

A TRIBUTE TO



KAY BARCLAY



There are so many wonderful words that describe **Kay Barclay**. Instead, I would like to paint a picture of the person I remember.



When a person dedicates themselves to something for over 40 years, they give it their absolute best every day. They experience many “ups and downs” and “highs and lows” but they persist regardless because they just love what they do. They have a genuine passion.

Its what drives them to get up in the morning and do what they decide has to be done that day. Yes, they have goals and they just know instinctively what they have to do to bring it all together by the deadline.

2016 QJC - TKreek Photography

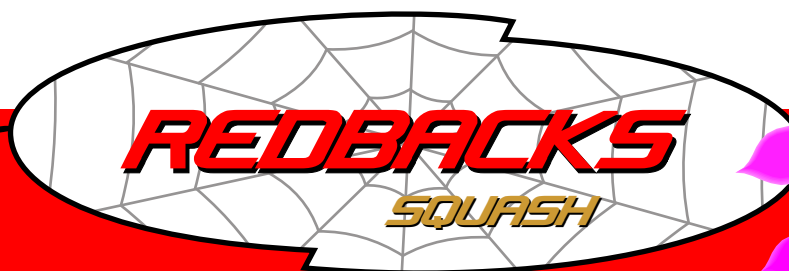
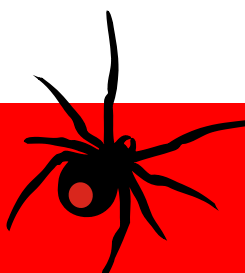
Like gifted athletes these people are gifted with the ability to organise, influence people and make things happen. They are absolute doers.

Regardless of all the obstacles put in their way they still manage to achieve whatever it is they have to do. They might stress a little and they might have a whinge or two but they are “high energy” individuals who remain laser focused on what has to be done.



They are a rare breed these days. Northern Region, Queensland and Australia has just lost one of the most dedicated and consistent achievers squash in Australia has ever seen.

In a Regional Town like Mackay developing squash players and making things happen is a most challenging affair and it was largely the responsibility of one lady ... **Kay Barclay**.



Kay had an extensive network of contacts and people who did things for her. She just had “the knack” of being able to softly and politely ask for whatever she needed.

Kay’s “band of volunteers” all had their specific roles because Kay never wanted to overload anyone. She overloaded herself but she was always mindful of other people’s responsibilities in life.

So lets look at what Kay did. Besides working at the Mackay Leisure Centre organising various competitions (weekly fixtures for seniors and juniors), major events like the Mackay Open each year and the Queensland Junior Championships every 4 years she would coach “her” juniors.

Coaching ranged from the very young (Under 10) to teenagers competing to represent Northern Region and ultimately, Queensland. Every now and then she unearthed a talent that had the ability to represent Australia.

She was Secretary of the Northern Region, she organised the NR Junior Qualifiers, the NR team (Redbacks) and mentoring a wide range of juniors from anywhere in the Region.

