hunter Region was again represented by the NSW Government Sports Foyer NSW Community Awards. Callaghan District Netball Association was named a finalist in the Community Club of the Year category, for giving athletes the opportunity to develop and be part of their community.



An amazing honour for an outstanding steward of our game was announced in 2024. With Adele 'Dell' Saunders OAM inducted as the 18th Freeman of the City of Newcastle for her contributions to sport (netball) in our community.

On the court – Hunter Netball Summer Series

Off the back of a successful 2023 KBA Insurance Repairs - Hunter Netball Summer Series, Hunter Netball is again offering this competition in 2024.

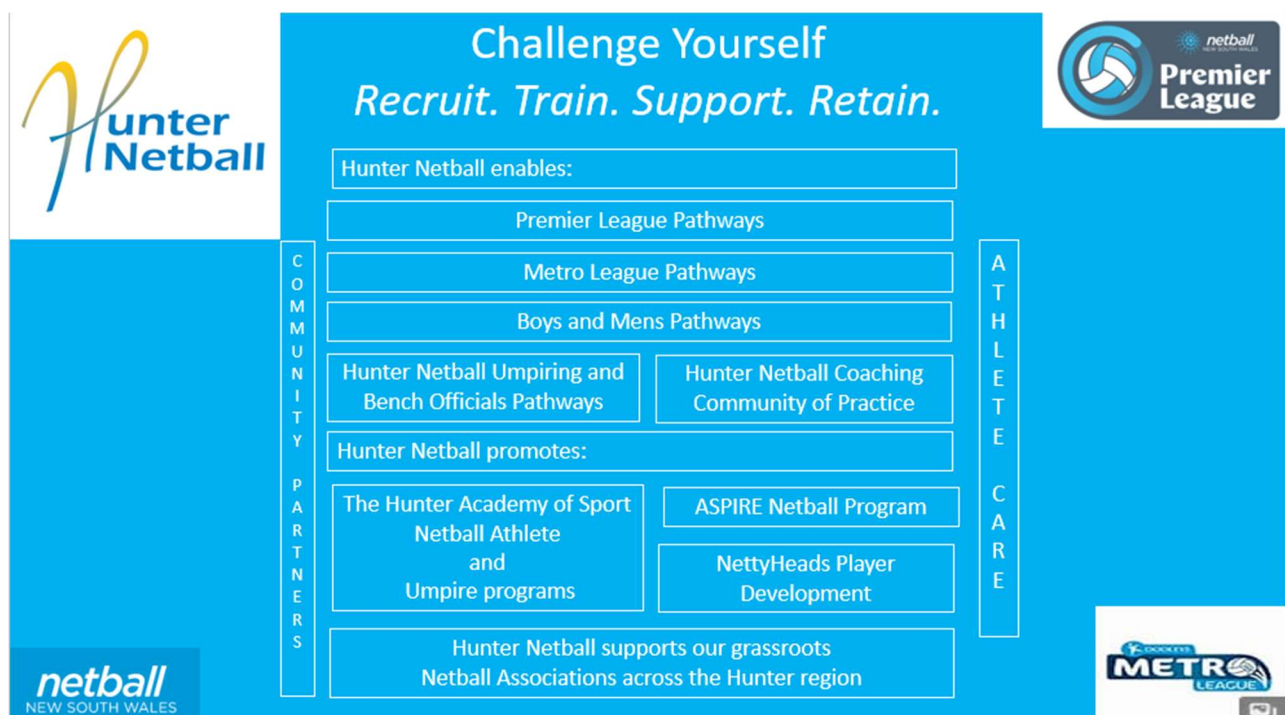
Whilst this competition offers the Hunters best teams to come together in female, male and mixed divisions for athletes over the age of 15 years. It has also proven to be a strong competition for Hunter umpires to obtain coaching weekly that they may not receive throughout the playing season.

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 2024 KBA Insurance Hunter Summer Series will kick off again on 16 October, for 8 exciting weeks of netball hosted across several Hunter Netball

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.

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 2023-2024 financial year the total revenue for Hunter Netball was \$29,581.00 Sponsorships from our Community Partners was the prime revenue for the period, followed by Association Memberships.

Our expenditure for the same period was \$11,783.12 with our main expenses being court hire for training venues.

Closing bank balance as of 30 June 2024 being \$49,211.76.

As of 30 September 2024, being the period immediately before the Annual General Meeting our Account Balances were:

- Hunter Netball Working Account: \$ 3,065.66 CR
- Hunter Netball Savings Account: \$44,744.70 CR
- Hunter Netball Visa Account: \$ 320.75 CR
- **TOTAL** **\$48,291.11 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 2024.

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.

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.

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

