

NENA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2018

Compiled and written by Hayley Zweck

Dear Pat & Marlene,

The Blyth/Snowtown Netball Club would like to nominate Simone Bigg as 2018 NENA Volunteer of the Year.

NAME OF VOLUNTEER: Simone Bigg

CLUB: Blyth Snowtown Netball Club

POSITIONS HELD:

NRNC

Minute taker – 2017

NENA

Secretary – 2015

Country champs delegate – 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

NRNC Delegate – 2017

Academy Co-ordinator – 2017

Country Champs Coordinator – 2016

Country Champs Selector – 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Country Champs Team Manager – 2016, 2017

BLYTH SNOWTOWN NETBALL CLUB

Life Member – 2016

Volunteer of the Year - 2010

Secretary – 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

Treasurer – 2001, 2002

NENA Delegate – 2011, 2012

Junior Coordinator - 2013

Committee – 2000, 2001, 2002, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018

Coach – NSG 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, J5 2011, J4 2012, J3 2013, J1&J2 2014, J2 2015, J1 2016, 15&U 2017,

Assistant Coach – A1 2018

Premiership Coach – J1 2016

Country Champs Coordinator – 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Uniform & Merchandise coordinator – 2003, 2004, 2008, 2009

New Senior Bodysuit Committee – 2002

Junior Uniform Coordinator - 2013

Website Coordinator – 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

Child Safety Officer – 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Roster Coordinator - 2013

Team Sheet Distributor – 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

Played 240 senior games

BLYTH NETBALL CLUB

Committee – 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Court redevelopment Sub Committee - 2017

REASONS FOR NOMINATION IN DETAIL

During most of the 90's Simone, nee Clifford, was an Eagle at the Broughton Muntoora Netball Club. She played 202 netball games, whilst volunteering as a junior coach and committee member. In 1998, Simone became a Cat and joined the Blyth Snowtown Netball Club, married farmer Phillip in 1999 and become who we know now as Simone Bigg! Little did we know then, that she would be an outstanding contributor, not only for our club but also for the North Eastern Netball Association. For TWENTY years, Simone has devoted herself to our netball community as an executive, administrator, coach and player. Let's take a look at her extensive history of volunteering so far.

In her 20s, Simone instantly jumped on board the volunteer train and has never got off! In 2000 she joined the Blyth Snowtown committee (and continues to be a wise and active member of the committee to this day) and immediately joined the executive team as treasurer in 2001 & 2002 and then she was our supersonic secretary for 4 years from 2009-2012. During this time Simone was at the forefront of improving administrative policies and procedures for the BSNC. She created role descriptions to give any new volunteer direction, as well as applying and achieving our club to be a Good Sports Club. Simone has great vision for our clubs success and was the leader in attending workshops and educating herself and committee members about strategic planning. Simone was a major contributor to BSNC's first 5 year strategic plan adopted in 2011 and Simone was again vital in the new and improved BSNC 2016-2020 strategic plan. A major part of this strategic plan was to improve player numbers, in particular juniors which Simone went above and beyond encouraging everyone within the community to give netball a try to ensure the future of our club and the association. Since Simone's involvement within our juniors our numbers have increased and been stable to fill all grades each season. Simone also introduced the idea of creating a website for the Blyth Snowtown Football & Netball Clubs which is now a great resource of all club history and documents accessible to everyone.

All of Simone's expertise and commitment at club level earned her the position of NENA secretary in 2015. All those who have taken on this role would know the huge task it is and Simone was born for it! Simone is highly organised and her commitment and responsibility to all NENA clubs was outstanding. Her terminology capability and ease to handle correspondence efficiently is a talent. This led to Simone being a vital part of the enormous task of facilitating the NENA By-Law and Constitution review - extra emails, record keeping and meetings! Simone's attention to detail ensured the NENA By-Law and Constitution was completed with true professionalism.

Let's wind back a bit to highlight Simone's passion to junior netball. Simone gave birth to netball prodigy Kasey Bigg in 2003, 6 years later Kasey began Net Set Go and thus began Simone's junior volunteering extravaganza! She was club Net Set Go coordinator in 2009 to 2012 and as Kasey progressed through the junior ranks, we're sure she was thrilled to have her mum coach her in J5's in 2011, J4's in 2012, J3's in 2013, J1 & J2 in 2014 and J2 in 2015 (Kasey played J1s this year!). In 2016, Simone coached her J1s to the Blyth Snowtown Netball Club's first ever premiership in J1s. Even though Kasey progressed straight to A1's, Simone continued to coach the U15's to a Grand Final in 2017. During these years Simone has been heavily involved in coordinating and developing junior players and coaches, organising 'come and try' nights and junior social events. This naturally led to Simone gaining accreditation as a Child Safety Officer in 2015 and being the club's junior safety officer since. Junior uniforms desperately needed an upgrade in 2013 so who else to organise all this other than Simone Bigg! (Quick note - Simone also has two talented sons and she contributes a lot of time to football and tennis and basketball and who knows what else, but we don't have time for that!)

Simone's willingness to ensure development for junior netballers saw her to take on the roles of Country Champs delegate, Country Champs selector and Country Champs coordinator for BSNC from 2014 until now. Again, naturally, Simone advanced to NENA Country Champ coordinator in 2016 and then Academy coordinator in 2017. During her time as NENA CC Coord, Simone's understanding and knowledge of the NENA CC Guidelines was admirable and she spent many hours improving these. As Academy Coordinator Simone's efficiencies continued with more meetings to attend at club, association and NRNC level (and minute taking)!

Simone has been at the forefront of many sub-committees for netball celebrations over the years including BSNC 21st Birthday (but we still managed to keep her life membership presentation a secret), Blyth Snowtown NENA dinners, junior and seniors wind ups and netball trips. Another major sub-committee Simone was involved in was the Blyth Court Redevelopment, which she has also been a committee member of the Blyth Netball Club, more meetings!

These truly amazing contributions as an executive, administrator, coach and all-round amazing volunteer was acknowledged when Simone was named the Blyth Snowtown Volunteer of the Year in 2010. From then, her outstanding commitment to the BSNC at club and association level was recognised when she was awarded Life Membership of the Blyth Snowtown Netball Club in 2016 at the Blyth Snowtown Netball Club 21st celebrations.

Let's add two more positions to this list, WA & GS. Simone played in the first BSNC A1 premiership in 2009 & in 2016 she won club R/Up best and fairest in B2s. She has played 240 senior games for the Cats, but hasn't played netball for a few years, however no-one has heard her say she's hung up her netball sneakers! She takes pride in hitting the court and loves a good long bomb into a goalie! This season Simone continues to share her expertise as the A1 assistant coach.

There's no question that Simone continues to work tirelessly for the benefit of the club, association and its members. Volunteers like Simone are becoming increasingly rare and we are lucky to have her as a fine example for our younger members to continue our clubs 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 do go unnoticed, but she never boasts or asks for praise. She is one of the finest assets any club or association can have.

Simone is well-respected 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 that Simone would be a worthy winner of this award, as she truly deserves it and she would be honoured (& will hate coming on stage!) to receive it.

Yours sincerely,

Tahlia Tilley
PRESIDENT
(on behalf of the BSNC Committee)

Kristin Carling
SECRETARY