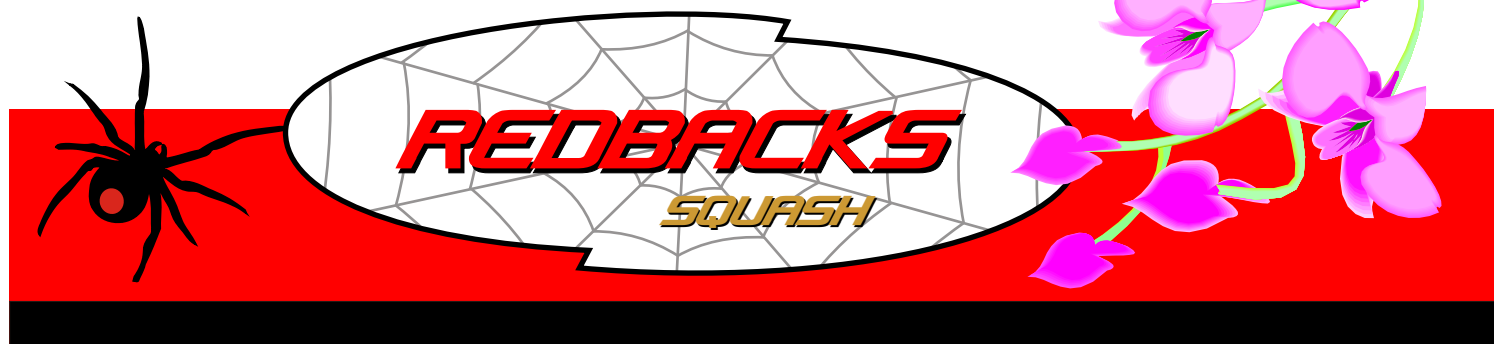
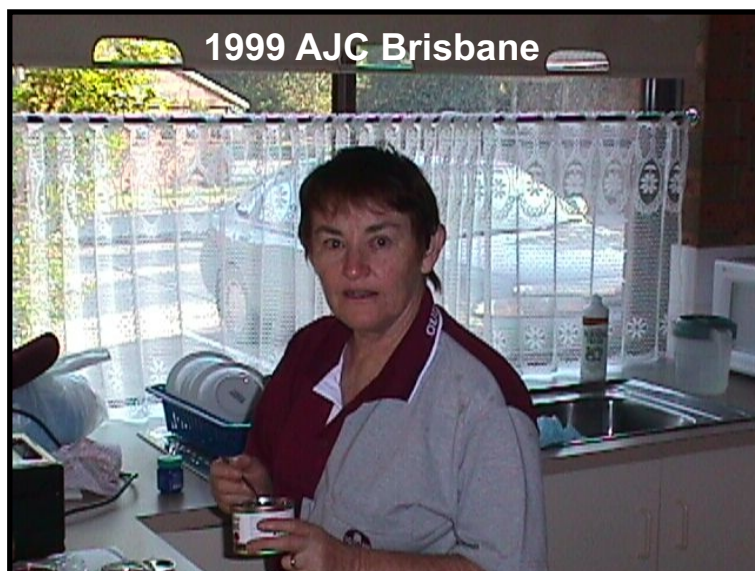
In her spare time she would do the rankings for NR and Queensland.

These were the main things she did but behind the scenes she did even more to influence change and contribute to the advancement of our sport.

She was a person who never looked for recognition. A simple thank you went a long way. She was a very private person who would do things to help/inspire/encourage others and whatever she did, generally stayed between her and the recipient.

She built long lasting and close relationships with people.

Kay did all this and battled cancer at the same time. For the past 21 years she has fought the Big C. She may not have won the final battle but let me tell you she handled herself with dignity and strength in her final weeks.



I spoke to her on her mobile in hospital just before she was about to have a pain relieving procedure and the conversation was still about squash. Yes, she told me what was getting done but she was more concerned about what was happening in squash circles at the time.

Kay also cared for her husband Trevor who was also battling with his own health issues.

So her life was always busy and when there was something big on she did stress. That stress didn't help her health situation. In fact after the 2016 Mackay Open Kay's health slowly but surely deteriorated.



I really got to know Kay when I became CEO of Q Squash in 1999. With similar thoughts on squash, coaching and running events our relationship was always one of mutual respect, friendship and strategy!

Appointing Kay to the position of Queensland Coach in 1999 was a logical choice. Queensland may have run second to NSW that year but Queensland was very much in a rebuilding phase after the collapse of the State Body in 1996.

