


netball
AUSTRALIA



annualreport > 06



CONTENTS

Contents 

Special Moments	1
Goals in Netball	2
2006 the Year that was.....	3
Board of Directors	4
Netball's Market Share and Important Players	5
Developing the World of Netball and NMA	6
Supporting our Athletes	7
A Year of Expectation for the Australian Netball Team	8
Junior Teams and National Netball Championships	9
Showcasing Netball	10
Umpires	11
National Membership Administration System (NMA)	11
Commonwealth Bank Trophy	12
Important Players	13
The year that was - Tributes, Awards	14
2006 CBT fixture and Netball Australia Contacts	15

SPECIAL MOMENTS

Special Moments **Australian Team**

- › Susan Pratley debut vs Wales. 17th March – Commonwealth Games
- › Susan Fuhrmann debut vs Wales. 17th March – Commonwealth Games
- › Sharelle McMahon claims 75th cap vs Samoa. 21st March – Commonwealth Games
- › Janine Ilitch claims 50th cap vs England. 25th March – Commonwealth Games
- › Wayne Rodgers (Physiotherapist) retires after the Commonwealth Games
- › Dr Lyn Thew retires after the Commonwealth Games
- › Michael Jones (Massage Therapist) retires after the Commonwealth Games
- › Alison Broadbent, Peta Scholz, Janine Ilitch and Natalie Avellino retire from international netball after the Commonwealth Games
- › Laura von Bertouch debut against NZ in Holden Netball Test Series. Brisbane 22nd July in centre court alongside sister, Natalie
- › Eloise Southby-Halbish retires from netball prior to the 2006 CBT season
- › Jane Searle resigns as Assistant Coach at the end of 2006

Commonwealth Bank Trophy (CBT)

- › Natalie Avellino plays 100th CBT match, returning from New Zealand for a guest appearance with the AIS Darters
- › Alison Broadbent claims 150th CBT cap in Round 14
- › Liz Ellis claims her 150th CBT cap in Round 6
- › Selina Gilson claims her 100th CBT cap in Round 8
- › Kristen Heinrich claims her 100th CBT cap in Round 5
- › Raegan Jackson claims her 100th CBT cap in Round 8
- › Wendy Jacobsen claims her 100th CBT cap in the Preliminary Final
- › Sharelle McMahon claims her 150th CBT cap in Round 10
- › Joanne Morgan claims her 100th CBT cap in Round 1 after making a return to the CBT for the Queensland Firebirds
- › Peta Scholz claims her 150th CBT cap in Round 7

Key Goal

Netball Australia's key goal is to ensure that all Australians have the opportunity to participate in the sport of netball in a way that brings them good health, recognition, achievement, involvement, satisfaction, or other outcomes they seek.

Key Result Areas

- › To develop an effective high performance program that delivers success in International competitions
- › To increase community participation, membership recruitment and member retention
- › To increase the strength and profile of Netball Australia's elite events
- › To deliver high quality service and support to members
- › To deliver efficient and effective national operations

Long Term Objectives

- › Ensure the continued success of our Australian representative teams
- › Work with State and Territory members to increase the membership levels of registered players, coaches and officials
- › Build allegiance to the sport through strong brand promotion and marketing in a coordinated national effort
- › Expand the operational capacity and efficiency of the organisation through sound business and financial management
- › Ensure that the inheritance and fundamental strength of the sport is protected and nurtured to ensure an ongoing legacy for all netball members

Key Performance Indicators**Our success will be measured by:**

- › Performance in benchmark events
- › Compliance with set standards
- › Satisfaction measures
- › Achievements of set targets in membership recruitment, TV ratings and ticket sales
- › Brand recognition
- › Quality of relationships with members, partners, government
- › Budget measures
- › Achievement of strategic initiatives including constitutional review, communications campaign, IT and HR systems and insurance scheme

As a sport we value:

- › our leading role in Australian sporting and social life
- › our role in promoting healthy lifestyles
- › our commercial and legal responsibilities
- › our financial independence
- › innovation, enterprise and creativity
- › our volunteers, officials and administrators



2006 The year it was...

A Year of Changes

It has been a year of change across a range of business areas that has set Netball Australia on a new path for the future.

I would like to acknowledge the previous President and Chair of the Board, Marilyn Melhuish OAM, and thank her for the work that she did on behalf of the Association during her term.

The CEO, Lindsay Cane resigned from the organisation in May and her resignation coincided with a Board review on the best location for the national headquarters. After considering the options and being offered the opportunity to enter a partnership with the AFL and the Victorian Government, the Netball Australia Board decided to relocate the headquarters to Melbourne.

The business of Netball Australia has been conducted from offices in Sydney, Parramatta and Harris Park in NSW over the last 28 years, so this decision marks the end of an era for Netball Australia.

Corporate governance continued to be a specific focus of the Board and a new constitution was adopted in September. A national strategic forum was held on the same weekend with our member organisations and other stakeholders, providing a vision and platform for the future direction of our sport.

The Australian Team had a mixed year of results. They achieved a Silver Medal in an exciting and inspirational final against New Zealand at the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games in March. Four months later, the two rivals met again claiming a win each. The series was awarded to New Zealand on a goal count back. The July tests were magnificent occasions, attracting 9,600 spectators in Brisbane and 10,400 in Sydney.

Australia claimed their first series win in New Zealand since 2001 in the three-test series in October, going some way towards avenging their losses to New Zealand earlier in the year.

Our Australian 21 and Under Team posted resounding victories against New Zealand in their two-test series in July.

The Sydney TAB Swifts powered to victory on the back of superb shooting and pressure defence to capture their third Commonwealth Bank Trophy title with a commanding 29 goal win, 65-36 over the Medibank Adelaide Thunderbirds at the Sydney Olympic Sports Centre.

