

PANTHERS PREMIER LEAGUE NETBALL – 2021

Annual Report from Chair – P Joy Gillett OAM

The 2021 Premier League Netball commenced on time but.....after playing only 12 rounds, it stopped – once again because of the Covid virus. Sadly, due to the virus not being contained, the competition did not re-start in 2021. By this time, both our teams found their mojo and were beginning to perform to the level we all thought they could – so it was very sad that the competition stopped.

As mentioned in previous years, Panthers Premier League Netball do not have their own indoor courts – or the use of a court on a semi-permanent basis. However regardless of court availability, all public indoor courts were closed and training together was totally suspended. However, Coaches and our S&C coach ran zoom sessions to ensure we could come back ready to play. Once it became apparent that netball would not resume in 2021, the teams were disbanded although all coaching staff have kept in contact with players.

An end of year event was still envisaged and booked, however it was also cancelled due to Covid. So altogether a very disappointing year.

Sponsors are gained by relationship building and I would like to thank those involved in each of these organisations who have supported our elite netball competition. We retained all sponsors from 2020 and we thank each of them sincerely for their continuing support.

- Panthers Rugby League Club
- Penrith City Council
- Penrith RSL Club
- Penrith District Netball Association
- Mainstone Lawyers
- Blue Mountains Netball Association
- Hawkesbury City Netball Association
- Sinclair Hyundai
- Coast to Coast uniforms – provision of playing dress at no cost
- Sports Physiotherapy & Work Rehabilitation Centre – reduced cost for full physio services
- Clusterpix Photography – all photography at reduced cost.

An AGM was not held at the end of 2020 however the following board positions were confirmed for 2021:

Chair – Penrith	Joy Gillett OAM
Vice Chair – Blue Mountains	Jenny Walker
Secretary – Penrith	Lynn Deuis
Director - Penrith	Tricia Mann
Director – Hawkesbury	Vivienne Bertenshaw
Director - Penrith	Barry Olsen
Director - Hawkesbury	Tracy Chalk
Director – Blue Mountains	Tracey Arnold

All Directors retained their positions on the board.

The Panthers Talent Program was held in 2021, early in the year before Covid closed the State. The program focusses on players in the 15 to 19 years age group who were seen to be potential Panthers players. The players receive specialist and skill training from PPLN Coaches. Each player is a Metro League or Senior State Titles representative player for either Penrith, Blue Mountains or Hawkesbury. Sessions are held at all 3 associations so coaches and local players can observe, learn and interact with our PPLN Coaches. This program will continue in 2022.

Our Season Launch was held at Penrith City Council in March and was well attended by players, coaching staff, board members and sponsors.

The following appointments were confirmed for 2021.

High Performance Manager for PPLN

Lisa Beehag OAM

Open Team

Head Coach	Nerida Stewart
Assistant Coach	Jenny Barsby
Manager	Sandra Hadley

Under 20 Team

Head Coach	Moira Gaha
Assistant Coach	Drew Mulvena
Manager	Kay Minchin

Physiotherapists were Keiren Jurkovic, Chris Hahn and Isabella Khoudair from Sports Physiotherapy and Work Rehabilitation Centre and Natalie Deegan was the S&C trainer. Performance Analyst was Katelyn Jones.

Margaret Murrin from BMNA, was appointed Apprentice Coach.

PPLN were also supported by several sporting professionals: Karen Haddad (Sports Psychologist), Holly Edstein (Nutritionist) and Katrina Mulcahy (Wellbeing, Time Management).

The Open team players were each assigned a PPLN number – continuing on from previous years.

20. Leilani Solaese
34. Leah Tavita
42. Aneeka Marcozzi
43. Kaitlyn Fisher
44. Leilani Rohweder
46. Luana Aukafolau
48. Tamara Black
49. Clare Leighton
52. Carissa Cook
53. Sarah Peare
54. Kaylah Nakhoul
55. Nakita Jackson

56. Sophie Fawns
57. Katelyn Stansfield

The players in the Under 23 team are listed below:

Eleanor Alatini
Sarah Blair
Elise Bond
Shae Elguindy
Alex Emerson
Tiueti Holland - went to training partner due to Uni/work commitments
Tahisha Hunt
Jasmine Hyde
Renbee Mihaere
Olivia Moss - went to training partner due to family commitments
Lice Liddy Mundunovosa
Charlee Proctor
Kyah Vaeila

Panthers Training Partners were:

Megan Bull
Essence Crothers To'o
Georgia Elliott
Sheylese Haldane
Emma Kannengeiser
Summer Lewis
Ellie Mooney
Sydney Robins
Katarina Sincek

Training and athlete screenings began in December 2020, before a break over Christmas and resumed at end of January. Trainings were mostly held in the Sydney Olympic Park precinct although this facility closed for re-flooring and training from then was all over Sydney – outdoors, Hills Netball Training Courts, Netball Central, Emerton Sports Centre and various others. The competition was scheduled to commence in April 2021.