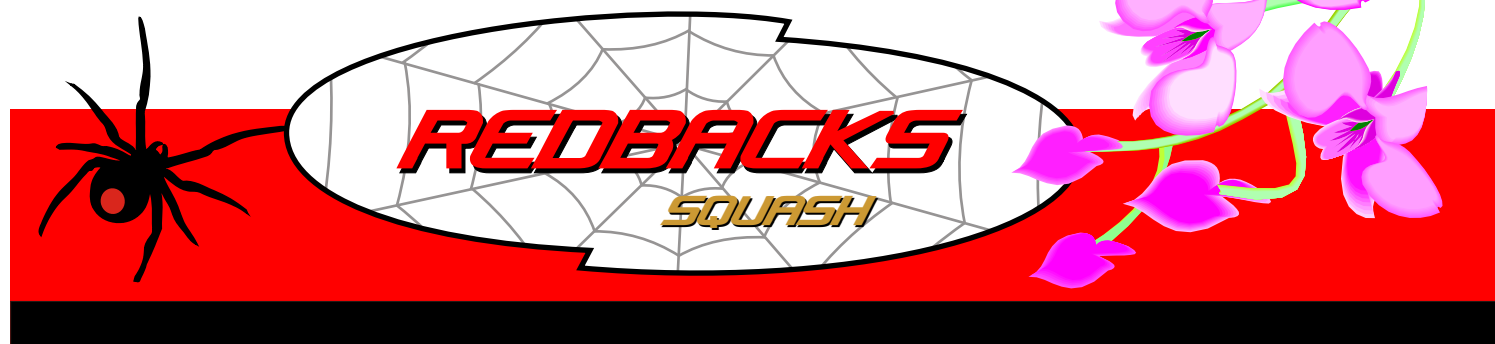
As a result of the collapse people like Kay invested private funds into ensuring our talented juniors were not disadvantaged and got to compete at the Australian Junior Championships.

Kay was not available to coach Queensland in 2000. All sporting bodies rescheduled their traditional September events to ensure the Sydney Olympics were given the focus they deserved. The AJC was conducted in Perth in July.

However, 2000 was a very important year. Following the QJC that year we decided to change the format of the State titles and Kay was a big supporter of what was being planned. Instead of each Region submitting two teams we allowed each Region to submit one larger team and we incorporated doubles into the team championship.

The first QJC under the new format was conducted in Mackay in 2001 and because of Kay's support it became a tremendous success. The same format continues to this day.

2001 saw Noel Forster and Kay Barclay appointed as Queensland Coaches and we all headed down to Sydney. Again we ran second to NSW but we were bridging the gap. Our 13YAG team



won its first team title and that continued for 6 years straight!

At the National Junior Series in 2002, Noel Forster and myself got the juniors together to discuss the possible introduction of a theme for the Queensland Team. The kids came up with the "Sharks".

Queensland also called for a change to the format of the AJC where each State/Territory could field 3 players in each team. This was achieved and introduced at the AJC in Darwin in 2002.



Queensland actually won 2 age groups to 1 but NSW still won overall. The reason being was NSW went to Darwin with 2 players in each team and Queensland rotated their 3 players. Queensland may have won a clash but NSW would have won it better and ultimately, they edged out Queensland for the coveted combined title.

Following our success in Darwin we went to Adelaide in 2003 full of confidence but in simple terms it just didn't happen. NSW recorded its 11th consecutive success for the overall combined result.

Whilst we were disappointed we knew the writing was on the wall and an overall win wasn't far away - NSW were beginning to lose their stars and their youngsters were not as strong as ours. The Queensland Sharks were circling menacingly.

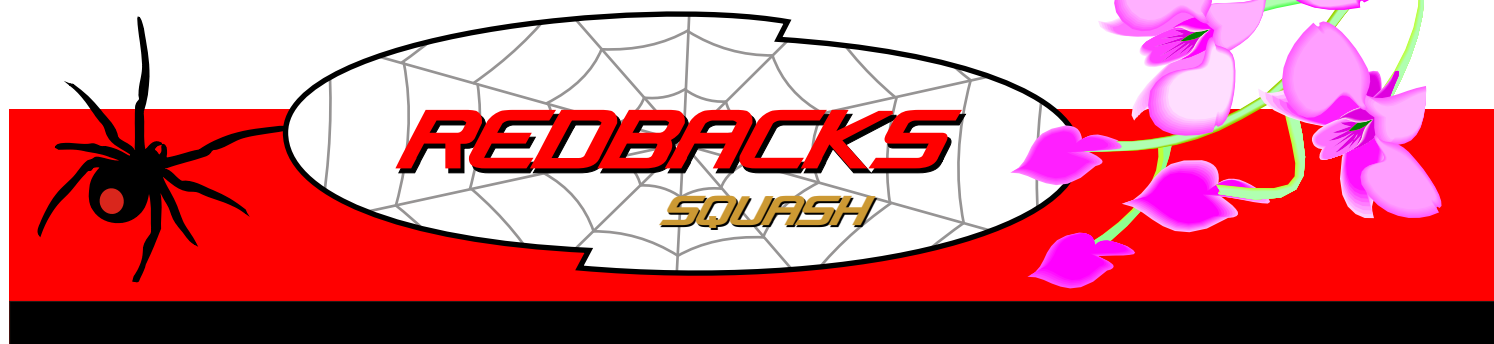
Finally, in 2004 the mighty Queensland Sharks ended the dominance of NSW winning 3 age groups to 1 against the old enemy.