Our Television rights-holder, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC TV) provided netball lovers with a new format in the 2006 Commonwealth Bank Trophy season, showing live games each week for the first time on ABC2. Commonwealth Bank Trophy attendances were down 12% in 2006 from the previous season. These disappointing crowd figures are a significant concern despite Member Organisations (MOs), with significant Netball Australia financial support, conducting a thorough and market-

specific marketing and promotional campaign. Finals attendances were down 30% on 2005.

Netball Australia identified that declining membership and the increasing range of sporting choices for young players, needed to be addressed if netball is to prosper as a national sport. At grassroots level, Netball Australia developed a Junior Netball Policy and is currently introducing the "Net-Set-Go" program, in support of the significant role that junior game development plays as the lifeblood of the sport in this country.

A bid has been submitted to the International Federation of Netball Associations (IFNA) to host the 2011 World Netball Championships in Melbourne. Singapore is the only other bidding nation. A decision is expected by IFNA at the 2007 Congress in November.

The delivery of the national merchandise and licensing program has attracted widespread praise. Negotiations continue with the retail distributors to ensure that high visibility, increased distribution, and exposure of the product and the Netball Australia brands continues in 2007.

Netball Australia's commercial partners again provided tremendous support to the game. Thank you to the Commonwealth Bank, ASIC's, Holden, X-Blades, Bendon, the Athletes' Foot and our new partner in 2006, Gatorade.

Local, state and the federal governments are relied upon for the growth of the sport, and the support of these bodies is greatly appreciated by Netball Australia. In particular I would like to

thank the Federal Government for their tremendous support of Netball Australia through the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Institute of Sport programs. Senator Rod Kemp announced his retirement from the Parliament and as Minister for Sport and the Arts. I would like to thank him for the support and friendship that he has shown to netball during his five year term.

The impending move to Melbourne and the appointment in November of new CEO, Kate Palmer is an exciting new direction for the organisation. But it has also meant that the majority of staff have decided not to relocate and will therefore end their tenure with Netball Australia.

On behalf of the organisation, I would like to acknowledge the contribution that each and every one of the Harris Park staff has made to the management and development of netball during the years of their service.

Finally, netball throughout this nation owes a great deal of thanks to the thousands of volunteers whose dedicated efforts are the foundation of our game. They are the lifeblood of our sport, serving the game in many different roles and their time and efforts are appreciated by Netball Australia.

Noeleen Dix
President



Board of Directors' Profiles

Management

Marilyn Melhuish, OAM, President & Chairperson
Director: 15 May 1999 – 29 April 2006

Noeleen Dix, President
Qualification: Diploma of Education
Experience: Program Manager Competition - Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games; General Manager - 1997 World Basketball Championships (Under 22 Men); Sport Manager 1995 Australian Masters Games; General Manager 1990 World Netball Championships; Executive Officer All Australia Netball Association; Executive Officer Victorian Netball Association; Inaugural Executive Commissioner VNA State League; 1995-1998 Trustee Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre; 1990-1994 Chairperson Australian Netball Coaching Committee; State (1976 -82) and Australian Netball Player (1981-82)
Director appointed: April 2002 to April 2005; reappointed 29 April 2006

Lindsay Cane, Chief Executive Officer & Company Secretary
Director: 1 January 2004 – May 2006

Lyn Clark-Duff, Finance Director
Qualifications: Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia Fellow of the Taxation Institute of Australia. Registered Auditor and Tax Agent. Justice of the Peace. Certified Financial Planner.
Experience: Chartered Accountant and Financial Planner in practice, Finance Director of AANA, Finance Director of NNL; AANA Management Committee.
Director appointed: 9 October 1992 to 14 July 1996 and reappointed 4 October 1996

Marjory Kerslake, Director
Qualifications: Physical Education Diploma. Certificate of Education (Uni of Tas) Tasmanian Teachers Certificate; MPO
Experience: Director of AANA, Director of NNL, President of Tasmanian Netball, Tasmanian Umpiring Director, AANA Council Delegate and UDC representative.
Director appointed: 15 May 1999

Katrina O'Sullivan, Director
Qualifications: Bachelor of Business (Administrative Management) University of SA. Diploma for Institute of Professional Secretaries and Administrators. Fellow – Australian Institute of Office Professionals.
Experience: Director of AANA, Director of Netball Victoria, Administrative Officer SANA,
Director appointed: 28 April 2001

Sue Taylor, AM, Director
Qualifications: Master of Arts (International Sport Law)
Experience: President & Chair of the Board of Directors of AANA Chair Board of Directors NNL, Member of former AANA Management Committee. AANA Selector, Director of World Championship Company. International Delegate to IFNA, Director of the Commonwealth Games Federation, Vice President of Australian Commonwealth Games Association, Board Member Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Lecturer – Sports Administration, Sport & the Law, Paralegal.
Director appointed: 28 September 1995

David Bell, Director
Director: 30 April 2005 – May 2006

Ann West, Director
Director: 30 April 2005 – 29 April 2006

Lydia Dowse, Director
Qualifications: BA (Hons), LLB, MA (Sports Management)
Experience: CEO of Athlete Development Australia; Lecturer in Event Management Law at Melbourne University Sports Studies Industry Advisory Group at Deakin University; Sports Lawyer and Manager; Senior Manager Western Australia Events Corporation; Senior Manager Victorian Major Events Company; Organising Committee 2002 WWE Global Warning Tour Organising Committee, 2003 IRB Rugby World Cup (Melbourne matches); Organising Committee 2004 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces Organising Committee; 2005 FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Championships; Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Association – ANZSLA Chairperson of the ANZSLA Conference Organising Committee for Perth conference, 2001. Member of the Western Australian Soccer Task Force, 2000
Director appointed: 1 October 2005

Pam Smith, Director
Qualifications: Master of Arts (Politics) Bachelor of Arts (Politics and History)
Experience: CEO Young Achievement Australia; Vice President – Eastwood Ryde Netball Association; Trustee – Parramatta Stadium Trust. National Executive Director of AANA (1990-2003); Vice President of International Federation of Netball Association Ltd (2003-2005). Director AANA (1995-2003, 2006); Former Director of National Netball League Pty Ltd; Former Secretary of Asian Federation of Netball Associations; Former Director of Commonwealth Games Association. Former Director of Australian Commonwealth Games Foundation
Director appointed: 29th April 2006

