



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

As I sit down to reflect on the 2024 netball season, my heart swells with gratitude and pride for our incredible Wildcats family. This year has been filled with unforgettable moments, new milestones, and a sense of togetherness that goes beyond any scoreboard. We've grown stronger not just as a club but as a community, united by our love for the game and for each other.

I am deeply grateful for each and every one of the committee, for your tireless commitment and for the joy you bring to this role. Special thanks must go to our club secretary, Suzie Novak, who has been a true powerhouse this season. Suzie, you've gone above and beyond, embodying the spirit of our club and handling everything with grace, dedication, and a smile. You've been a steady hand in every storm, and we're so lucky to have you.

And to every single member of our Wildcats pride – from players, to coaches, to families, to supporters – your energy this season has been contagious. The sideline cheers, the high-fives, the encouraging words, and the laughs shared are the soul of this club. Thank you for bringing your enthusiasm, your passion, and your hearts to every game and every training. Together, we've made this year unforgettable.



LIZ STOKES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President - Liz Stokes

Vice-President - Katie Stewart

Secretary - Suzie Novak

Treasurer - Amanda Rudge

Registrar - Kate Compagnoni

Coaching Coordinator - Liv Warwick

Umpiring Coordinator - Liz Stokes

Canteen Coordinator - Camilla Tame

Publicity Officer - Liz Stokes, Suzie Novak

Uniform Coordinator - Katie Stewart

Sponsorship Coordinator - Suzie Novak

Fundraising Coordinator - Jecca Blake

Grants Coordinator - Katie Stewart

General Committee - Gayle Hicks



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The heartbeat of our club lies in the dedication of our committee members, who pour so much of themselves into making every aspect of our Wildcats experience seamless and memorable!

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REGISTRATION

This year saw 82 players register with Mittagong Netball Club. This was down from approximately 110 the previous year but that was consistent with other local clubs who also had a drop in numbers.

We were able to form 10 teams (8 Junior teams and 2 Opens teams), with 10 players needing to be double registered.

Registrations opened in January and closed at the end of March with the timing of registrations as follows:

- January 23%
- February 35%
- March 37%
- April/May 5%

SUZIE NOVAK



This season saw:

82

players register

22

new players

60

returning players

COMPETITION

Mittagong Wildcats netball season 2024 was overall a great season. The weather at the beginning wasn't great, starting off with a wet weather cancellation. Our U8 **Cubs** saw the worst of the weather, which slowed their progression down in the first half of the season due to lack of court time. This was made up in the latter part of the season where they played right through to the very end of the season, finishing first in their U8s division (no finals)!

Throughout the rest of the comp, all Wildcats teams progressed with wins, losses and draws. With consistent coaching, it was noticeable to see small improvements weekly from individual players and their team comradery.

LIV WARWICK

This season saw:

9 of 9

teams in
the **semi-finals**

2 of 9

teams in **finals**

1 team

the **Jaguars**, win
the **Grand Final!**



COACH COORDINATION

This successful year of 2024 could not have been achieved without the dedication and commitment of our coaches. Mittagong had 8 coaches for our 8 junior teams. (Our 2 opens teams did not have coaches.) Two of these coaches were new and 6 were returning coaches.

COACHES

Stella Warwick	Cubs	U8s
Melliah Tooth	Leopards	U9s
Abbey Bowden-Grimes	Jaguars	U10s
Megan Hicks	Cheetahs	U10s
Sofia Novak	Tigers	U11s
Gayle Hicks	Pumas	U12s
Olivia Warwick	Panthers	U15s
Liz Stokes	Lions	U15s

This was one of the first years that we didn't have to double up coaches on teams, which was excellent to see. The club is extremely grateful for the parents, grandparents and senior players who embraced a volunteer coaching role this season.

COACH COORDINATION

With the support of the coaching program, 6 of the 8 coaches this year, held their foundations coaching certificate. Mittagong Netball Club had the highest number of qualified coaches on the sidelines this season, which is a fabulous achievement. With the growth mindset of the club, these coaches can progress to achieve their development certificate, while encouraging any other future coaches to achieve their foundations certificate for next season.

The number of coaches expected to return next season is 4 at this stage, with a few coaches unsure. The club has had one senior player, Charlotte Mitchell-Knight and two junior players, Emily Eccleston and Amelia Camarsh, show interest to start their coaching journey in 2025, which is just so fabulous to see.

All Coaching equipment was returned successfully by presentation day. Coaches' bags are now prepared and set up ready for the 2025 netball season, along with ball bags and balls. Without knowing the number of teams for 2025, the bags were not replenished. This will need to be done at the start of the season.