Despite many internal pressures, Kay and Noel had prevailed and together we had created something special ... a winning formula! Our Sharks had broken through and were now full of confidence.

In 2006 the Sharks achieved a clean sweep winning all 4 age groups.

The Sharks run is still very much alive today ... In 2016 we won our 13th straight title! However, our new enemy is Western Australia.

Kay retired from the Sharks in 2007 and Noel in 2008. Together



with our fabulous cook (Merryl Loss 2002-2007) the team was becoming a formidable force.

Kay and Noel played significant roles in laying the foundation for future success. Some players began in the U13 team and never experienced a combined loss.

Kay played a huge role in our success and it was always a joy to catch up with both her and Noel at the Nationals. Usually we stayed together for 10 days or so and enjoyed our passion - helping our juniors to play their absolute best, interacting with the kids and working out the best way to beat NSW!



We had team meetings every night and there was some incredible banter between the kids and the officials.

We created the Austin Adarraga Achievement Medal and the Kay Barclay Achievement Medal. These Awards helped to recognise our finest achievers.

Eventually we introduced the Supershark Award - MVP as determined by each team in age group team meetings.

The present team may not have a full appreciation of the past but they still have a strong desire to keep the "Shark Streak" going!

After her retirement, I caught up with Kay at the QJC each year until 2010. For many years we would discuss various issues and then one day Kay asked me to help with the promotion of squash in Northern Region. The REDBACKS newsletter was born and 54 issues have been produced (September 2012 to February 2017).

All the way along Kay supported me and supported the publication with stories. It has led to me producing a National publication (Australian Squash Player Monthly and Annual) and two State publications for Queensland and Western Australia. Kay Barclay was my #1 fan for which I have always been appreciative.

As only Kay could do she also encouraged me to take on the media responsibilities for the Mackay Open.

So writing this tribute is an honor. Kay's memory will never be forgotten for as long as I promote squash.



Kay was a genuine human being who gave and gave and gave. She loved squash and the people in her network. More than anything she loved her juniors and always proudly discussed their progress and their achievements. She never wanted recognition but I slipped it in every now and then!

She was a fantastic coach who won the Squash Australia Coach of the Year in 2005. Yeah, she was good then but like a good wine she got even better. In 2016 two Australian Champions were coached by Kay Barclay: Hayley Hankinson and Wes Dyer.

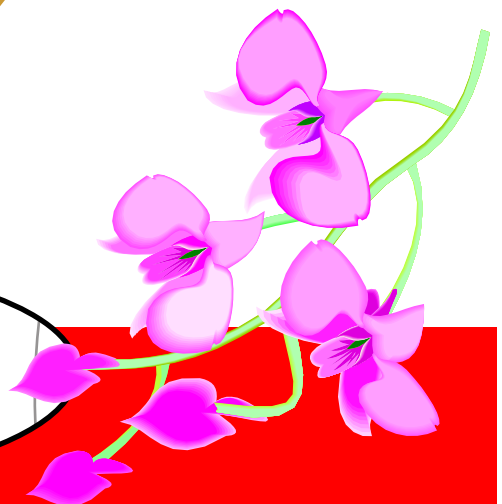
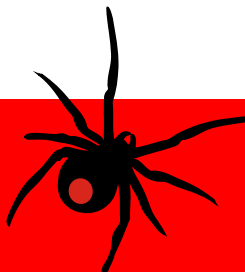
I was fortunate to be able to have some final words with Kay but for many her departure has been a major shock and a very sad loss. This tribute has been designed for those close to her or those who simply admired Kay, to finally be able to say something nice without her being able to stop it!

