



PALENA NETBALL CLUB

Panther News

August 2026

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The past month has been a reminder of what makes Palena Netball Club so special. While we've celebrated successes on the court, we've also faced difficult moments together. Through it all, our club has shown incredible strength, compassion and support for one another.

As the colder weather has settled in, it's been wonderful to see our Panther family rugged up under blankets and proudly wearing their Palena merchandise while cheering on teammates, friends and loved ones from the sidelines. We've also seen players, and supporters running between courts to help fill teams, demonstrating the true spirit of what it means to be part of our club.

Since our last newsletter, we successfully hosted another Bunnings BBQ, made possible by the fantastic efforts of our 3rd Grade and Men's teams. We also experienced the heartbreaking loss of a valued member of our Palena family. The sight of our members wearing armbands, checking in on one another and standing together during this difficult time was a powerful reminder that Palena is so much more than a netball club—it's a community that genuinely cares.

A special thank you must go to our President, **Janelle Kava**, whose leadership, compassion and tireless support throughout this period have been nothing short of extraordinary. The care and dedication she has shown our members is something we are incredibly grateful for, and we are fortunate to have her leading our club.

This month we celebrate **Coaches Round**, recognising the incredible commitment of our coaches who volunteer countless hours each week to develop our players, encourage our teams and help make our club the success it is. Their dedication behind the scenes never goes unnoticed.

As we head towards the end of the regular season, there is plenty to celebrate, with **12 of our teams currently sitting inside the top four**. We wish all our players, coaches and officials the very best as finals draw closer.

There is still plenty happening around the club, with our **Father's Day Raffle** just around the corner and tickets now available for our **End of Season Presentation Dinner**. Behind the scenes, our committee is already hard at work planning for 2027, establishing our **Cubs Program** for our future Panthers and preparing for next season's player trials.

The work at Palena never really stops—but we wouldn't have it any other way. Thank you to every player, coach, umpire, volunteer, committee member, sponsor and supporter for continuing to make Palena Netball Club a place where people belong. Here's to finishing the season strongly, together.

Remembering Rahnee

Written by Janelle Kava

Rahnee wasn't just a member of Palena – she was woven into the fabric of our club.

This year would have marked her 10th season with our club. It should have been a year of celebration as she reached both her 10-year milestone and her 100th game. Instead, we reflect on a journey that, although far too short, left a legacy that will continue to shape our club for years to come.

Rahnee played 97 games for Palena but her contribution extended far beyond the court. She coached from 2019 and again from 2022 through to 2026, beginning with our 21C team before taking on several senior teams. This year, she volunteered to coach two teams, including one of our junior sides. She also gave her time as an umpire and mentored our junior umpires, quietly helping build their confidence. In 2019, she was recognised with the Palena Senior Coach Award, an honour that reflected the impact she had on so many.

But statistics and awards only tell a small part of Rahnee's story. What made Rahnee so special was the way she made everyone around her feel. Time and again, those who knew her speak of her incredible kindness, her gentle encouragement and her unwavering belief in others.

One player wrote: *"Rahnee had such an amazing energy about her. The way she cheered for us, praised us and lifted our spirits made such a difference. Her encouragement made us believe in ourselves. I'll always remember how she made us feel."*

That was Rahnee.

- * She saw every individual.
- * Everyone belonged.
- * Everyone mattered.
- * Everyone deserved to be encouraged.
- * She didn't simply coach netball – she invested in people.

At the beginning of the season, she took her team out for dinner, using her own vouchers because she wanted the girls to spend time together. She even offered to drive them home afterwards. She checked in after games she couldn't attend, celebrated every achievement, and genuinely cared about what was happening in her players' lives, both on and off the court.

One parent shared how Rahnee supported her daughter as she prepared for an interstate school netball carnival. She helped raise money, donated more than anyone expected, and offered one-on-one training sessions to help rebuild her confidence.

- * She didn't just coach netball.
- * She built confidence.
- * She built resilience.
- * She built friendships.
- * She built people.



Remembering Rahnee

Perhaps one of the most touching reflections came from one of Rahnee's own coaches, who remembered her as an exceptional player, voted captain by her teammates because of her intelligence, leadership and support of others.

She recalled conversations about leadership, coaching and Rahnee's passion for helping people through social work and mental health. She encouraged Rahnee to coach, knowing the impact she would one day have. How right she was.

Rahnee became the leader she was always meant to be. Not because she was loud....well maybe a little bit on the sidelines. Not because she sought recognition. But because she led with kindness, humility and genuine care.

- * She made people feel seen.
- * She made people feel capable.
- * She made them believe in themselves.

