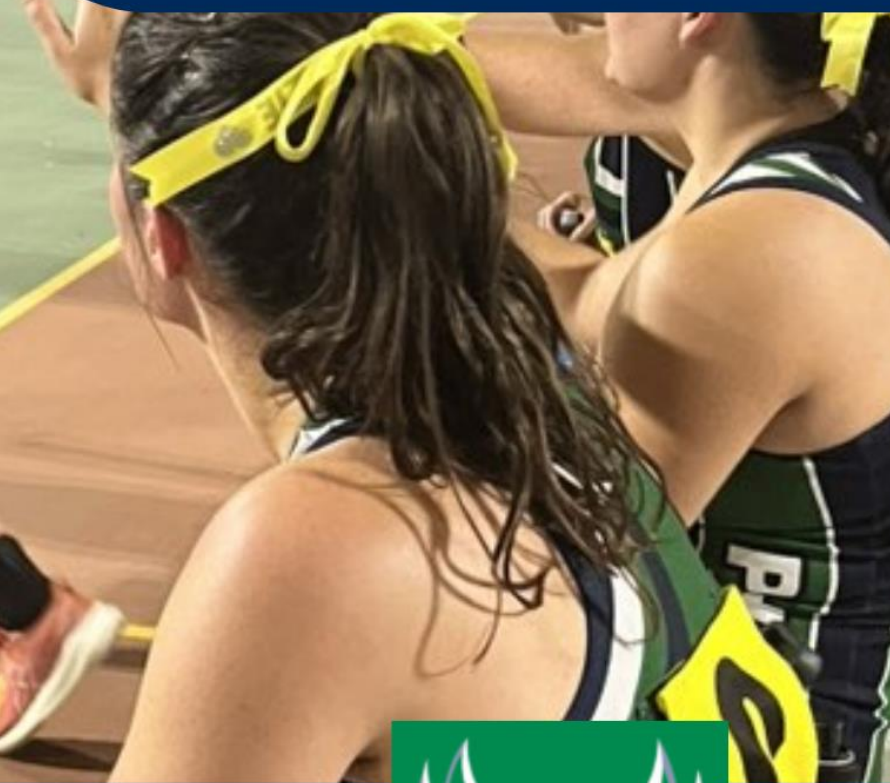


Phoenix Netball News

December 2025





As we come to the end of a big year for Phoenix Netball Club, we also mark an important moment of transition in our leadership.

After several years of dedication, Deb Eastlake concludes her time as President. Deb has played a pivotal role in strengthening our club culture, supporting our members, and driving many of the initiatives that have helped Phoenix grow both on and off the court. Her commitment, steady guidance and countless hours of work behind the scenes have shaped a positive legacy that will stay with the club for years to come.

Stepping into the role for 2026 is Kate Townson, who brings strong connection to the club, experience and a deep passion for supporting players, coaches and volunteers. Kate has been working closely with Deb over recent weeks to ensure a smooth and thoughtful handover. This transition represents an exciting new chapter for our club, and we look forward to the direction, ideas and leadership Kate will bring into the new season.

Farewell Message from Deb

As 2025 comes to a close, so too does my eighth and final year as President of Phoenix Netball Club. It has been a privilege to lead this incredible community and to watch our players, coaches, umpires and families continue to grow together.

This season has shown once again what makes Phoenix special. Despite weather challenges, delays and a difficult grading process, our members showed resilience, sportsmanship and the spirit we are known for. We reached record membership, saw outstanding results across junior and senior competitions, and celebrated strong representation in Townsville's representative and pathway programs. I am particularly proud of our coaching team, the growth in our umpire group and the way our committee worked tirelessly behind the scenes.



As I step away (not far), I want to thank every volunteer, family and player who has supported me over the past eight years. Phoenix is in a strong, stable place with a committed committee, a loyal membership and a culture built on fairness, integrity and care. I know the club will continue to thrive under new leadership.

Thank you for the honour of serving as your President. Phoenix will always feel like home
– **Deb**

Meet the 2026 President: Q&A with Kate

As Kate steps into the role of President, we asked her to share her thoughts, goals and vision for the season ahead.

Why did you take on the role of President?

I've been part of Phoenix since I was 13, and this club has shaped so much of my life — as a player, coach and committee member. Stepping into the President role felt like the natural next step to give back, lead with purpose and help guide the club through its next phase of growth. I'm passionate about creating an environment where every player, coach and volunteer feels supported and proud to be part of Phoenix.

What are your priorities for 2026?

My priority for 2026 is to strengthen our foundations while setting the club up for long-term success. That includes continuing to professionalise how we operate behind the scenes, so our volunteers feel supported rather than stretched. I also want to invest in clear development pathways for both coaches and players, helping everyone grow with the club. Above all, I'm committed to keeping our culture strong, connected, inclusive and genuinely community-driven.

