

Queensland 2006

2006 was a very productive year ON COURT with Queensland winning both the National Senior and Junior Team titles. OFF COURT it was a different story. Q Squash experienced significant political turmoil which has only damaged the reputation of our sport and severely jeopardized critical funding. Let's hope 2007 will see progress made toward resolving the issues.

On a more positive note, Queensland won the Australian Junior Team title for the third straight year. They have now won the 13YAG title for the past 6 years. Our senior team bounced back from the disappointment of losing a very close encounter last year to win the National title for the 2nd time in four years.

Q Squash delivered: the Queensland Junior Championships, the Queensland Open, Unlock the Pyramid, the National Teams Championship, seven Rookie Pro PSA & WISPA Challengers, two seasons of Southside Squash League and two Pro League Grand Finals.

Q Squash delivered the 2005 Queensland Squash Awards. The highlight of the evening was the induction of Marion Jackman into our Queensland Squash Hall of Fame. Marion was a finalist in the 1976 Women's World Open Squash Rackets Championship in Brisbane against the legendary Heather McKay. Effectively the result rated Marion the second best player in the World at the time. Marion also won a record 11 Queensland Opens in succession.

Queenslanders fared well at the Squash Australia Awards night. Former World Champion Rhonda Thorne was inducted into the Squash Australia Hall of Fame. Queensland Sharks Coach Kay Barclay won Coach of the Year and Julius Krauss was named Junior Athlete of the Year. Congratulations to all our winners.

Queenslanders Zac Alexander and Nathan Stevenson were selected to represent Australia at the World Championships in New Zealand. Alexander won the Plate event.

The **2006 Unlock the Pyramid** was conducted at Caboolture with Central Region winning the event for the first time and securing \$600 for their efforts. From this event the Queensland Senior Team was selected to compete at the National Teams Championship in Brisbane in September. Craig Rowland, Nathan Stevenson, Carl Hampson, Peta Hughes, Kristy Taylor and Georgina Davis won the right to represent Queensland.

The **2006 Marie Donnelly Queensland Junior Championships** were conducted in June at Squash World in Rockhampton. The Championships were very well organised by the Central Region.

Atherton's Dijo Sexton and Brisbane's Zoe Petrovansky were the stars of the Individual Championships winning duel age groups.

Brisbane Region won the Team Championship for the 5th straight year. However, it wasn't the dominance of previous years with Central Region winning both the

13YAG and 15YAG. Whilst BR narrowly won the 17YAG, Northern Region was the undefeated team.

Jacob Alexander took out the prestigious **Peter Nance Achievement Award** for most outstanding male player whilst Rheanne Niebling won the **Rachael Grinham Achievement Award** for being the most outstanding female player. For the first time a brother and sister combination won the Chris Robertson Encouragement Award and the Rachael Grinham Encouragement Award. Brisbane's TJ and Lakeesha Rarere were deserving recipients of these awards.

The **2006 Q Open** was held for the first time at Scottvale Park in Rockhampton. The centre was well presented and both the men's and women's open events were keenly contested. The major sponsor was the Rockhampton City Council for which we are most grateful. The 2006 Open Champions were Dan Jenson (SA) and Lisa Camilleri (QLD).

Lisa Camilleri (World #63) successfully defended her title. She defeated previous winner Dianne Desira (World #40) and rising star Peta Hughes (World #74) in the round robin contest.

The Queensland Senior Team won the **2006 National Teams Championship** in Brisbane in September. The team lost to NSW in the Round Robin matches but stormed home to win the semi final against the #1 seeds and defending champions SA and finally, revenge their round robin loss against NSW in the final. Steve Finitsis was a last minute replacement for Craig Rowland and led the way magnificently.

Our Q Team attended the **2006 Australian Junior Championships** in Devonport in September. A total of 38 Queenslanders participated in the Championship.

Once again, the MIGHTY QUEENSLAND SHARKS proved too strong. This time they created history as the first Queensland team to win all four age groups.

The sharks won the 13YAG Girls and Combined Teams. We finished 2nd in the 13YAG Boys. Winning the overall 13YAG title for the 6th year in succession was the highlight. Congratulations to Jason Barrett, Bethany Brazier, Georgina Cumming, Sam Fife, Dijo Sexton and Jack Somerville.

