

Queensland 2004

In a nutshell, 2004 was the Year of the Queenslander!

Queensland won both the Junior and Senior National Team Titles. The Junior Title was extra special breaking the 11 year domination by NSW.

Queensland hosted the **2004 National Junior Tri Series** at Acacia Ridge in April.

Congratulations to Queenslanders Jacob Alexander (3 titles – 13YAG), Dijo Sexton (2 titles – 11YAG) Sam Fife (11YAG), Peta Hughes (17YAG) and Zoe Petrovansky (15YAG) on winning your respective age groups.

The **2004 Unlock the Pyramid** was conducted at Squash World Rockhampton with Brisbane Region securing the jackpot of \$2,100. From this event the Queensland Senior Team was selected to compete at the National Teams Championship in Adelaide in August. Craig Rowland, Brad Freeme, Steve Finitis, Lisa Camilleri, Sue Davis and Kristy Taylor won the right to represent Queensland.

The **2004 Marie Donnelly Queensland Junior Championships** were conducted in June/July at Blake Street Squash Centre Toowoomba. The Championships were well organised by the Southern Region.

In the Individual Championship, Brisbane's Zoe Petrovansky won her fourth double title in as many years. This year Zoe won the 14YAG and 15YAG Girls Events. Peta Hughes won her second double title winning the 17YAG and 19YAG Girls events. Both girls have now won 9 State Titles each.

Brisbane Region again dominated the Team Championship winning 81 rubbers and only losing 27 rubbers. Again the inclusion of doubles in the Teams Championship proved very popular.

Nathan Turnbull took out the prestigious Peter Nance Achievement Award for most outstanding male player whilst Peta Hughes won the Rachael Grinham Achievement Award for being the most outstanding female player. Both players were then rewarded with the Captaincy of the Queensland Sharks.

Queensland won the **2004 National Teams Championship** in Adelaide in August. The mighty maroons defeated WA in a close tie. In the final Craig Rowland and Steve Finitis had comfortable wins whilst Lisa Camilleri set up the victory by securing two games against Amanda Hopps. Sue Davis secured very good points despite losing in three.

The **2004 Q Open** was again held at Squash World in Rockhampton and attracted 178 entries compared to 163 entries in 2003, 145 in 2002, 144 in 2001 and 92 in 2000. The 2004 Open Champions were Raj Nanda (VIC) and Natalie Grinham (QLD).

Thanks to the generous support of Squash Australia and the Australian Sports Commission both open events were run as Satellites. This ensured full fields and a wonderful mix of local, interstate and international players.

Our Q Team attended the **2004 Australian Junior Championships** in Canberra in September. A total of 34 Queenslanders participated in the Championship.

Overall, the MIGHTY MAROONS were simply awesome.

We won the 13YAG Boys, Girls and Combined Teams. This ensured we won the overall title for the 4th year running. Congratulations to Jacob Alexander, Matt Hopkin, Jamie McErvale, Rachel Mahon, Kelly Preston and Dijo Sexton.

We won the 15YAG Boys, Girls and Combined Teams. Congratulations to Zac Alexander, Julius Krauss, Adam Morgan, Rheanne Niebling, Zoe Petrovansky and Leanne Ward.

We won the 17YAG Girls and Combined Teams. We had to settle for 2nd in the Boys Teams but special mention must be made of the Nathan Stevenson victory over Andrew Budd. It ensured a 3-1 victory for our Combined Teams. Congratulations to Nathan Stevenson, Peter Taylor, Jayden Wadd, Samantha Davies, Peta Hughes, Kasey Sinclair.

Our 19YAG Team had to settle for second in all categories but their efforts ensured an overall victory for Queensland. Congratulations to Luke Forster, Risto Krauss, Nathan Turnbull, Britt Marie Paasonen and Laura Stock.

Two coaches deserve very special recognition. Noel Forster and Kay Barclay influenced a fantastic victory. Thank you for everything.

Three Queenslanders became Australian Champions: Matt Hopkin (Boys 13YAG), Zac Alexander (Boys 15YAG), Kasey Sinclair (Girls 17YAG).

Zac Alexander won the Austin Adarraga Achievement Medal whilst Rheanne Niebling won the Kay Barclay Achievement Medal in recognition of their consistent performances throughout the Championships.

Nathan Stevenson won the SUPERSHARK Award for the Most Valuable Player as voted by all Queensland Team Members.

Queensland selected a squad of 14 players to compete at the **Grays Australian Junior Graded Championships** in Melbourne in December. Bethany Brazier, Samantha Davies, Angela Fisher, Andrew Fraser, Jaymee Haylock, Caitlin McCutchen became Australian Graded Champions winning their respective grades in the Individual Event.

Samantha Davies and Cassandra Harradine teamed up again to win the Girls A Grade **I Mask Australian Graded Doubles Championship**. It was back to back championships for a pair who still remain undefeated.

On the **International Stage** Queenslanders performed very well. Rachael Grinham was the star of the show. Rachael became World Number 1 in August. Rachael led the Australian Senior Women's Team to a World Championship victory in October. She won her second successive British Open in November. Despite a

loss in the semi final of the World Championships to the eventual winner Rachael remains World # 1.

Natalie Grinham enjoyed tremendous success on home soil winning the 2004 Australian Open before taking out the 2004 Q Open in her home State. Natalie was a member of the winning Australian Senior Women's Team at the World Team Championships. Natalie finished off the year in style finishing runner up at the 2004 World Women's Open Championship. Natalie finished 2004 ranked # 5.

Joseph Kneipp didn't enjoy tremendous success in 2004 but he remained solid. He commenced the year ranked # 10 and finished the year ranked # 11.

Coaching & Refereeing Development was positive in 2004. The Girls Development Program remains our prime development program. The Program looks after the girls for the entire year each week during the school terms.

Four Girls from the GDP were selected to represent Queensland at the Australian Junior Graded Championships. Three Champions emerged: Angela Fisher (C Grade), Bethany Brazier (D Grade) Caitlin McCutchen (Novice).

A new program has just commenced in Mackay with 20 girls under the watchful eye of State Coach Kay Barclay.

Our **State Government** continues to support our sport extremely well. Their financial contribution each year is critical and very much appreciated.

A BIG Thank you to all Q Squash member clubs who supported the State Body throughout the year. We look forward to your ongoing support in 2005.

Thank you to my current administration team: Marc Forster, Kerri Kal, Amie Lloyd and Damian Tomasich for all your efforts and achievements throughout 2004.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Directors and all our volunteers for their contributions in 2004. The following people deserve special recognition: Muriel Atherton, Kay Barclay, Pat Barrett, Lisa Camilleri, Bob Cartwright, Steve Derbyshire, Steve Finitis, Noel Forster, Ian Freeme, Meryl Loss, Alex Petrovansky, Tony Sinclair, Anne Turnbull and Nathan Turnbull.

Kim Schramm
Chief Executive Officer