

Queensland 2005

2005 was a very active and rewarding year for Queensland and Q Squash.

Queensland won the Australian Junior Team Title for the second year in succession. The highlight was the 5th straight victory for our 13YAG Team.

Q Squash delivered: the Queensland Junior Championships, the Queensland Open, Unlock the Pyramid, five Rookie Pro PSA & WISPA Challengers, two seasons of Southside Squash League, three Pro League Grand Finals, ten Junior Superleague Nights and the 3rd event of the National Junior Series.

Q Squash delivered the inaugural 2004 Queensland Squash Awards. The highlight of that evening was the induction of Rhonda Thorne and Rodney Eyles into our Queensland Squash Hall of Fame.

Squash Australia also presented an Awards evening. Queensland Sharks Coach Noel Forster won Coach of the Year. Queenslanders Brian Jarvis and Neil Corkery were also presented with the PSCAA Coach of the Year for 2003 and 2004 respectfully. Congratulations to all our winners.

Queensland hosted the 3rd event of the **2005 National Junior Series** at Wynnum West in May. Queenslanders Peta Hughes and Kasey Sinclair were selected to represent Australia. Their hopes and dreams were shattered a few weeks later when both players sustained serious leg injuries.

Their withdrawal paved the way for Samantha Davies to be added to the team. That first hand experience was invaluable for Davies who is still eligible for the 2007 team.

Due to unsynchronised school holidays, Queensland only sent a small squad to Adelaide hence our results were below expectation. Congratulations to Peta Hughes on winning the first event in the 19YAG Girls.

The **2005 Unlock the Pyramid** was conducted at Wynnum West with Northern Region securing \$900. From this event the Queensland Senior Team was selected to compete at the National Teams Championship in Adelaide in September. Steve Finitsis, Brad Freeme, Luke Forster, Lisa Camilleri, Sue Davis and Kristy Taylor won the right to represent Queensland.

The **2005 Marie Donnelly Queensland Junior Championships** were conducted in June at the Mackay Leisure Centre. The Championships were well organised by the Northern Region.

Atherton's Dijo Sexton, Gold Coast's Sam Fife and Brisbane's Zac Alexander and Samantha Davies were the stars of the Individual Championships winning duel age groups.

Brisbane Region again dominated the Team Championship winning 86 rubbers and only losing 22 rubbers. It was the 4th straight victory for the Brisbane Vipers.

Zac Alexander took out the prestigious **Peter Nance Achievement Award** for most outstanding male player whilst Zoe Petrovansky won the **Rachael Grinham Achievement Award** for being the most outstanding female player.

The Queensland Senior Team had to settle for second at the **2005 National Teams Championship** in Adelaide in September. Defending their 2004 title, the Stingrays gave it their absolute best but lost a close tie to South Australia by one game.

The 89 minute match between Brad Freeme (World #247) and Simon Carruthers (World #74) was the highlight of the Championship. Freeme fought back from 0-2 to win 3-2 and keep the tie alive. The final score line was 5-9 4-9 9-5 9-4 9-4.

The **2005 Q Open** was held at Labrador on the Gold Coast. The centre was well presented and attracted good quality fields in both the men's and women's open events. The 2005 Open Champions were Cameron Pilley (NSW) and Lisa Camilleri (QLD).

It was Lisa Camilleri's first Q Open and her victory was full of merit. She defeated previous winner Dianne Desira (World #38) in the semi final 9-2 3-9 2-9 9-1 9-1 and Melissa Martin (World #30) in the final 9-7 1-9 9-2 9-7.

Our Q Team attended the **2005 Australian Junior Championships** in Ballarat in September. A total of 36 Queenslanders participated in the Championship.

Once again, the MIGHTY QUEENSLAND SHARKS proved too good.

We won the 13YAG Boys, Girls and Combined Teams. This ensured we won the overall title for the 5th year running. Congratulations to Jason Barrett, Georgina Cumming, Sam Fife, John Peacey, Kelly Preston and Dijo Sexton.

