



## Chairperson's Report - Northern Suburbs Netball 2018

Netball is constantly evolving. At the international level it has changed from a gentele game for ladies, into a physically demanding game played by amazingly fit and strong athletes. The game keeps changing at the grass roots level also. Partly in response to the changes at the elite level and partly due to a better understanding on how to best support, coach and develop players at junior levels. Over the past 5 or so years we have seen a number of these changes occur in our own programmes, and this year we had our first taste of the new Year 7 player development programme which replaced the traditional Year 7 representative programme. This new programme allowed for up to 80 players to receive specialised coaching over 5 weeks, capped off with a fun festival day with games played against teams from Western and Motu Kairangi. In 2019 the player development programme will be rolled out for the Year 8's. Thank you to Julie Green who set up the inaugural Year 7 PDP for us, it has been a wonderful success.

This year was the final year for Northern Suburbs representative teams as we move to align with Netball New Zealand's junior netball policy. We had one Year 8 team that competed in two tournaments, the Betty Steffenson in Palmerston North, and the Wellington Combined in Masterston. The team were very successful with the highlight being winning the Wellington Combined tournament. They were unbeaten throughout the day and won the final having had every player on court during the match. Thank you to Sam Hannah, Angela Abernathy and Jay Stairmand for your energy and expertise in coaching and managing the team.

At the other end of our age group spectrum we had another very successful year 1 and 2 programme run by Yvonne Hill. There were 116 young players who attended the sessions run indoors at Queen Margaret College. There were 13 schools represented in the programme. We are very fortunate to have Yvonne run this programme for us, including overseeing the training and organisation of the 4 coordinators and the star helpers, accessing a venue and all communication.

We had a changing of the guard in our Year 3 and 4 programme this year with Shannon moving to Australia. We cannot run this programme without a dedicated convenor/s and we were very lucky to have Rebecca Jackson and Sophie Ritossa who volunteered. Between them they organised and ran the 10 week programme for 334 young netballers, including arranging new equipment, handling registrations, completing the draw and coordinating the training of the star helpers/coaches. They have both done a fantastic job, the programme will not have run without them. They are both moving on from this role in 2019 so we will need new convenors.

Our Year 5-8 competition was run over 14 weeks with 90 teams competing across the grades. Our top 3 intermediate teams, Tawa Diamonds, Raroa Eagles and Newlands Kauri competed in the intersatellite competition for the final 5 weeks of the season with the teams finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place respectively.

Our year 5-8 competition would not be possible with our amazing draw committee of Lena Meinders, Sandra Yeldon and Darlene (who has now moved away). They handle all the registrations for the 90 teams, work many hours over the grading rounds to ensure teams are in the best suited grades, produce the draw each week and enter the results. In addition, Lena is at the courts first thing every Saturday to oversee the setup of the courts. We must also acknowledge Edna Kaiaruna our duty umpire who is there every week should there be any issues at the courts and our wonderful court controllers Charlotte and Abbey.

NSN provided opportunities for coach and umpire development. We had a successful umpire session at the beginning of the season with over 50 people in attendance. We held coaching courses for Year 5/6 and 7/8 coaches. We continued to run our Kiwi Whistler programme with 12 new Kiwi Whistler umpires and also had 3 umpires achieve introductory badge. We were fortunate to have opportunities for coaches and umpires to attend courses and workshops held by Netball Wellington Centre. We will continue to develop more opportunities in these spaces in 2019 as long as we have willing volunteers who can help drive these initiatives.

We had a change in our pool umpire system this year. Over the past few years we have noticed a trend of more and more teams looking to outsource their umpiring duty and the load on the pool had become unsustainable. This year we asked the teams to register an umpire for the season. Teams were able to access the umpire pool when their own umpire was either away or sick. This has worked well and we will continue to use the system. Thank you to Deborah Donkin for running the pool of 19 umpires, I am sure the teams who needed to access the pool were very grateful for her assistance.

This year we had many changes in the committee. We had a new chair, a new secretary and a new treasurer so needed to find out feet quickly. I would like to thank Naima (secretary) and Maliska (treasurer) for all the work you have put in over the season. You have both done a fantastic job and your support has been thoroughly appreciated. This year we also had a vice chair, Kim Myhill. Kim has been a huge help, she has certainly lightened the load and I am very grateful.

We asked all of our committee members to take on a role or task no matter how small, and I am very pleased to say that everybody did something. This is pivotal in having a functioning and engaged committee where the workload is shared and we reduce risk of burnout. Every person on the committee is a busy person, juggling work, family and other roles in the community, but as the saying goes, many hands make light work. As a committee we are being challenged with the changes in the netball environment, technology and health and safety to name a few. We are constantly having to update our methods and processes. I am truly grateful for all the input, time, energy and commitment from the committee this season. Without your efforts we could not provide netball opportunities to the children in our community, so thank you once again.

**Grade results for 2018 were as follows:**

6A Winners: Churton Park Bluebolts

R/Up: Khandallah Comets

6B Winners: Churton Park Starbursts

R/Up: Thorndon Red

6C Winners: St Brigids Shooting Stars

6D Winners: Paparangi Pumas

Int A1 Winners: QMC Red

Int A2 Winners: Raroa Rubies

Int B1 Winners: Tawa Int Turquoise

Int B2 Winners: Raroa Tui

Int B3 Winners: Newlands Int Kakariki

Int C1 Winners: Raroa Opals

Int C2 Winners: Raroa Pearls

R/Up: Khandallah Thunderbolts

R/Up: QMC Aqua

R/Up: St Brigids Turtles

R/Up: Newlands Int Pango

R/Up: Raroa Hawks

R/Up: St Brigids Queenz

R/Up: Newlands Int Matai

R/Up: QMC White

R/Up: Newlands Int Tawa