If you read this tribute and you feel you want to be included it is not too late. Simply email kim@squashmedia.com.au with your contribution and it will be added and the file updated.

Kim Schramm



Thank You
Kasey Bonato
for these photos



Kasey Bonato (Sinclair)

AUSTRALIAN REP, AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR CHAMPION and QUEENSLAND SHARK

Despite being small in stature, Kay made her presence known where ever she went.

I had the pleasure of being coached by Kay during the AJC's as the female coach, she was always a very cool, calm and collected coach between games no matter what the situation was on the score sheet. This ability to remain calm no matter what, I'm sure has helped so many juniors not only in their squash game but also later on in life. Kay's guidance, amazing knowledge of the game, her ability to motivate all sorts of personalities within the team to achieve their dreams and her cheeky personality will be what many of us will remember her by.

I hope she is now finally able to rest in peace and join the likes of Noelsie up there at the squash courts in the sky.

Brad Hindle

PROFESSIONAL COACH and QUEENSLAND JUNIOR REP

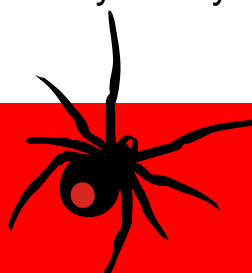
Today was sadly the end of a special era that will be never replaced quite the same way. Kay Barclay was much more than a squash coach and junior developer, she was a giving, loving and caring person who generally loved everyone and wanted them to be better squash players and people regardless of their level and status.

She personally taught me the fundamentals of the game but above that she taught me how to understand the art of learning and turning that into results whatever the goal may be.

I personally saw her touch countless people's lives and careers, whether it was a soft gentle word at the right time or pulling someone 'in line' when it was required.

Love and devotion were the only two tools she used for someone's success. And these tools I'll always be forever thankful for now that I'm coaching full-time professionally. I can honestly say if it wasn't for the guidance, love and devotion I received during my junior years in Mackay squash, it would never have been possible for me to make a career out of the game and I know I'm just one of many that she produced in Queensland.

May Kay's name along with the late Noel Forster forever be remembered and celebrated in the folklore of Queensland junior squash for their tireless spirited 'love & devotion'.
Thank you Kay Barclay.



Marc Forster

PROFESSIONAL COACH and FORMER SHARKS COACH

A legend left us last night, probably the biggest contributor to Australian Squash over the last 50 years passed away in her hometown of Mackay.

Kay Barclay was a tireless worker for Australian Squash. From Region to State to Australia, Kay never stopped and continued to answer Regional emails all the way up to her passing. Very few have equaled Kay in her pursuit of promoting squash and in particular developing young children.

An absolute super human being and it saddens me that I couldn't tell her this. Kay Barclay should go down as a legend of this sport. When will all look up at the great champions we must look back to see where they all came from and how much hard work contributed to them even staying with squash until they were good enough to go abroad.

Join your old mate Noelie Forster and rest now. RIP Kay Barclay, absolute legendary contributor to Australian squash.

