NEWCASTLE
NETBALL
ASSOC.
INC.

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

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MANAGEMENT TEAM 2026

President	Leigh Whitehead
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Katherine Johnston
Competition Manager	Sam Rumbel
Community Engagement Office	Naomi Myers
Development Manager	Linda Brackenbury
Membership Manager	Vacant

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2026

Compliance Office	Maddison Skelton
MPIO	Ellen Monaghan
Technology Manager	Linda Brackenbury
Facilities Manager	Helen Wilson
Canteen Manager	Katherine Johnston
Registrar	Sam Rumbel
Fixtures Convenor	Vacant
Senior Point Score Recorder	Kristy Hinton
Junior Point Score Recorder	Serena Alexander
Grading Convenor	Dianne Burns
Representative Convenor	Helen Matthews
Coaching Convenor	Nick Osborne
Umpires Convenor	Dianne Burns
Tri Series Officer	Sam Rumbel

COMMITTEES

UMPIRES COMMITTEE

Christine Whitehead (Sugar Valley), Ash Gray (Kotara), Adele Saunders, Ellen Monaghan, Sarah Bain, Suzanne Johns, Naomi Myers (South), Katie Hill (Cardiff), Janine Pilarski (Nova)

GRADING COMMITTEE

Dianne Burns (NNA), Christine Clifford (Nova), Jenny Fithall (West), Andi Gilmour (South), Amy McMahon (Mayfield

REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Helen Matthews (NNA), Helen Wilson (NNA), Nicole Quinn (West), Linda Brackenbury (South), Andi Gilmour (Souths), Dom Squires (Junction), Velvet Murnane (Junction)

LIFE MEMBERS

Clarice Smith*
Essie Toneguzzi*
Josie Galvin*
Betty Parfitt
Shirley Gillard*
Melva Hancock*
Nancy Dwyer AM
Eileen Percy*
Adele Saunders OAM
Lois Green*
Florence Eather*
Lorna Allen*
Nola Green*
Esme Lambert
Gloria Winsor
Lou Mortimer*
Gaie Urquhart*
Anne Munro
Noeline Smith
Shirley Fowler*
Aileen Shutt*
Jean Burns*
June Ross
Isabel Trotter*
Margaret Nolan*
Ellen Monaghan OAM
Pat Salmon*
Carolyn Hore
Les Smith OAM
Lucia Wilcox OAM
Robyn Belcher
Stephanie Bortkevitch OAM
Susan Burbridge
Dianne Burns
Brenda Gontarski*
Kevin Smith OAM
Doreen Sneddon*
Sue Johns
Donna Harrison
Helen Matthews
Ian Clare
Helen Wilson
Jessica Harrison
Christine Whitehead
Traci Baber
Sarah Bain

ANNE CLARK SERVICE AWARD HOLDERS

Adele Saunders OAM
Lorna Allen*
Gaie Urquhart*
Nancy Dwyer AM
Aileen Shutt*
Kevin Smith OAM
Ellen Monaghan OAM
Margaret Nolan*
Les Smith OAM
Stephanie Bortkevitch OAM
Lucia Wilcox OAM
Doreen Sneddon*

ALL AUSTRALIAN UMPIRES

Neita Mathews* OAM
Adele Saunders OAM
Robyn Belcher
Kevin Smith OAM

** Denotes deceased*

ALL AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS

Lois Green*
Nola Green*
Jillian Patterson

ALL AUSTRALIAN U/21 PLAYERS

Sandra Thoroughgood
Danielle Harvey
Hope White

ALL AUSTRALIAN U/19 PLAYERS

Natarlia Manning

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Adele Saunders OAM

PATRONS

Mr John McNaughton
Mrs Margaret McNaughton
Adele Saunders OAM

LEGAL ADVISOR

Sparke Helmore

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wow! What a season. Congratulations to everyone on the 2026 season.

As our AGM moved to November last year, the new management team and leadership team have been working hard to review, refine, and continue to promote netball within our community.

We have again seen growth in our numbers, programs, and opportunities for inclusion. This ongoing success is the result of the outstanding achievements of our clubs and their committees. Without our volunteers at the grassroots level, Newcastle Netball would not be as successful as it is today.

Our Winter Competition continued to grow, not only in the number of teams, but also in the number of volunteers and competitions we offered. Our Friday night competitions included our junior grades as well as our Men's Competition, which expanded with the addition of another team.

The Tri Series competition was once again successful and, as demonstrated on Grand Final Day, our livestream coverage was well received. The support from all levels, players, umpires, coaches and bench officials, was well received and we will continue to see growth in these areas.

Being selected to represent Newcastle Netball remains a highlight for our umpires, coaches, players, and officials. We showcased this by fielding a significant number of teams, including boys', development, and Masters teams. We also saw an increase in the number of members representing Netball NSW and Netball Australia through their pathway programs.

We wrapped up the season with our Awards Evening, which has been a highlight on our social calendar for many years. This year, we saw Sarah Bain being inducted as a Life Member, Samantha Poolman and Adele Saunders being inducted into the NNA Hall of Fame, and Adele Saunders elevated from Newcastle Netball Association Life Member to become the inaugural recipient of the Newcastle Netball Lifetime Achievement Award.

