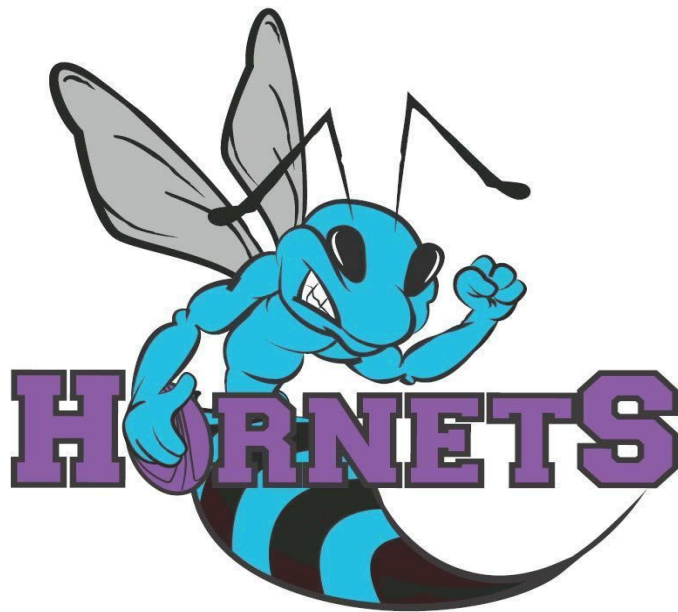




29TH ANNUAL HUNTER WESTERN

HORNETS TOUCH ASSOCIATION

AGM 2026



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2026

Sunday – 9th August 2026 at 6.00pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome:
2. Apologies:
3. Registration of Attendance:
4. Minutes from Previous AGM:
5. Finance Report, Audit Report and Financial Statements:
6. Directors Annual Reports:
7. Election of Officers:
 - a) Administration Director (2-year appointment)
 - b) Finance Director (2-year appointment)
8. Committee Nominations:
9. Appointment of Life Membership:
10. Special Resolutions:
11. Notice of Motions:
12. Appointment of Auditor:
13. Appointment of Public Officer:
14. General Business:
15. Meeting Closed:



4. Minutes from Previous AGM:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2025

Saturday – 28th September 2025 at 7.00pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome: Jamie McSpadden welcomed to everyone.
 2. Apologies: Karley Banks, Shelly Rush-Nichols.
 3. Registration of Attendance: Anne Tolhurst, Jamie McSpadden Georgia Marshall, Rob White, Nic Grose, Hayden Ryan-Hill Steve Hepburn Bec Austin, Julie Gee, Jo-anne O'Connell, Erin Perini, Paul Farah, Bec Jackson, Kellie Johnston, Melissa Allen, Dylan Thompson, Nicole Steed, Mandy Moore and Dean Russell.
 4. Minutes from Previous AGM: Read by Jamie McSpadden, Moved: Rob White
Seconder: Bec Austin.
 5. Finance Report, Audit Report and Financial Statements: tabled by Rob White.
Question Nic Gross, do we use xero Rob responded as yes. Is the financials available and Rob has now shared the link for P&L etc
 6. Moved Anne Tolhurst, seconder: Hayden Ryan-Hill.
 7. Directors Annual Reports: Regional Directors report -*presented by Jamie McSpadden in lieu of vacancy in this role. Moved Georgia Marshall, seconder Bec Austin.*
- Referee Director and Director of Selectors. The coaching Director Karley Banks sent a report.***
8. Election of Officers:
 - a) Regional Director (2-year appointment) vacant (no nominations) Jamie McSpadden will continue as acting Regional Director. Nic Grose advised we don't need to have an acting regional director but she will chase that up.