Jan Sutherland, Director
Qualifications: Bachelor Education (P.E) Diploma of Teaching (Secondary) Graduate Diploma in Applied Science (Recreation Planning and Management)
Experience: CEO - SA Sports Federation Member - 10th and 11th Australian Masters Games Advisory Board. Member - Volunteers Ministerial Advisory Group (SA Government). Member - Service Skills SA Board and Rec. and Sport Committee. Member - National RTO Reference Group (Sport and Recreation). Director of AANA (2000-2004); Director of NNL; Member of AANA Board and Council; Executive Member of SANA Board, NDC, Council and MOUT; Board Member of Australian Paralympic Committee; Life member of SASSSA and School Sport Australia;
Director appointed: 16 September 2006

NEW CEO
Kate Palmer, Chief Executive Officer
Qualifications: Bachelor of Applied Science Honours. Masters Degree in Management. Graduate – Williamson Community Leadership Program
Experience: Melbourne Cricket Ground Trustee. Chief Executive Officer – Netball Victoria. Director – Netball Victoria 2000-2006. Director – Triathlon Victoria 2003-2004 Australian Jockey Association Advisory Board. Deakin University Sport Management Program Advisory Group
Appointed: November 2006





Netball's Market Share

Marketing the sport

Our goal is to ensure Netball Australia continues to develop and maximise a strong market position and realise opportunities that consistently strengthen the brand, the sport and our athletes in a controlled and positive environment.

Planning for the future

The year has been one of planning and developing a solid foundation from which netball can develop its commercial markets and enhance its brand nationally.

The first step in the new direction has been the creation and implementation of a new marketing, communications & commercial strategic plan to drive the commercial arm of netball. The benefits of the plan will occur in ensuing years as the successful promotion and management of key Netball Australia properties continues to be maximised.

Tapping into the states

After the success of the 2005 Commonwealth Bank Trophy (CBT) finals series Netball Australia de-centralised marketing or local area marketing spend to State and Territory Member Organisations who run CBT Teams, for the entire 2006 season. The re-direction of marketing spend to the CBT teams resulted in greater local coverage and greater national exposure overall.

Sell out International Test Matches

An increased investment in marketing continued to yield successful results in 2006 with a record crowd in Brisbane and over 10,000 spectators in Sydney to see the Australian Team in action. A strategic research and development plan was implemented to identify and understand more fully the netball audience and to inform future decision making. The plan will assist in identifying sponsorship opportunities and ways to increase spectators at all events. The work undertaken will assist in identifying sponsorship opportunities and ways to increase crowds at all events.



More netball merchandise on the market

The national merchandise and licensing program was launched in 2006. Velocity Brand Management, was engaged to develop a centralised licensing program where strategic development, distribution, protection and sales of all licensing business were successfully delivered under the management and direction of Netball Australia.

The program incorporated all eight (8) Commonwealth Bank Trophy teams and the Australian Netball Team. It currently licences more than 30 different products including DVDs and supporter apparel.

The program provides revenue streams for Netball Australia and the State Organisations.

Strategic business relationships

An evaluation of the management of sponsors identified the need to secure specialist sponsorship counsel. Sports Marketing and Management (SMAM) were engaged to aid in the delivery of a more strategic approach to valuing our core Netball Australia properties.

There has been a consolidation and building of core commercial properties for Netball Australia over the year and 2007 will no doubt show a significant return on the investment and planning.

Spreading the word

This year Netball Australia initiated a tailored suite of communications vehicles to deliver key messages, corporate image and tactical information to key stakeholders, members, the media and the wider community. A number of key messages were developed for the media, administrators, officials and players to further enhance exposure and integrity for the organisation and the sport.

Netball Australia continues to recognise, reward and target the Australian media to increase their commitment and contribution to netball through their numerous national and international networks.

Developing the world of netball

Supporting our growth

Netball Australia is committed to increase community participation, membership recruitment and member retention to deliver high quality service and support to members.

Netball Australia is committed to provide leadership and services to its members to support the vast pool of volunteers across the country who support our grassroots players.

Coaching framework introduced

A more supportive accreditation system, matching player and coaching pathways has been introduced in the form of a five tier-coaching framework. The new courses have been submitted to the Australian Sports Commission for accreditation and will be implemented in 2007 and 2008.

Thank you to Netball WA who developed and trialled the Intermediate course. The five levels are:

Foundation Coaching Course	similar to OTC
Netball Coaching Course	equivalent to Level 1
Intermediate Coaching Course	new course
Advanced Coaching Course	equivalent to Level 2
High Performance Coaching Course	equivalent to Level 3

Resource material is being developed to support course delivery and quality control.

The Accreditation Committee of Leoni Otago, Fiona Young, Karen Warland, Jo Macdermid assisted in creating the new framework.

Net Set Go! has arrived

Net Set Go! is Netball Australia's Junior Netball Program. It has been developed to provide children from the age of 5 to 10 years with the best possible learning and playing experience that enables them to develop a positive introduction to Netball, ensuring enjoyment and continued participation within the sport.

The program has been designed to complement the existing netball infrastructure by providing community groups such as Associations, Clubs and school with quality resources and equipment to deliver an age and skill appropriate netball program.

Trials in Queensland and Victoria along with planning and resource development will culminate in the launch of the new program with resources across the states in 2007.

Research provides an insight

A grant was received from the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for the Women's Participation in Sport. A study of Netball under the Commonwealth's Women's leadership and Development Programme was

commissioned to investigate the enablers and barriers to the participation of women in sports as participants and as administrators.

AC Neilson conducted the study and Netball Australia will be disseminating the findings to all members early next year.

