



PALENA NETBALL CLUB

Panther News

October 2026

Inside this issue

STNA Club Championship	2
Finals.....	2
Presentation dinner	4
STNA Awards.....	6
Cubs	6
NetSetGo	7
Events	8
2027 Selections.....	9
AGM.....	9

A Season to Remember: More Than Netball, It's Community

As the 2026 netball season comes to a close, it is difficult to put into words everything this year has meant to our Palena Netball Club community. It has been a season filled with moments of pride, moments of heartbreak, laughter, challenges, celebrations and, above all, a reminder of what makes this club so special.

This year saw the launch of *Panther News*, with a simple but important goal – to keep our current and past members connected to the club we all call home. What began as a way of sharing news and updates quickly became something more. Through its pages, we celebrated the people who make Palena what it is.

We celebrated the incredible milestones of our players, officials and our umpires, whose tireless work often happens behind the scenes, giving their time week after week and continuing to develop their skills and progress through their accreditation. And we looked beyond the netball court to celebrate the personal and professional milestones of our members – because at Palena, the person matters just as much as the player. If there is one thing this season has taught us, it is that **Palena is more than a netball club. It is a community.** And like any community, we have been there for one another through the highs and the lows.

2026 was not without its challenges. We experienced personal loss within our Palena family. We ran multiple fundraisers to support our club and its future. We endured wet rounds – because apparently playing netball in sideways rain and freezing wind is just part of the Tasmanian experience. We watched players race between courts to fill in wherever they were needed, ensuring teams could take the court. We saw devastating, season-ending injuries that reminded us just how quickly a season can change.

There were difficult days. There were moments when things did not go to plan. But through every hurdle, there was someone there to help, someone to encourage, someone to step in and someone to celebrate alongside us. And amongst those challenges came some truly remarkable achievements.

We watched our juniors continue to grow and develop, with eight Palena juniors selected in STNA representative teams, an incredible reflection of the talent and dedication within our club. On Wednesday nights, our four top teams all reached finals, showcasing the depth and strength of our playing group. Across the season, Palena celebrated six premierships – six teams who stood together, fought through their seasons and ultimately reached the very top. And then there was the achievement that brought the entire club together. For the **second consecutive year**, we won the **STNA Bec Thomas Club Championship.**

As we close the chapter on the 2026 season, we can look back knowing that we achieved an incredible amount on the court. But perhaps our greatest achievement was something that cannot be measured in premierships, trophies or statistics. We strengthened our community. We celebrated one another. We supported one another. We laughed together, cried together, worked together and, ultimately, stood together.

And that is the true story of the 2026 Palena Netball Club season.



Back-To-Back Championships

The 2026 season has provided another outstanding chapter in the history of Palena Netball Club, with the club winning the **STNA Bec Thomas Club Champion for the second consecutive year**.

The Club Championship was presented at the STNA Presentation Dinner on 5 September, providing a fitting opportunity to celebrate the collective achievements of clubs across the association and recognise the outstanding season Palena has enjoyed.

With **19 teams competing throughout the 2026 season, 12 teams progressing into finals, 9 Grand Finalists and 6 Premierships**, the Club Championship is a wonderful reflection of the depth, commitment and consistency across our entire club.

Our six premiership-winning teams were:

- **13 & Under Division 3**
- **17 & Under Division 2**
- **17 & Under Division 4**
- **Men's Black**
- **2nd Grade**
- **7th Grade**

While these results are a significant achievement, the Club Championship represents much more than success on the scoreboard. It reflects the contribution of every person involved with Palena and the many hours of work that take place both on and off the court.

Our players have continued to demonstrate commitment, determination and pride in representing Palena throughout the season. Our coaches have played an equally important role, guiding and supporting 19 teams across the competition.

A special acknowledgement must go to those coaches who took on the responsibility of coaching multiple teams throughout the season. Their willingness to give their time and energy across more than one team is a significant contribution to the club.



Our 2026 coaching team included:

U9 - Justin Maw
11D - Lindy Maw
13C - Semele Bachelor
15B - Justin Maw & Lindy Maw
15C - Rahnee Butterworth
15D - Justin Maw
17B - Karen Leonard
17D - Lindy Maddock
21A - Karen Leonard
21B - Janelle Kava
Men's Black - Karen Leonard

Men's Yellow - Mike Tait
Premier League Reserves - Shane Free & Jai McWells
2nd Grade - Sandra McCann
3rd Grade - Casey Hutchinson
4th Grade - Georgia Byrne & Sam Williamson
5th Grade - Mike Tait
6th Grade Pink - Tanya Fisher
6th Grade Black - Rahnee Butterworth
7th Grade - Janelle Kava

The People Behind the Club

The achievements of the 2026 season would not have been possible without the commitment of our committee and the many volunteers who contribute throughout the year. Our 2026 Committee consisted of:

President - Janelle Kava
Vice President - Lindy Maw
Treasurer - Casey Hutchinson
Secretary - Tayla Wiseman
Registrar/Roster Convenor - Justin Maw
Senior Head Coaches - Jess Fielding & Mike Tait
Junior Head Coaches - Karen Leonard & Justin Maw
Coaching Convenor - Debbie Morrisby
Umpiring Convenor - Suzette Weeding
Sponsorship - Alisha Tilley
General Committee - Georgia Byrne, Tanya Fisher & Elspeth Fallon

From managing registrations and rosters to coordinating coaches, umpires, sponsorship, administration and club operations, the committee contributes countless hours throughout the season to ensure Palena continues to provide a strong and supportive environment for our members.

