



# RANDWICK NETBALL ASSOCIATION

— MEMBERS NEWSLETTER —

April 2026

## WE'RE NEARLY THERE!

The 2026 season starts Saturday 2 May at Heffron Park

To our wonderful Randwick Netball family,

I cannot tell you how excited I am to be writing to you on the eve of our 2026 Winter Competition. After months of preparation, planning, training and dreaming — we are just days away from hearing whistles, bouncing balls and cheering families fill Heffron Park once again.

Whether you're a first-time NetSetGo player about to experience netball for the very first time, a seasoned Premier League athlete, a parent who has been on this journey for years, a volunteer who gives up your Saturdays to set up the courts, a coach who lives and breathes this sport, or an umpire who keeps our games running — this newsletter is for you. You are the 4,500 reasons we do what we do.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being part of our community. Let me share with you some of what has been happening behind the scenes, and what you can look forward to over the weeks ahead.

***“Club netball is where it all happens — and you are what makes it special.”***

### Opening Day — Saturday 2 May 2026

Mark the calendar, wear your club colours and get down to Heffron Park! Opening Day is going to be a celebration of everything we love about Randwick Netball — the community, the kids, the coaches, the families and the game itself.

#### What's happening on the day

- **8:00 am** First games of the 2026 season get under way
- **9:00 am** Official Opening Ceremony — every club to assemble in front of the Club House for the Parade of Clubs
- **9:00 am** Marching band, annual award presentations, and the Walk of Fame induction of Gabi Simpson

We are honoured that Mayor Dylan Parker will officially open the season, and that Gabi Simpson — one of our homegrown Australian Diamonds — will be inducted into the Randwick Netball Walk of Fame in front of her family, her club and her community. These are the moments that make our Association special.

*Bring your whole family. Bring your whole club. We cannot wait to see you there.*

## What's new at Heffron Park

Working alongside Randwick City Council, we have some fantastic upgrades to share — and you will feel the benefit of these from your very first game:

### **The Walk of Fame is getting a facelift**

One of the most loved spots at Heffron — where families gather, kids chase each other, and players warm up before their game — is getting a beautiful new look. Final surface graphics have been designed with DecoPave and Artscape, celebrating our Diamonds and the Randwick Netball story. Work is due to be completed ahead of Opening Day, and it looks stunning.

### **More warm-up goal posts**

Extra warm-up posts have been installed across the park, so more of our players can get their goal practice in before they run onto court. A small thing — but if you've ever queued for a pre-game shot, you'll love this one.

### **Safer courts**

Council has completed the run-off areas behind Courts A, B and C, and at the end of Court 13, which means safer play for everyone — especially when the ball goes out of bounds at pace.

### **New amenities block — coming this season!**

The new amenities block is on track for completion at the end of July — ahead of schedule — which means our members will get to enjoy the new facilities during this very season. Something to look forward to as Winter rolls on.

## Lest we forget — ANZAC Day 2026

On Saturday 25 April, Randwick Netball was proudly represented at the Randwick ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Goldstein Reserve. Lily Ennes, recipient of our President's Medal, and Judy Capovilla, recipient of the Pat Martin Service Award, laid the wreath on behalf of our Association.

It was a beautiful and moving morning, and the representation of our Association at Randwick City Council's official commemorations is something we take enormous pride in. A heartfelt thank you to Lily and Judy for representing us with such grace and dignity.

## E-Scoring is here — and it's a game changer

2026 marks the season we move to E-Scoring across all our competitions, through PlayHQ. Here's what this means for you:

- Live scores available on your phone as games are played
- Faster and more accurate ladders and results
- Parents and family members can follow your games even when they can't make it court-side

A huge thank you to Tanya Coleman for leading this enormous rollout, running our training sessions, and coordinating the whole process. And thank you to every club who has embraced the change — this is the kind of progress that keeps our Association moving forward.

## **NetSetGo — now on Saturday mornings too!**

Our youngest and newest players are in for a treat in 2026. In addition to the existing Tuesday afternoon sessions, NetSetGo is now running on Saturday mornings on Court A — with three games going simultaneously across the thirds.

Why does that matter? Because it means more touches, more shots, more confidence, and more fun for the little ones who are just starting their netball journey. This is where it all begins — and there is nothing more heartwarming than watching a first-timer score their very first goal.

A huge thank you to Sasha for coordinating the NetSetGo programme so beautifully — setting the tone for how welcoming and joyful netball should feel from day one. And to Woolworths, via Westfield, for their wonderful ongoing grassroots support.

## **Play Like a Girl — Saturday 9 May**

Just one week after Opening Day, we host our annual 'Play Like a Girl' day — supporting the Women's Cancer Unit at the Royal Hospital for Women. This cause is close to our Association's heart, and the way our community rallies behind it every year is genuinely moving.

New for 2026, we will have RNA drink bottles and RNA socks on sale — with \$5.00 from every item sold donated directly to the Women's Cancer Unit. Our hoodies, hats and balls will also be available. Come down, get behind the cause, and let's make this year's Play Like a Girl the biggest one yet.

## **Our Representative Teams — season under way**

14 representative teams across junior, senior and metro divisions have been training their hearts out over the off-season, and the first rounds are now under way.

### **UTS Randwick Sparks — Premier League**

Our Sparks opened their 2026 campaign on Wednesday 22 April with wins in both the 23s and the Opens — an outstanding start to the season. Mark your diaries for Saturday 30 May, when we host our very first home game in over a decade at Hoops Stadium, Moore Park. This is going to be huge.