Medibank Private 1Seven and obesity

Medibank Private 1Seven is a national program which aims to promote healthy behaviour that will lead to improved nutrition awareness and physical activity levels of Australian children. 1Seven is a partnership between Medibank Private, Cricket Australia, Netball Australia and the Australian Football League that encourages children (5-12 year olds) to participate in at least 1 hour of moderate to vigorous physical activity and eat up to seven serves of fruit and vegetables every day.

The 1Seven Program consists of an interactive website with content for students, teachers and parents including articles, curriculum resources and interactive games.

Indigenous Netball a growth area

A National Workshop was held to help develop the indigenous netball community. Important links within the community were established and a National Working committee created. Netball Australia has signed agreements with the AFL, ARL as well as NASCA to help provide services and education to selected communities throughout Australia. Congratulations to Western Australia and Netball ACT for their part in this process.


Project connect

Over the next five years Netball Australia, with support from the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) aims to provide inclusive sport for all people with a disability. A national workshop was conducted on exclusivity and netball's ability to implement strategies to provide further opportunity utilising existing pathways and opportunities. All states were enthusiastic and committed in their support for providing a sport that would be inclusive for all. A consequence of the agreement with the Australian Sports Commission will be an audit distributed early 2007.

Coaching highs

- In summary:**
- 3 coaches completed the Level 3 coaching accreditation.
 - 11 coaches updated their Level 3
 - 10 newly accredited Level 2 coaches
 - 27 updated their Level 2 qualification
 - 1,333 newly accredited Level 1 coaches
 - 300 updated their Level 1

The Junior Sports Policy and its message of inclusion, forms the basic framework of the new Netball Australia coaching courses.

Supporting Our Athletes **High performance**

Our goal is to develop an effective high performance program that delivers success in international competitions including the World Championships 2007, World Youth Netball Championships 2009 and the Delhi Commonwealth Games 2010.

A new culture planned

During the year Netball Australia implemented its new High Performance Plan with objectives focused on creating a new high performance culture and a sustainable system for the sport.

The result has been new player and coach pathways and clearly defined and integrated roles within the AIS and SIS/SAS network. This has been underpinned with a more robust and better resourced talent development programs and national team structures.

Emphasis has been on the establishment of systems to support and develop the quality of junior athletes entering the national pathway and to support national squad members in their quest to represent Australia whilst pursuing full time employment or education opportunities.

Preparations for the World Championships

Preparations for the 2007 world championships are well underway after 2006 provided a challenging learning phase for the Australian Team in many respects. The team took home the silver medal from the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. Next was a closely fought international test series against New Zealand in July. The 2 – 1 test series win against their Trans Tasman rivals in October 2006 provides an indication of just how close the two teams are in their match ups.

A strong international program has been planned against Jamaica, England and New Zealand for 2007. This is to be supported by a national camps program which will provide the national team with the extensive preparation required to win back the World Championship trophy. Netball Australia has also engaged a PhD student to undertake doctorate research, as well provide performance analysis support and services to the national program.

The Australian Sports Commission provided, through the Australia Government Training Grant Scheme, \$240,000 to support the Australian netball squad in its preparation for the 2007 World Championships. This support is vital in assisting our elite athletes to maintain their focus on their preparation and training for the World Championships.

**Youth benefits from experience**

In 2006 the Australian 21 & Under squad participated as training partners to the Australian Team in their Commonwealth Games preparation. This included extensive international exposure against teams from New Zealand, South Africa, Fiji, Singapore and Samoa. In July the Team won the series against the NZ National 21 & Under Team 2 – 0

From the ground up


Netball Australia increased its financial contribution to \$245,000 to assist State and Territory Institutes and Academies of Sport to support the daily training environment of nationally identified 16 – 19 year old athletes. In addition a combined National Junior squads and high performance coaching camp was conducted at the AIS in July.

The introduction in 2006 of a National Talent Development Co-ordinator position to manage Netball's national talent development programs was made possible through the Australian Sports Commission and its National Coaching Scholarship scheme.

Elite netball growth plans

The High Performance Plan will drive certain initiatives for next year

- Review and preparation of Netball's high performance systems and infrastructure for 2008 – 2011
- Review the role and position of the AIS Netball program
- Review and preparation of a National Competition Framework
- Introduction of a National Regional Academy Framework to support the elite athlete pathway
- Increase the development and mentoring opportunities for targeted potential elite coaches.

A year of expectation for the Australian Netball Team **A challenging year..**

With Melbourne hosting the 2006 Commonwealth Games from 15-26 March, the Australian Netball Team carried the burden of heightened expectation of producing a gold-medal winning performance for the home crowd.

In a memorable, inspiring performance, Australia challenged the reigning World Champions, New Zealand down to the wire at Vodafone Arena (MPV) and came within five goals of taking the title. New Zealand claimed gold but Australia's courageous fight won over the fans and convinced all that 2006 was going to be a turning point for the national side.

Young defender, Susan Fuhmann and shooter, Susan Pratley earned their first call-up to the national team, whilst experienced campaigner and national captain, Liz Ellis missed the Games because of a knee reconstruction.

The world's best netball nations contested the 2006 Commonwealth Games with Jamaica proving a legitimate emerging challenger to the powerhouses, Australia and New Zealand. Against Australia in a pool game, Jamaica erased a nine-goal deficit in the last quarter to force a draw. The result forced Australia to produce a big win against Singapore to claim top billing in their pool and therefore avoid the Silver Ferns in the semi-finals.

In the early rounds, Australia easily accounted for Wales, Barbados and Samoa and then outclassed a rebuilding England in the semi-final to set up their gold-medal clash with New Zealand.

Four months later, the two arch-rivals clashed again in a two-test series. New Zealand claimed victory in the first Test in Brisbane. But Australia fought back to take the second contest and deal the Silver Ferns their first loss in two years. Pacy Adelaide midcourter, Laura von Bertouch impressed in her international debut and become a regular fixture in the team throughout the year.

Australia's confidence was high heading into the return series and they posted their first victory on New Zealand soil since 2001 and first consecutive win against the World Champions since 2002.

