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MEDIA RELEASE

2010 Queensland Firebirds Head Coach

Netball Queensland Chief Executive Officer Cameron O'Hara has announced current Australian Netball Diamonds Assistant Coach **Roselee Jencke OAM** as the 2010 Queensland Firebirds Head Coach.

Following the re-alignment and subsequent advertising of the Head Coach position, Roselee will commence in the full-time position as Firebirds coach taking up duties from October 2009 after her Australian Diamond commitments.

In the interim, Roselee will be involved in the selection of the 2010 Queensland Firebirds team in order for the recruitment of players to commence without delay.

Roselee brings a wealth of experience to the role as a current and past selector and assistant coach of the Australian Diamonds, a past Assistant Coach to the Australian Institute of Sport and Assistant Coach to the Melbourne Kestrels and specialist defense coach to the Melbourne Phoenix.

"Netball Queensland is delighted to have been able to secure a coach of the calibre of Roselee Jencke and believes it is an important step for netball in Queensland," Mr O'Hara said.

Her playing career includes the Australian Netball Team from 1983-1992 and Roselee lead an extensive representative playing career with Victoria dating back to 1980.

"Rose has been an inspirational player and a fierce competitor with 9 years experience in the National team," Netball Queensland President Jan Maggacis said.

"Her outstanding leadership skills and her experience in coaching with the national program will ensure our Firebirds receive the coaching and development required as they strive for the next level," she said.

Other achievements include an Order of Australian Medal in 1992 for her service to sport, particularly as a member of the 1991 Australian World Champion Netball squad and was also inducted into the Netball Victoria Hall of Fame in 2004.

Roselee said she looked forward to relocating to Queensland to deliver a fresh and dynamic new program for the Firebirds, developing skills and decision-making on court.

"I'm excited for this new challenge in my coaching career and for the opportunity to be a part of a talented and driven team," Roselee said.

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“I want to see the Firebirds as a team that makes great decisions at crucial times and I’m confident that an environment which enables feedback and athlete engagement will deliver results for Queensland,” she said.

Mr O’Hara said that a recently completed, independent end of season review had identified critical areas of concern that would need to be addressed moving forward and relevant changes made to enhance the opportunity for success.

An additional area of need is having a fully accessible coach in a full-time role to provide a vital connection with underpinning high performance athletes to ensure greater depth and success for Queensland.

“It is now time to ensure that we are moving forward and that the right person fills the specific needs of the organisation first and foremost and we are confident that Roselee is that person,” Mr O’Hara said.

A pivotal part of this new role will be the involvement in other Netball Queensland programs including working with the newly appointed High Performance Manager, Brian Hopley.

“The investment placed into current High Performance areas of Netball Queensland should be producing greater outcomes and results, therefore change is needed to ensure both depth and talent coming through our State,” Mr O’Hara said.

The 2010 Queensland Firebirds player list will be finalised over the next six weeks.

“Vicki Wilson has and always will remain an icon for netball in Queensland and her commitment to the Firebirds is certainly recognised and respected and we trust that Vicki’s involvement in netball will continue.”

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