To achieve the Club Championship once is a significant accomplishment. To do it back-to-back is a reflection of the consistency and collective effort across the entire club.

The 2026 season has demonstrated what can be achieved when players, coaches, committee members, volunteers and supporters work together towards a common goal.

The STNA Bec Thomas Club Championship is a recognition of the contribution of the entire Palena Netball Club, and every person who has played a part in our 2026 season can take great pride in this achievement. Congratulations to everyone who has contributed to another outstanding season for Palena Netball Club.



2026 Presentation Dinner

On Saturday 19 September, Palena Netball Club came together at Elwick Racecourse for our 2026 End of Season Presentation Dinner, with 185 members joining us to celebrate another successful season. The evening provided an opportunity to reflect on the year and recognise the many people who contribute to making Palena the club it is today. Our major awards recognised club commitment, leadership and development, while our team awards celebrated the achievements and dedication of our players throughout the season.

We were proud to recognise members who have reached significant milestones playing in the black and gold. These milestones represent many years of commitment to the game, their teams and the Palena community.

10 Years Playing: Mackenzie Walker, Estelle Round, Amy Murphy, Safira Gillam, Margot Reid

20 Years Playing: Natalie Jenkins

While playing milestones are an important part of our club, Palena is also incredibly fortunate to have members who contribute in many ways beyond taking the court.

Justin Maw was recognised for **10 years of service** to Palena Netball Club.

A particularly significant milestone was celebrated by Sandra McCann, who reached an incredible **30years of service** to Palena Netball Club. Thirty years represents an extraordinary contribution to any organisation. Sandra's ongoing commitment, time and passion have made a lasting contribution to our club and are a wonderful example of the many ways people can make a difference within a sporting community.

Our Presentation Dinner was also a reminder that you do not have to play netball to be an important part of the Palena community. Whether through coaching, umpiring, volunteering, committee work, supporting a player, helping behind the scenes or simply being part of the club, there is a place for everyone at Palena.

Our club is built not only by the players who take the court, but by the many people who give their time, energy and support throughout the year. It is this sense of belonging and community that makes Palena more than just a netball club. Congratulations to all our award winners.



END OF SEASON

Award Winners 2026

MAJOR AWARDS

AWARD	RECIPIENT
Club Umpiring Award	Katelyn Ole
Judy Prokopiec Award	Will Green
Junior Coaching Award	Lindy Maw
Most Promising Junior Talent	Ava Lawler
Senior Coaching Award	Karen Leonard
Whole Club "Morrissy Maw" MVP Award	Amy Murphy
Best Club Person	Casey Hutchinson

SENIOR TEAM AWARDS

AGE GROUP / DIVISION	AWARD	AWARDEE
2nd Grade	Most Valuable Player	Amy Murphy
2nd Grade	Most Consistent	Chante Ellerton
3rd Grade	MVP	Claire Weeding
3rd Grade	Most Improved	Ella Anderson
4th Grade	BOYFAB Award	Emily Bonnily
4th Grade	Coaches Award	Brittany Splann
5th Grade	Most Determined	Amity Chick
5th Grade	Most Consistent	Sigrid Arnold
6th Grade Black	Players Player	Charis Pregnell
6th Grade Black	MVP	Elsie Oswin
6th Grade Pink	MVP	Carmen Woodmansee
6th Grade Pink	MVP Runner Up	Ashlee Williams
7th Grade	Players Player	Katie Bowden
7th Grade	Coaches Award	Bridget Caplice
Under 21A	MVP	Ella Maw
Under 21A	Most Improved	Lara Woodberry
Under 21B	Players Player	Neveah Hankin
Under 21B	Coaches Award	Margot Reid
PL Mens Black	MVP	Jai McWells
PL Mens Black	Above and beyond	Jaxon Thorpe
PL Mens Yellow	MVP	Oliver Bryant
PL Mens Yellow	Most Determined	Josh Madsen
Premier League Reserves	PLAYERS PLAYER AWARD	Ella McDonald
Premier League Reserves	COACHES' EXCELLENCE AWARD	Emma Wanicki