In a thrilling three-test duel, the Silver Ferns took the second Test in Auckland, setting up a highly anticipated finale to the dramatic series. Australia's fighting spirit prevailed in the final match. Australia won the series 2-1, proving to the Silver Ferns – Australia is back!

Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games

When: 15-26 March 2006
Venues: State Netball Hockey Centre and Vodafone Arena (MPV)
Results: 17 March – Australia 78 def. Wales 22
19 March – Australia 70 def. Barbados 27
21 March – Australia 78 def. Samoa 47
22 March – Australia 54 drew Jamaica 54
23 March – Australia 107 def. Singapore 19
25 March (Semi Finals) – Australia 52 def. England 40
26 March (Gold Medal Match) – New Zealand 60 def. Australia 55

Australian Team:

Sharelle McMahon (Captain)
Catherine Cox (Vice-captain)
Natalie Avellino
Alison Broadbent
Bianca Chatfield
Megan Dehn
Susan Fuhmann
Selina Gilsenan
Janine Ilitch
Susan Pratley
Jessica Shynn
Natalie von Bertouch

Coach: Norma Plummer
Assistant Coach: Jane Searle
Team Manager: Marg Molina
Team Doctor: Dr Lyn Thew
Physiotherapist: Wayne Rodgers

**Holden Netball Test Series
Australia v New Zealand**

When: 22 July 2006
Venue: Brisbane Entertainment Centre, Brisbane, QLD
Result: New Zealand 52 def. Australia 40

When: 25 July 2006
Venue: Acer Arena, Sydney, NSW
Result: Australia 48 def. New Zealand 38

Team:
Liz Ellis (Co-captain)
Sharelle McMahon (Co-captain)
Catherine Cox
Bianca Chatfield
Susan Fuhmann
Mo'onia Gerrard
Selina Gilsenan
Kristen Heinrich
Susan Pratley
Jessica Shynn
Laura von Bertouch
Natalie von Bertouch

Coach: Norma Plummer
Assistant Coach: Jane Searle
Team Manager: Marg Molina
Team Doctor: Dr Michael Makdissi
Physiotherapist: Sean Mungovan
Massage Therapist: Brendan Cole

**Fisher & Paykel Series – New Zealand
Australia v New Zealand**

When: 12 October 2006
Venue: The Events Centre, Wellington, NZ
Result: Australia 51 def. New Zealand 47

When: 14 October 2006
Venue: Trusts Stadium, Auckland, NZ
Result: New Zealand 43 def. Australia 37

When: 16 October 2006
Venue: Westpac Centre, Christchurch, NZ
Result: Australia 46 def. New Zealand 40

Team:
Liz Ellis (Captain)
Sharelle McMahon (Vice-captain)
Catherine Cox
Bianca Chatfield
Natasha Chokijat
Mo'onia Gerrard
Selina Gilsenan
Kristen Heinrich
Susan Pratley
Julie Prendergast
Laura von Bertouch
Natalie von Bertouch

Coach: Norma Plummer
Assistant Coach: Jane Searle
Team Manager: Marg Molina
Team Doctor: Dr Michael Makdissi
Physiotherapist: Sean Mungovan
Massage Therapist: Brendan Cole



Junior Teams & Nationals

Australian 21/U Team in flying form

The Australian 21/U Squad opened the year by showcasing their talented playing group in several practice matches against visiting national teams who were in search of top competition in the lead-in to the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games in March. Australia's rich depth of player talent was highlighted when the 21/U Squad posted several victories and produced consistent, high-level, outstanding performances during the series.

Playing in front of a vocal home crowd in Brisbane in July, the Australian 21/U Team upstaged New Zealand - the reigning World Youth netball champions - in a clean sweep of the two-Test series. The victories were a significant boost for Australia, who had lost to New Zealand by just one goal in the semi-finals of the 2005 World Youth Netball Championships.

Australia 21/U v New Zealand 21/U

When: 20 July 2006
Venue: Insport Cornubia, Brisbane, QLD
Result: Australia 48 def. New Zealand 36

Holden Netball Test Series

When: 22 July 2006
Venue: Brisbane Entertainment Centre, Brisbane, QLD
Result: Australia 47 def. New Zealand 28

The team

- Julie Prendergast (Captain)
- Kimberlee Green (Vice-captain)
- Caitlin Bassett
- Kate Beveridge
- Johannah Curran
- Laura Geitz
- Renaë Hallinan
- Rachael Knight
- Clare McMeniman
- Nikala Smith
- Caitlin Thwaites
- Vanessa Ware

Coach: Lisa Alexander
Assistant Coach: Julie Fitzgerald
Team Manager: Louise Pilling
Team Doctor: Dr Leesa Huguenin
Physiotherapist: Steve Hawkins
Massage Therapist: Gamal Darwish



21 and Under National Championships

At ESTA Park in Adelaide in September the 21 and Under Championships sponsored by Athlete's Foot was where we saw the young stars of Australian netball shine.

The strong defensive line-up of the Victorian side was too much for defending champions Western Australia, defeated in the Grand Final by a resounding 22 goals, 71-49.

Congratulations to all the players, officials and support staff that yet again represented their States and Territories with great skill and integrity. A special note of thanks must also be given to the many volunteers and host Member Organisations who work tirelessly to bring these special events together.

Underage Championships

In April at Penrith Stadium in Sydney the nation's best 17 and Under and 19 and Under netballers competed for the coveted title of National Champions. The stage was set for a close and exciting contest.

Defending champions New South Wales dominated the 17 and Under competition, and defeated Victoria in the grand final to claim the title by a comfortable margin of 31-23. However, in the 19 and Under competition, a determined Victorian side reversed their fortunes against New South Wales by turning a three-goal defeat in the rounds into a convincing 37-26 victory, making 2006 their fourth consecutive year as National Champions.

Showcasing Netball



Netball at its best

Our goal is to ensure elite level netball continues to be seen throughout Australia on a regular basis while continuing to increase the strength and profile of Netball Australia's elite events.

