

# Queensland 2002

From an events point of view 2002 was an excellent year for Queensland. Participation levels were very strong. From a membership and development perspective 2002 delivered some very tough times. Despite those frustrations many areas of the game remain in good health and continue to improve.

Queensland President Steve Derbyshire secured a place on the **Squash Australia Board** and finally, the Squash Australia Affiliation System was reviewed and made fairer.

A total of 22 Queenslanders participated at the 2002 **Australian Selection Series** in Sydney in April. The highlight for Queensland was the naming of Josh Cox as the reserve in the 2002 Australian Junior Men's Team.

Queensland managed to win two titles at the Selection Series. Lisa Camilleri won the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of the series beating AIS training partner Amelia Pittock in the 19YAG Girls final. Alexis Rowsell won the 15YAG Girls round robin title in the last event of the series.

The **Queensland Junior Championships** were conducted in June in Rockhampton. The Championships were hosted by Squash World and were well organised by the Central Region.

Four players dominated the finals of the Championships winning two titles each. Rockhampton's Peta Hughes and Brisbane's Zoe Petrovansky repeated their feats of 2001 whilst Zac Alexander (Brisbane) and Jessica Giblett (Rockhampton) achieved the feat for the first time.

Brisbane Region dominated the Team events winning all Doubles titles. For the first time since 1997, Brisbane Region won the overall Teams Championship ending a 5 year domination by Northern Region.

In another first, all participants completed a RAP (Rules Accredited Player) Course prior to competing in the Championships.

Ben Roberts took out the prestigious Peter Nance Achievement Award for most outstanding male player whilst Jessica Giblett won the Rachael Grinham Achievement Award for being the most outstanding female player.

The **Q Open** moved to Rockhampton for the first time. The Open attracted 145 entries compared to 144 in 2001 and 92 in 2000. The 2002 Open champions were Dan Jensen and Victoria's Dianne Desira.

The status of the Women's Event was raised to a WISPA Tour Event thanks to the generous support of Squash Australia and the Australian Sports Commission. This initiative was sparked by a need to create more opportunities for Australian players to gain ranking points on home soil.

The initiative was most successful contributing to the advancement of Dianne Desira, Amelia Pittock and Heidi Mather to enjoy World Top 50 positions at the close of 2002.

Dianne Desira won her first WISPA Tour Event with a gutsy 6-9, 0-9, 9-1, 9-3, 9-1 win over Heidi Mather.

Despite a tough semi final former World # 5 Dan Jensen defeated Australia's #1 junior Jhie Gough 15-12, 15-5, 15-8 in the final. Earlier Jensen won a tough encounter with Derek Hunter 15-11, 11-15, 15-12, 9-15, 15-11.

14YAG Australian Junior Champion Peta Hughes was named the inaugural Q Squash **Player of the Year** for the 2001-2002 year. Peta received her award for consistent winning performances at State and National Championships against both junior and senior players.

Our Q Team attended the **Australian Junior Championships** in Darwin in September. The largest contingent of Queenslanders flew to Darwin for the 2002 Championship. A total of 36 Queenslanders participated representing 26% of the overall competitors (a total of 139 players participated).

Despite winning two age groups the mighty maroons finished second overall. Unfortunately, the overall result is determined by a team's record throughout the entire Team's Championship.

Our 13YAG and 15YAG Teams were simply outstanding and remained undefeated throughout the Championship. Our 17YAG Team only lost to NSW in the final event. It was back to back titles for our 13YAG Team whilst our 15YAG Team won the Team Title for the first time in 10 long years.

Only 1 Queenslander became Australian Champion. Peta Hughes won the Girls 15YAG Title beating fellow Queenslander Kasey Sinclair for the second year running.

Peta remained undefeated during the entire Championships and won the Kay Barclay Achievement Medal in recognition of her performances. Nick Smith won the Austin Adarraga Achievement Medal in recognition of his courageous displays during the Championships.

The Q Squash Inform Connection Brisbane **Junior Graded** Squash Circuit continues to attract solid participation. An average of 66 players attended each of the 5 graded events offered in 2002 compared to 63 in 2001.

The inaugural Queensland Junior Graded Doubles Championship attracted 48 teams to the 2 day event held at Brookside in June 2002.

Queensland selected a squad of 17 players to compete at the inaugural Inform Australian Graded Championships in Melbourne in December. Kirsten Turnbull and Jaymee Haylock became Australian Graded Champions winning their respective grades in the Individual Event.

On the **International Stage** Queenslanders performed very well. Joseph Kneipp and Robyn Cooper teamed up for a Bronze Medal at the Manchester Commonwealth Games. Rachael and Natalie Grinham won a Bronze Medal for Women's Doubles whilst Rachael also secured another Bronze in Women's Singles.

Robyn Cooper and the Grinham sisters were also members of the victorious 2002 World Champion Australian Women's Team.

**Coaching & Refereeing Development** continues to be most challenging. Two level 1 Courses and one Level 2 course was conducted in 2002. RAP Courses were made compulsory for all junior players wishing to compete at the Queensland Junior Championships. 243 juniors attended such courses. Plans are already under way to introduce a RAP 2 Course in 2003.

Our **State Government** continues to support our sport extremely well. Their financial contribution is critical and very much appreciated. The State Government has just confirmed it will support Q Squash in 2003 with an improved level of funding compared to 2002. We have also secured a Special Initiative Grant to conduct a Junior Girls – Squash More into Life – Development Program over 3 years.

A new **membership system** was introduced in Brisbane in late 2002. The PAYG system has been designed to help clubs take in payment from players for organising the competition, affiliation and insurance. It also assists players financially in that they only pay a small component each time they play instead of lump sums payments up front.

**Thank you** to all our member clubs who supported the State Body throughout the year. We look forward to your ongoing support in 2003.

From a staff perspective we are looking forward to a very productive and successful 2003. Jessica Dyson will join the Q Squash Team replacing Kristy Taylor as our Trainee Administrative Assistant.

I would like to thank my fellow Directors, staff and all our volunteers for their contributions in 2002. The following people deserve special recognition: Muriel Atherton, Kay Barclay, Lisa Camilleri, Steve Derbyshire, Marc Forster, Noel Forster, Kaye Kidd, Maree Kleinhanss, Meryl Loss, Kristy Taylor, Anne Turnbull and Bev Wise.

**Kim Schramm**  
Executive Director