

VHM LIMITED GOAL OF THE YEAR

Chris Wilson (Macorna)

VHM LIMITED MARK OF THE YEAR

Brad Pocock (Hay)

TIM BROCKWELL MEMORIAL CHAMPION FOOTBALL CLUB

Ultima Football Netball Club

FENTON PERPETUAL TROPHY CHAMPION NETBALL CLUB

Murrabit Football Netball Club

LES PAY MEMORIAL IDENTITY OF THE YEAR

Jade Auld (Hay)

We are thrilled to nominate Jade Auld for the prestigious Les Pay Personality of the Year award. Jade's exceptional contributions to our club, the Golden Rivers Football Netball League, and the broader football and netball community over a considerable period make her a truly deserving candidate for this honour.

Jade's journey with the Hay Lions Football Netball Club began in 2002 at age 15, and since then, she has been an invaluable asset to our organisation. As a player, Jade has been a pillar of our netball club, participating in an astonishing 226 Senior Netball games, which earned her a well-deserved life membership this year in 2023. Her on-court skills and determination have been a driving force behind many of our successes on the netball court.

In 2007 at age 20, Jade was Vice President of the Golden Rivers Netball League, Jade embraced her role with enthusiasm and dedication. Her responsibilities as Vice President involved supporting the President in overseeing the league's operations, facilitating communication between member clubs, and advocating for the best interests of netball within the league. Jade actively participated in league meetings, offering valuable insights, and contributing to decision-making processes that promoted fairness, sportsmanship, and growth within the league.

When the league's Secretary was unable to fulfill her duties, Jade stepped up to the challenge and assumed the additional role as Secretary. As Secretary, she became the linchpin of communication, ensuring that essential information was effectively disseminated to member clubs, organising meetings, and accurately recording minutes and other vital documentation.

Beyond the standard responsibilities of a Vice President and Secretary for the netball league, Jade's proactive approach led her to play a pivotal role in fostering cooperation between football and netball, even before the official combination of the leagues. Her exemplary leadership and

problem-solving abilities contributed to creating a harmonious environment that allowed both sports to thrive collaboratively.

Her exceptional leadership, administrative prowess, and dedication have undoubtedly played a significant role in shaping the league's positive trajectory and have left a lasting impact on the netball community within the Golden Rivers Football Netball League.

For a remarkable combined 14 years, Jade has served as the Hay Lions Football Netball Club's Secretary, providing crucial administrative support that has ensured the smooth and efficient operation of our club. As secretary, Jade has consistently gone above and beyond her duties, taking on the responsibility of organising and running various annual events that have become cherished traditions for our club. These events, such as the goods and services auction, seafood night, Players Calcutta, reverse draw, Indigenous round, and

presentation night, not only foster a sense of community and camaraderie but also serve as vital fundraisers that support the club's operations and growth. One of Jade's most significant contributions is her coordination of the Hay Fishing Classic, a major fundraising event for our club held in February each year. This event brings together fishing enthusiasts and community members from near and far, generating crucial funds that directly benefit the club's activities and development.

Jade's dedication to promoting inclusion and community engagement is evident in her efforts to organise an Inclusion Round in 2020. This event saw an incredible turnout of over 800 community members, creating a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere that showcased the values of diversity and unity within the Hay Lions Football Netball Club.

Jade's commitment to the well-being of the community extends beyond sports, as she actively fundraises for families facing crises and has organised mental health workshops and information evenings. These initiatives reflect her deep concern for the welfare of others and her commitment to supporting those in need.

Despite the multitude of responsibilities that come with her role as secretary, Jade has consistently managed to balance and execute each task efficiently. From coordinating netball and football games to preparing reports for the local paper and handling other essential secretary duties, Jade's dedication and exceptional organisational skills have been indispensable in ensuring the smooth functioning of our club.

Jade's experience as a coach spans an impressive 15 years across all netball grades. This extensive coaching background showcases her profound understanding of the game and her ability to impart her knowledge effectively to players of all ages. Her mentorship has been instrumental in nurturing and developing the talents of countless junior players, leaving a lasting positive impact on their lives.