A year of firsts

Sport at the elite level is inspiring for our millions of participants and for sports lovers across the globe. It is Netball Australia's goal to ensure that annually netball is presented as a well packaged exciting skilful sport for everyone involved from the fanatical fan, to the corporate world and the casual observer. This year has been one of many key achievements for the sport in the competition and events area.

Firstly after 25 years Brisbane played host to its first international test match between Australia v New Zealand to a very appreciative audience.

In excess of 20,000 people attended the two International Test Matches held in Australia this year.

The creation and introduction of a corporate function at each test match gave guests an opportunity to mingle and hear presentations from high profile sports people including Marg Caldwell (Head Coach England Netball Team) Alison Broadbent, Julie Fitzgerald and Jared Crouch (Sydney Swans Player). This practice was well received and will be developed further in 2007.

Preparations commenced for the bid to host the 2011 IFNA World Netball Championships in Melbourne.

Television coverage was again received well and gave the sport good reach and frequency.

Future plans

An agreement was signed with New Zealand to continue the development and packaging of worthwhile clashes between the two netballing nations for the enjoyment of the viewing public as well as the players.

Work with TV and the states to increase the viewing audience of netball continues to be a priority as opportunities to deliver the sport are assessed regularly.

Umpires

Umpire development

The sport of netball needs to have strong highly trained and experienced umpiring personnel.

In 2006 three new AA Umpiring Badges were awarded to Raechel Richards, Rachael Ayre and Di Cocker.

Sue Floro an AA Umpire was endorsed and two ASC scholarships were awarded to Dusty-Lee Rea and Courtney Harrington.

The National Pool of Umpires is supported by the tireless efforts of the National Grading and Endorsement Panel and thanks go to Maureen Boyle, Annette Smith, Sharon Kelly, Stacey Campton and Chris Burton for their contribution to the development of umpires nationally.

National Pool

- Rachael Ayre (New)
- Nikki Boyd
- Di Cocker (New)
- Donna Davey
- Debra Farrelly
- Jacqui Jashari
- Sharon Kelly
- Clare McCabe
- Louise McMeeking
- Raechel Richards (New)
- Kate Wright



Commonwealth Bank Trophy

Ten years on...

Our goal is to continue to review the current competition and ensure the viability of elite netball competition in Australia

History in the making

Seen as the world's most prestigious domestic competition, the Commonwealth Bank Trophy (CBT) entered its 10 year of operation in 2006.

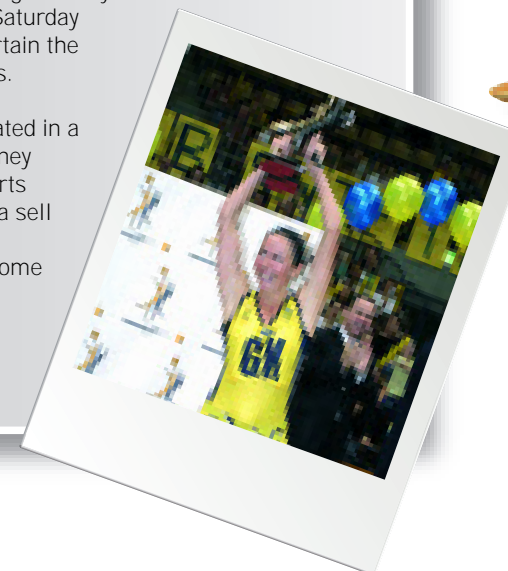
The Commonwealth Bank of Australia continues its commitment to the growth of netball through the event and ancillary activities at the grass roots level across the country. As naming rights sponsor of the League for the 10th continuous year this partnership is well recognised as a success for both parties. Netball Australia recognises and thanks the Commonwealth Bank for their foresight and investment in national netball.

CBT matches were again played in regional areas to gain additional exposure for the sport. The eight teams in the competition competed in front of appreciative fans and those who just enjoy seeing sport played at its best. Areas visited included Wollongong, Darwin, Townsville, and Geelong.

The Sydney TAB Swifts went through the season undefeated! They will go down in the record books as the first National League team to achieve this feat.

Television coverage for CBT matches included live broadcasts on ABC2 on Friday nights and a comprehensive magazine style show on ABC on Saturday afternoon to entertain the sports enthusiasts.

The event culminated in a grand final at Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre in front of a sell out crowd. The competition has come of age.



National Membership Administration System (NMA)

High quality membership service

Netball Australia entered into an agreement with the supplier Interfuse in December 2005 and is working with Member Organisations to provide the system to every level of netball within Australia; from state and territory, local regions, associations and clubs.

The NMAS will enable Netball Australia to provide an affordable administration system and website without the need to involve technical professionals.

More than just a database or website, the system provides all the tools a netball organisation needs to run their sport, including website, competition tools, member database, online shop and online newsletters.



Important Players

As always there are important relationships created behind the scene to build the financial foundations that underpin the success of the netball from the grassroots to the elite level.

Sponsors corporate partners and suppliers continue to see netball as an important commercial investment and Netball Australia is pleased to work with them.

> Official Partners



> National Competition Naming Rights Sponsor



> International Test Series Naming Rights Sponsor



> Official Broadcast Sponsor



> Official Apparel



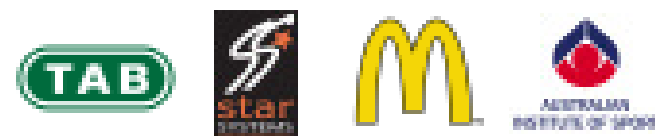
> Official Sport Underwear



> Official Ball



> Team Naming Rights Sponsors



> Official Sports Drink



> Official Airline



> Official Accommodation



> Official Suppliers



> Fantasy Netball Sponsor



The year it was - Tributes & Awards



2006 ASICS Australian Team Player of the Year
Jessica Shynn, Perth Orioles

2006 CBT Most Valuable Player
Liz Ellis, Sydney TAB Swifts

2006 CBT Best New Talent
Madison Browne, Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels

2006 Australian Sport Awards
The 2006 Australian Sport Awards are announced in 2007 and the following nominations were submitted:

Liz Ellis, Sydney TAB Swifts – Female Athlete of the Year
Sydney TAB Swifts – National Team of the Year
Julie Fitzgerald, Sydney TAB Swifts – Coach of the Year
Warren Partland, The Advertiser (SA) – Sport Media Award

Individual Milestones & Retirements

Sharelle McMahon played her 75th Test Match for Australia and Janine Illitch plays her 50th Test Match during 2006.

