

# Queensland 2001

Despite challenging times, Q Squash has remained positive, active and visible.

The highlight of 2001 involved the very successful staging of the Australian Selection Series. The Series is used each year to select the Australian Junior Representative Team to compete at the respective World Championships.

Queenslander, Lisa Camilleri received the ultimate honor. She was selected as #1 in the Australian Junior Women's Team to compete at the World Junior Championships in Malaysia. The year only got better for Lisa when she secured a scholarship to attend the AIS in 2002. A wonderful achievement for the Northern Region star!

Steve and Lisa Walton from Inform Connection presented the Australian Selection Series, which attracted 207 entries overall. 177 players competed in the first event. 184 players competed in the second event and 166 players competed in the third event. Queensland improved on its efforts in 2000 winning 13 titles compared to 2.

The Selection Series incorporated the Australian Youth Championships with National Titles up for grabs in the 19, 21 and 23 year age groups. NSW Champions, Cameron Pilley and Sarah Dubois successfully defended their 19YAG titles whilst Brad Hindle flew the Queensland flag in the 21YAG.

The Queensland Junior Championships were conducted in June in Mackay. The Championships were well organised by the Northern Region with excellent coverage in local newspapers and on local TV. Squash made TV news in Mackay!

Doubles were introduced for the first time at a State Championship as part of the Teams event. This initiative was extremely well received and enjoyed by all participants.

The stars of the QJC were undoubtedly Peta Hughes and Zoe Petrovansky. They each won two State Titles.

The Q Open attracted 144 entries compared to 92 entries in 2000. The 2001 Open champions were Anthony Ricketts and Robyn Cooper.

The Men's Final was an anti climax after two very demanding semi finals. Anthony Ricketts reached the final with a 3-2 victory over last year's winner Stewart Boswell whilst Paul Price battled for 1 hour 50 minutes to defeat the Netherlands Tommy Berden 3-2. Ricketts comfortably beat Price 3-0 in the final. A very warmed up Tommy Berden went on to win the 2001 Australian Open.

Robyn Cooper proved she still has what it takes when she successfully defended her title against World #17 Natalie Grinham 3-1. For Robyn it was a last minute decision to enter the event but it proved to be the good one!

Our Q Team attended the Australian Junior Championships in Sydney in September. Once again the maroons couldn't beat the blues in the overall but we will regroup and try again in 2002. Our 13YAG Team provided the only ray of

sunshine in the Teams event with a gutsy win against NSW on points. That was the first time NSW had lost that title since its inception in 1999.

Kimberley Bessell won the 13YAG National Title in fine style. Wearing Queensland colours for the final time, Kimberley remained undefeated for the entire Championship.

Peta Hughes turned the tables on fellow Queenslander Kasey Sinclair when she won the 14YAG title 3-1. Both girls capped off a great year when they were selected for the National Talent Squad.

In recognition of performances by Queenslanders at the Australian Junior Championships the following achievement medals were awarded: Jason Staines (Brisbane) received the **Austin Adarraga Achievement Medal** and Kimberley Bessell (Townsville) received the **Kay Barclay Achievement Medal**.

The Q Squash Inform Connection Brisbane Junior Graded Squash Circuit continues to attract solid participation. An average of 63 players attended each of the 6 graded events offered in 2001. The popular one-day events will be even more exciting in 2002. Queensland will select a Team to compete at the inaugural Australian Graded Championships in Melbourne in December.

On the coaching and development front, it was once again a very frustrating year. Only one Level 1 course was conducted. In an effort to ensure participants completed their Level 1, we extended the course by an extra day, 4-6 weeks after the normal two-day weekend. This initiative ensured the workbooks were completed and marked on the third day.

Two Squash Trainer Courses were conducted during 2001. Developed by Inform Connection the Squash Trainer Courses offer a good stepping-stone for potential coaches.

We are looking forward to 2002. Marc Forster will join the team as State Development Officer. Marc's positive attitude and enthusiasm for the game will be welcome. Kristy Taylor will replace Lara Thompson as our Trainee Administrative Assistant. We wish Lara all the best with her studies in 2002.

Our State Government continues to support our sport well. Their financial contribution is critical and very much appreciated. The State Government has just confirmed it will support Q Squash in 2002 with the same level of funding as it provided in 2001.

A new membership fee was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2001. A combination of rising costs and reduced funding has made it extremely difficult to contain membership rates. We have made a commitment to our members that there will be no increase in fees in 2002.

Unfortunately, when a sport is stagnant no one individual or organisation is to blame. It will take a **team** effort to change the shape of our sport over the next decade. Every person in the squash industry must contribute positively. It is a case

“Don’t ask what your country can do for you ... ask what you can do for your country”.

Thank you to all our member clubs who supported the State Body throughout the year.

I would like to thank my fellow Directors, staff and all our volunteers for their contributions in 2001. The following people deserve special recognition:

Muriel Atherton, Kay Barclay, Steve Derbyshire, Noel Forster, Bernard James, Kaye Kidd, Jan McDonald, Anne Turnbull and Bev Wise.

Kim Schramm  
Executive Director