That is true leadership.

As a club, we are heartbroken.

Rahnee gave countless hours to Palena - as a player, coach, umpire, mentor and friend. She embodied everything it means to be a Palena Panther. Her legacy won't be measured by the number of games she played or coached. It will live on in every young player who found confidence because of her encouragement, in every coach who chooses patience because they saw it modelled by Rahnee, in every umpire she quietly mentored, in every teammate who felt accepted, and in every person who walked into Palena and discovered that this club is more than just netball - it is family.

To Rahnee's family, thank you for sharing her with us. We know that the greatest part of Rahnee's life belonged to you, and we hope it brings some comfort to know how deeply she was loved within our club and how many lives she changed simply by being herself.

Rahnee, thank you.

Thank you for every game.

Every training.

Every conversation.

Every quiet word of encouragement.

Every player you inspired.

Every life you touched.

You may not have reached your 100th game, but your impact on this club goes far beyond any milestone.

Your kindness, compassion and belief in others have become part of who we are as a club.

You will forever be part of the Palena family.

You will always be one of our Panthers.

And you will never be forgotten.

SUPPORT SERVICES



Palena Netball Club extends its heartfelt condolences to all those affected by our recent loss. Please remember that it's okay to reach out for support—our club community is here to care for one another, and help is available if you need it.

SERVICE	CONTACT
 StandBy Support After Suicide Free support for anyone impacted by suicide, including family members, friends, colleagues and community members.	 1300 727 247  StandBy Support After Suicide
 Lifeline Australia Immediate emotional support and crisis assistance.	 13 11 14 (24 hours)  0477 13 11 14 (evenings)  Lifeline Australia
 Beyond Blue Support for anxiety, depression and emotional wellbeing.	 1300 22 4636  Beyond Blue
 Griefline Support for people experiencing grief and loss.	 1300 845 745  Griefline
 Suicide Call Back Service Professional counselling for anyone affected by suicide or emotional distress.	 1300 659 467  Suicide Call Back Service
 Roses in the Ocean Lived experience support, advocacy and suicide prevention resources.	 1300 411 461  Roses in the Ocean

Coaches Round

During Round 15, Palena Netball Club proudly celebrated **Coaches Round**, recognising the incredible volunteers who give their time, knowledge and encouragement to our players each week.

A heartfelt thank you to our 2026 coaching team:

- Semele Bachelor
- Georgia Byrne
- Rahnee Butterworth
- Tanya Fisher
- Shane Free
- Casey Hutchinson
- Janelle Kava
- Karen Leonard
- Lindy Maddock
- Justin Maw
- Lindy Maw
- Sandra McCann
- Sam Williamson
- Jai McWells
- Mike Tait

On behalf of everyone at Palena Netball Club, thank you for your dedication, encouragement and the positive impact you have on our players and club community. We appreciate everything you do and are grateful for the time and care you invest in helping our Panthers thrive.

ANOTHER SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to **Will Green** and **Emily Carnes** on achieving their **Netball Australia B Badge** accreditation.

This fantastic achievement reflects your dedication, hard work, and commitment to developing your umpiring skills. Your success is an inspiration to our junior netball umpires, showing what can be achieved through perseverance and passion. We are incredibly proud of both of you—well done!

The Big Freeze

This year, Palena Netball Club proudly took part in the **MND Big Freeze**, joining thousands of Australians in raising awareness and vital funds for people living with **Motor Neuron Disease (MND)**.

After being nominated through our club's social media page, **Mike Tait, Justin Maw and Emma Holloway** bravely accepted the challenge and took part in the Big Freeze. Their participation helped raise awareness of MND, a progressive disease that affects the nerves controlling movement and currently has no known cure.

Funds raised through the Big Freeze support people living with MND and their families, while also contributing to vital research aimed at finding better treatments and, ultimately, a cure.

A big thank you to Mike, Justin and Emma for taking on the challenge, and to everyone who donated and supported this important cause. Together, our Palena community helped make a meaningful difference both on and off the court.

Support the Fight Against MND

Every donation, big or small, helps fund vital research, improve care for people living with Motor Neurone Disease, and bring us closer to finding a cure.

Donate here: <https://bigfreeze.fightmnd.org.au/>



Trans-Tasman Test Series Success

On Sunday, 5 July 2026, our Premier League Reserves co-coach, **Shane Free**, and **Craig Green**—father of **Will Green**, who plays in our men's team, and a valued umpire for Palena Netball Club—travelled to New Zealand to proudly represent Australia in the 2026 Trans-Tasman Test Series.