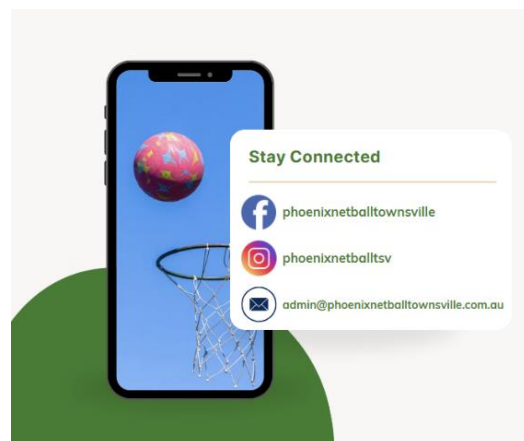
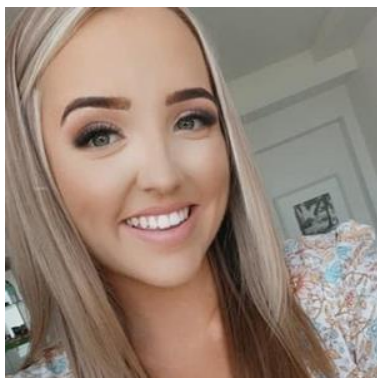
What excites you most about the club right now?

The energy. We're seeing growth across every level, juniors, seniors and Premier League. There's a real sense that Phoenix is not just a club, but a community that people want to be part of. Watching players develop, seeing new faces join and hearing positive feedback from families reminds me why this work matters.

What message would you like to share with the Phoenix community?

Thank you. Whether you're on court, coaching, volunteering, cheering from the sidelines or helping behind the scenes — Phoenix thrives because of you. 2026 will be a year of progress, collaboration and pride. I'm excited to lead, to listen and to work alongside all of you to make this season one of our strongest yet.

— Kate Townson



2025 Presentation Night Highlights

Presentation Night was a wonderful celebration to finish the 2025 season, with players, families, coaches and volunteers coming together to recognise achievements across the club.

The night celebrated team and club awards, recognised our coaches and umpires, acknowledged special contributions and most importantly showcased the culture and spirit that define Phoenix.

Photo highlights from the evening -











2025 AGM

Early November we held our Annual General Meeting, marking the official close of another incredible season for Phoenix Netball Club. It was a moment to reflect on a year of growth, resilience and success and to recognise the people who have helped shape our club.

At the AGM, we formally thanked our outgoing President, Deb Eastlake, for her eight years of extraordinary leadership, passion and dedication to Phoenix. Her commitment to our players, families and volunteers has left a lasting legacy that will continue to shape Phoenix for many years to come.

As we say thank you to Deb, we also look ahead with excitement as we welcome Kate Townson as our new Club President. Kate brings incredible energy, clear vision and a deep passion for community and development.



Introducing the 2026 Committee

We are pleased to introduce the **Executive Committee** who will lead Phoenix into the 2026 season.

President – **Kate Townson**

Vice President & Coaching Convenor – **Ben Lee**

Treasurer – **Joanne Eves**

Assistant Treasurer – **Rachel Corbett**

Club Secretary – **Claire Clive**

Umpiring Coordinator – **Marilla Cheslett**

Social Media – **Kirsty Keyes**

Registrar – **Tess Burney**

Partnerships & Sponsorship – **Katrina Appleton & Renee Godfrey-Bliesner**

Uniforms and Equipment – **Alison Napper**

Uniforms and Equipment – **Meghan Boland**

Club Captains for 2026 - **Senior – Katrina Appleton, Junior – Faith Cheslett**

General Committee: Naomi Kirkpatrick, Joseph Watson, Dan Pritchard and Rob Birnie

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Our club remains strong thanks to the generous support of our sponsors. Their backing helps us deliver coaching programs, keep fees affordable, purchase equipment, support player development, and create opportunities across all age groups.

We sincerely thank each sponsor who has partnered with Phoenix throughout 2025.



Pace Private Wealth

Pace Private Wealth has been a valued partner of Phoenix in 2025, providing generous support that has helped strengthen our programs both on and off the court. Their commitment to community sport and long-term development has made a meaningful difference to our club, and we are grateful for their ongoing belief in our players and our mission.

Keyes & Co Property

Keyes & Co Property continued their strong support of Phoenix this season, demonstrating their dedication to local families and grassroots sport. Their partnership has helped us create opportunities for players across all age groups, and we appreciate their genuine passion for our club and community.

HPT

HPT has played an important role in supporting the high-performance side of our club in 2025. Their expertise and investment in player development have strengthened our pathway programs and contributed to a positive training environment. We thank them for being an active, engaged partner in our performance journey.

Free Movement Physio

Free Movement Physio has been instrumental in keeping our athletes moving safely and confidently throughout the 2025 season. Their commitment to player wellbeing, injury prevention and recovery has provided enormous value to our members. We appreciate their support and the professional care they give our players.

XCD Sports

XCD Sports has been a dependable and dedicated partner in ensuring our players take the court looking and feeling their best. Their support with uniforms and apparel has contributed to strong club identity and professionalism across all age groups. We thank XCD Sports for their continued commitment to Phoenix.