As we continue to expand, we also continue to advocate for improved facilities and for greater support from Council and the State Government, creating opportunities for our members and community to grow.

Leigh Whitehead
President

TREASURER'S REPORT

Another successful year at Newcastle Netball, great to see!! Firstly, I would like to pass on a thank you to all my fellow committee members. The work these ladies all do behind the scenes is enormous, and it is only due to these very long hours that we can have a successful competition. Thanks again to my canteen sidekick Helen Matthews for all your hard work, your bubbly and fun personality makes working in the canteen a joy for all! A big thanks to all the incredible club volunteers that helped throughout the year. There is no way we can run the canteen without you, so thank you for all your efforts.

This year saw a change with a paid administrator role added to the committee. The wonderful Sally Unicomb took on this role and has done the most outstanding job. With her wealth of knowledge from past years, unwavering enthusiasm and keenness to do any job, the workload on all our other volunteers has been reduced by the amazing work Sally has done. Without Sally I would not have survived this season, thank you so much Sally for your incredible work, patience and all the hours you have put in over the season. I know you haven't been paid for half the work you have done, and I appreciate your efforts so much. Also, a special thanks to Robyn (i.e. Sally's mum)

who bagged 90% of the lollies this season, what a legend!!

With Schweppes suddenly asking for their fridges back just before the start of the season, I do also have to say special thanks to Dan for helping solve that issue. Dan went to multiple locations across Newcastle to purchase secondhand fridges for us, as well as moving the very heavy coke fridges into all manner of annoying locations. Thanks Dan, I promise no more fridges!!.

Below are some statistics from the season:

Item	2026 Sales	2025 Sales
Sandwiches	1,735	1,246
Bottled Water	2,001	4,505
Iced Tea/Juice/Milk	1,129	883
Powerade (Gatorade 2024)	5,247	4,797
Bacon & Egg Roll	4,895	4,283
Chicken Burger	1,229	1,123
Sausage Sizzle	9,139	7,700
Pie/Sausage Roll	6,446	5,651
Lolly Bags	15,671	12,722

The financial statements are attached below. The canteen made a 47.4% profit this year, the increase in revenue mainly due to less rainouts compared to last season (including our rep carnival). Please note that 18% of the canteen income is due to the tireless work of our rep teams on Friday nights and the Newcastle Rep Carnival, thank you to all these wonderful volunteers that ensure the rep program can continue to run.

The cost of building upgrades and equipment is due to the following major projects:

- iPad's, battery banks & internet dongles for Tri Series E-Scoring
- Tables & Timers for Tri Series Bench Official
- Hand Dryers for Toilets
- Replacement Laptop
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Office Chair
- NNA Media Wall
- Additional Security Cameras

Thanks again for all your support, I look forward to seeing everyone on the courts again soon.

Katherine Johnston
Treasurer

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Following re-election to the role in November 2025, we have been working on the Netball Development Portfolio with some great results.

Coaching

The NetSetGo program run by NNA was again well subscribed in 2026. The Coaching Convenor, Nick Osborne, was able to garner club volunteers to assist Mikayla van Dal (the NSG Coordinator) to run the weekly sessions. Additionally, the support of at least three representative players each week was instrumental in ensuring the success of each session. The attendance was good, and the feedback was very positive. We are looking at a good return of attendees as players in our Winter 2027 competition, with one even transitioning into a 2026 7yrs team directly from NSG Skills.

We are seeking numbers to support running both Development and Intermediate courses in late 2026 or early 2027. We have many more accredited coaches in our association to a minimum of Foundation level and will be encouraging clubs to upskill their coaches. Further courses will be requested for 2027 as we await dates from Netball NSW. The increased requirement on Tri Series coaches in the updated Regulations will also drive the need for more courses.

We would like to run a Coach the Coach session for 2027 and source more sessions from third parties for our members such as NettyHub, Pivot with Paige, Aspire & the Susan Pettit sessions.

The team put a lot of effort into producing the Associations team list for all coaches and encouraging all to be both registered and accredited to Foundation as a minimum. We plan to continue this into 2027 with refunds through NNA for any coaches who qualify who are not already being reimbursed by their club.

The Coaching Convenor also plays a role supporting the Representative Coaches with their needs and this year a coaches' mentor (Marion Van Munster) was engaged to provide support to our coaches. The Coaching Convenor also worked closely with the Tri Series High-Performance Officer to support the development of the Tri Series coaches.

Umpiring

Representative Umpires at Regional League, JST and SST all received good reports back from NNSW. Representative Umpires for 2027 are in the process of being selected to work with the teams on carnivals and at Titles in 2027. This year we will continue to appoint development umpires from those with Gold Award or higher. The NNA Representative umpire managers have been appointed to mentor and assist the Representative Umpires on their pathways.