A massive thank you to Mittagong Public School for their ongoing support with allowing Wildcats access to the school courts.

LIV WARWICK

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Thank you to everyone who has played a large or small part in the world of Wildcat coaching. The season of 2025 Wildcats is looking strong!

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UMPIRE COORDINATION

The 2024 season has been a fantastic year for umpiring within the Mittagong Wildcats club, showing significant growth in participation, development, and teamwork across all levels.

We established a WhatsApp group chat for all umpires, allowing open and easy communication regarding game availability. This ensured fair and accessible communication for all umpires, enabling smooth weekly scheduling and fewer game-day gaps.

We have identified the following umpiring game requirements:

- Under 9s: These games require an adult or a teen umpire (over 16) with experience, as only one umpire is needed. This level provides a manageable environment for those with prior experience.
- Under 10s, 11s, and 12s: Ideal for new umpires to learn and build confidence. These games offered a platform for skill development, allowing beginners to gain essential experience.
- Cadets (Junior and Senior): These matches demand a more experienced level of umpiring to handle the pace and complexity.
- Ladies Opens: High levels of experience are required due to the competitive and fast-paced nature of these games.

The season was marked by fantastic support, not only from within our club but also from neighboring clubs, who stepped in when we faced occasional gaps. This collaborative spirit has been instrumental in the success of the umpiring program.



FINANCIALS: BALANCES

Mindful of our small opening balance at the end of 2023, the committee was very keen to improve our financial situation in 2024. We raised considerable money through sponsors, grants and fundraising and carefully considered our expenditure throughout the year, resulting in a profit of \$4385.11.

This year we developed a better system for keeping track of our finances month-to-month. Our Treasurer did a fantastic job of reimbursing committee members quickly where they had personally borne club costs.

We also purchased a Square reader to enable us to take card payments for uniforms, at events and online. Although the use of Square incurs fees, the ease with which we can process payments makes it worthwhile.

SUZIE NOVAK

BANK BALANCE **\$1853**
4 NOVEMBER 2023

BANK BALANCE **\$6238**
4 NOVEMBER 2024

FINANCIALS: PROFIT AND LOSS

INCOME	
Sponsorship	\$6,500.00
Registration fees	\$3,731.05
Grants	\$3,500.00
Events	\$2,781.77
Uniform sales	\$2,589.97
Fundraising	\$1,497.61
Dress hire	\$882.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$21,482.40

EXPENSES	
Junior presentation day	\$3,875.59
Equipment	\$3,730.66
Uniforms	\$3,320.00
Umpires	\$1,580.00
Umpiring clinics	\$1,232.20
Super Netball game	\$1,110.00
Team bonding	\$870.24
Coaches accreditation	\$400.00
Senior presentation night	\$299.00
Administration	\$288.11
Registration fees loan	\$202.25
Marketing	\$137.50
Birthday cupcakes	\$51.74
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17,097.29

NET PROFIT \$4385.11



SPONSORSHIP

2024 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Who We Are

Mittagong Wildcats is a local netball club. We promote participation of a team sport, encourage active lifestyles and provide a safe environment in which our members gain friendships and learn sportsmanship through our club values.

Why Sponsor Us

-  **Advertises your business**
Promotes a healthy image of your business by linking it with a sports club
-  **Improves player development**
Enables us to offer playing, umpiring and coaching clinics
-  **Builds community relationships**
Develops connections between club members and your business
-  **Helps us lower costs**
Enables us to keep costs low to ensure active participation by all

* Paid over a 3 year period

Packages

What you get:	Bronze Sponsor \$500	Silver Sponsor \$1000	Gold Sponsor \$5000*
Recognition in 4 club newsletters	✓	✓	✓
Recognition on club social media	5 times	10 times	15 times
Business logo on club website	✓		
Business ad & link on club website		✓	✓
Business logo on club merchandise		✓	✓
Business logo on club tent			✓
Special event sponsor			✓
Trophy sponsor at annual awards			✓

If the sponsorship packages above don't suit your needs, we will happily tailor a package specifically to your business and budget.

Contact Us

 0499-866-384  www.mittagongnetball.org

This year, we developed a more clearly defined set of Sponsorship Opportunities. We were thrilled to welcome four new sponsors who believe in us and our mission.

Tasker Constructions and **Mittagong Hotel** joined us as Gold Sponsors with three-year commitments, helping us build a future full of opportunities. **Highlands Betta** and **Ray White Mittagong** have also added their support, and we're thrilled to have them along for this journey.