Shane served as the **Australian Mixed Opens Team Manager**, while Craig represented the **Australian Men's and Mixed Netball Association (AMMNA)** as an ambassador.

The tour concluded with a historic achievement, as the Australian Mixed Opens team became the **first Australian Mixed team to win the Trans-Tasman Test Series**, bringing the trophy home from New Zealand for the very first time.

Australia also dominated the competition across all divisions, recording **3-0 series victories** in the **17 & Under, 20 & Under, and Mixed Opens** divisions.

Congratulations to Shane, Craig, the Australian Mixed Opens squad, and all of Team Australia on this outstanding achievement. We are incredibly proud to have members of the Palena family representing both our club and Australia on the international stage. Well done on making history!



END OF SEASON *Presentation Dinner*



19 SEPTEMBER 2026



6:30PM



ELWICK RACECOURSE
6 Goodwood Rd, Glenorchy TAS 7010



DRESS CODE: FORMAL

You'll see our usual black and yellow decorations however, we would love to see you wear a **pop of colour!**

SCAN TO PURCHASE
TICKETS



<https://www.trybooking.com/1621289>

Events and Fundraisers



PALENA
Netball Club

**FATHER'S DAY
RAFFLE**

★ SUPPORT OUR CLUB & WIN AMAZING PRIZES! ★



**SCAN TO
PURCHASE
TICKETS!**



TICKETS:
1 TICKET FOR \$5
3 TICKETS FOR \$10
(BUY MORE AND SAVE)



DRAWN:
30TH
AUGUST



DELIVERED OR
COLLECTION ORGANISED BY:
**SATURDAY
5TH SEPTEMBER**

1 THE ULTIMATE BBQ PACK

- 3 Cartons of Beer
(Donated by The Valley Sports Bar)
- Large variety meat tray
(From Right Priced Meats,
valued at \$150.00)
- BBQ Rub and Hot Sauce
Collection, 10 Piece Set |
Five seasoning rubs and
five chilli sauces in
assorted flavours
- BBQ digital meat
thermometer
- BBQ marinade injector
with dual needle
- BBQ basting brush



2 PENNICOTT WILDERNESS JOURNEYS VOUCHER



Allows 2 Adults to travel on an
award-winning Wilderness Cruise with
either Bruny Island Cruises or Tasman
Island Cruises, or in the Vista Lounge
with Wineglass Bay Cruises

3 DATE NIGHT



Savoy Day Spa Voucher
(Allows entry for 2 adults their bathhouse
which includes access to their
Spa/Pool/Sauna/Steam room)



**\$100 voucher to Hadley's
Orient Hotel | The Art Bar**
(Serving signature cocktails, beer,
wine and non-alcoholic beverages
as well as a range of style share plates)



State Cinema Tickets
(2 x adult vouchers)

4 \$50 BUNNINGS GIFT VOUCHER



Gift Voucher
\$50

5 TELFUN BEARD KIT FOR MEN

Grooming & Trimming Set
with Beard Wash Shampoo,
Oil, Balm, Brush, Comb,
Scissors & Storage Bag

6 BEARD GROOMING KIT

This package includes
all-natural beard oil, beard
balm with a sweet orange
scent, comb, scissors,
storage bag, and beard
care set

7 CLEAN & INDULGE PACK

- Armor All Clean & Detail Pack
(Comprehensive kit for complete
interior and exterior detailing,
restores shine to various surfaces,
including upholstery
and dashboards)
- Snack Pack (Assorted lollies and
chocolates in a 6-compartment
storage box)

★ **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PALENA NETBALL CLUB!** ★

Celebrating Our Panthers - On and Off the Court

At Palena Netball Club, we love celebrating our members' achievements on the court. Whether it's a 100, 200 or 300-game milestone, a premiership, an umpiring achievement or a coaching success, these moments are an important part of our club's history.

But our Panthers are so much more than netball players.

Our members achieve amazing things every day in their personal and professional lives, and we'd love to celebrate those milestones too. From graduations, new jobs and promotions, engagements, weddings, birthdays and new babies, to sporting achievements, volunteer awards and community recognition - every milestone is worth celebrating.

Palena is more than a netball club; we're a family. Sharing these special moments helps us get to know one another beyond the court and reminds us that our club is made up of incredible people doing incredible things.

Let's continue celebrating not only the milestones achieved in black and yellow, but also the achievements that make each member of our Panther family so special.

OFF TO AFRICA | Ella Anderson | 3rd Grade



♡ Panther Milestones ♡

"I've been lucky enough to be a part of a volunteer group of doctors (and little old me - a final year medical student) travelling to Kisumu, Kenya in August, where we will be working with the local hospital team to work on improving healthcare for mothers and their babies during pregnancy and childbirth!