### **Metro League**

Our Metro League teams played their opening round this week, with Team 2 securing a great win and our other three teams putting in a solid effort for their first hit out of the season. We could not be prouder of our Metro Squads — the depth of talent and commitment across all four teams is something truly special.

### **The pathway in action**

One of my proudest moments each season is watching our Premier League and Metro League girls step into coaching roles with our junior rep teams. Senior athletes giving back to the next generation — young players learning from athletes who have walked the same road. This is exactly how the pathway is meant to work, and it tells you everything about the culture of this Association.

Our rep girls are also giving back through four volunteer hours across the season — at coaches' workshops, NetSetGo sessions, the BBQ, scoring, the canteen, setting up the park. And what has absolutely warmed our hearts is that many are asking for more hours, not fewer. That's the Randwick Netball spirit right there.

### **Your voice matters — Diversity & Inclusion survey coming soon**

Our Diversity and Inclusion Committee has now held their first meetings and is preparing a survey to be sent to all members of our Association. This is your opportunity to tell us — in your own words — how RNA can continue to build a truly welcoming, inclusive and joyful netball community for everyone.

We want to hear from players, parents, coaches, umpires, volunteers — every corner of our family. When the survey lands in your inbox in the coming weeks, please take five minutes to complete it. Your feedback will shape the way we grow, together.

### **Hyundai Community Netball Raffle — back for 2026!**

Exciting news from Netball NSW — the Hyundai Community Netball Raffle is back for 2026, and it's a fantastic fundraising opportunity for all clubs across the Association. In 2025 the netball community raised an incredible \$67,000, and this year we are hoping to raise even more.

If you're a club committee member, keep an eye out for the Hyundai Community Netball Raffle 2026 Club Registration Form circulated by Netball NSW. If you're a player or family member, talk to your club — the funds raised stay with your club and support our local netball community directly.

### **A heartfelt thank you to our 2026 partners**

I want to take a moment to speak openly with our members about our sponsors — because I don't think it can be said often enough: without our partners, our pathway programme simply would not exist.

Every piece of the high-performance work our representative players benefit from — the FRWRD High Performance training at Rosebery, the Bec and Steve fitness programme on Tuesday nights,

the KaMana Community athlete wellbeing workshops, the indoor facilities at Moore Park, the custom netballs our clubs train with, the Umpire Pathways programme developing our next generation of badged umpires — every single piece of that is funded by our sponsors. Not by registration fees. Not by the Association. By partners who have chosen to believe in our community and invest in our kids.

So from every one of our 4,500 members, and from every family on a Saturday at Heffron Park — to our Platinum Partner, our Gold Partners, our Silver Partners and our Match Day Partners — thank you, thank you, thank you. You make all of this possible.

Talks are also continuing with Gatorade on an exciting partnership to support our coaches right across Clubland — another development we cannot wait to share more about.

*You will see their logos across our signage, on our website, on our uniforms, and on the proud sponsor board at the end of this newsletter. Please take a moment to recognise them. And wherever you can, please support them back. They back our kids every single day of the year, and when our community supports them in return, it keeps this beautiful cycle turning.*

## Key dates for your calendar

- **Saturday 2 May** — Opening Day + Gabi Simpson Walk of Fame Induction (Heffron Park)
- **Saturday 9 May** — Play Like a Girl Day (Heffron Park)
- **Saturday 30 May** — UTS Randwick Sparks Home Game (Hoops Stadium, Moore Park)
- **6-8 June** – Senior State Titles
- **4-6 July** — Junior State Titles
- **Saturday 25 July** — Kids' Cancer Fundraising Day (Heffron Park)
- **End of July** — New Amenities Block opens
- **Saturday 19 September** — Grand Final Day (Heffron Park)

## See you at Heffron

To our Club Executives, our coaches, our umpires, our team managers, our grading committees, our volunteers — and to the thirteen extraordinary women on my own Executive Committee who give so much of their time to this Association — thank you. The 2026 season has been built on your effort, and we could not be more grateful.

And to every one of our 4,500 members: the 2026 season is yours. Whether you lift a trophy or simply lift a friend up on a tough Saturday morning, whether this is your first season or your fiftieth — you are the heart of Randwick Netball.

Club netball is where it all happens. Grassroots is where champions are made, where friendships are built, and where lifelong memories begin. It's where parents become coaches, where players become umpires, and where volunteers become family.

*Let's make 2026 an incredible year. See you at Heffron Park.*

## PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

*Thank you to every one of our 2026 sponsors*

A large teal-bordered banner containing sponsor logos. At the top left is the Randwick logo (a globe with a bee). The text 'PROUDLY SPONSORED BY' is centered. Below this is the 'PLATINUM SPONSOR' section with the Randwick City Council logo and tagline 'a sense of community'. The 'GOLD SPONSORS' section features logos for Dapcor, NGF (Est 1962), FDC | Made personal, E-LAB, GIRVAN, Sydney Wyde, THE SEALS (Member Since 1994), GENERATE PROPERTY GROUP, and WINDOWLINE (Strata Window and Door Replacement Specialists). The 'SILVER SPONSORS' section includes logos for apt, BOOPS, LIQUID, PeopleFirst Bank, YS (YS PHYSIO), ROBERTSON'S REMEDIAL & PAINTING, GILBERT, and Bendigo Bank.

From every family, every player, every coach, every umpire,  
Every volunteer and every member of the Randwick Netball community —  
**THANK YOU.**