An end of year function was planned for October but then cancelled. It was decided due to the abrupt end of the season, awards would not be given this year.

A function was held in The Waratah Room at Netball Central just prior to the season stopping. This was attended by some sponsors, coaches, supporters, the board with players joining the group at regular opportunities.

Several players also received representative honours and we congratulate each of you for being recognised in each of the representative arenas.

Players:

- Leilani Rohweder Swifts Training Partner
- Luana Aukafolau Giants Academy
- Sophie Fawns NSW 19 & Under State Team. Swifts Academy
- Jasmine Hyde Giants Academy. Northern Territory 19 & Under State Team
- Ellie Mooney Regional Emerging Talent Squad

- Katarina Sincek Metro Emerging Talent Squad
- Aneeka Marcozzi Open Mixed NSW Indoor Team
- Leah Tavita Open Mixed NSW Indoor Team
- Kayla Nakhoul Open Mixed NSW Indoor Team
- Elise Bond Mixed Reserves NSW Indoor Team

Coaches:

- Moira Gaha Coach, Open Men's Indoor NSW Team
- Nerida Stewart Coach, Under 23 Men's Indoor NSW Team
- Jenny Barsby Coach, Men's Reserves, NSW Indoor Team
- Drew Mulvena Coach, Open Mixed NSW Indoor Team

Panthers Talent Program

Jade Adam	Ella-Jae Buhagiar	Mia Burns
Ashleigh Campbell	Ruby Clark	Emma Crowther
Rachael Doughty	Kahlie Rose Flynn	Alix Ford
Ashlee Gillard	Erin Graham	Olivia Greenway
Leilani Hola	Hannah Mullin	Summer Robins

Olivia Steel

Congratulations to all our Panthers players and officials.

Some highlights of the year:

- Facebook was used primarily as our communication tool.
- Two coaching clinics were held during the year, generating income for the franchise.

Thank you to the Panthers Premier League Netball board, especially to our secretary Lynn Deuis for her outstanding effort. Lynn has attended most games of Premier League and gives us a smile with her posts on social media. Thank You Lynn. Both Jenny and Tricia were at Netball Central most weeks on official scoring duties and managed to watch many games – particularly if they were lucky enough to be rostered onto Panthers games. Other members of the board attended games throughout the competition when it was possible.

A special thanks to Nicole Fagan, the administration assistant at Penrith Netball. Nicole offered her assistance whenever needed to Panthers Netball and I sincerely thank her for her services.

To Lisa Beehag, Nerida Stewart, Jenny Barsby, Moira Gaha, Drew Mulvena, Sandra Hadley and Kay Minchin – as Panthers coaches and managers – thank you and congratulations for getting through a difficult season.

Also, my thanks to Keiren, Isabella and Chris for their physiotherapy support and special efforts made for Panthers Netball. We also thank our Strength and Conditioning coach Natalie Deegan, Katelyn Jones our performance analysis and Karen Haddad our Sports Psychologist for working with our teams this year.

To all players – our thanks. For two years now there have been major disruptions to the competition and to training due to Covid. Added to this years' problems was a lack of appropriate training facilities with some players having to travel long distances to train. However, all players remained positive throughout and put the best efforts on the court each week. By the end of the season, we could see much improvement in both teams. Unfortunately, when we did begin to play consistently well, the competition was suspended and did not resume.

A special thanks to the Mayor and Penrith City Council – Councillors and staff, for their support again this year.

My thanks also, to Frank Portelli and Jenni May, chairman and vice chairman of Penrith RSL. Their support as sponsors for PPLN and in particular our talent program, is truly appreciated.

Mainstone Lawyers has continued their sponsorship during 2021 and we sincerely thank Stephen Mainstone.

We retained a new sponsor from 2020 – Sinclair Hyundai at Penrith and have sponsorship from Cluster Photography and Coast-2-Coast Uniforms.

Again, my very special thanks to Chairman of Panthers Dave O'Neill, Director Peter Graham and CEO Brian Fletcher and all Directors for committing to a 5-year partnership with PPLN for funding from 2018 to 2022 inclusive. This matches the time frame for the Panthers Netball franchise with NSW.

Again, I especially recognise Lisa Beehag OAM. Lisa carries a huge load and her commitment to Panthers Premier League Netball is extraordinary. The Board thanks her sincerely and acknowledges this special relationship.

Joy Gillett OAM, Chair, Panthers Premier League Netball Inc.