Seeing our Wildcats name and sponsors logo on the high-quality stainless steel drink bottles we gifted to 80 of our players this season brought a deep sense of pride. These partnerships are more than logos on banners; they're a testament to the relationships we've built and the support that surrounds us.

SUZIE NOVAK



GRANTS

We were thrilled to secure two grants this year, each contributing to something truly special.

MITTAGONG RSL

Mittagong RSL gave us **\$2500** for our Winter Netball comp which enabled us to purchase new dresses and equipment for our players. The also provided us with free room hire throughout the year for holding our monthly committee meetings.



VEOLIA MULWAREE TRUST

Veolia Mulwaree Trust granted us **\$1000** to fund the *Hear Us Roar Training and Accreditation Program*. The aim of this program is to empower young aspiring coaches and umpires through training and accreditation. This will drive ongoing participation within the club throughout the critical drop-out years of 13-17. It will also allow the Club to elevate and future-proof itself by strengthening our coaching and umpire officials within the wider regional association.

This year we used this funding to hold two Umpiring Clinics hosted by the wonderful Kat Walker (SHNA Umpiring Coordinator) for all our players aged 10-15. Kat shared her expertise and made the sessions so engaging and informative. Our young netballers had a fantastic time learning the ins and outs of umpiring, enhancing their skills, and gaining a deeper understanding of the game. From these sessions, we were thrilled to welcome a number of new umpires to our ranks, with even more club members eager to begin their umpiring journeys in 2025. We look forward to nurturing this interest and supporting their growth next season.

FUNDRAISING

The Mittagong Netball Club committee has had a successful year with its fundraising efforts, which have played a vital role in supporting our club's ongoing development.



We held a raffle at Highlands Marketplace at the start of the season (led by Kate Compagnoni), raising almost \$1500. Prizes were very generously donated by local businesses. This fundraising was supplemented by sponsorships and registration fees and was used for our very successful end of year presentation, team bonding events and to update equipment. These resources are essential for ensuring our players have access to the best opportunities and can compete at the highest levels.

The role of fundraising with MNC is crucial to the sustainability of the club. It not only helps finance daily operations but also provides a platform for community engagement. A dedicated fundraising officer is responsible for organising and promoting events, identifying sponsorship opportunities, and fostering relationships with local businesses and supporters.

Looking ahead, we could try diversify our fundraising activities by exploring more online and social media-driven campaigns. These initiatives will help us reach a wider audience and secure the necessary funds to continue growing our netball program.

We thank all contributors for their ongoing support and look forward to another successful year of netball!



UNIFORMS

This year we purchased 25 new dresses and 15 new sets of bibs, as well as other uniform items to fulfill orders and have a small amount of extra stock on hand.



Some challenges with uniforms

this year that will be considered by the committee for next year include:

- Having too many uniform options increases the Uniform Coordinator's work load and costs for the club due to minimum order quantities
- Having uniform hand outs over several weeks at the courts is extremely time consuming and labour intensive with stock needing to be continually transported back and forth.
- Having people swap their dresses from their allocation without advising the Uniform Coordinator makes it very hard to have accurate records of who has what
- Having dresses handed back via multiple channels, often without names, so we don't know who has returned what
- Not having all the dresses returned

KATIE STEWART

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With new dresses, bibs, and a variety of inclusive apparel options, our players look and feel like the united force that they are.

”

SOCIAL MEDIA

This year, our social media has truly come to life with so many wonderful faces, heartfelt stories, and cherished moments. We've seen smiling players, cheering families, dedicated coaches, inspiring umpires, and passionate supporters all over our feeds. Every post, comment, and share has painted a vibrant picture of what it means to be part of Mittagong Netball Club.

Through social media, we've reached new friends and followers who've joined in our love for netball and community spirit. It's been incredible to see so many new faces engaging with our club this year—whether cheering us on, attending events, or simply stopping by to show their support. Each interaction has helped us build connections and deepen our reach within the Southern Highlands.

Mittagong Netball Club stands apart from the rest because we're not just a club—we're a family. Our goal has always been more than competition; we're here to spread joy, support, and togetherness. We're proud that our social media channels reflect this, giving people “the feels” and creating happiness that resonates beyond the court. From our end-of-season celebrations to our team achievements, the love we share shines brightly in everything we post.

Thanks to social media, our events have seen fantastic exposure, making each occasion a success for the club and everyone involved.



From fundraisers to game days and presentation nights, we've been able to share these special moments with a wider audience, creating a sense of pride and connection within the community.