JUNIOR TEAM AWARDS

AGE GROUP / DIVISION	AWARD	AWARDEE
U11/4	Most Consistent	Georgia Barford
U11/4	Most Improved	Charlotte Devereaux
U13/3	Most Consistent	Juliette Robinson
U13/3	Most Dedicated	Lyla Ellerton
U15/2	Most Consistent	Aaleyah Manning
U15/2	Most Improved	Jasmine Devereaux
U15/3	Players Player	Katelyn Ole
U15/3	MVP	Indianna West
U15/4	Most Consistent	Blu Whiley
U15/4	Team-mate of the Year	Erin Neale
U17/2	MVP	Ava Lawler
U17/2	Most Improved	Claire Van Tienen-Hope
U17/4	"Best & Fairest Team Player"	Willow Barrett
U17/4	"True Grit Award"	Pyper Robertson

SERVICE CERTIFICATES

PLAYING SERVICE	SERVICE
20 Years – Natalie Jenkins	30 Years – Sandra McCann
10 Years – Safira Gillam	10 Years – Justin Maw
10 Years – Amy Murphy	
10 Years – Margot Reid	
10 Years – Estelle Round	
10 Years – Mackenzie Walker	

Congratulations ♥

TO ALL OF OUR AWARD WINNERS

Development Programs

At Palena, we know the future of our club starts with our youngest players, and we are excited to see our development programs continue to grow.

CUBS

The **Palena-developed Cubs Program** launched on Monday 21 September, welcoming our next generation of Panthers to the court. Designed specifically for our youngest players, this four-week program provides a fun, exciting and inclusive introduction to the fundamentals of netball.

Through games, activities and age-appropriate skill development, our Cubs are learning the basics of passing, catching, movement and teamwork while building confidence and developing their understanding of the game.

More than just learning netball, the Cubs Program is about creating positive first experiences on the court, encouraging friendships and helping our youngest members feel connected to the Palena Netball Club community from the very beginning.

It is fantastic to see our little Panthers getting involved, having fun and developing their skills. We look forward to watching these young players continue to grow, learn and hopefully become the next generation of Palena stars.

STNA Award Recipients

Palena Netball Club was proudly represented at the STNA Awards, with several of our members recognised for their contribution, development and commitment to netball. Congratulations to our 2026 recipients:

Bev Harris Umpire Encouragement Award
Will Green

Helen Adams Coach Award
Justin Maw

Club Service Award
Jess Fielding

Club Developing Coach Award
Janelle Kava

Helen Adams Memorial Award STiNgAs 17s
Ava Lawler

These awards recognise the dedication and contribution of our members both on and off the court. We are incredibly proud to see our Palena members recognised for their efforts and commitment to the wider netball community.





Woolworths 

NET SET GO! 

PRESENTED BY



Palena is also excited to be part of a new collaborative NetSetGO initiative, providing another fantastic pathway for young players to get involved in netball.

NetSetGO is a starter program for girls and boys aged 5-10, running over eight weeks from Monday 19 October to Monday 7 December.

Session Information

Where: Hobart Netball Sport Centre - Courts 7 & 8

When: Mondays at 4.00pm

Dates: 19 October - 7 December

Registration:

NET - Ages 5-6

<https://www.playhq.com/netball-australia/register/6c1a34>

SET & GO - Ages 7-8 and 9-10

<https://www.playhq.com/netball-australia/register/bb5ede>

These programs are an important part of Palena's commitment to developing young players and creating pathways for the next generation. We look forward to watching our future Panthers learn, grow and hopefully fall in love with the game just as much as we do.

PALENA

Netball Club

BBQ FUNDRAISER



**SUNDAY
18TH OCTOBER**



9:00AM – 4:00PM



**BUNNINGS
MORNINGTON**



Sausage Sizzle



PALENA
Netball Club

CLICK
HERE TO
REGISTER

2027 TEAM TRIALS

JUNIORS & SENIORS
BE PART OF PALENA NEXT SEASON



SATURDAY
7 NOVEMBER 2027



STNA
STADIUM 2



9:00AM –
2:00PM



AGE/GRADE SPECIFIC TIMES ARE IN THE REGISTRATION FORM

We will be trialing for under 11's through to under 21's,
Premier League / Premier League Reserves and women's grade.

Save
— THE —
Date

PALENA
Netball Club

AGM

(ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)



MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER



6PM



STNA GLASS ROOM



PALENA

Netball Club



Palena Netball Club

(Est. 1965)

(Palena Netball Club Inc.)

PO Box 893

Rosny Park Tas 7018



WEBSITE

Visit our website for club information, news, events and more.

www.palenanetballclub.com.au

VISIT NOW



FACEBOOK

Follow our public Facebook page for club news, updates and highlights.

facebook.com/MMIBPalenaNetballClub

FOLLOW



PRIVATE MEMBERS PAGE

Join our private members page for information, reminders and member updates.

facebook.com/groups/261566444916345

FOLLOW



INSTAGRAM

Follow us on Instagram for photos, updates and behind the scenes.

instagram.com/palenapanthers_official/

FOLLOW