

Friday 19 June 2015

CITY OF RYDE HOSTS STATE AGE NETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The best young netballers aged 12-15 from all over NSW will converge on the City of Ryde for the Division 2 NSW State Age Championships June 27-29.

The Championships are being hosted for the first time by Eastwood Ryde Netball Association (ERNA) at the recently upgraded Meadowbank Netball Court Complex.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said: "The Council is delighted to have assisted Eastwood Ryde Netball Association in their successful bid to host the tournament. Our plan of management and recent \$80,000 upgrade of the netball complex played a key role in bringing these championships to Ryde.

"Meadowbank Parks' reputation as a State significant sporting facility is enhanced by this special event and the local economy is sure to benefit from the estimated 3,000 visitors expected over the three day tournament.

"Congratulations to ERNA for securing this event and for providing such great role models to our local community."

Anne Doring, President of ERNA said: "Eastwood Ryde Netball Association is very proud to be hosting Division 2 of NSW State Age Championships. We welcome netballers, their families and friends, from all over NSW to our netball community and the City of Ryde.

"Our members are excited and volunteers have come forward to help out in this prestigious event, putting up their hands to assist in everything from canteen duty to traffic management.

"We would like to thank the City of Ryde for all their support in helping us to stage this event and in developing a management plan to ensure that everything runs smoothly."

Netball NSW General Manager – Commercial, Communications and Events, Tristan Prosser-Shaw, said the organisation was excitedly making its final preparations ahead of the organisation's largest event on the calendar. "Following the success of our recent State Championships earlier in the month, Netball NSW is excited to once again see some of the State's best young netballing talent in action for the 2015 State Age Championships," Prosser-Shaw said.

"Our State Age Championships is a huge logistical challenge for our organisation. In 2015 we're expecting more than 3,200 athletes, plus coaches, umpires, managers, and spectators on top of that number."

"It's a wonderful problem to have, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Eastwood Ryde, Baulkham Hills Shire, Penrith and Hawkesbury City Netball Associations for their cooperation in co-hosting this year's event.

“On behalf of Netball NSW I’d like to wish all participants all the best for this year’s State Age Championships, and we look forward to seeing some great netball across the weekend,” Prosser-Shaw concluded.

With four divisions in four age groups – 15/U, 14/U, 13/U and 12/U – the State Age Championships will showcase potential future stars of Australia’s number one female participation sport, Netball.

Netball is the most popular sport for girls and women in Australia with an estimated 1.2 million girls and women taking part every week. The National Championships will be held in Sydney this coming August.

The \$80,000 Meadowbank Netball Courts upgrade included the construction of a new netball court, taking the total to 28 courts, as well as installation of Plexipave surfaces, new equipment including rings and posts and line markings on the courts. ERNA funded the construction of the court which was project managed by City of Ryde Council.

Contact: Angela Jones Blayney 9952 8480 0407 958 023 ajonesblayney@ryde.nsw.gov.au