- b) Technical Director (2-year appointment) One nomination –Jamie McSpadden, was voted on and accepted.
- 9. Committee Nominations: To be discussed at the first board meeting.
 - Coaching Director – Karley Banks
 - Director of Selectors – Tracey Howard and Bob Monkley
 - Referee Director – Amanda Draper
 - Player rep/child protection officer – Bec Austin
 - Junior Director – Georgia Marshall
 - Merchandise/Uniform Co-Ordination -Jo-anne O’Connell
 - High Performance Coach -Steve Hepburn
 - General Committee – Jo Martin, Kelly Johnston, Sam Clark, Dean McManus.
- 10. Appointment of Life Membership: No nominations received. Would be nice to have a working committee which can help nominate.
- 11. Special Resolutions: No special resolutions received.
- 12. Notice of Motions: No notice of motions received.
- 13. Appointment of Auditor: Rob White suggested we remain with current auditors - DW accountants. This was moved by Jamie McSpadden and seconder was Hayden Ryan-Hill.
- 14. Appointment of Public Officer: No nominations. Jamie McSpadden to be sought to continue in this role as he is current PO for Hornets.
- 15. General Business: Nil general business tabled.
- 16. Meeting Closed: 7.52pm



5. Finance Report, Audit Report and Financial Statements:

- Finance Report

Cash at Bank

As at 30 June 2026, Hornets held the following funds across its bank accounts:

Account	Balance
Working Account	\$60,685.35
Debit Card	\$315.10
Term Deposit 1 (4.50%, matures March 2027)	\$100,000.00
Term Deposit 2 (4.26%, matures November 2026)	\$50,000.00
Term Deposit 3 (5.16%, matures July 2027)	\$50,000.00
Term Deposit 4 (4.97%, matures October 2026)	\$50,000.00

Total Cash at Bank: \$311,000.45

During the year, the Board increased funds held in term deposits from **\$150,000 to \$250,000**, while maintaining sufficient working capital for the Association's day-to-day operations. The term deposits have been structured with staggered maturity dates, providing access to funds approximately every six months should they be required.

At current interest rates, these investments are expected to generate approximately **\$12,500 per annum** in interest income. This assists in funding ongoing administrative costs such as audit fees, storage, software subscriptions and honorariums, reducing the reliance on event profits and grant funding.



Financial Performance

Hornets recorded an audited **operating surplus of \$43,340** for the 2025/26 financial year.

The Association's hosted events continued to provide the financial foundation for our representative programs.

Hosted Event	Net Result
Peter Wilson Memorial Championships	\$80,555
Don Green Western Junior Championships	\$33,498
Hornets Championships	\$25,457
Central Coast Minis	\$4,244
Total Hosted Event Surplus	\$143,754

These operating surpluses enabled Hornets to continue investing heavily in representative pathways.

Representative Program	Net Investment
National Youth Championships	(\$43,221)
National Touch League	(\$33,266)
NSW Junior Regionals	(\$20,568)
Total Investment	(\$97,055)

After these investments, together with general administration expenses, Hornets recorded a final operating surplus of **\$43,340** for the year.



Prior Year Comparison

Total revenue increased by approximately **\$72,000** compared with 2024/25.

The primary contributors were:

- Hornets Championships – two additional teams.
- Don Green Western Junior Championships – approximately 30 additional teams.
- Peter Wilson Memorial Championships – six additional teams.
- Central Coast Minis – increased team participation.
- National Youth Championships – six additional development teams and a \$50 player levy increase to offset increased accommodation and sports trainer costs.
- National Touch League – three additional teams and a \$50 player levy increase to offset increased accommodation and sports trainer costs.
- Recognition of apparel partnership contra that was not utilised during the previous financial year.

These increases were partially offset by lower revenue from NSW Junior Regionals following the Board's decision to provide travel support through reduced player levies rather than charging the full levy and subsequently refunding the subsidy.

Operating expenses increased by approximately **\$68,000** compared with the previous financial year.

The principal drivers were:

- National Youth Championships, reflecting the introduction of six development teams and the associated increases in accommodation, meals, uniforms, training venues, equipment and medical support.
- National Touch League, due to the return to a four-day tournament, three additional teams, increased accommodation costs, higher medical support rates and increased western travel subsidies.
- Don Green Western Junior Championships, following significant growth in team numbers and associated operating costs.

