

Embracing Change

Wangaratta Netball Association

www.clubhelp.org.au

About the Association

Wangaratta Netball Association has had a long history, established in 1937. Like most netball associations Wangaratta had to adjust to the introduction of football netball leagues in the district. This association responded on the front foot by offering new programs to provide access to a range of netball participation options in Wangaratta. The focus for the Wangaratta Association became juniors and evening social competitions for all ages and abilities and with over 1200 members, they have been successful in this space. The association also boasts a large and successful NetSetGo program which is continuing to grow.



In more recent years, Wangaratta Netball Association has been working with its local regional sports assembly, The Centre-CARN, and the Rural City of Wangaratta to develop new programs, partnerships and a plan for the future.

The Process

In recent years, The Centre-CARN approached the Wangaratta Netball Association to host clinics and an interschool tournament for children attending Special Schools in the district. The staff at The Centre-CARN were pleased the Committee Members embraced and supported the idea so enthusiastically. Following a successful inaugural inter-special schools tournament, the Committee members were keen to extend their involvement with people with a disability. This resulted in the development of an Access for All Abilities (AAA) program which has been integrated within the junior program. The program was made possible by the assistance of the association in regards to coaching, umpiring and recruiting players. The inclusion of netball for All Abilities has been a popular inclusion at the association and looks to grow with interleague tournaments on the horizon.

The relationship now established between Wangaratta Netball Association and the regional sports assembly continues to grow and lead to new opportunities for

WNA, including successful grant applications and enhancing organisational partnerships.

For example, The Centre has supported the association to apply for a number of grants and assisted the forging of stronger ties with the Rural City of Wangaratta.

The Outcomes

The outcomes for the Association have included:

- Strong partnership with The Centre-CARN and the Rural City of Wangaratta
- Support from The Centre-CARN in grant writing
- Success in acquiring a DPCD Small Volunteering Grant of \$5000.00 to subsidize 10 coaches through the NV Foundation Coaching Course, 8 volunteers were subsidized to do disability awareness training (VicSport) and some dedicated equipment was purchased to support the AAA teams including balls with bells to support players with vision impairments
- Success in acquiring a Country Action Grant, \$2795.00 to work with The Centre-CARN, the Rural City of Wangaratta and a nominated consultant to develop a Strategic Plan for the Association as part of a Master Plan for the Wangaratta sports precinct. This presents opportunities for a facility upgrade for what have become tired and non-compliant courts
- With support from The Centre-CARN and Netball Victoria, the Association conducted a successful launch of the AAA program in 2012 which included a clinic conducted by past Vixen star, Shelly O'Donnell
- Two girls from the Wangaratta Special School also qualified for the Victorian AAA Netball Squad for 2012.

SUCCESS FACTORS:

- ✓ The Association was willing to try new things in implementing the AAA program
- ✓ Working closely with the regional sports assembly
- ✓ Partnership developed with the Rural City of Wangaratta
- ✓ A committed and enthusiastic committee
- ✓ An inclusive association.