The allocation system for Tri Series umpires has continued to be refine by the Tri Series High Performance Office , with the Umpiring Convenor assisting with the nominations process, allocations and mentoring where required. The increase in forward notice is benefiting all umpires. The allocation of umpire requests for teams wanting their Winter Competition game umpired by a badged umpire has been running smoothly and providing a platform for our Tier umpires to practise and be mentored as well as supporting the teams. The online system is running well with the cut-off time reinforced this year to give the Convenor adequate time to generate allocations Many teams are now successfully locating umpires to cover their team commitments outside of the NNA Committee management.

The 12 years education program went very well and the participants all learnt a lot about officiating games. The awarding of the Bronze Award is seen as an excellent first step on the umpiring pathway.

Rules Clarification Sessions – workshops were held to challenge rules and their interpretation with all umpires, umpire coaches and club umpire convenors. An early session in the season allowed for a Rule Q&A followed by a Rules Session pre-finals for all club members

All badged umpires participating throughout the NNA Finals Series were also provided with a Rules Session focusing on Games Management.

This was a very successful venture thanks to our presenters.

Number of accreditations awarded by NNA in 2026:

- 14 x C Badges (same number as 2025)
- 6 x B Badges (same number as 2025)
- 186 x Bronze Awards (up from 183 in 2025)
- 13 x Silver Awards
- 41 x Gold Awards

Additionally, the Tier 1 and 2 program was developing:

- 12 x Tier 1 umpires for their B Badge
- 30 x Tier 2 umpires for their C Badge

Those who were not ready for the upgraded accreditation in 2026 will be invited to continue their development in 2027.

These figures show a massive investment of time by the Umpires Committee and their coaching umpires to mentor and panel all the above to successfully complete the accreditation they were striving for.

C Badges
Lucy Elliott - Souths
Chloe Elliott - Souths
Megan Kruger - Norths
Lucy Hill – Cardiff
Zoe Richards - Cardiff
Ella Chapman - Junction
Esther Kendal - BNC
Rosie Kendal - BNC
Ashleigh Hunt - Mayfield
Azalee Ellis – Kotara South
Brooke Robbins - Waratah
Malina Pruteanu – Nova
Samara James – Wests
Madi Gallaway - Waratah

B Badges
Renee Richards - Cardiff
Kendal Merchant - Cardiff
Jacqui Melling - Cardiff
Alice Elliott – Souths
Abigail Noble – Nelson Bay
Candice Crawford - Wanderers

Congratulations also to the following umpires who proudly represented throughout the year:

NNSW Regional League
Jacinta Alexander
Michael Campbell
Sophie Hill
Yasmin Alexander
Zaara Alexander

NNSW Courtcraft Summer Series
Olivia George
Jacqui Melling
Sophie Hill

NNSW Metro League
Emily Milton
Ellie Taylor

Suncorp Super Netball
Alexandra Brown

NNSW State Titles
Michael Campbell
Jacinta Alexander
Sophie Hill
Ella Taylor

NNSW Junior State Titles
Olivia George
Jacqui Melling
Bella Fourie
Eve Nicol
Lola Mantle

Australian Nationals
Alexandra Brown

Representative

Newcastle Netball Representative results for 2026 worked hard to place in the Championship divisions:

Regional League – Our Division 2 and Division 3 teams both did well reaching the semi-finals

JST – 12s finished 12th, 13s finished 5th, 14s finished 9th – all in Championship Divisions for 2026.

JST – 14U Males finished as runners up taking home a blue patch.

SST – Opens were 16th, 17s were 22nd also in Championship Divisions. Our 15s won Division 2 also taking home a blue patch.

2026 was the second year for NNA to send a 14U Male team to JST. The team competed well over 2 days showing the incredible journey the team had forged to prepare for the titles against a larger field than last yea .

We held our usual successful Newcastle Representative Carnival in May 2026 and managed to fill all available courts all day. The committee and other helpers worked hard to support the carnival to make it a success. The weather was perfect this year to balance out 2025!

Fundraising via BBQs and supporting the canteen have generated valuable income in 2026. Many thanks to Katherine the canteen manager for helping with all the preparation work or ordering etc. Also, to the State Titles Coordinator Helen Wilson who was there for almost every Friday night.

Wash Ups – both JST and SST wash ups generated a lot of useful feedback and suggestions for improvement.

The Court Craft Summer Series this year sees two 17s teams travel to Sydney and compete in Division 1 & 3. We look forward to tracking their results in the green!

Staff appointments for 2027 were mostly completed in September 2026 with a small number of appointments still seeking EOIs. All teams had coaches and managers appointed ahead of selections bar our Opens and 12s manager at time of writing.

Selections of 11 Dev through to Representative 17s have begun in September and will conclude early November 2026.

Selections for U14 Boys team will be held in 2026 depending upon numbers or in early 2027. Selections for the Opens and Men's team will be in early 2027.

The 2027 Induction session for all Representative personnel will be held in November 2026. Our Coaching Mentor will be invited to provide valuable insight into plans for 2027. There will be opportunities for further feedback on the NNA Representative program and improvements to review for 2027. This afternoon will allow staff from all age groups to meet and mix.

Orders for uniforms for those selected for 2027 will be taken and will be submitted to have uniforms ready early in 2027 with carnivals in late February and late March to cover.

