

Wyong District Netball Association

2012 Vision Plan Baker Park Netball Complex

Monday 26th February 2007

Overview of WDNA

- Established 1961
- Currently have over 2,000 registered members
- Largest female sport in the Wyong Shire
- Entirely volunteer based
- Estimated that between 8,000 – 10,000 people attend Baker Park every Sat of the competition
- WDNA is made up of approximately 20 separate clubs from all over the Wyong Shire
- Competition runs for 19 weeks between April and September
- Field 9 Rep. teams that consistently finish in the top 10 of the state
- Baker Park is the Regional Facility for netball
- WDNA has made many large contributions to the local community since its inception

A Brief History

- **Grassed Courts** – In 1961 the Baker Park Netball Complex was opened as a field of grassed netball courts.
- **Asphalt Courts** - Asphalt courts were built later on with the help of the Dep't of Sport and Rec., along with contributions from WDNA and personal donations.
- **The Pollock Avenue Solution** - In the late 80s, WDNA Executive met with the mayor, Tony Sheridan, and were presented with a plan to develop the Pollock Avenue Sporting Complex (where the current hockey fields are). This plan moved soccer and cricket to the new complex and WDNA were to get the rest of Baker Park for court expansion. This plan was never realised.
- **The Masterplan** – In 1997, WDNA were presented with a Masterplan for the Wyong area which included improvements to the Netball Complex. The Masterplan promised to increase our court numbers from 21 to 30. This plan was only partially realised.

A Brief History (Cont).

- **New Courts** – In 2001 WSC fulfilled part of their Masterplan promise by building 3 additional courts at Baker Park, bringing our court total to 24 as it still stands today. A fourth court was planned but was abandoned due to time constraints on the grant, problems with Wyong Tennis Club and a change to the location of our new clubhouse.
- **New Clubhouse** – In 2001, with the help of a Dep't of Sport & Rec grant of \$75,000, WDNA invested \$275,000 into a new clubhouse for Baker Park. Councils contribution to the clubhouse was a security light system.
- **Ongoing Clubhouse Improvements** – Between 2001 and 2007 WDNA have made the following improvements to the clubhouse at their own expense:
 - construction of wheelchair access ramps; and
 - window tinting.

A Brief History (Cont).

- **Repairs/Maintenance** – After 2001, WSC spent approx. \$6,000 on repairs to a number of courts and the improvement of the drainage system near the soccer fields.
- **Lights Upgrade** – In 2006 WSC won a \$40,000 grant to upgrade the lights on 3 of our courts. As yet these improvements haven't been made, but are scheduled for completion in 2007.
- **Draft Wyong /Tuggerah Planning Strategy** – Presented in late 2006, this document includes the following improvements to the Netball Complex:
 - an additional 11 courts to bring our court numbers up to 35;
 - parking solutions; and
 - general aesthetic improvements to the streetscape.
- **Ongoing Maintenance** – At the beginning of every year WSC asks us what basic things need doing. Generally this includes line remarking, sweeping of the courts and general maintenance.

Strengths and Weaknesses

- Well established sporting association
- Solid financial position with funds available for improvements
- Cost-efficient sport
- Located in a growth area
- Proximity to Sydney
- Largest female sport in the Wyong Shire
- Support from Netball NSW
- Competitive at a State and Regional level
- Lack of courts and available court space
- Lack of infrastructure (e.g. seating & shelter)
- Land does not belong to WDNA
- Reliance on the co-operation of many parties
- Relationship with Council is ineffective
- Lack of community profile
- Not prepared for the future

Opportunities and Threats

- Grants (e.g. Dep't of Sport & Rec, Cancer Council)
- Sponsorship from local businesses
- Hosting of State/Regional Netball Events (e.g. State/State Age)
- Other events (e.g. Rep Carnivals, Exhibition Matches)
- Establish and use community profile
- Draft Wyong/Tuggerah Planning Strategy
- Election year
- Other sports in the Wyong Shire
- Other regional netball Associations (eg Gosford)
- Land availability
- Undelivered promises
- Time
- Lack of resources (eg funding options)

Aim

To bring the Baker Park Netball Complex up to the standard of other Regional Netball Facilities, thus providing for the growing needs of Wyong Shire's expanding local community, raising the profile of netball on the Central Coast, and enabling WDNA to remain competitive with Sydney and other Regional Netball Associations.

