

# Shelley Scales

## *When you love something it doesn't feel like a chore*

Volunteering and netball has always been part of Shelley's life. She has been involved on the Committee of Campbelltown Comets Netball Club since she was 18 years old. She joined at a time the Club was really struggling and literally took to the streets to revive it.

Shelley grew up in the Campbelltown area with her parents in Paradise, attending both Campbelltown Primary and Charles Campbell School. Shelley recalls the freedom that she had as a child because her parents lived in a cul de sac and her own children love to go and play there now. Shelley's Mum and Grandmother were involved on the Committee and in the running of the Burnside Netball Club before she was born. They both volunteered in many other roles that Shelley remembers which set her up for a life committed to volunteering combined with her passion for netball. As a child there are many photos of Shelley at her own birthday in her netball uniform as her birthday had fallen on a training night and nothing was allowed to interfere with that!

Shelley's Dad was the first President of the Campbelltown Comets in 1970, he actually lived near where the Club is based in Emery Road, Campbelltown. At the age of 13 Shelley first started playing for the Comets once school netball stopped at this age. From the time she pulled on the orange and black Shelley's lifelong love affair with the Comets began. At 18 she joined the Committee and knew she had to do something as the Club had just one senior team and was at risk of closing. Shelley, with the help of her boyfriend, developed a flyer and walked the streets. This attracted new people and through word of mouth the Club began to rebuild. Today there are 36 teams with all ages. Shelley is still the secretary for the Club and you will find her volunteering at the Club several times a week.

Shelley continues to work hard to create a family/friendly feel at the Club with Committee members being approachable, games and pizza nights. Shelley's own family including husband and four children have all been 'roped' in, as she describes, with her oldest son cooking the BBQ on Friday nights, her husband has previously taken on the graphic design and design of the uniforms, her younger children playing and her mum and dad both volunteering.

Shelley is really proud that the Comets were the first Club in the Eastern District to have the netball dress, that we see being worn today by netballers all over the world. She secured a sponsor, her husband designed it and every girl received a subsidised uniform for only \$10, which Shelley loved providing to the girls.

Shelley loves nothing more than looking across the full courts with players being watched by their family and friends. It makes her smile and feel incredibly proud. As she says 'This Club is my baby, my second home'

**"I was 18 and thought I could take on the world."**

Celebrating International Women's Day with the Women of Campbelltown project – inspiring stories of local women, their achievements and contributions to the Community'.

*Thank you to the women who participated and the volunteer interviewers Di Booker and Katrina Spencer for their time.*