Regional State Cup Team Hunter Team

Lana Kaal

Lilly Walker

Sam Rumbel - Manager

NSW Waradas

Jaylah Boney
Mia Harris
Meg Haylen - Assistant Coach
Kellyann Huggins - Coach
Alyssa Slee
Ellie Stacey
Alirah Watton

NSW U/17s Team

Eve Power

ACT U/19s Team

Sienna Liva

NSW Boys U/17 Team

Mason Cadogan
Myles Crosdale

NSW Boys U/20 Team

Mick Aranmala

NSW Mixed Team

Savannah Angelozzi

Linda Brackenbury
Development Manager

MULTIMEDIA OFFICER'S REPORT

I was once again excited to assist to ensure all we do at NNA is communicated clearly and in a timely manner to and to ensure everyone is acknowledged and celebrated in our netball community.

1. Communications and Digital Engagement

Social Media and Online Presence

Prepared content for Facebook and Instagram post and reels aligned to NNA programs and events, plus relevant shares of club and partner content.

It was great to see our content being shared by many clubs in 2026.

Updated the NNA website and prepared news items throughout the season, including content for the Winter and Tri Series competitions, Representative Program, Men's Competition, Walking Netball, All Abilities, the Volunteer Appreciation Round, First Nations Round, Mental Health Awareness Round and the Got Your Back Sista Charity Round.

Addressed Media questions throughout the season.

Media Support

We continue to work with Chardon Waite Productions, who have provided professional photo and video content to support our campaigns, including event recaps, social media reels, and promotional footage for future use.

2. Branding and collateral

- Designed media wall for presentation and award events.
- Prepared posters and social media tiles for the Positive Behaviour campaign and as required.
- Began planning fresh look / set out for the NNA website.

3. Tri Series Launch and Grand Final Production

- Tri Series Launch was held, with Chardon Waite Productions and Renee Valentine attending to produce content and news items for NNA channels and the Newcastle Herald.
- Tri Series Media Call was held, with Chardon Waite Productions, NBN and Newcastle Herald in attendance.
- Tri Series Grand Final Live Stream production assistance to ensure the smooth running of the event.

4. Special Celebration and Awareness Rounds

- The season included five themed rounds, each promoted to clubs and members through the NNA Administrator and extended through social media and themed tiles and collateral. Images and video capture of these rounds were with thanks to Chardon Waite Productions.
- The Volunteer Appreciation Round (Fri 15 & Sat 16 May) recognised 25 volunteers nominated by fellow members and announced on social media. Vouchers winners ($50 Duke of Wellington or NNA $30 gift) were photographed and highlighted on socials throughout the season.
- The First Nations Round (Fri 29 & Sat 30 May) featured a special Acknowledgement of Country, arranged with Jaelea Skehan and Cardiff Netball Club and delivered by Justice Weatherall. Club content and NNA footage and images were shared across socials. NNSW also shared our Acknowledgement of Country video.
- On Sat 13 June, the Special Charity Round supported Got Your Back Sista (GYBS) as it celebrated 10 years. The round aimed to raise awareness and say NO to domestic and family violence. Our netball community strongly supported the day and GYBS facilitated media coverage that we collaborated on, including an NBN feature on the day at the courts.

- Mental Health Awareness Round (Fri 31 July & Sat 1 August) was supported by clear messaging created and circulated before, during and after the round. Chardon Waite Productions produced a special video with strong messaging from key NNA members and numerous images of members supporting the day that we were able to share across our social media platforms.
- Club Colours Round (Fri 14 & Sat 15 August), enabled all clubs to get involved and we were able to share the fun and colour via socials.

5. Sponsors and Partners

- Sponsors and partners were added to the website and promoted and/or tagged on social media: City of Newcastle, The Duke of Wellington, Greater Bank, Chardon Waite Productions, Heal Specialist Urgent Care, Saidies Acai, Heavenly Grind Coffee Bar, 4UCare, TruForm, Mad Mex, Chipmunks Belmont, Doughheads, Ethos Health.

6. Thank You

A special thank you to Sally Unicomb for assisting with communications, Chardon and Lauren, from Chardon Waite Productions, for all their amazing work; and to everyone who provided me with timely information or said yes to a photo or agreed to a video interview, you all helped to highlight all we do to ensure everyone is acknowledged and celebrated in our netball community.

Monique Smith
Multimedia Officer

COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Positive teamwork, respectful sideline behaviour and strong sportsmanship were evident across NNA's 2026 Winter Competition. With the introduction of the blue-vested game day office , the continuation of the Shoosh for Kids initiative, and the use of green wristbands for umpires under 18, we've seen a significant reduction in complaints this season.

When concerns were raised, they generally related to:

- Excessive contact
- Inappropriate language from players
- Isolated instances of poor sideline behaviour

All members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the expected standards of behaviour and the correct escalation processes, both during matches and after their conclusion.

Maddison Skelton
Compliance Officer

FACILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Facilities again, it has been a busy year managing the facility and working to ensure we provide the best possible environment and facilities for our members.