These increases were partially offset by:

- Lower Hornets Championships costs following the relocation of the event to Maitland, reducing volunteer accommodation requirements.
- Reduced administration costs compared with 2024/25, which included subsidies provided to participants attending the Touch World Cup.

Overall, revenue growth exceeded the increase in expenditure, resulting in the Association's operating surplus increasing from **\$38,455** in 2024/25 to **\$43,340** in 2025/26.



Financial Position

Hornets remains in a very strong financial position.

As at 30 June 2026 the Association held:

- Cash at bank of **\$311,000.45**
- Inventory and other current assets of **\$34,472.59**
- Net assets of **\$349,029.72**

During the year, retained earnings increased from **\$305,689.39** to **\$349,029.72**.

Over the past five years, the Association has continued to strengthen its financial position.

Financial Measure	2022	2026
Cash at Bank	\$170,565	\$311,000
Net Assets	\$181,960	\$349,030
Term Deposits	\$30,000	\$250,000

This financial strength has been achieved through the successful operation of Hornets-hosted events and prudent financial management.

Importantly, these surpluses are not simply retained. They are reinvested into representative pathways, allowing Hornets to reduce participation costs, improve player and official support, and continue developing opportunities for athletes, coaches and referees across the Hunter Western region.

Outstanding Receivables and Payables

There remains one outstanding player debt relating to the 2018 National Touch League.

Name	Event	Amount	Comments
Luke Gosset	2018 National Touch League	\$290	Player remains overseas. Recovery efforts continue and the player remains unfinancial with Hornets, NSW Touch Football and their home affiliates.

There were **no outstanding accounts payable** or unpresented cheques as at 30 June 2026.



Financial Audit

The 2025/26 financial statements have been independently audited by **DW Accountants Pty Ltd.**

The auditor issued an **unmodified (clean) audit opinion**, confirming the financial statements fairly present the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2026 and its financial performance for the year then ended.

Looking Ahead

Hornets enters the 2026/27 financial year from a position of considerable financial strength.

The Board remains committed to maintaining a sustainable financial model whereby the successful delivery of our hosted events enables continued investment into representative pathways, while preserving appropriate financial reserves for the long-term benefit of the Association.

This approach ensures Hornets can continue to grow participation, support players, coaches and officials, and deliver high-quality events while maintaining strong financial governance.

Rob White

Finance Director

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC

ABN 92 594 826 967

Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

DW ACCOUNTANTS
45 Joslin Street
Kotara 2289

Phone: 02 4952 3472
Email: mail@dwaccountants.com.au

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC
ABN 92 594 826 967

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NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC

ABN 92 594 826 967

Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Income		
Grants Received	15,060.60	14,533.21
Uniforms & Merchandise Sales	1,467.80	864.39
Player Levies	347,352.96	284,873.01
Sponsorship	9,418.19	
Interest received	5,595.54	6,548.04
Total income	<u>378,895.09</u>	<u>306,818.65</u>
Expenses		
Xero Fees	405.00	655.00
Accommodation Expenses	95,547.04	69,320.97
Audit fees	2,000.00	1,909.09
Bank fees & charges	338.15	224.75
Cleaning & rubbish removal	40.91	233.77
Computer Expenses	992.98	2,585.27
Depreciation - Plant	1,660.69	2,063.11
Hire/Rent of plant & equipment	39,120.89	36,063.00
Meals & Catering	31,210.09	23,236.97
Medical & Massage Expenses	21,021.30	11,823.36
NSW Touch & TFA Entry Levies	8,909.09	8,000.00
Office Supplies	377.84	1,185.14
Prizes & Trophies	24,301.99	24,040.57
Security	3,912.00	3,744.00
Staff training	1,400.00	513.64
Subsidies & Discounts	55,782.78	57,647.50
Subscriptions - VEO	2,997.99	
Sundry expenses	456.78	125.04
Telephone & Internet	535.46	520.00
Training Equipment	14,890.18	11,363.26
Travel Expenses	11,755.62	4,188.11
Uniform & Merchandise Expenses	17,900.14	9,034.90
Total expenses	<u>335,556.92</u>	<u>268,477.45</u>
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax	43,338.17	38,341.20
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
Net profit attributable to the association	<u>43,338.17</u>	<u>38,341.20</u>
Total changes in equity of the association	<u>43,338.17</u>	<u>38,341.20</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC

