



## Wolverines Netball Club

It was 1979, and the womenfolk of Woodford had heard strange tales of a game being played by their sisters along the banks of the Caboolture River. The rules sounded just like Women's Basketball, but the game was called by their eastern counterparts, netball. The girls from the hills were intrigued and vowed to find out more. In no time, they had discovered the truth. Women's basketball and netball were one of the same, so without any thought for their own safety, the hillbilly heroines donned their cloaks of many colours (that is... white shirt with a blue trim and a navy blue skirt), sorted their soldiers into squads (teams), assigned each squad an imperial adviser (coach), grabbed a soccer ball for each squad, packed a cut lunch and headed off on the long trek (25kilometres) to the big smoke.

Well not much has changed since then. Women and girls from the Woodford area still enjoy the game as much today as their forebears. In fact, like so many of the other clubs who have come and continue to play the game with Caboolture Netball, Wolverines have a history of mothers and daughters being involved in the one sport. That sense of 'family' has kept the game of netball very strong in the Shire and is a real achievement for the women who have against the odds, maintained a rate of growth for the sport, unparalleled by any other sporting association within the Caboolture Shire.

Wolverines began with only a few teams, but with the advent of lighting and the subsequent night season being available, Wolverines have fielded up to six senior teams playing in the Tuesday night fixture and six junior teams playing in the Saturday competition. We've had some wonderful Presidents who have all given freely of their own time - Deanna Thomason, Barbara Bleakley, Mary Brough, Coral Kunde and Corby Rycen. Wolverine players have also made the grade in representative and challenge teams and it is always rewarding to see these young girls go that extra step in their sporting careers. For most however, it has been enough just to be part of the sport and some of our best participants have never played on a court. They organise the teams, collect the dues, fill the water bottles, bake the cakes for the stalls and keep the club viable.

It's always surprising when you stop and think how long it has been since you first started doing something, and there exists a real sense of accomplishment to know that Wolverines has been around for such a long time. But of course, the club only exists because it has a venue and an organisation with which to affiliate and our club heartily congratulates the Caboolture Netball Association on its initiative and drive of twenty years ago to provide the facilities and structure that allow local access to such a great game. In the present climate of such a throw away society, anything that lasts more than a few years is noteworthy ... so I think the fact that the Caboolture Netball Association has been going for twenty years and is in great shape for another twenty, represents all the qualities of a true survivor. Colour, passion, strength, endurance, commitment, co-operation - these things are all there, for all to see, for all to share - Congratulations Caboolture Netball!