- Court Craft have fixed some cracks on the courts, repaired the surface of court 13, and replace some goal posts during 2026.
- Courts were pressure cleaned prior to the commencement of the season.
- Courts were swept down fortnightly by the council.
- We have new post pads for courts 13 ,14 and 8 as those posts are bigger than standard post size. These pads have courts 13 & 14 printed on them.
- Light bulbs on the Parkway courts were replaced to provide better lighting.
- We have had the council come and fix multiple holes in the fence.
- We have replaced the lock on the gate next to the round house toilets.
- External PowerPoints were installed at both clubhouses.
- Speakers under the NP clubhouse awning were replaced.
- Additional cameras were installed on NP to face the courts.
- Hand dryers were installed in the NP toilets.
- During the offseason, carpets will be cleaned and building will be sprayed for pests.
- Defibrillator Machines were updated and serviced.
- New Sharps Kits were placed in each first aid room and the NP clubhouse.
- Court Lighting.
- This project is progressing, Council have approved our designs, and our contractor is working closely with the Council on pole placement and locations.
- Shipping Container.
- The shipping container was repainted to cover the graffiti
- An Indigenous Artist had designed a mural to paint on the shipping container, which should help with the tagging. The design will be presented by the artist to the Guraki Aboriginal Advisory committee in November.

Helen Wilson
Facility Manager

MEMBER PROTECTION INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT

This year was very quiet in this space, as there were no issues for me to manage.

Honour Boards

At present, all Honour Boards are being reviewed and updated with details from our Annual Awards Night.

Ellen Monaghan
MPIO

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Court Lighting

This project is progressing; we are currently working with the council on post locations and placement.

We have submitted 3 separate designs, 2 of which are already approved

- Courts 15-20 (approved)
- Courts 21-30 (approved)
- Court 1

Grants

- NCIG - We were successful in gaining a grant from Newcastle Coal and Infrastructure Group for 5K. This allowed us to purchase some additional shade shelters for our representative teams.
- Local Sport Defibrillator Program (External Defibrillators) – A grant has been submitted to allow us to place devices on each clubhouse. A Community Infrastructure Projects Proposal has also been lodged with the council.
- Orica (Water Fountains) – A grant has been submitted to allow us to place water fountains on both Parkway Avenue and National Park.
- ZOOL Energy – There is a new NET ZERO grant for solar and lights available. We have applied for this and are hoping if we are successful we can look at the installation of solar panels to reduce our electricity costs and use the remainder of the money towards the lighting upgrade.

Sponsor and Partners

All 2026 sponsors and partners have been contacted about the opportunity to return next year.

- Chipmunks Belmont
- Chardon Waite Productions
- Greater Bank
- Saidies Acai
- Heal Specialist Urgent Care
- Heavenly Grind Coffee Bar
- 4UCare
- The Duke of Wellington
- TruForm Pilates
- Mullane's Plumbing

Regular Duties

- Correspondence - Email and phone
- Xero - paying bills, creating bills, creating Invoices, following up overdue invoices, reconciliation of accounts, Issuing fine
- Ordering and purchasing – Clubhouse goods and equipment
- City of Newcastle Council – Working with council on repairs, seasonal licensing, event licensing and facility enhancements.
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- Grants and Funding
- Restocking of canteen – Meeting deliveries and shopping
- Competition – Completing rostering and printing of scoresheets
- Events preparation – NNA Representative Carnival, Grand Final day, Awards night.

Sally Unicomb
Administration Officer

COMPETITION MANAGER'S REPORT

Net Set Go Competition

The Woolworths NetSetGO Competition continued to provide an important introduction to netball for young players in 2026, encouraging participation, skill development and a love of the game in a fun and supportive environment.

This year, the competition recorded 52 team entries across seven grades, providing opportunities for players aged 7 to 9 years to develop their fundamental netball skills, teamwork and confidenc while enjoying the social aspects of the sport.

Age Group	No. of Divisions	No. of Teams
7 Years	1	13
8 Years	2	17
9 Years	2	22
Total	**—**	**52 Teams**

Woolworths NetSetGO remains a vital part of Newcastle Netball Association's junior development pathway, helping young players learn the fundamentals of netball, build confidence, develop teamwork and establish a strong foundation for progressing into the Winter Competition in future years.

I would like to thank all the coaches, team managers, parents, carers and volunteers who supported the program throughout the season. Their time, encouragement and commitment play an important role in creating a positive and welcoming environment for our youngest participants.

Winter Competition

The 2026 NNA Winter Competition continued to provide a strong and competitive environment for players across junior, intermediate and senior age groups. With divisions catering to a wide range of ages and skill levels, the competition remained central to the association's activities and provided opportunities for players to develop their skills and enjoy netball.

Age Group	No. of Divisions	No. of Teams
10 Years	3	20
11 Years	4	25
12 Years	3	24
13 Years	4	25
14 Years	3	20
15 Years	3	19
17 Years	4	28
21 Years	4	25
Seniors	11	76
23's	1	8
Opens	1	8
Champs	1	8
Total	**—**	**285 Teams**

The competition featured a broad range of divisions, with team numbers generally ranging from six to eight per grade. This structure supported competitive balance and provided opportunities for teams to participate at an appropriate level.