ABN 92 594 826 967

Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Opening retained profits	305,689.58	267,348.38
Net profit attributable to the association	43,338.17	38,341.20
Closing retained profits	349,027.75	305,689.58

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC

ABN 92 594 826 967

Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
Current Assets			
Cash Assets			
Cash at bank - CBA Account		60,685.36	138,521.98
CBA Term Deposit		250,000.00	150,000.00
Debit Card		315.10	1,555.05
		<u>311,000.46</u>	<u>290,077.03</u>
Receivables			
Trade debtors		290.00	395.16
Stock on Hand - Uniforms		17,239.22	5,678.33
Stock on Hand - Footballs		16,708.37	9,885.37
		<u>34,237.59</u>	<u>15,958.86</u>
Current Tax Assets			
GST payable control account		883.80	(496.77)
		<u>883.80</u>	<u>(496.77)</u>
Other			
Prepayments		235.00	235.00
		<u>235.00</u>	<u>235.00</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>346,356.85</u>	<u>305,774.12</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment			
Plant & equipment (cost)		9,204.59	7,834.59
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(6,219.87)	(5,463.31)
		<u>2,984.72</u>	<u>2,371.28</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>2,984.72</u>	<u>2,371.28</u>
Total Assets		<u>349,341.57</u>	<u>308,145.40</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC

ABN 92 594 826 967

Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
Current Liabilities			
Payables			
Unsecured:			
Trade creditors			2,137.00
Other creditors		313.82	318.82
		313.82	2,455.82
Total Current Liabilities		313.82	2,455.82
Total Liabilities		313.82	2,455.82
Net Assets		349,027.75	305,689.58
Members' Funds			
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		349,027.75	305,689.58
Total Members' Funds		349,027.75	305,689.58

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC
ABN 92 594 826 967
Statement by Members of the Committee
For the year ended 30 June 2026

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC as at 30 June 2026 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Rob White – Finance Director

Anne Tolhurst – Administration Director

Signed On:

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC
ABN 92 594 826 967

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2026, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2026 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Act 1991. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC
ABN 92 594 826 967

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Signed on : 20th July 2026



Danielle Wilson

DW Accountants Pty Ltd

45 Joslin Street, Kotara NSW 2289



6. Directors Annual Reports:

- Regional Director

CHAMPION REGION

2026 NSWTA Junior Regional Championships

CHAMPION ENTITY

2026 The Championships - Golden Boot

13 NYC TEAMS

8 divisions + 5 Development teams

The 2025/26 season has been one of the most successful in the history of the Hunter Western Hornets. Across our junior and senior representative programs, the region achieved outstanding results while continuing to expand pathways for players, coaches, managers, referees and officials.

Among the many achievements across the season, two milestones stand above all others: the Hunter Western Hornets being crowned **Champion Region** at the 2026 NSWTA Junior Regional Championships and winning our first Golden Boot as **Champion Entity** at The Championships. These honours reflect the depth and consistency of the entire Hornets program, rather than the success of any one team.

2025 National Youth Championships

The 2025 National Youth Championships campaign in Coffs Harbour was an outstanding success for the Hunter Western Hornets. For the first time, Hornets took **13 teams** to the Championships, comprising teams across **all eight divisions** as well as **five Development teams**. This represented a significant expansion of our junior representative pathway and created additional opportunities for players, coaches and managers to experience representative touch football at a national level.