This two week volunteering adventure will be one of my final placements of medical school, before I graduate at the end of this year as a junior doctor. I'm so excited to learn from the staff at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Hospital in Kisumu, and to gain a different perspective on medicine. I have also managed to squeeze in a week of African safari (because why not!) and hopefully will get to see the big 5 animals while I'm there! "

OFF TO MACQUARIE ISLAND, HEARD ISLAND & ANTARCTICA

Georgia Byrne (Mergard) | Premier League Reserves



♡ Panther Milestones ♡



♡ Panther Milestones ♡

"I work as a wildlife biologist with the Australian Antarctic Division and have been fortunate enough to go to Macquarie Island, Heard Island and Antarctica. My work focuses on monitoring penguin and seal populations in these remote environments.

A large part of my research involves extracting DNA from penguin and seal scat (poop!) to identify what they have been eating. By understanding their diets and how they change over time, we can better understand how climate change is affecting these very important species."

"I have proudly been a member of Palena Netball Club since under 11s. In early July this year, I completed my Certificate III in Baking apprenticeship—a five-year journey that required dedication, resilience, and plenty of early mornings. Throughout my apprenticeship, I had the opportunity to compete in several baking competitions,

including representing Tasmania at the National Excellence in Baking competition in Sydney after being selected as the 2022 State Excellence in Baking (Pastry) finalist. I am incredibly proud of what I have achieved and grateful for the opportunities the baking industry has given me to grow, challenge myself, and represent Tasmania on the national stage."



♡ Panther Milestones ♡

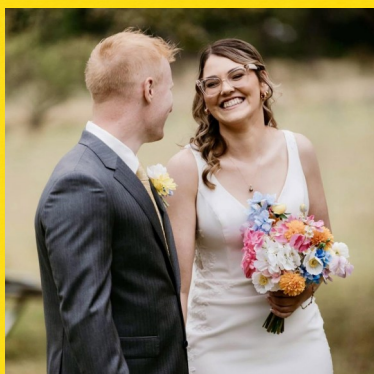


♡ Panther Milestones ♡

SHE GOT MARRIED

**Emma Wanicki (Weymouth)
Premier League Reserves**

Congratulations to Emma and Jake, who celebrated their wedding in March.



♡ Panther Milestones ♡

SHE GOT MARRIED

**Amy Galloway (McManus)
3rd Grade**

Congratulations to Amy and Joe, who celebrated their wedding in June.



♡ Panther Milestones ♡

SHE SAID YES

**Lucy Lambert
3rd Grade**

Congratulations to Lucy Lambert and Brandon Fisher on their recent engagement.



♡ Panther Milestones ♡



♡ Panther Milestones ♡



♡ Panther Milestones ♡

A FUTURE PANTHER

Georgie Fagg (Vince)

Congratulations to the Fagg family (Georgie, Henry and Rosie) on the safe arrival of beautiful baby girl Maggie who was born on the 2nd July 2026.

Parking

As we head into the busiest part of the netball season, we'd like to remind all players, families, officials and supporters to park safely when attending games at both the **AYC Courts** and **STNA**.

Please use designated parking areas wherever possible and avoid parking in locations that block driveways, emergency access points, footpaths or create hazards for pedestrians and other road users.

A few extra minutes to find a suitable parking space helps keep everyone safe and ensures we remain respectful of our surrounding community.

AYC COURTS



- ✓ You are more than welcome to park here!
- ✗ Please do not park here

AYC

STNA COURTS



- ✓ You are more than welcome to park here!
- ✗ Please do not park here

Front of centre (Court 1) carpark is reserved for those with a permit (STNA or Disability permit)

STNA



PALENA

Netball Club



TROPHY SPONSORSHIP

— OPPORTUNITY —

SUPPORT OUR PLAYERS. CELEBRATE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.

SPONSORSHIP INVESTMENT

— **\$750** —

Your sponsorship will help fund player recognition at our
End of Season Presentation Dinner.



**PLAYER
TROPHIES**



MEDALLIONS



**CLUB
AWARDS**

AS A TROPHY SPONSOR YOU WILL RECEIVE:



PROMOTION

across Palena Netball Club's
social media platforms



YOUR BUSINESS LOGO

displayed on our
event sponsor banner



ADVERTISING SPACE

in our club newsletter



RECOGNITION

during the End of Season
Presentation Dinner



PARTNER WITH PALENA NETBALL CLUB

Help us celebrate the commitment, sportsmanship and achievements
of our players while promoting your business to our growing netball community.



Palena Netball Club



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Palena Netball Club

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