Objectives

- **Objective 1** – To increase the number of courts at Baker Park from 24 to 34 by 2012, with the first 6 courts completed by 2009.
- **Objective 2** – To enhance existing and provide additional netball-oriented infrastructure at Baker Park by 2012.
- **Objective 3** – To bid for and host the State Age Championships by 2012.

Objectives (Cont.)

- **Objective 4** – To raise our community profile so that by 2012 netball is the No. 1 recognised female sport in the Wyong Shire.
- **Objective 5** – To streamline our relationship with Wyong Shire Council by the start of our 2008 season.
- **Objective 6** – To become the No. 1 regional netball Association (outside of Sydney) in NSW by 2012.

STRATEGY

Objective 1 – To increase the number of courts at Baker Park from 24 to 34 by 2012, with the first 6 courts completed by 2009.

- **Strategy 1** – Begin and complete construction of first 6 courts by 2009. Action plan is to:
 - liaise with Council about where, when and how additional courts will be arrived at with details in concrete no later than the end of 2007; and
 - if necessary, apply for funding (e.g. Dep't of Sport and Recreation) to offset cost of the new courts.

- **Strategy 2** – Begin and complete construction of additional 4 courts by 2012. Action plan is to:
 - liaise with Council about where, when and how additional courts will be arrived at with details in concrete no later than the end of 2007; and
 - if necessary, apply for funding (e.g. Dep't of Sport and Recreation) to offset cost of the new courts.

STRATEGY

Objective 2 – To enhance existing and provide additional netball-oriented infrastructure at Baker Park by 2012.

- **Strategy 1** – To provide shelter for users of the Baker Park Netball Complex by 2009. Action plan is to:
 - build an awning on the court side of the existing clubhouse structure;
 - build a permanent free-standing shelter between Show Court A and Court 1;
 - explore the possibility of other sheltered areas around the outskirts of the courts. Will depend on where new courts are to be built; and
 - if necessary, apply for funding (e.g. Cancer Council) to offset some of the cost of the new sheltered areas.

STRATEGY

Objective 2 – To enhance existing and provide additional netball-oriented infrastructure at Baker Park by 2012 (Cont).

- **Strategy 2 – To provide seating for users of the Baker Park Netball Complex by 2009. Action plan is to:**
 - build tiered seating underneath the new sheltered area (See Strategy 1) between Show Court A and Court 1;
 - erect single-level seating on the asphalt area between Courts 8 and 9;
 - erect single-level seating around the outskirts of the courts. Will depend on where the new courts are to be built; and
 - explore sponsorship options within the local business community to fund partial cost of seating.

STRATEGY

Objective 2 – To enhance existing and provide additional netball-oriented infrastructure at Baker Park by 2012 (Cont).

- **Strategy 3 – To bring existing netball courts up to a good playing standard by 2009. Action plan is to:**
 - have the existing 24 netball courts re-surfaced;
 - have lines remarked;
 - have the existing goal posts replaced; and
 - if necessary, apply for funding to offset some of the cost.

- **Strategy 4 – To improve existing security of clubhouse by 2008. Action plan is to:**
 - have security shutters installed on all windows; and
 - explore sponsorship options within local business community to offset cost.

STRATEGY

Objective 2 – To enhance existing and provide additional netball-oriented infrastructure at Baker Park by 2012 (Cont).

- **Strategy 5 – To provide all-weather training and playing facilities by 2012. Action plan is to:**
 - erect a large shelter that will cover 2 of our existing netball courts (namely Court B and Court C); and
 - apply for funding and explore sponsorship options within local business community to offset some of the cost of the new shelter.

- **Strategy 6 – To provide additional car-parking space by 2009. Action plan is to:**
 - liaise with Wyong Racecourse about using their grounds for parking during our netball season beginning in 2007 (short-term solution only); and
 - liaise with Council about where, when and how additional parking will be arrived at. These details should be in concrete no later than the end of 2007.

STRATEGY

Objective 3 – To bid for and host the State Age Championships by 2012.