They won the 15YAG Boys, Girls and Combined Teams. Congratulations to Jacob Alexander, Stuart Craig, Rachel Mahon, Jamie McErvale, Lana Peta and Kelly Preston. A great clean sweep!

They won the 17YAG Boys, Girls and Combined Teams achieved another clean sweep. Congratulations to Zac Alexander, Julius Krauss, Matthew Muller, Rheanne Niebling, Zoe Petrovansky and Tayla Sinclair.

They won the 19YAG Girls and Combined Teams. The Boys finished 3rd. Congratulations to Samantha Davies, Peta Hughes, Dominic Mobbs, Britt Marie Paasonen, Nathan Stevenson and Peter Taylor.

Our two coaches deserve special recognition. Noel Forster and Kay Barclay influenced another fantastic victory.

Four Queenslanders became Australian Champions: Sam Fife (Boys 13YAG), Matt Hopkin (Boys 15YAG), Zac Alexander (Boys 17YAG) and Peta Hughes (Girls 19YAG).

Zac Alexander was named the MC Hazel Award winner for 2006. He became the first male winner of the Award from Queensland. Congratulations Zac.

Zac Alexander won the Austin Adarraga Achievement Medal whilst Peta Hughes won the Kay Barclay Achievement Medal in recognition of their consistent performances throughout the Championships. Both players won all their matches 3-0 and simply dominated their respective age groups.

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

The **2006 Rookie Pro Circuit** concluded in Caloundra in December. Nathan Stevenson and Peta Hughes capped off a great year by winning the Rookie Pro Circuit.

Seven 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, Wynnum West, Caboolture and Caloundra.

On the **International Stage** Queenslanders performed very well. Rachael Grinham improved one position finishing the year at World # 2. The highlight for Rachael in 2006 was winning the US Open and the World Mixed Doubles title at the beginning of the year with fellow Queenslanders Joseph Kneipp.

Sister Natalie finished the year ranked # 4. However, the month of March saw Natalie steal the show at the 2006 Commonwealth Games. She won individual gold before teaming up with sister, Rachael to win the Women's Doubles and Joseph Kneipp to win the mixed doubles. Natalie finished the year on a high winning the Monte Carlo Classic after finishing runner up for the second time in the World Open.

Rising star Peta Hughes broke into the top 50 with a world ranking of 46 in November. 12 months earlier Hughes was ranked at # 142. Hughes ended the year at # 43.

Melissa Martin reached a career high ranking of # 25 in October and finished the year in the same position whilst Lisa Camilleri reached a career high 52 in July before slipping back to finish the year at # 63.

No Queensland men finished the year in the PSA Top 20. Our best result was Joseph Kneipp who finished # 39. Top 100 Queenslanders included Steve Finitsis (85) and Brad Hindle (86). Kneipp was awesome on the doubles court and finished the year on a high winning the Canary Islands Open.

Development was mixed in 2006. The year began with Q Squash participating in the 3rd Central Region Junior Development Camp. The Q Squash Girls Junior Development Program continued for the first six months of the year at Deception Bay, Emerald and Mackay.

Development Plans for Athletes, Coaches and Referees were drafted and a very exciting new program has been designed for young players under the age of 11. The "Squash 11 Program" will be launched in 2007.

On the Coaching front Q Squash delivered a Level 1 course in Brisbane in October. Eight participants attended the course. On the Refereeing front Q Squash delivered a RAP Course for players on the Southside in September. Nineteen players attended the course.

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

Once again 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 2007.

Thank you to my current administration team: Kerri Kal, Vicki Schramm and Damian Tomasich for all your efforts and achievements throughout 2006.

Finally, I would like to thank my Board of Directors: Steve Derbyshire, Ian Freeme, Bernie James and Gavin Rowan. Special thanks to Muriel Atherton, Noel Forster and Tony Sinclair for their ongoing support during 2006.

A special thanks to our coaches and volunteers for their contributions in 2006. The following people deserve special recognition: Kay Barclay, Noel Forster, Ian Freeme and Meryl Loss.

Kim Schramm
Chief Executive Officer