Laura Stock

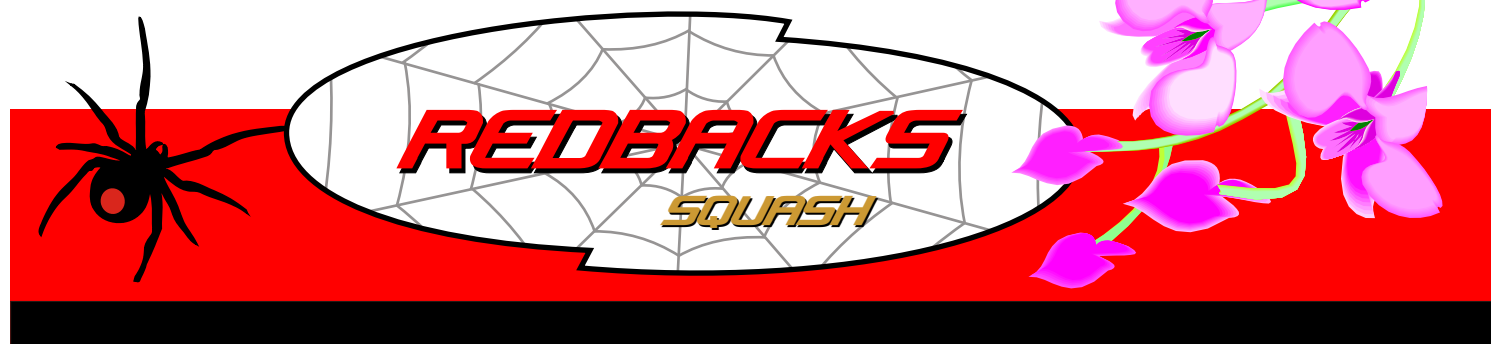
AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR REP, QUEENSLAND SHARK and REDBACKS REP

I had the privilege of spending many years with Kay as a coach and mentor, and I'll always be grateful for the way she believed in me and taught me to have faith in myself.

All of us juniors who were lucky enough to have Kay as a role model while growing up learnt the importance of hard work, discipline and never giving up. Her commitment and dedication to the squash community was unrivaled, and her passion for the sport she loved was infectious.

Throughout many years of tireless work, she maintained a great sense of humour and fun - we always enjoyed a good laugh at training sessions, even when we had to do a ridiculous number of court sprints! I wouldn't be the person I am today without her, and I'm sure this is true for countless others as well.

We have lost a true friend whose generosity knew no bounds. She will never be forgotten by the many people she inspired and she'll always have a special place in my heart.



Tiffany Loss

QUEENSLAND SHARK and REDBACK REP

My heart is aching with grief due to the very sad passing of the greatest, most loving woman I have ever known. Thank you for teaching me, guiding me, and making me the person and squash player that I am today.

You taught me to be strong when I was weak, and for me to believe when I was doubtful. You were definitely an angel on this earth and one of the greatest squash coaches in the world. Thank you for blessing me with your heart full of love, patience, guidance and belief for the past 16 years.

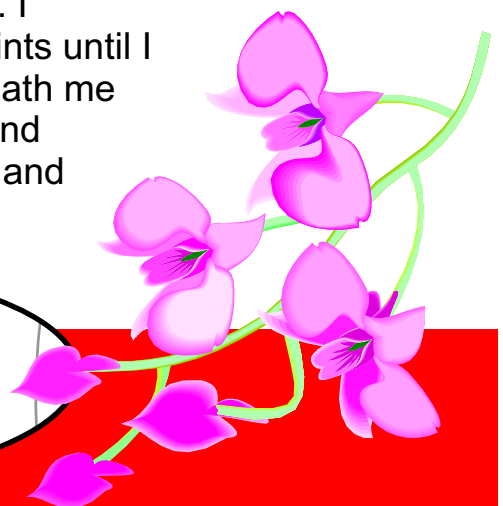
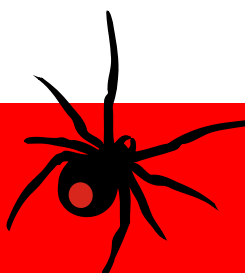
I will forever have a piece of you with me, the lucky squash coin you passed down to me 5 years ago still sits on my chest hanging from my necklace every single day. Sending prayers to the heavens today for all your love and support as you will be greatly missed, but never ever forgotten.



I first met Kay when I was 8 years old. I remember my Mum dropping me off for my first Saturday morning coaching session and I was so nervous. Those nerves soon went away when I got on the court with Kay, I just loved to play. Kay was the most caring, kind, warm hearted teacher/coach I had. I couldn't wait for school to be over just so I could go to squash.

As a small 8 year old girl, Kay would always joke and laugh about how the racquet was as big as me and how my shoes were always 3 times bigger than my feet (thanks mum!). She joked about it because she knew how much it would make me laugh, we would laugh together.