The junior divisions continued to offer a pathway for players progressing from NetSetGO, while the 17 Years and 21 Years competitions supported continued development as players moved towards senior netball. The senior divisions provided opportunities for players across a range of experience and ability levels.

The Tri Series competitions in the 23s, Championship and Opens categories also formed an important part of the season, showcasing the depth of talent and competitive spirit within the association.

I would like to thank all clubs, coaches, team managers, umpires, bench officials, volunteers and families for their ongoing contribution to the successful delivery of the Winter Competition. Their commitment is essential to providing a positive and enjoyable experience for all participants.

Boys and Men's Competition

The Boys and Men's Competition continued to provide valuable playing opportunities and a pathway for male participation in netball in 2026. Played on Friday nights, the competition attracted five teams and 45 players, reflecting continued engagement and the development of opportunities for boys and men to participate in the sport.

The competition provides an important pathway for players to develop their skills, gain match experience and enjoy the social and competitive aspects of netball. It also supports the ongoing growth of male participation within Newcastle Netball Association and helps create opportunities for players to progress through the game.

The 2026 competition concluded with Nova UON defeating Waratah Magpies 42–30, capping off a successful season of competition.

Congratulations to Nova UON on their win, and thank you to all participating teams, players, coaches, officials and volunteers who contributed to the continued success of the Boys and Men's Competition.

Newcastle Netball Association looks forward to building on this progress and continuing to develop pathways that encourage greater male participation and support the future growth of the game.

All Abilities Program

The 2026 All Abilities Program continued to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment, with 27 participants enjoying the opportunity to play netball on Saturday mornings. Despite some challenging weather conditions throughout the season, the program remained a positive and rewarding experience for everyone involved.

Throughout the season, participants had the opportunity to improve their netball skills, strengthen their teamwork and build confidence, while forming friendships and enjoying the social connections that the program encourages. It was wonderful to see players participating, developing and enjoying being part of our netball community.

A heartfelt thank you to Stephanie and Ellen for their ongoing dedication, patience and encouragement. Your commitment plays a significant role in making the All Abilities Program such a valued and meaningful initiative within Newcastle Netball Association.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the parents and carers who supported the program each week by bringing participants along and encouraging their involvement.

To celebrate the end of the season, all participants received medals in recognition of their involvement, followed by a barbecue that provided a wonderful opportunity for players, families and supporters to come together and celebrate another successful year.

The continued success of the All Abilities Program reflects the importance of creating opportunities for everyone to participate, feel included and experience the enjoyment of netball.

Spring Twilight Competition

The The Spring Twilight Competition commenced on 14th October and will run for eight weeks. This event continues to be one of the highlights of our calendar, providing players of all ages with a fun and competitive environment to develop their skills and enjoy the game. We are expecting strong participation again this year across all divisions, with the following team numbers registered:

Division	No. of Teams
7–9 Years	14
10/11 Years	10
12/13 Years	12
14/15 Years	11
Senior Ladies	27
Senior Mixed	16

End of Season Awards

Medals, Trophies & Vouchers

The end-of-season awards recognised the achievements, commitment and sportsmanship of players and teams across Newcastle Netball Association's competitions and programs.

Awards were presented as follows:

- NetSetGO Skills Program: All players received medals in recognition of their participation.
- Woolworths NetSetGO (7, 8 and 9 Years): All players received medals to celebrate their involvement and development throughout the season.
- All Abilities Program: All participants received medals, followed by a celebratory barbecue enjoyed by players, families and supporters.
- 10 Years to 17 Years: Trophies were awarded to the competition winners and runners-up in each division.
- 21 Years and Senior Competitions: Medals and vouchers were awarded to the winners and runners-up.
- Greater Championship, Greater Opens and Greater 23s: Medals were awarded to the winners and runners-up.

The end-of-season awards provided an opportunity to celebrate the hard work, improvement and achievements of players and teams throughout the 2026 season. These presentations also recognised the importance of participation, teamwork and sportsmanship across all levels of the association.

Congratulations to all award recipients and thank you to everyone who contributed to another successful season of netball at Newcastle Netball Association.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Newcastle Netball Management and Leadership Teams, Committees, Club Executives, Officials and Volunteers f or t heir valuable contributions throughout the 2026 season.

Your time, dedication and ongoing support play an essential role in the successful delivery of our competitions and the continued development of Newcastle Netball. The commitment of everyone involved helps create a positive environment for our players, clubs and wider netball community.

Thank you for your continued efforts and for helping make another successful season possible.

Sam Rumbel
Competition Manager

TRI SERIES OFFICER'S REPORT

Another successful year of our Tri Series concluded with the following results:

- **Under 23s:** Winners – Nova Lightning
- **Opens:** Winners -West Leagues Balance No.2
- **Championship:** Winners - Nova Thunder

Congratulations to West Leagues Balance who took out the Club Championship for another year.

In 2026 we implemented Bench Officials for all games, including live scoring through the PlayHQ app - both which were a huge success.

Thank you to the Tri Series Committee who work together to constantly review and improve this Premier Competition.