On the field, the results were exceptional. The **12 Girls, 12 Boys and 14 Boys** were crowned National Champions, with the 14 Boys securing **back-to-back titles**. The Development teams were also highly competitive and demonstrated the depth of emerging talent across the region.

2026 NSWTA Junior Regionals

At the 2026 NSWTA Junior Regionals in Tuggerah, every Hornets team represented the region with pride and competitiveness. The **16 Boys and 18 Girls** were crowned **State Champions**, while the 18 Boys, 16 Girls, 14 Boys and 14 Girls finished as runners-up.

Thirty-four Hornets players were selected in the NSWTA Junior Regional State Merit Teams, recognising the quality of individual performances across the program. Most significantly, the collective performances of our teams saw the Hunter Western Hornets crowned **Champion Region** at the 2026 NSWTA Junior Regional Championships.



Being named Champion Region is an outstanding achievement and reflects the quality, consistency and depth of our entire junior representative pathway.

2026 The Championships (NTL)

The Hornets senior representative program continued its exceptional season at The Championships in Coffs Harbour. The **Men's Open** completed an outstanding **three-peat** of titles, while the **Men's 20s** secured **back-to-back championships**. The Men's Open B, **Mixed Open**, Women's 40s and Women's 45s also claimed divisional titles, with the Women's 50s finishing runners-up.

The culmination of these performances saw the Hunter Western Hornets awarded the **Golden Boot** and crowned **Champion Entity** at The Championships for the **first time in our history**. After narrowly missing the honour in the previous campaign, this was a particularly significant achievement and recognised the strength of the Hornets across the entire tournament.

Pathways and Development

While championship success is something we should celebrate, one of the most pleasing aspects of the season has been the continued growth of our pathways. The expansion of our NYC program and the additional opportunities created across senior representative teams have allowed more players, coaches, managers and officials to gain experience within the Hornets system.

The goal is not simply to win tournaments, but to provide a pathway that develops people and prepares them for higher levels of the game. The number of Hornets coaches and referees receiving state, national and international recognition during the season is a strong reflection of that work.

Events and Financial Sustainability

Our hosted events remain an important foundation for the region. The Peter Wilson Memorial Championships, Don Green Western Junior Championships, Hornets Championships and Central Coast Minis continued to generate strong participation and provide the financial capacity to invest in representative pathways.

The 2025/26 financial year concluded with an audited operating surplus of **\$43,340**. Importantly, this was achieved while Hornets invested **\$97,055** directly into the National Youth Championships, The Championships and NSW Junior Regionals. This reflects a sustainable model in which successful events and sound financial management are used to reduce participation costs, improve support and expand opportunities across the Hunter Western region.

Acknowledgements

None of the achievements of the past 12 months happen without people willing to contribute their time, knowledge and expertise. I sincerely thank the members of the Hornets Executive and General Committee for their continued commitment to the region.

NSW Hornets Regional Touch

Covering Hunter & Western NSW



I also acknowledge our coaches, assistant coaches, managers, selectors, referees, technical directors, medical staff and volunteers. The majority of these people contribute enormous amounts of time in a volunteer capacity and their commitment is fundamental to everything the Hornets achieve.

Thank you to our affiliates and their administrators, who continue to develop the players, coaches and referees who progress into regional programs, and to the families who support the significant time, travel and financial commitment required for representative touch football.

We also acknowledge NSW Touch Association and Touch Football Australia for their continued guidance, support and partnership.

Looking Ahead

The challenge following a season of this magnitude is to continue moving forward. Our focus must remain on building sustainable pathways, developing coaches and referees, strengthening relationships with affiliates and ensuring players from all parts of the Hunter Western region have opportunities to participate and progress.

The achievements of 2025/26 reinforce the Hunter Western Hornets' position as one of the leading representative entities in NSW. More importantly, they demonstrate what can be achieved when our players, coaches, referees, officials, volunteers, affiliates and committees work together with a common purpose.

It has been an outstanding year for the Hornets and we look forward to building on this success throughout 2026/27.

