

## President's Report for HNA AGM 23 October 2023

*Read during welcome: I begin tonight by acknowledging the Peramangk people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today and play much of our netball throughout the season. I pay my respects to the Elders past, present & emerging and extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present today.*

Thank you to the 2023 Board members: Elected Directors: Tracy Goodwin (Vice President), Kerry Francis (Secretary), Sally Monteleone (Treasurer) and Lauren Parker (Recording Officer). David Hamilton also began the year as an Elected Director in the role of Netball SA Delegate and after his resignation from the Board in May we were thankful that Hanna Hepinstall was willing to join the Board as an Appointed Director to see out the season as Netball SA Delegate. We met 8 times this year from February to September with everyone contributing via their portfolios.

The Chairs of our Sub Committees also played a vital role in Board meetings and discussions with thanks to Tracy Goodwin for Rep Team Sub Committee, Hanna Hepinstall for Competition Management Committee and Sam Parker for Grading Sub Committee. Nicole Moxham took over the role of Chair & Board Rep of the Umpiring Sub Committee from David Hamilton in May. Thanks also go to all the members of the Sub Committees.

We were pleased to have, for the first time, nominations for the Promotions & Future Planning Sub Committee. Thanks to Stacey Briggs, Lauren Civetta, Estee Fiebiger-Briggs and Rebecca Quartermaine for getting the discussions rolling in this space. This group has met to look at priority areas and identify ways to promote & grow our Association. Areas of focus may include increased opportunities for boys, better utilising our online presence and how to increase the skills & aspirations of our playing base which in turn will lead to increased nominations in higher divisions.

In February we had great numbers of players trial for our Hills Rep Teams and were excited to field four teams, across the four grades from U17 to U11. The second year of starting the program with a camp set the scene for what was another unbelievably successful year at the many carnivals. We congratulate the players & coaches on their results.

In 2023 our 10 Clubs fielded 129 teams, 5 less teams than 2022 with the decrease seen in Senior numbers and returning to pre-covid numbers overall. The teams were spread across 6 Senior grades, 10 Junior grades & 3 9 & Under grades. It is good to see that numbers remain steady in Juniors and hopefully we might see an increase in Seniors again in 2024.

In 2023 we saw a slight increase in nominations for our Inters Div 1 but would love to see that also flow to high Senior grades and other Junior Div 1s. The Grading Sub Committee focused on trying to place all teams in a grade where they would get the best level of competition & enjoyment from their season while also balancing the need to try to create full 6 & 8 draws to ensure plenty of match time & depth in each grade.

Our season started on 29 April for 6 draw grades and 6 May for 8 draw grades. We again opened the season with the Constance Bonython ANZAC Medal match, between Uraidla & Ironbank Cherry Gardens A1 teams. The medal was won by Alicia Bagnall from Ironbank Cherry Gardens. This match and the accompanying formalities continue to provide a wonderful way to kick off our season. Thank you to Uraidla Netball Club for hosting and organising much of the formalities and to the RSL for sending representation.

On 20 May we held our Pink round raising money for breast cancer. This was the first time all clubs agreed on one date to hold this round and something we will look to do again next season.

For the second year Heathfield Netball Club did a remarkable job of organising First Nations Round on 17 June. It was great to see the enthusiasm for this event spread to some other Clubs this season. The Competition Management Committee looked for opportunities to showcase this round indoors but could not find an available venue within our HNA boundaries. Efforts may be made again to try and find an appropriate indoor venue as the weather certainly proved difficult for this event again!

Our Umpiring Sub Committee held umpiring quiz nights again, as well as managing the pool of umpires for A1 & A2. They coordinated the pathway for some of our umpires to undergo the badging process, providing mentoring and guidance to these umpires as well as many others across the season. Congratulations to the six people that obtained their badge, in turn furthering umpiring expertise in our Association. New umpiring awards were instigated with nominations received from Clubs, rather than a system with A1 & A2 teams votes for pool umpires.

The Competition Management Sub Committee again provided an environment where all Clubs can have input regarding the ins & outs of our competition. It is a very valuable format for clubs to share information and together steer the culture & direction of our Association. This Sub Committee's work on our Regulations keep our competition moving forward, demonstrating we are willing to prioritise inclusivity and look for ways to increase enjoyment of the game for all.

Due to lack of nominations, we did not have a Coaching Sub Committee again this year. It would be great to see interest in this area in 2024 to offer more development opportunities for our coaches which in turn helps to develop our players and the level of our competition.

Our 9 & Under season finished with a HNA organised carnival held at Heathfield courts on Sunday 20 August, the day after the final minor round matches. We were blown away by the registrations for the carnival and the day didn't disappoint! A fun atmosphere was created with face painting and HNA Rep players providing games on the spare court that the players and siblings could enjoy between matches. Most Clubs were represented with many teams putting a fun spin on their Club names and uniforms. Two divisions with 6 teams per division enabled a robust level of competition. The day concluded with much embraced medallions and certificates and the "Libby" award, named after our much loved HNA Life Member Libby Tweeddale, given to one team in each division who displayed the best spirit of the day. Thanks go to the dynamic duo of Tracy Goodwin and Jess Milford (who'd never even met before July) for organising the carnival and to Heathfield for hosting.

We trialled using neighbouring Heathfield and Stirling Comets courts for Grand Finals with positive feedback received. Being able to hold presentations indoors was fantastic. Nine Clubs were represented in the finals with those nine Clubs all having at least one team in the Grand Finals and six Clubs taking home at least one premiership. We continued to recognise our best of the best via acknowledging Best & Fairest and Runner-ups for all Senior & Junior grades, as well as A1 Team of the Year & Best Young Talent. This season the Golden Whistle awards evolved to recognise not only our A1 & A2 pool umpires with nominations received for the Barb Flemming Umpire Award but nominations were also sought from Clubs for the Barb Evans Community Umpire Award. Congratulations to Stirling Comets Netball Club on being awarded the Maeva Vick Memorial HNA Club Achievement Award. Well deserved after a challenging few years.

Our HNA Life Members are fantastic ambassadors for the HNA and gain great joy in seeing their hard work continue through the life & activities of the HNA. It was lovely to see so many of them eager to attend & present at Grand Finals again. We welcomed Sam Parker as the newest HNA Life Member.

The courtside facilities at Heathfield High School were further developed to meet the needs of The Comets and all HNA teams. Recent works at Bridgewater Netball Club allowed use of three of their four courts. Thanks go to Aldgate Netball Club for winter and now Heathfield Netball Club for summer in providing courts for Mylor to use after their home courts were storm damaged late last year. We hope that Council can assist in the repairs at Mylor to ensure they can return home for season 2024. The Board welcomes Clubs to reach out for assistance with facility improvements & support for grant applications to help ensure facilities across the HNA are maintained and improved for all our members to enjoy.

We acknowledge and thank The Courier for their continued coverage of netball in the hills.

Unfortunately, we have still had ongoing issues with setting up our HNA website and despite getting help from others in this space we were unable to get this live this season. Hopefully we can continue to work through the issues and have a live and useful website by next season. Any expertise and assistance in this space would be most appreciated. Finding a dedicated person(s) to manage our HNA social media is also on our wish list.

Personally, 2023 has been a really big year for me. It is years like this that you especially thank all other committees and their members for keeping things ticking along. I'm hoping that in season 2024, my second year of my second term and with more stability in my life, that I can give netball matters more consistent attention again. Thank you.

Kirsten Hawthorn  
President, HNA Board