Sam Rumbel
Tri Series Co-ordinator

TRI SERIES HIGH PERFORMANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

I was extremely excited to be taking on the new role of NNA Tri Series High Performance Officer in 2026. Key to this role is the development, opportunities and support for Bench Officials, Coaches, Players & Umpires within the Tri Series competition. As this was the first season, I set some key outcomes for each area:

TS Bench Officials

- To establish a pool of Bench Officials to commit to the 2026 TS Season to facilitate Bench Officials duties to reduce the requirement for TS Clubs to provide these for matches.
- To create an opportunity for those in our netball community interested in becoming a bench official; and to provide them with the environment for learning and development.

TS Coaches

- To understand the development and support needs of current TS Coaches.

TS Players

- To establish a Player Leadership Group, which is player led, to enhance the TS Competition and NNA member engagement.

TS Umpires

- To establish a pool of umpires committed to the 2026 TS Season, across regularly umpiring matches and engagement in development opportunities.
- Provide a structured, supportive environment for umpires to develop their skills, gain experience in quality matches; and receive regular feedback and coaching, supporting progression through Netball NSW pathways and strengthening umpiring standards across the region.

Summary

1. Tri Series Bench Officials

6 nominations were received initially. A further 6 Bench Officials were later welcomed, bringing the pool to 12 and further reducing the requirement for Tri Series clubs to provide a Bench Official.

A mandatory online session for Bench Officials and all Tri Series Team Managers was held; and a pre–TS Finals Series education workshop was held for NNA Bench Officials to confirm all match officials duties, policy & processes. Thank you to Sam Rumbel who assisted to present these with me. Process updates, reminders and duty requirements were emailed midweek to all Tri Series clubs and NNA bench officials

Tri Series Bench Officials Allocator: Monique Smith (NNA HPO)

12 NNA Bench Officials. All Foundation Bench Officials Accredited: Andi Gilmour, Corrina Robertson, Dominique Squires, Donna Harrison, Elly Tindall, Kristy Hinton, Lexi Unicomb, Mia Squires, Sally Unicomb, Stephanie Rufo, Sue Bidas & Wayne Squires.

Bench Officials allocated to Grand Finals

Championship: Sally Unicomb, Donna Harrison & Andi Gilmour

Open: Donna Harrison, Wayne Squires & Dom Squires

23yrs: Sue Bidas, Wayne Squires & Elly Tindall

2. Coach Development

All Tri Series clubs were emailed to ask about coach development requirements for 2026 and beyond. No requests for additional Development or intermediate Coaching Courses to be held at Newcastle, however, assistance in real time from NNSW Coach Mentors would be welcomed.

Recommendations for further coach development in 2027 include:

- Minimum working toward levels for all TS Coaches
- Scheduling Development and Intermediate Coaching Courses to be held in Newcastle early in 2027
- Locking in a NNSW Coach mentor day for TS Clubs to be held in the first half of the 2027 season.

3. Players

Each Tri Series club was asked to nominate at least one player to form a new Tri Series Player Leadership Group for 2026.

TS Player Leadership Group 2026:

BNC - Victoria Aoake, Moana Peru; Junction - Ella Wilson; Kotara South - Kate Harris; Nova - Jorja Brown; Norths - Kayle Dyer; Souths - Nakita Jackson; Waratah - Chantelle Wilcox; Wests - Jemma Lucas

The group met regularly in person and online to outline the group's aim and provide an opportunity to discuss ideas around how TS players could lead initiatives for member engagement and to enhance the competition. Key outcomes this season include, supporting the NNA Mental Health Awareness Round; TS players and coaches assisting to present medals to the 7yrs, 8yrs & 9yrs players on Friday evening and Saturday morning after their last matches; and opting for medals rather than trophies to be presented to the TS Winners and Runners Up teams in 2026.

The group would like to implement in 2027 a 2-hour skills session for younger NNA members, facilitated by several players & coaches representing all 8 clubs.

4. Tri Series Umpires

29 nominations were received and 24 umpires were selected for the pool of umpires in 2026. A further 4 were added throughout the season. An online induction was held which was followed by a 2-hour practical session held at The Forum. All umpires received notes following both sessions.

Umpires were allocated based on availability and ongoing performance.

Tri Series Umpire Allocations Panel: Monique Smith (NNA HPO), Dianne Burns (NNA Umpire Convenor) & Alex Brown (2026 current SSN Reserves Umpire)

8 Umpire Coaches: 7 A Badges and 1 B Badge: Monique Smith, Dianne Burns, Alex Brown, Ben Hole, Lauren Hill, Leigh Whitehead, Megan Oldknow and Peta Ingall.

28 Umpires - 5 A Badges, 23 B Badges (1 B Badge awarded end of season): Alexandra Brown, Ansuné Gouws, Ash Gray, Ben Hole, Brooke Hunter, Candice Crawford, Ella Taylor, Ellie Taylor, Emily Milton, Eve Nicol, Jacinta Alexander, Kate Glew, Lara Mellon, Lauren Hill, Leigh Whitehead, Makayla Caulfield, Megan Oldknow, Michael Campbell, Naomi Myers, Peta Ingall, Rachel Bennett, Sophie Hill, Taia Shedden, Taleah Dodd, Violet Burgum, Yasmin Alexander, Zaara Alexander, Zara Morris.

