

Presidents Report 2021 – Narelle Payne

Not having a season in 2020 certainly shadowed the start of our 2021 season. Registrations were slow, some teams were struggling to get 7 members and the challenge for the committee was also finding coaches. It certainly was an unsettling start to the season and missed the usual excitement that goes with our club's proud history.

We fielded 9 teams this season, two in both U9's and U11's, three in U13's and one in both U15's and U17's. Coaches, Parents and Players all had to get their heads around the fact that we had all missed a full season of netball.

The ongoing COVID-19 related restrictions significantly impacted the 2021 netball season, cancelled rounds, limited spectators, and increasing the workload on volunteers with additional administration and cleaning tasks required. I am very proud of how well our club dealt with these changes, we adapted really well, remained patient and flexible and consistently supported one another.

Despite the challenges of this season, we performed incredibly well on the court and continue to make progress.

The excitement from the U9's and U11's about finally getting to play their first game or returning to the courts with their friends was infectious, they were lucky to have a mix of experience and new coaches. They all learned new skills and are the future of our club.

U13's was the only age group in the senior teams needing to participate in club trials so that teams could be allocated. This was held over two Wednesday's and was a new experience for most, it certainly proved to all involved that this group of 25 kids have amazing capabilities. Our U15's had the task of coming together as most had not played in the same team and 1 had never played before.

Our U17's team was a testament to what our club is all about. The way that they gathered a team, trained, played and conducted themselves is something that all should strive towards. Not to mention they didn't lose a game!!

The season was brought to an abrupt end, meaning that senior teams that would qualify for finals could not participate.

U13B and U13A yellow completed their season strongly with lots of development. U13A Blue and U15B both finished Runners Up and certainly had the chance of being Premiers if given the opportunity to play finals, I am sure Paul and Suze Kersey their coaches would agree with me here.

As U17's was undefeated they are proudly the U17 2021 Premiers, it's such a shame that we could not all celebrate that achievement with you all.

2021 would have been our 40th year anniversary, due to COVID we had to hold any celebrations, hopefully in the future years we could do something to honour such a milestone, maybe our 42, ie 21 x 2

Unfortunately, another year goes by with no official presentation night however I have some important announcements to make.

Congratulations to our 2 Runners Up Teams U13A Blue and U15B and their dedicated coaches Paul & Suze Kersey. Again, congratulations to Clare and her U17's girls for their premiership.

2021 sees 3 new "10-year members", all starting with Net Set Go as Pygmy Possums

- Ella Nicol
- Mikayla Calnan
- Sophie Mangan

This year we will also be inducting into our life members the following

Renee Halliday

- 2013 and 2014 Vice President
- 2015 Junior Club Coordinator
- 2017 to 2021 Duty Day Coordinator
- Equipment Officer, Presentations Day, exact years unknown
- Over 10 years of volunteering, and ongoing support, not to mention providing the club with three amazing possums over the span of many years

Clare Henebrey

- 2017-2021 Vice President
- 2015 – 2021 Coaching countless teams
- Many roles including, Net Set Go, Registrations etc
- 5 years of ongoing support, volunteering and the love of coaching

I feel extremely privilege to have led our proud club for another season, however this is never achievable without the volunteers that surround us. Thank you to the executive and general committee members, the coaches, team managers and the parents that get the kids to training and game day.

As most of you are aware I have been involved with the Possums Netball Club since my daughter started playing netball. I put my hand up without hesitation to coach in her first year and then agreed to be the clubs President in 2019. Little did I know that in my three years as President that I would wear multiple hats and my whole family would live, and breath possums. I am proud of the work I have done with some of the other dedicated parents around me, to keep our club running through times never experienced in our 40-year history. It's now time for a change and therefore I am resigning as President. I will still be involved with Possums just not in the same capacity. I have volunteered to be the Possums Representative on the Macedon Ranges Netball Club Committee taking on the Junior Vice President role and also have accepted a nomination on our executive committee.

We have all worked very hard to ensure that Possums is left in good hands for the 2022 season, please continue to support our strong, proud club.

Thank you all again,



Narelle

2021 Possums President