LIZ STOKES

PUBLICITY

The **website** was cleaned up to remove out-of-date content and to make it easier to find information about Registration, Uniforms and the Committee. It was maintained throughout the year (for example, to close off Uniform orders and Registration). I also added our 2024 sponsors to our website.

Four **newsletters** were sent out (Welcome, April 2024, August 2024, End of Season Events). Newsletters typically have about 85% open rate so are a good way to convey lots of information at once.

This season, we took our promotion to new levels with vibrant new **signs** that we placed around town advertising when our registrations were open.



SUZIE NOVAK

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The best promotion comes from the spirit within – the pride each player, family member, and coach carries with them. When people see the Wildcats, they see more than a club. They see a family.

”

CANTEEN COORDINATION

This year I used the SHNA canteen schedule as a base to create Mittagong Netball Club's own canteen schedule. This was to ensure:

- an even share between teams
- that parents/carers could watch their children's game (ie. teams canteen spots were booked in for before or after their game)

It was very satisfying to have a broad range of parents organised to man the canteen this year.

CAMILLA TAME

ADMINISTRATION

The Secretary role went very smoothly this year. There was considerably more work involved in the job than expected but the Club's files, policies and records are now better documented and much more organised. The Club purchased a Dropbox subscription for storage of files, and Google Drive is now used consistently to enable access to shared files by committee members. We had a roster for committee members to attend monthly SHNA meetings as MNC delegates which worked well and was fair. For the first time, we sought nominations for our annual awards from all members of the club (rather than just committee). We were overwhelmed with emotion and gratitude for the love shown towards our Wildcats through this process.

SUZIE NOVAK

EVENTS AND TEAM SPIRIT

One of our fondest memories this season was seeing 50 of our members join together at the Swifts vs. Giants Super Netball game at Sydney Olympic Park. The joy, the cheers, the camaraderie – those are moments that will stay with us for a lifetime.

And every week, the simple traditions, like birthday cupcakes for our players and each team's beloved mascot ball, have filled our season with laughter and love.

LIZ STOKES



JUNIORS: PRESENTATION DAY

What a celebration! This year we decided to hold our Juniors presentation day at Mittagong Public School. We recognised the achievements, hard work and spirit of our incredible Wildcats with an awards ceremony followed by jumping castles, BBQ and face painting.

TEAM OF THE YEAR
PUMAS (Coach: Gayle Hicks)

LION HEART AWARD
Charlotte Mitchell-Knight

COACHING LEGEND AWARD
Sofia Novak

VANESSA TASKER PRIDE AWARD
Liz Stokes & Suzie Novak

UMPIRING RISING START AWARD
Mali Stewart

C-BADGE UMPIRE AWARD
Abbey Bowden-Grimes



OPENS: SEASON CELEBRATIONS

This year we had two Opens teams, our Lionesses and our Cougars. These teams were made up of women from the community plus our over 15s girls.

They celebrated the end of the season with a Paint and Sip afternoon full of creativity, great food and drinks. It was all about creating beautiful works of art and even more beautiful memories together. A special thanks to the talented Deb Stokes for leading the class and guiding us in creating our masterpieces!



THANK YOU TO OUR **SUPPORTERS**

SPONSORS

Tasker Constructions - **GOLD**
Mittagong Hotel - **GOLD**
Highlands Betta - **SILVER**
Ray White Mittagong - **BRONZE**

GRANTORS

Mittagong RSL
Veolia Mulwaree Trust

DONATORS

Mittagong Day & Night Pharmacy
Hello World Bowral
F45 Bowral
FS8
Dormie House
Moss Vale Golf Club
The Hidden Hare
Compagnoni Accounting



TDL Trophies & The Hidden Hare
Rebel Sport
Artemis Wines
The Boston Ivy
Mittagong Flower Merchant
Highlands Fresh
Williams Meats Mittagong
The Batty Baker

WRAP UP



THANK YOU!

Looking back, this season has been about more than just netball. It's been about family. It's been about showing up for one another, about learning from every loss, and celebrating every victory, big or small. It's been about the cheers that echo on the sidelines, the moments of quiet encouragement, and the friendships that form along the way. I'm so proud of all we've achieved and the incredible Wildcats spirit we've shared.

Thank you, Wildcats family, for making this season what it was. Here's to the memories we've made and to many more seasons of laughter, love, and netball together. Let's keep roaring, Wildcats!

MITTAGONG NETBALL CLUB

www.mittagongnetball.org

mittagongnetballclub@gmail.com