On top of her already extensive commitments, it is essential to highlight Jade's immense dedication to umpiring netball games every week for the past 10 years. As if coaching and playing were not enough, Jade selflessly took on the responsibility of ensuring fair play and upholding the rules of the game as an umpire. Her willingness to contribute to the sport beyond her own involvement demonstrates her unwavering commitment to the growth and success of netball. Umpiring not just one, but sometimes two games in a day after coaching and playing herself showcases her incredible stamina and passion for the sport. Jade's consistent presence as an umpire on the court is a testament to her love for the game and her desire to provide the best possible experience for players and spectators alike. Her tireless efforts as an umpire have undoubtedly played a vital role in promoting fair play and sportsmanship within the netball community, and she continues to be an invaluable asset to the sport she holds so dear.

Jade's list of accolades speaks volumes about her significant contributions as both a player and a member of the Hay Lions Football Netball Club. With multiple Best and Fairest awards, Runner-up Best and Fairest awards, and Most Dedicated Player awards, she has consistently demonstrated her commitment and outstanding performance on the court. Furthermore, being recognised as the Club Person of the Year reflects the high regard and respect in which she is held by her peers and the wider community.

Jade has also been a driving force in promoting mental health awareness and resilience within the Hay community, organising important initiatives such as the Rainbow on the Plains Festival, A

women's AFL Pride Cup, Mental Health First Aid courses and a Run for Resilience. Her commitment to supporting others and fostering a stronger, more connected community is truly inspiring.

Amidst all these remarkable accomplishments, it is nothing short of awe-inspiring to acknowledge that Jade managed to achieve all of this while juggling the responsibilities of a full-time job and being a devoted parent to three children, each of whom has also become an integral part of the Hay Lions Football Netball Club. Jade's unwavering commitment to her family and her passion for the club have been beautifully intertwined, as she leads by example, instilling the values of dedication and community spirit in her children, who are following in her footsteps.

Even amidst planning her own wedding in 2014, Jade's dedication to her club family remained unwavering. She thoughtfully scheduled the wedding to coincide with a bye weekend, ensuring that both she and her beloved Lions family wouldn't have to miss any games or events. This selfless act perfectly encapsulates her devotion to the Hay Lions Football Netball Club and the love and respect she has for her fellow players and club members.

Jade Auld's contributions to the Hay Lions Football Netball Club, the Golden Rivers Football Netball League, and the broader community make her an exceptional candidate for the Les Pay Personality of the Year award. Her can-do attitude, passion for the Hay community and the Hay Lions Football Netball Club, and mentorship of junior players all embody the spirit of this prestigious award.

KEITH DEN HOUTING ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Nominees: Toby Whinfield (Macoma), Ashton Wood (Murrabit), Archer Lancaster (Wandella), Jensen Hargreaves (Hay), Ely Miller (Moulamein)

Winner: Jensen Hargreaves

Jensen's achievements are remarkable and demonstrate his dedication to football. In 2019, he was awarded the Best Clubman in the 14.S's team. From 2020 to 2022, Jensen played for the North Central Victoria Academy, honing his skills, and gaining valuable experience.

In 2022, Jensen was a pivotal player in the 17.S's team, being the Runner-up and earning the Best and Fairest title for the Hay Lions FNC. He played a crucial role in the team's premiership victory, earning the Best on Ground in the Grand Final. Jensen also received League Goal Kicking Award for the 17.Ss.

During the current year of 2023, at the age of 17, Jensen continues to excel in both the 17.Ss and senior football teams. In the senior team, he has played forward flank/winger and has made a significant impact. Jensen's talent, dedication, and hard work are evident on and off the field. He is receptive to coaching, determined to improve, and an asset to his team.

In the 17.Ss, Jensen displays exceptional versatility, playing on ball, midfield, and forward positions. He is a natural leader, reliable, and an all-round remarkable football player. He is not only quick-thinking and agile but also sets up brilliant passages of play, leading to goal opportunities for his team. Jensen's commitment to the game is reflected in his tireless efforts on the field, tackling efficiently and running relentlessly.

Jensen demonstrates versatility, skill, and strong football IQ in his various positions on the field. As a forward flanker, winger, on ball, midfield, and forward player, he uses his speed, agility, decision-making, and goal-scoring abilities to make a significant impact on both the senior and 17.Ss teams, contributing to his club's success.

As of round 13, Jensen has already achieved an impressive record in 2023. He has kicked 11 goals for the Hay seniors and 25 goals for the 17.Ss team. His exceptional performance has garnered him 9 selections in the top 6 for the 17.Ss and twice in the seniors. Jensen also ranks second in the MVP votes and leads the goal kicking for the league.