Jamie McSpadden

Regional Director



- Coaching Director

The last 12 months has been a time of great industry, investment, growth and achievement for the coaching groups and arm of the Hunter Western Hornets Region.

Mentoring assistance and peer coaching support for coaches and players has been provided in the lead up and during the National Youth Championships (NYC), “The Championships” (NTL), NSW Junior Regionals, NSW Country Championships, Hornets Junior and Senior Regional Championships and the NSWTA State Cup.

We have provided coaching opportunities and pathway opportunities for keen and eager people through our junior representative structure.

Our successful implementation at the NYC with 5 development teams as well as B division teams in Men’s Open, Men’s 20s & Women’s 20s at NTL has allowed Hornets to foster the development of more representative level coaches in an environment where they are supported by strong core coaching groups, the technical coaching arm & the Hornets executive & general committee who all work together and share their expertise & knowledge to ensure we provide a level of coaching that ensures the ongoing development of our burgeoning player and team base across all divisions.

Appreciations:

Congratulations to all the coaches across the Hunter Western Hornets region who largely operate in volunteer capacities and have worked tirelessly to achieve such fantastic results at affiliate, regional, state, national, and International level.

The mentorship and collaborative coaching across the region and affiliates allows our teams and coaches opportunities to share and consolidate learning and experiences for the greater good and our results are a strong reflection of the talent, passion, and dedication of our volunteer coach/management staff.

A big thank you to facilitators and coaching course presenters who conducted Foundation and Talent coaching courses across the region in our affiliates over the last 12 months.

Thank you also to the NSWTA board and staff for their guidance, advice and support around coaching activities and initiatives.

It’s been a very full, but positive 12 months and the region can look to the future with confidence that the technical arms are making commendable progress and that the



coaching arm is providing development opportunities for growth and progression at the various levels of participation for all.

Notable Achievements - Hunter Western Hornets Coaches:

Nat Little - NSWTA Senior Coach of the Year Winner

Karley Banks - Tony Trad Medalist Coach of the Year Finalist

Jay Miller - Tony Trad Medalist Coach of the Year Finalist

Dylan Thompson - Junior Coach of the Year Finalist

Australian Emus - Asia Pacific Seniors Touch Cup - 2026 Coaching Appointments

Nat Little - Head Coach - Womens 27s

Jay Miller - Head Coach - Womens 35s

Cam Maxwell - Assistant Coach - Senior Mixed

Nic Grose - Assistant Coach - Womens 35s

NSWTA State of Origin - 2027 Coaching Appointments

Jay Miller - HC -Senior Mixed

Paul Farah - HC - Mens 35s

Steve Hepburn - Head Coach - Womens 50s

Lindsey Brain - Assistant Coach - Mens Opens

Cam Maxwell- Assistant Coach Mixed Opens

Nat Little - Assistant Coach -Womens 20s

Tom Taylor Assistant Coach - Mens 30s

Hayden Ryan Hill Assistant Coach - Mens 30s

Brent Powell - Assistant Coach - Mens 35s

NSW Hornets Regional Touch

Covering Hunter & Western NSW



Nic Grose -Assistant Coach - Womens 35s

Mitch Walkaden -Assistant Coach Mens 40s

Luke Grills- Assistant Coach - Mens 50s

Notable HWH - Regional Achievements:

First ever Golden Boot win as Overall Champion Permit at The Championships / NTL

Overall Champion Region at NSWTA Junior Regional Championships.

Girls 18s + Boys 16s = NSW Junior Regional Champions

Boys 18s + Girls 16s + Boys 14s + Girls 14s = NSW Junior Regional Runners up.

Men's Open complete 3 peat of titles at NTL.

Men's 20s go back to back at NTL.

Mixed Open win their first ever title at NTL.

Mens Open B, Women's 40s, Women's 45s claimed their divisional titles and Women's 50s were runners up at NTL.