Alison Broadbent, Peta Scholz, Janine Illitch and Natalie Avellino all retired from international netball competition after the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. Eloise Southby-Halbish retired from all elite netball competitions prior to the Commonwealth Games.

In 2006 a number of well-known netball identities also retired from Australian Team duties and included the long-serving and dedicated support staff of Team Doctor, Dr Lyn Thew, Team Physiotherapists, Wayne Rodgers and Michael Jones as well as Australian Team Assistant Coach Jane Searle.

The Commonwealth Bank Trophy Players who passed 150 games included Liz Ellis, Alison Broadbent, Sharelle McMahon and Peta Scholz.

International Debuts

The Sydney TAB Swifts' Susan Pratley and the AIS Canberra Darters' Susan Fuhrmann became the 139th and 140th players to represent Australia when they debuted at the Commonwealth Games against Wales.

Medibank Adelaide Thunderbirds' Laura von Bertouch, also debuted for Australia against the Sliver Ferns in the 2006 Holden Netball Test Series.

AA Service Awards

This year saw four (4) AA Service Awards presented to:
 >Jan Cross >Dawn Long >Jill McIntosh >Vicki Wilson

The contribution these women made to netball, both on and off the court, is a testament to their commitment to the sport and Netball Australia congratulates them on receiving their All Australia Service Award.

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Pat Dart was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) honours in 2006. Mrs Dart received her award for service to netball in the ACT serving in a range of administrative roles.

Life Members

Mrs Yvette Auckett
 Ms Jocelyn Bayly OAM
 Mrs Gwen Benzie AM
 Mrs Fay Bevan
 Mrs Maureen Boyle OAM
 Mrs Joyce Brown OAM
 Dr Grace Bryant
 Ms Michele Buck
 Ms Chris Burton OAM
 Mrs Margaret Caldwell BEM
 Mrs Margaret Corbett
 Mrs Jean Cowan MBE
 Mrs Pat Dart OAM
 Miss Deidre Hyland AM

Mrs Nancy Kenny OAM
 Mrs Marj Kerslake
 Mrs Moira McGuinness MBE
 Miss Dorothy McHugh OAM
 Mrs Marilyn Melhuish OAM
 Miss Margaret Morris
 Mrs Val Morrison OAM
 Mrs Bronwyn Roberts
 Mrs Anne Sargeant OAM
 Mrs Wilma Shakespear AM
 Mrs Flo Starcevic
 Mrs Sue Taylor AM
 Mrs Gladys Waugh OAM

Vale

John Belton

For more than 20 years John gave tremendous service to both Netball South Australia and Netball Australia. He received his Level 3 coaching accreditation in 1998 and went on to coach South

Australian State 17, 21 and Open Teams. His teams won five (5) National Championships during his state coaching career of 13 years. He most recently held the position of National 17 & Under Squad Selector from 1998 – 2005 where his contribution and ability to identify future international netballers was second to none. John is survived by his wife Shirley.

Mavis Scott (nee Buckingham)

Mavis Scott's devotion to netball spanned more than 60 years where she made significant contributions to both Netball South Australia and Netball Australia. She was awarded her AA Umpire Badge in 1954. A dedicated mentor, coach and administrator Mavis served as the umpire delegate for South Australia for over 10 years. She was a proxy umpire at the 1967 World Netball Championships held in Perth and was appointed to Netball Australia's exam committee for a number of years.

Netball Australia Awards

In 2006 the Netball Australia Annual Awards Ceremony was held in Sydney at the Museum of Contemporary Art on Circular Quay. This annual event celebrates and reviews the Commonwealth Bank Trophy Season and International Test Series, acknowledges the outstanding contributions of individual players, officials and teams, and highlights the commitment of our media and corporate partners.

Former Australian Swimmer and Commonwealth Games Gold medallist Nicole Livingstone again was MC for the night's festivities.

Netball Australia thanks the generous and dedicated corporate partners who make these important awards and the subsequent recognition possible.

Awards

Commonwealth Bank Trophy Most Valued Player
Liz Ellis, Sydney TAB Swifts

Commonwealth Bank Trophy Best New Talent
Madison Browne, Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels

ASICS Australian Team Player of the Year
Jessica Shynn, Perth Orioles

Player's Player of the Year sponsored by The Athlete's Foot
Caitlin Bassett, Perth Orioles and Caitlin Thwaites, Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels

Umpire of the Year sponsored by Gatorade
Sharon Kelly

Domestic Coach of the Year sponsored by Sport Employment Australia
Julie Fitzgerald, Sydney TAB Swifts

Margaret Pewtress Team of the Year

Goal Shooter – Catherine Cox, Sydney TAB Swifts
 Goal Attack – Sharelle McMahon, Melbourne First National Phoenix
 Wing Attack – Laura von Bertouch, Medibank Adelaide Thunderbirds
 Centre – Natalie von Bertouch, Medibank Adelaide Thunderbirds
 Wing Defence – Natasha Chokljat, Melbourne First National Phoenix
 Goal Defence – Mo'onia Gerrard, Sydney TAB Swifts
 Goal Keeper – Liz Ellis, Sydney TAB Swifts

Australian Team Player Badges

Susan Fuhrmann, AIS Canberra Darters
 Susan Pratley, Sydney TAB Swifts
 Julie Prendergast, Melbourne First National Phoenix
 Rebecca Strachan, Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels
 Laura von Bertouch, Medibank Adelaide Thunderbirds

Media Awards

The support of the media and recognition of outstanding contributions to netball coverage in the media is crucial to netball's growth and awareness nationally.

