

# **NENA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2016**

Compiled and written by Hayley Zweck

Dear Pat,

The Blyth/Snowtown Netball Club would like to nominate Kerry-Lee Welke as 2016 NENA Volunteer of the Year.

**NAME OF VOLUNTEER:** Kerry-Lee Welke

**CLUB:** Blyth Snowtown Netball Club

**POSITIONS HELD:**

**NENA**

President – 2015

Vice President – 2016

Secretary – 2007

NMAS/My Netball Website Administrator – 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

Delegate – 2011, 2012

Country champs delegate – 2008, 2009, 2010

NRNC Delegate – 2015

Co-Country Champs Coordinator - 2016

**BLYTH SNOWTOWN NETBALL CLUB**

President – 2012

Vice President – 2010, 2011

Secretary – 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

Assistant Secretary – 2007, 2008, 2013

Committee – 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

Coach – B1 2005, B2 2005, 2011 & 2016, C1 2008, 2009 & 2010, 15U 2003 & 2004, Net Set Go 2015 & 2016,

Premiership Coach – B1 2005, C1 2008, 15U 2004

Sponsorship & Fundraising Coord – 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014

Uniform & Merchandise coordinator – 2007 & 2008

Country Champs Coordinator – 2008, 2009, 2010

Team Sheet Distributor – 2008, 2009

First Aid Kits – 2010 & 2011

Volunteer of the Year - 2007

Life membership – 2012

Played 200 games – 2015

Level 1 Umpire – 2014

Life membership points recorder – 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

**BLYTH NETBALL CLUB**

President – 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

**REASONS FOR NOMINATION IN DETAIL**

Kerry-Lee Welke came to the Blyth Snowtown Netball Club in 2003. Little did we know then, that she would be an outstanding contributor, not only for our club but also the North Eastern Netball Association. Over the years Kerry-Lee has developed into the leader, administrator, player, coach, umpire and tireless member she is today. There is not one single year where Kerry-Lee doesn't have at least 3 roles! Let's take a look at her history of volunteering.

At the age of 20, Kerry-Lee instantly jumped on board the volunteer train and has never got off! In 2003 she joined the Blyth Snowtown committee and volunteered as secretary for 4 years until 2006. She may have continued for more years however she saw the opportunity to take on NENA secretary in 2007 as well as assistant secretary for our club. You would think being secretary for 5 years is a massive commitment in itself, not for Kerry-Lee, during this time she coach 15U for 2 years which resulted in a premiership in 2004 and in 2005 she coached B2s and was also the B1 team manager (however, probably more like an equivalent to a caddie in golf) and they won the premiership. These truly amazing contributions as an executive, coach and no doubt other unrecognised duties over 5 years was acknowledged when was named the Blyth Snowtown Volunteer of the Year in 2007.

2008 was an extraordinarily busy year for Kerry-Lee. This is when she began as the NENA NMAS Website Administrator which has now evolved into what we know as MyNetball. Kerry-Lee is the guru of maintaining efficiencies for the association registration and reporting requirements and continues this role today. During this year she was also assistant secretary for the Blyth Snowtown Netball Club and coached the C1s to a premiership (and continued to coach them for 2 more years). But these two time-consuming roles weren't enough for Kerry-Lee, she also put her hand up in the same year to be the club uniform and merchandise coordinator, sponsorship coordinator and team sheet distributor.

Other noteworthy positions Kerry-Lee has held are; Country Champs delegate & Country Champs coordinator for BSNC from 2008-2010, NENA delegate in 2011 & 2012 and this year she is a NRNC delegate. Kerry-Lee has been sponsorship coordinator for 5 years, team sheet distributor for 2 years and the first aid kit manager for 2 years. All roles that rarely get recognised but are essential for a club.

In 2010 & 2011 Kerry-Lee was club Vice President until she got the call up in 2012 to be the Blyth Snowtown Netball Club President (she actually had a year off coaching!) This was the year the Blyth Snowtown Netball committee managed to keep a secret from their President until the end of season Wind-Up. 10 years since she began offering her generous time to our netball community, to her surprise, Kerry-Lee was awarded an honourable Life Membership for the Blyth Snowtown Netball Club! Possibly the youngest life member of any club at age 30!

Just when you thought it's not possible to squeeze in any more time to netball, did you know Kerry-Lee has been the Blyth Netball Club President since 2010? The Blyth netball courts and grounds have been well maintained by Kerry-Lee coordinating working bees at start of season and arranges for clubrooms to be cleaned before home games. However, she doesn't fulfil this role alone, although usually the saying goes the other way around 'behind every great woman there is a great man' her husband Scott. Scott has been integral in many projects around the grounds, including building the equipment shed last year. If something needs fixing, Scott's handyman skills are highly appreciated.

Kerry-Lee has been at the forefront of many fundraising activities over the years and has a natural ability to coordinate events for all to enjoy and raise maximum funds for either the Blyth Snowtown Netball Club or the Blyth Netball Club. If there's an event that involves food coordination, Kerry-Lee is the 'go to girl' and she somehow still finds time to bake delicious goodies for donations.

Kerry-Lee is a devoted mother to her three beautiful children and works at the Country Health SA Local Health Network in Clare. Even when she has a heavy workload with her busy family, working life and other volunteering activities, she still makes time to put a whistle in her mouth! In 2014 Kerry-Lee obtained her Level

1 umpires badge and has been a keen umpire over the past 2 years and has appreciated being mentored by Netball SA umpires who have recommended she obtain her B grade badge.

Let's add two more positions to this list, GD & GK. Kerry-Lee played her 200th senior game in 2015 and continues to play this year as the B2 playing coach! In 2003 she won R/Up best and fairest in B1s. She takes pride in hitting the court and is vocal to get the best out of her teammates.

There's no question that Kerry-Lee continues to work tirelessly for the benefit of the club and its players. Volunteers like Kerry-Lee are becoming increasingly rare and we are lucky to have her as a fine example for our younger members to continue our club's prosperous volunteer culture. Her mentorship and knowledge has helped many upcoming volunteers to ensure the club continues to run smoothly. The list of her work for the club could go on and on, and many things go unnoticed, but she never boasts or asks for praise. She is one of the finest assets any club or association can have.

Did I mention she did a fantastic job as NENA president last year!

Kerry-Lee Welke is highly regarded in the NENA community and has been vital in the success of the Blyth Snowtown Netball Club and where it is today. We hope you agree the Kerry-Lee would be a worthy winner of this award, as she truly deserves it and would be honoured (surprised!) to receive it.

Yours sincerely,

Bec Jamieson  
PRESIDENT (*on behalf of the BSNC Committee*)

Jess Ekman  
SECRETARY