We won the 15YAG Boys, Girls and Combined Teams. Congratulations to Jaymee Haylock, Julius Krauss, Rachel Mahon, Matthew Muller, Zoe Petrovansky and Sunil Seth.

The 17YAG Boys, Girls and Combined Teams finished 2nd. Congratulations to Zac Alexander, Peter Taylor, Adam Morgan, Samantha Davies, Cassandra Harradine and Laura Stock.

The 19YAG Boys and Combined Teams finished 2nd. The Girls finished 3rd. Congratulations to Risto Krauss, Nathan Stevenson, Nathan Turnbull, Peta Hughes and Britt Marie Paasonen.

Our two coaches deserve special recognition. Noel Forster and Kay Barclay influenced a fantastic victory. Kasey Sinclair also deserves special praise. Despite recovering from a full knee reconstruction, Kasey assisted Kay Barclay and coached a number of her team mates in the individual championships.

Three Queenslanders became Australian Champions: Julius Krauss (Boys 15YAG), Zoe Petrovansky (Girls 15YAG) and Dijo Sexton (Girls 13YAG).

Julius Krauss won the Austin Adarraga Achievement Medal whilst Zoe Petrovansky won the Kay Barclay Achievement Medal in recognition of their consistent performances throughout the Championships.

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

The **2005 Rookie Pro Circuit** concluded in Mackay in November. Brad Freeme and Lisa Camilleri won the RPC for the second year in succession.

Five events were conducted under the RPC umbrella. All events are PSA and WISPA Challengers. Q Squash provided on site management services for the opens at Wavell, Acacia Ridge and Caboolture.

Queensland selected a squad of 11 players to compete at the **2005 Grays Australian Junior Graded Championships** in Melbourne in December. Samantha Davies won back to back open titles whilst Angela Fisher won the B Grade title to add to the C Grade title she won in 2004.

Samantha Davies and Cassandra Harradine teamed up again to win the Girls A Grade Doubles title for the 3rd straight year at the **I Mask Australian Graded Doubles Championship**. The pair still remain undefeated in doubles competition.

On the **International Stage** Queenslanders performed very well. Rachael Grinham reigned as World Number 1 from August 2004 to November 2005. As World #2 in December, Rachael reached her first World Women's Open Championship final but the champagne didn't flow in the Grinham household for the second straight year.

Natalie Grinham won the US Open and finished the year ranked # 4. Natalie was also runner up at the British Open.

In late 2004 Rachael and Natalie teamed up to win the World Women's Doubles Championship. Rachael also partnered David Palmer to win the World Mixed Doubles Championship.

No Queensland men finished the year in the PSA Top 20. Our best result was Joseph Kneipp who finished # 24.

Development was positive in 2005. The Girls Development Program concluded its 3 year funding agreement in December. The Program introduced over 120 girls to our sport and many have caught the "squash bug" and are playing the game as their main sport.

The highlight of the program has been the emergence of Caitlin McCutchen who won the Girls 13B title at the Queensland Junior Championships. Caitlin also came 3rd in the 12YAG event and looks set to make the Queensland Team in the not too distant future.

New programs began at Deception Bay, Emerald and Blake St, Toowoomba.

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 2006.

Thank you to my current administration team: Kerri Kal, Kasey Sinclair and Damian Tomasich for all your efforts and achievements throughout 2005. During the year Marc Forster resigned as our State Development Officer to pursue new ventures. Thankfully, Marc is not lost from the industry.

Finally, I would like to thank my Board of Directors: Steve Derbyshire, Pat Barrett, Bernie James, Alex Petrovansky and Gavin Rowan. Also, our Regional Advisory Committee: Muriel Atherton, Noel Forster, Tony Sinclair and Anne Turnbull.

A special thanks to our coaches and volunteers for their contributions in 2005. The following people deserve special recognition: Kay Barclay, Noel Forster, Ian Freeme and Meryl Loss.

Kim Schramm
Chief Executive Officer