NYC 14 Boys - Champions (back to back)

NYC 12 Boys - Champions

NYC 12 Girls - Champions

Karley Banks and Nat Little NSWTA Wonder Women in Touch Coach Seminar
Panelists

Karley Banks

Coaching Director



- Referees Director

Hornets' referees have had another successful year with many leading the way at State, National and International Tournaments.

NYC saw 22 Hornets referees and 2 Panel members attend many of the Hornets referees compete and were awarded grand finals.

Hornets Championships and Don Green were two more successful tournaments with many junior referees experiencing their first tournament. We are also blessed to have several referees outside of Hornets officiate at these tournaments.

Paul George was named referee of both tournaments.

Vawdon Cup – whilst not a country tournament saw Tony Calabria being named referee of the tournament.

State Cup saw Kim Skelly and Tony Calabria on the Men's Open, Savannah Draper on the Women's Open and Alec Clark on the Mixed open. Of the top 9 referees 4 were Hornets.

Many other referees were awarded grand finals, and Jason Whitney was named Senior Referee of the Tournament.

PWMC was another massive event with this year featuring a retro round which saw uniforms back from 20/30 even 40 years ago – this was embraced by the referees and may become a regular feature. Again, this tournament saw referees from Suns, Eagles and Sydney attend – knowing the quality of games and coaching is outstanding.

Adam Dangel was named referee of the tournament.

Harrison Scott was awarded his representative badge at JSC.

The Championships once again saw Hornets dominate the podium. Kim Skelly was awarded Men's Open and leading referee. Women's Open saw Caleb and Savannah do us proud with M20 going to Tom, MXB Cooper Jones, WOB Mason Colwell, M40 John Clark, MXM Ben Harris, W40 Amanda Crowley, M50 Craig Carmody, M55 Jason Whitney and Barry Nichols, M65 John Little and Tony Bradley.

New National Badge upgrades to Adam Dangle, Andrew Holliday, Felix Tebbutt and Darren Whitbourne.

Asia Pacific Opens Touch in Mudgee had Kim, Alec, Tom, Caleb, Savannah and Tony represent us – with Tony being named flag bearer which is a huge honour

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NSWTA Junior Regionals were at the Central Coast and again another well-run tournament Alec, Paul George, Taylor Draper, Andrew Holliday, Amanda Crowley, Tony Bradley, Krystal Laughton and Emily Pearson all receiving Grand Finals.

TRYS selections this year were hotly contested, and we ended up having 4 referees selected Emily Pearson (Nelson Bay), Kaelen Fean (Wallsend), Hamish Pirie (Mudgee) and Ella McFadden (Nelson Bay).

We also had many Hornets referees being selected in the NSW Elite referee squads

Opens – Tony Calabria, Alec Clark, Mason Colwell, Adam Dangel, Tom Donehue, Savannah Draper, Cooper Jones, Kim Skelly and Caleb Walz

Senior Squad – Craig Carmody, John Clark, Amanda Crowley, John Frost, Ben Harris, Andrew Holliday, Jason Whitney.

National elite squads were also announced

Opens squad – Tony Calabria, Alec Clark, Tom Donehue, Savannah Draper, Kim Skelly and Caleb Walz

Masters squad – Craig Carmody, John Clark, Amanda Crowley, John Frost, Ben Harris, Jason Whitney.

The Sam Clark exceptional achievement award went to Amanda Crowley

Hornets Referee Of The Year – Tom Donehue

We are looking forward to the 2026/2027 season!

Amanda Draper

Director of Referees



- Junior Director

2025–2026 has been another outstanding year for junior development across the Hunter Western Hornets region, with continued growth in participation, player development and representative opportunities. The commitment shown by our athletes, coaches, selectors, managers, referees, volunteers and families has again contributed to a successful season both on and off the field.

The 2025 National Youth Championships saw Hunter Western Hornets field 13 teams, including five development teams. It was an exceptional tournament, with 12 Girls, 12 Boys and 14 Boys crowned National Champions. All teams progressed through to the finals series, with the exception of the 14 Boys Development Team, demonstrating the depth of talent and the continued success of our representative pathway. The performances of both our representative and development teams were a credit to the dedication of our players and coaching staff.