Over the years of growing up, training got harder and longer. I remember the times when Kay would make me do court sprints until I couldn't walk anymore, my legs would just fall out from beneath me ... literally. I remember going to Town Beach at 6am to do sand dune runs. Ouch. She would push me to my absolute limits, and



Tiffany Loss

QUEENSLAND SHARK and REDBACK REP

no matter how many times I said "I can't do it", she pushed me to go that little bit further, and for that I am now forever grateful for. Thankful for Kay teaching me strength and self belief and to never give up!

Kay loved coaching and traveling with us. I had the absolute privilege of sharing a room with Kay and my best squash pal Anna Courtice on every single Northern Redbacks tournament. She always loved us juniors no matter what, whether we didn't go to bed before curfew, or we wouldn't get up when the alarm went off and we made the bus driver wait, or we accidentally left tissues in our pockets and all our washing would go fluffy.

I've accomplished so much throughout my squash career, representing the Northern Region Redbacks every year of my junior career. Represented Queensland in the Queensland Sharks team for 9 years in a row and was selected into the National AIS talent squad and traveled Internationally.

I owe all of those achievements to Kay. I would not of accomplished any of them without her continuous belief, guidance, love and support. She motivated me and pushed me to my absolute limits at training. I will be forever thankful of that.

Thank you Kay for believing in me when I was down and doubtful. Thank you for being strong for me when I was weak. Thank you for pushing me to emerge as a champion in squash. Thank you for passing down your lucky coin, you will always be with me. You are my inspiration and I will miss you every single day.

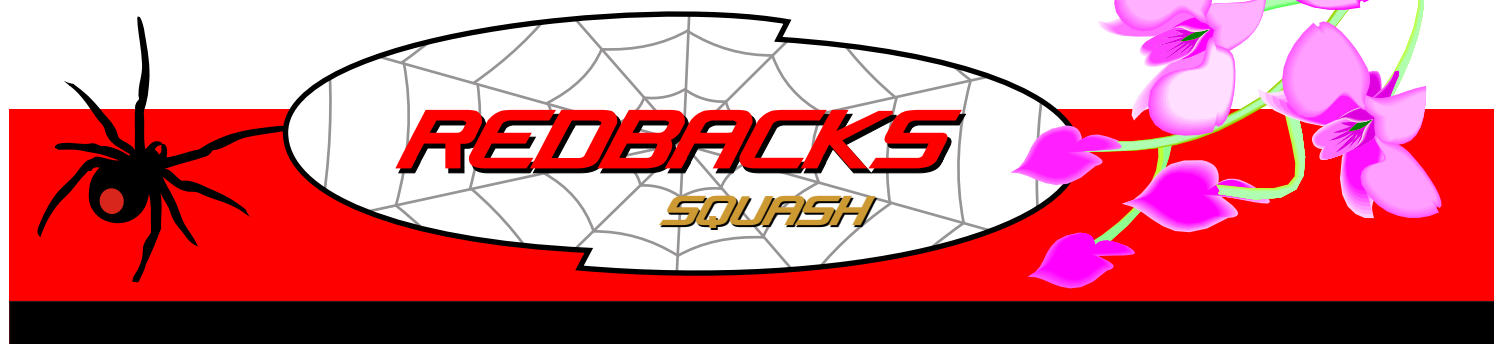
Mike Healy

FORMER NR PRESIDENT, NR WEBMASTER

As you probably know Kay Barclay passed away on 5 February 2017. Kay's contribution to squash in North Queensland was enormous.

For decades Kay was the driving force for junior squash coaching in Mackay; teaching the game to generations of players with great commitment. She also served on the Q Squash Northern Region committee for many years, trained other coaches, ran who knows how many tournaments and seasons of fixtures and gave her time and energy so selflessly to the sport and its people.

Squash in Queensland, and particularly Mackay, owes so much to Kay's efforts.



Annette, Dani & Hayley Hankinson

PARENT : REDBACK REP : AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR CHAMPION, QUEENSLAND SHARK and REDBACK REP

Kay was a formidable lady at the squash courts! Oh my goodness if you forgot to tell her you were not going to be there for your scheduled game ... you were very meek the next time you were at the courts! And rightly so! Her disapproval was no secret! Luckily she never held a grudge.