Beyond his outstanding contributions to the team, Jensen has been an invaluable support to the club. He willingly assists with 14.Ss training on Tuesday and Thursday nights, even before his own training sessions. On Saturday home games, Jensen works at the gate and helps in the canteen, demonstrating his commitment to the club's success.

In conclusion, Jensen Hargreaves embodies the spirit of the Keith De Houting Rookie of the Year award. His achievements, dedication, and contributions to the Hay Lions Football Netball Club are exceptional, making him a worthy nominee for this significant accolade.

JUNIOR DISTINCTION AWARD

Nominees: Skye Prentice (Moulamein), Kate Whorwood (Murrabit), Grace Auldist (Hay), Mia Bennett (Moulamein)

Winner: Grace Auldist

We are honoured to nominate Grace Auldist from the Hay Lions Football Netball Club for the Junior Volunteer of the Year award in the Golden Rivers Football Netball League. At just ten years old, Grace has demonstrated an extraordinary level of dedication, commitment, and passion not only for sports but also for her community. Her overall sporting achievements in school, various sports, and community engagements make her a deserving candidate for this prestigious recognition.

In 2023, Grace's sporting journey has been nothing short of impressive. She has participated in multiple sports and represented her town, school, and community in various competitions, displaying exceptional talent and skill.

Grace began the year with her commitment to junior cricket, engaging in weekly training sessions and participating in games on weekends. Simultaneously, she dedicated her time to swimming for the Hay Swim Club, attending point score meets and swimming squad training daily after school. Grace represented Hay in swimming meets across different towns and went on to represent her school at district and Riverina swim carnivals, showcasing her swimming prowess. As the season transitioned, Grace seamlessly transitioned to football, netball, and league tag. She diligently trains with the 12s netball team and then with the 14.Ss football team on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Wednesdays and Fridays, she participates in highland dance practice followed by training with the Ull League Tag team for the Hay Magpies.

Weekends are just as busy for Grace, where she actively plays for the 14.Ss football team and the U12s netball team. Every Saturday, after her games, Grace volunteers to time-keep for Hay senior netball games and supports the Hay Senior Football Team as a water runner during every home and away game. On Sundays Grace plays for the 11s and 13s League Tag teams and the 13s girls' rugby team. Her commitment to community service continues Sundays, as she volunteers as a ball girl for both the Senior League Tag and Senior Rugby games. Beyond her sporting achievements, Grace has excelled in representing Hay Public School in Netball, AFL, and League Tag teams. She even earned a selection for the AFL trials in Wagga, showcasing her exceptional talent on a larger stage. Outside of sports, Grace has been a pivotal part of KROP in Griffith, where she plays a major role in singing and dancing. Despite winning the runner-up junior girt champion at the school athletics carnival, Grace had to make a difficult decision of choosing between representing her school in KROP and participating in five events at the athletics district carnival. Grace's dedication and achievements are truly commendable, but what sets her apart is her unwavering enthusiasm to contribute back to her community.

Despite her young age, she has taken on multiple volunteering roles and tirelessly supports her teammates and community organisations. Grace's positive attitude, wit, strength, and determination make her an inspiration to her peers and her two younger siblings. Grace's eagerness to learn from senior players in netball, AFL, League Tag, and rugby demonstrates her humility and willingness to grow as an athlete and an individual. Her passion for helping others and her love for the game exemplify the true spirit of sportsmanship and volunteerism. Grace Auldist's sporting achievements, dedication, and community involvement make her the perfect candidate for the Junior Volunteer of the Year award in the Golden Rivers Football Netball League. Her exceptional contributions and positive impact on her team, community, and family make her a shining example of what a young athlete can achieve through hard work, determination, and a selfless attitude. Grace is a role model and an asset to the Hay Lions Football netball club and the Hay community, and we wholeheartedly endorse her nomination for this prestigious honour.

NETBALL UMPIRE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Kellie Crellin (Wandella)

Although Kellie is unbadged, you wouldn't know this from watching her umpire. Her ability to umpire at the conclusion of her season was that of a badged umpire. She is very skilful and knowledgeable, and demonstrates incredible understanding of the rules. Kellie is a great mentor in our club.

She assists the under 17s with umpiring and building the future of our club and its umpires. She is a very confident and controlling umpire who has umpired a number of A grade games this season before an injury had her put the whistle away for the remainder of the year.

Kellie is a huge asset to our umpiring cohort and I look forward to seeing Kellie back umpiring again in season 2024.