Umpires allocated to Grand Finals

Championship: Ben Hole & Ella Taylor, Res Emily Milton

Open: Ellie Taylor & Emily Milton & Res Peta Ingall

23yrs: Lara Mellon & Sophie Hill & Res Zaara Alexander

Thank you

Special thanks to everyone who provided support this season, particularly:

- Dianne Burns & Alex Brown who assisted in the Bench Officials Space
- Our TS Player Leadership Group.
- Sally Unicomb, NNA Administrator, who assisted me to ensure key communications were circulated to TS Clubs throughout the Season.

Monique Smith
NNA Tri Series HPO

SENIOR POINT SCORER'S REPORT

Final placings – Season 2026

Grade	Result
21 Division 1	West Leagues Rosellas 34 defeated Nova Hurricanes 27
21 Division 2	Norths Seahawks 24 defeated Nelson Bay Navigators 23
21 Division 3	Junction Blueberries 21 defeated NGS Delphinus 17
21 Division 4	MWNC Ducks 48 defeated West Wallsend Wranglers 18

Grade	Result
Division 1	Souths Aspen 36 defeated Mayfield Majestics 3
Division 2	Souths Juniper 31 defeated Waratah Hornets 27
Division 3	Cardiff Snr Bobcats 43 defeated West Leagues Aquarians 17
Division 4	Wanderers Blueys 45 defeated Souths Maple 43
Division 5	Souths Honeysuckle 66 defeated West Leagues Renegades 34
Division 6	Souths Eucalypt 23 defeated Wanderers Drifts 16
Division 7	Norths Salt 34 defeated SPNC Breakers 30
Division 8	Souths Fir 59 defeated Wanderers Blue Diamonds 40
Division 9	Newcastle City Bluefins 33 defeated est Leagues Columbines 20
Division 10	Cardiff Snr Katz 33 defeated Mayfield Masters 2
Division 11	West Leagues Willows 58 defeated SPNC Corals 42
Open Men	Nova UON 42 defeated Waratah Magnas 30

Kristy Hinton
Senior Point Score Recorder

JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE POINT SCORER'S REPORT

Final placings – Season 2026

Gaie Urquhart Medal - Peyton Dore – West Leagues Panthers

Grade	Result
10yrs Division 1	Souths Jupiter 43 def West Leagues Gumnuts 18
10yrs Division 2	Cardiff 10 Yr Jetz 27 def SVNC Bubbles 12
10yrs Division 3	Cardiff 10 Yr Aces 26 def West Leagues Nippers 22
11yrs Division 1	Norths Reefs 40 def Cardiff 11 Yr Corvettes 20
11yrs Division 2	Nova Rockets 27 def Souths Fire 9
11yrs Division 3	SVNC Angels 22 def MWNC Pelicans 20
11yrs Division 4	Souths Tuscan 26 def Cardiff 11 Yr Sunkist 19
12yrs Division 1	Norths Makos 43 def Nova Eclipse 35
12yrs Division 2	Souths Helium 24 def West Leagues Hotshots 20
12yrs Division 3	Souths Krypton 22 def Souths Oxygen 14
13yrs Division 1	Nova Rock Stars 37 def Nova Skyrockets 19
13yrs Division 2	Kotara South Rockets 34 def Nova Stars 27
13yrs Division 3	Mayfield Titans 48 def West Leagues Poppies 30
13yrs Division 4	Souths Titanium 22 def Waratah Kittyhawks 19
14yrs Division 1	Cardiff 14 Yr Firebolts 47 def Norths Tsunami 37
14yrs Division 2	Souths Garnet 53 def West Wallsend Wild Ones 24
14yrs Division 3	NGS Aquila 43 def Souths Larimar 26
15yrs Division 1	Souths Argon 61 def West Leagues Panthers 36
15yrs Division 2	Cardiff 15 Yr Zooloos 29 def West Leagues Crests 17
17yrs Division Green	Hydra Stars 44 def Kotara South Pumas 38
17yrs Division White	Souths Acacia 43 def West Leagues Emeralds 29
17yrs Division 3	Souths Ironbark 33 def Nelson Bay Nautics 18
17yrs Division 4	SVNC Diamonds 39 def NGS Vulcans 35

Serena Alexander

Junior Intermediate Point Score Recorder

NEWCASTLE NETBALL ASSOC. INC.

VISION

To pursue excellence in all aspects of netball and continue to provide opportunities for people to be involved in our sport.

NEWCASTLE NETBALL ASSOC. INC.

VALUES

RESPECT

We treat all people fairly and equitably

INTEGRITY

We are open, honest and transparent in our dealings with others

PRIDE

We inspire each other and our teams to achieve, building on each other's strengths

PASSION

We are deeply motivated; we love what we do and why we do it

Newcastle Netball Association Inc.

ABN 95 313 904 854

Financial Statements

For the 12 Month Period Ended 30 September 2026

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