- **Strategy 1** – To increase courts from 24 to 30 by 2009. See Objective 1 for Action Plan.
- **Strategy 2** – To host the State Age Netball Championships in 2011/2012. Action plan is to:
 - prepare and lodge hosting application to Netball NSW by 2009 to host the 2011 Championships;
 - should our first bid be unsuccessful, re-submit our application in 2010 to host the 2012 Championships;
 - lobby Netball NSW to help ensure favourable outcome of hosting bids;
 - liaise with other neighbouring regional Associations that will provide additional venues for the event; and
 - liaise with other interested parties about participation in the event (e.g. Central Coast Tourism, local radio stations, local media, Wyong Shire Council, Central Coast Academy of Sport, NBN etc.)

State Age Championships

- Junior State Competition for girls aged 12 to 15.
- Annual event held in the July for 3 days.
- Approx. 5,300 people are involved in this event including players, umpires, coaches, managers and officials.
- It is estimated that including accommodation, meals and transport these people will generate \$1.5 million for the Central Coast.
- A further 6,200 spectators (2 per player) will also attend the event.
- Spectator spending is estimated at \$1 million.
- All up it is estimated that this event would inject \$2.5 million into the local community.

STRATEGY

Objective 4 – To raise our community profile so that by 2012 netball is the No. 1 recognised female sport in the Wyong Shire.

- **Strategy 1** – To increase participation in netball at the grass-roots level. Action plan is to:
 - launch a primary school netball program to begin in 2008; and
 - launch a 10-round annual twilight competition in October/November of 2008.

- **Strategy 2** – To host at least three Promotional Netball Days annually. Action plan is to:
 - re-instate the annual WDNA Open Day. This day will be held annually on the first day of competition each year;
 - expand the Central Coast Netball Challenge concept of 2006 so that it is an annual event attended by Wyong, Gosford and Woy Woy Netball Association to officially mark the end of the netball season; and
 - host a at least 1 charity netball day per year to raise funds for a local community group (eg celebrity match).

STRATEGY

Objective 4 – To raise our community profile so that by 2012 netball is the No. 1 recognised female sport in the Wyong Shire (Cont).

- **Strategy 3** – To improve the amount of netball coverage in the Central Coast media. Action plan is to:
 - have at least 1 netball story per fortnight in either the Express Advocate or Sun Weekly by 2009, and 1 story per week by 2012;
 - gain a regular spot on the Sports Show of either of the 2 major radio stations by 2008; and
 - obtain NBN coverage of major events by 2009.
- **Strategy 4** – To encourage our 2,000 members to speak out about netball. Action plan is to:
 - encourage letter-writing campaigns (eg newspapers, local members, Council) through our club system; and
 - implement a petition that supports the developments to Baker Park as laid out in this Vision Plan.

STRATEGY

Objective 5 – To streamline our relationship with Wyong Shire Council by the start of our 2008 season.

- **Strategy 1** – To establish an open two-way communication system between WSC and WDNA by the beginning of our 2008 season. Action plan is to:
 - liaise with Council to decide upon one consistent point of contact with WSC;
 - liaise with Council to decide upon a regular face-to-face meeting pattern (eg once a month between Feb-Nov) that includes appropriate representatives from both Council and Wyong Netball;
 - record what is discussed at the meetings so that there is accountability on both sides;
 - forward meeting records to all interested parties (eg Mayor, Councillors, Club Netball Executives); and
 - liaise with Council to decide upon an appropriate course of action in the event that any of the above communication processes breakdown.

STRATEGY

Objective 6 – To become the No.1 regional netball Association (outside of Sydney) in NSW by 2012.

- **Strategy 1** – Increase the number of permanent Wyong teams competing in the State League Netball NSW competition from 1 to 3 by 2012. Action plan is to:
 - have 2 permanent teams competing in the State League competition by 2009; and
 - have 3 permanent teams competing by 2012.

- **Strategy 2** – Improve the finishing positions of all 9 WDNA representative teams that compete annually in the State Championships. Action plan is to:
 - have all Wyong teams finish in the top 10 by 2009; and
 - have all Wyong teams finish in the top 5 by 2012.

Letters of Support

Following are a number of letters of support for improvements to the Baker Park Netball Complex.

- Department of Sport and Recreation;
- Netball NSW;
- Grant McBride – State Member; and
- Central Coast Tourism.