We encourage our Phoenix families to support these businesses where possible.

Their generosity allows us to grow as a club and provide valuable experiences for our players. We look forward to continuing and expanding these partnerships in 2026.

OUR SPONSORS

				
Pace Private Wealth Gold Sponsor & Presentation Naming Rights Sponsor	Keyes & Co Property Silver Sponsor & U18 League Sponsor	Free Movement Physio Physio Partner	Hybrid Performance Training Townsville Elite Squad Training Partner	XCD Sports Apparel Partner

We are looking for new partners to join our team, and now is the perfect time to sponsor Phoenix Netball Club.

Our club provides a positive, inclusive environment for players of all ages and levels, supported by dedicated coaches, volunteers and families. Sponsorship offers meaningful brand exposure, strong community engagement and the opportunity to directly support grassroots sport in Townsville.

If you want to be involved in a community-driven organisation with real reach and impact, we welcome the conversation.

– chat to Kat or Renee sponsorships@phoenixnetballtownsville.com.au

2026 TCNA Season Calendar

TCNA has released its competition calendar for 2026, and we're pleased to provide our families with key dates to help with planning for the year ahead.

See full calendar from TCNA here* - <https://www.townsvillecitynetball.com/general-1>

Please add the following key dates to your calendar:

Senior Grading Starts 17 March (goes for 3 weeks)

Junior Grading Starts 18 March (goes for 3 weeks)

Premier League Round 1 23 March

Senior Season Round 1 21 April

Set Go commences 21 April

Junior Season Round 1 22 April

McDonalds Junior Carnival 25-26 July (Townsville)

Premier League Finals Series

Semi Final 31 August

Preliminary Final 7 September

Grand Final 12 September

Senior Final Series

Semi Final 25 August

Preliminary Final 1 September

Grand Final 5 September

Junior Final Series

Semi Final 26 August

Preliminary Final 2 September

Grand Final 5 September

Social Season Starts 6 October



Phoenix will share more information early next year through our social channels regarding our own club dates for trials & team allocation, training commencement, uniform and equipment sessions, Club events and milestones.

**Please note dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances*

Registrations for the 2026 Season

Planning for the 2026 season is well underway!

Age groups

- * NetsetGo- players born 2016-2019 (7-10yrs).
- * U12s- players born 2014-2015 (11-12yrs).
- * U15s- players born 2011-2013 (13-15yrs).
- * U18s- players born 2008-2010 (16-18yrs).
- * Seniors- players born prior to 31/12/2010.

Paying your registration fees

We offer 3 ways to pay your 2026 registration fees;

1. Full payment upfront
2. NetballConnect instalment payment plan (4 instalments), or
3. Afterpay.

We also accept **Play on Vouchers!!** They must be used at the time of registration. So, make sure you have yours handy when you register your child/Children.

Registrations for **returning players** will open in the next 2 weeks, so keep an eye on your emails and NetballConnect app notifications!!

Uniform Update for 2026

Uniform planning is already underway for the 2026 season, and we know this is always a hot topic for families, especially as the season gets closer. To help everything run smoothly, we encourage members to **order uniforms early**. This ensures the best chance of securing your preferred sizes before stock becomes limited.

Over the break, the committee has been reviewing feedback on fit, comfort, and style, as well as looking at long-term options that will support both club identity and sponsor commitments. Our goal is to ensure Phoenix players feel confident, comfortable and united when they step on court.

Stay tuned - something exciting is coming for our Premier League team.

We can't reveal much yet, but we're working on an update that reflects the strength and professionalism of our highest-level squad. More details will be shared closer to the season launch.

Full uniform information including ordering windows, fitting dates and delivery timelines will be released early in the New Year.



Coaching Expressions of Interest – 2026

Coaches are at the heart of our club and we will be seeking coaches for our junior and senior teams.

Phoenix offers support for both new and experienced coaches, including mentoring, resources, and pathways for those wanting to grow their coaching skills. EOIs will open early in the new year, and we encourage anyone interested to reach out. Your contribution can make a meaningful difference to our players.

Contact us to enquire early about coaching options.

Umpire Pathway & Development

We are proud to continue strengthening our umpire program in 2026. Umpiring is an important part of our club, offering a great way for players and community members to develop leadership, build confidence, and support the game.

In 2026 we will focus on:

- Supporting new umpires with mentoring and providing clear badge pathways and celebrating umpire achievements throughout the season

If you or your child is interested in joining the umpire program, we encourage you to reach out for more information.

Christmas Wishes from the Committee

As we wrap up the year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to every player, volunteer, coach, official and family member who has contributed to Phoenix in 2025. Your passion and support are what make our club such a positive community.

We wish all our Phoenix families a safe, joyful and relaxing Christmas break. Enjoy time with friends and family, rest up, and embrace the spirit of the holidays.

We look forward to seeing everyone back on court in 2026 for another exciting season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Phoenix Netball Club Committee