Our key talent identification events, DGWJC and PWMC, once again provided an excellent platform to identify and develop emerging players, with the standard of junior touch football across our region continuing to improve.

This year, our annual Development Camp was rebranded as the High Performance Camp, reflecting the continued evolution of our representative pathway and increased focus on preparing athletes for higher levels of competition. Held at Singleton Touch Football on 17 January 2026, the camp attracted more than 250 players across six divisions. Supported by a fantastic team of volunteers who assisted with player assessments, refereeing and coaching activities, the camp provided a high-quality development experience and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from players and officials alike. Following a review of our representative pathway, we replaced the Under 18 High Performance Camp with an Under 20 High Performance Program, providing greater support for athletes transitioning into Opens. All four Under 20 squads trained together at Wallsend Touch Fields and participated in education sessions delivered by Dr Gary Webb on athlete nutrition and Talk to Me Bro on mental health and wellbeing, reinforcing our commitment to developing well-rounded athletes.

This season also saw changes to our selection process, with almost 500 Expressions of Interest received across eight divisions. Players were able to nominate their interest in Development Team selection during the initial EOI process, allowing selectors to monitor athletes across multiple identification events rather than relying on a single trial. This provided a more comprehensive and transparent selection process while strengthening our development pathway.

The 2026 Junior Regionals, held at the Central Coast Sporting Complex, Tuggerah, saw Hunter Western Hornets represented by eight teams, with every team progressing to the finals series. Our 16 Boys and 18 Girls claimed Regional Championships, while 14 Boys, 14 Girls, 16 Girls and 18 Boys finished as

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Runners-Up. The 12 Boys and 12 Girls reached the Semi-Finals, resulting in Hunter Western Hornets being crowned the Overall Regional Champions.

Following Junior Regionals, players from our selected development squads were invited to trial for the 2026 National Youth Championships Development Teams, replacing the previous open Expression of Interest process. This ensured selections were based on performances throughout the representative season and rewarded players who demonstrated consistent commitment and development. Five Development Teams were selected, again taking a total of 13 Hunter Western Hornets teams to the National Youth Championships.

I extend my sincere thanks to our selectors, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, referees, affiliate associations, parents, volunteers and the Hunter Western Hornets Executive for their continued support throughout the season. The strength of our junior program is built on the dedication and generosity of these individuals.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening our representative pathway and providing opportunities that enable our young athletes to develop both on and off the field.

Georgia Marshall

Junior Director



- Director of Selectors

No formal report was received from the Director of Selectors for inclusion in the 2025/26 Annual Report.

The Board acknowledges the significant work undertaken by the Selection Panel throughout the year, including the identification and selection of representative players and officials across all Hunter Western Hornets programs.

The 2025/26 season culminated in unprecedented representative success, with Hunter Western Hornets claiming both the National Touch League Championship and the NSW Junior Regional Championship. These achievements reflect the commitment of our selectors, coaches and volunteers in assembling competitive teams across all divisions.

The Board thanks all selectors for the considerable time and expertise they contributed throughout the representative season.

- Tournaments Director

No formal report was received from the Tournaments Director for inclusion in the 2025/26 Annual Report.

The Hunter Western Hornets successfully delivered another full calendar of representative tournaments throughout the 2025/26 season, including the Hornets Championships, Don Green Western Junior Championships, Central Coast Minis and the Peter Wilson Memorial Championships.

These events continue to provide valuable development opportunities for players, coaches and referees, while also delivering the financial strength that enables the Region to invest significantly in representative pathways, participant subsidies and future initiatives.

The Board acknowledges the outstanding contribution of the Tournament Committee, host affiliates, referees, volunteers, sponsors and the many individuals who worked behind the scenes to ensure each event was delivered successfully. Their commitment and professionalism remain fundamental to the ongoing success of the Hunter Western Hornets.