Best Print/Electronic Story
Amanda Lulham, The Daily Telegraph

Best Photograph
Cameron Richardson, The Advertiser

Best Broadcast Story
Tim Wharton, Fox Sports

Tanya Denver Best Overall Media Coverage
Warren Partland, The Advertiser



Commonwealth Bank Trophy 2007 Draw



Round	Date	Time	Home Team	Away Team	Venue		
ROUND 1	26 April	4:00pm	Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels	Melbourne First National Phoenix	Yalovara Arena		
	27 April	8:00pm	Queensland Firebirds	AGS Canberra Darters	Chandler Arena		
	27 April	8:00pm	Sydney T&M Swifts	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre		
	28 April	7:30pm	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	Perth Orioles	Graham Stadium		
ROUND 2	4 May	7:30pm	Perth Orioles	Melbourne First National Phoenix	Eyres Recreational Centre		
	4 May	7:30pm	AGS Canberra Darters	Sydney T&M Swifts	AGS Arena		
	4 May	7:30pm	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	ETSA Park		
	5 May	8:00pm	Queensland Firebirds	Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels	Chandler Arena		
ROUND 3	11 May	7:30pm	Perth Orioles	AGS Canberra Darters	Challenge Stadium		
	11 May	8:00pm	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	Melbourne First National Phoenix	Newcastle Entertainment Centre		
	11 May	7:30pm	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	Queensland Firebirds	ETSA Park		
	12 May	8:00pm	Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels	Sydney T&M Swifts	Stawell, Tasmania		
ROUND 4	18 May	8:00pm	Queensland Firebirds	Perth Orioles	Chandler Arena		
	18 May	8:00pm	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	Sydney T&M Swifts	Newcastle Entertainment Centre		
	18 May	8:00pm	Melbourne First National Phoenix	AGS Canberra Darters	State Netball Hockey Centre		
	19 May	8:30pm	Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	State Netball Hockey Centre		
ROUND 5	25 May	8:00pm	Sydney T&M Swifts	Queensland Firebirds	Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre		
	25 May	8:00pm	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	AGS Canberra Darters	Newcastle Entertainment Centre		
	25 May	7:30pm	Perth Orioles	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	Challenge Stadium		
	27 May	1:30pm	Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	State Netball Hockey Centre		
ROUND 6	27 May	3:00pm	Melbourne First National Phoenix	Sydney T&M Swifts	State Netball Hockey Centre		
	1 June	8:00pm	Sydney T&M Swifts	Perth Orioles	Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre		
	1 June	7:30pm	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	Melbourne First National Phoenix	ETSA Park		
	1 June	8:00pm	Queensland Firebirds	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	Chandler Arena		
ROUND 7	1 June	7:30pm	AGS Canberra Darters	Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels	AGS Arena		
	8 June	8:00pm	Sydney T&M Swifts	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre		
	8 June	7:30pm	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	AGS Canberra Darters	ETSA Park		
	8 June	8:00pm	Melbourne First National Phoenix	Queensland Firebirds	State Netball Hockey Centre		
ROUND 8	8 June	7:30pm	Perth Orioles	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	Challenge Stadium		
	15 June	4:30pm	Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels	Perth Orioles	State Netball Hockey Centre		
	15 June	8:00pm	Melbourne First National Phoenix	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	State Netball Hockey Centre		
	15 June	8:30pm	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	Sydney T&M Swifts	ETSA Park		
ROUND 9	15 June	7:30pm	AGS Canberra Darters	Queensland Firebirds	AGS Arena		
	22 June	4:00pm	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels	AGS Arena		
	22 June	8:00pm	Sydney T&M Swifts	Melbourne First National Phoenix	AGS Arena		
	22 June	7:30pm	AGS Canberra Darters	Perth Orioles	AGS Arena		
ROUND 10	22 June	8:00pm	Queensland Firebirds	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	Chandler Arena		
	24 June	1:00pm	Melbourne First National Phoenix	Perth Orioles	State Netball Hockey Centre		
	24 June	3:00pm	Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels	AGS Canberra Darters	State Netball Hockey Centre		
	ROUND 11 - Break Week 4 July	21 June	8:00pm	Sydney T&M Swifts	AGS Canberra Darters	Wollongong Entertainment Centre	
21 June		7:30pm	Perth Orioles	Queensland Firebirds	Challenge Stadium		
28 June		8:00pm	Melbourne First National Phoenix	Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels	State Netball Hockey Centre		
1 July		1:00pm	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	Newcastle Entertainment Centre		
ROUND 12 - Break Week 10 July	ROUND 13 - Break Week 20 July	ROUND 14	27 July	8:00pm	Queensland Firebirds	Sydney T&M Swifts	Chandler Arena
			27 July	7:30pm	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	Perth Orioles	ETSA Park
			27 July	7:30pm	AGS Canberra Darters	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	AGS Arena
			29 July	1:00pm	Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels	Queensland Firebirds	Yalovara Arena
ROUND 15	29 July	3:00pm	Melbourne First National Phoenix	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	Yalovara Arena		
	ROUND 16	3 August	7:30pm	Perth Orioles	Sydney T&M Swifts	Challenge Stadium	
		3 August	8:00pm	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	Queensland Firebirds	Newcastle Entertainment Centre	
		3 August	7:30pm	AGS Canberra Darters	Melbourne First National Phoenix	AGS Arena	
3 August		7:30pm	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels	ETSA Park		
ROUND 17	10 August	7:30pm	Perth Orioles	Allied Pickfords Melbourne Kestrels	Challenge Stadium		
	10 August	7:30pm	AGS Canberra Darters	McDonald's Adelaide Thunderbirds	AGS Arena		
	10 August	8:00pm	Queensland Firebirds	Melbourne First National Phoenix	Chandler Arena		
	11 August	8:00pm	Sydney T&M Swifts	McDonald's Hunter Jaegers	Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre		



annualreport 06



www.netball.asn.au

* Draw is subject to change