Underneath this somewhat of a prickly exterior, was a soft centered Kay! The longer you knew her, the more you saw this side of her. As a parent she could be frightening, but somehow the kids always loved her! The kids always were first and foremost in her mind.

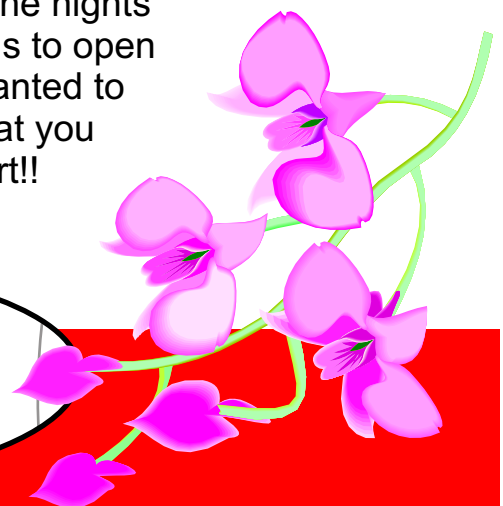
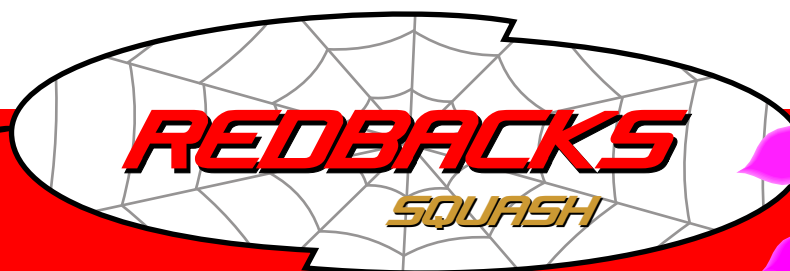
She was always there to help. She raised money for the juniors, so their training camps could be subsidised. She bought the prizes herself for the cent sales that she ran, to raise money for the juniors. Her lucky numbers were also a regular event at the courts. She was always organising something for the sake of the juniors.

Her heart and soul were always with the juniors. She was never happier than when she was at the QJC. She loved the kids! She loved watching how they had grown and improved since the last competition. And not only our Mackay children, but all the children in the State.

One of the things that Kay was to a fault ... was fair. She was so fair to everyone. Ranking, smanking ... this didn't matter to her, she gave each and every child her very best, if you were prepared to listen she was going to take the time to help you.

As her health deteriorated, she refused to let it stop her doing her job at the courts, or from meeting her squash commitments within the squash bodies around Australia. Her knowledgeable voice of logic and reason will be missed by many, not just locally, but also by those a long way away from our local courts here in Mackay.

Here at home in Mackay, we will miss that little white car in the car park, in Kay's spot, (the one that no one is game to park in!!). The rattle of her keys as she ambles her way, step by step, up the stairs after opening her downstairs room. The apprehension to the up front and honest, "Write it in the book", as you break the news that you are going to be away on such and such date, and hearing her as she grumbles about not being able to remember everything. We will remember the nights we waited and hoped that it may be our night for the heavens to open and the sun to shine down on us, and have Kay ask if we wanted to play on the spare court! Those were the magic moments that you waited for, but never dared ask for ... for fear of a sharp retort!!



Annette, Dani & Hayley Hankinson

**PARENT : REDBACK REP : AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR CHAMPION, QUEENSLAND
SHARK and REDBACK REP**

But regardless of any of this, you always knew if Kay was there, everything was going to be organised and ready. She never wanted to let anyone down.

Squash was her life and passion. She was not only the cornerstone to squash here in Mackay at the Leisure Centre, but to squash all around our country. She will be sadly missed for many reasons, by a lot of different people, but for us here in Mackay, we will miss her everyday self, whatever that would bring! And of everyone, her juniors will miss her the most!

Meryl Loss

SHARKS SUPER COOK

I would like to express my views on my very good friend Kay Barclay. I had known Kay for over 30 years, she coached all 10 of my grandchildren!

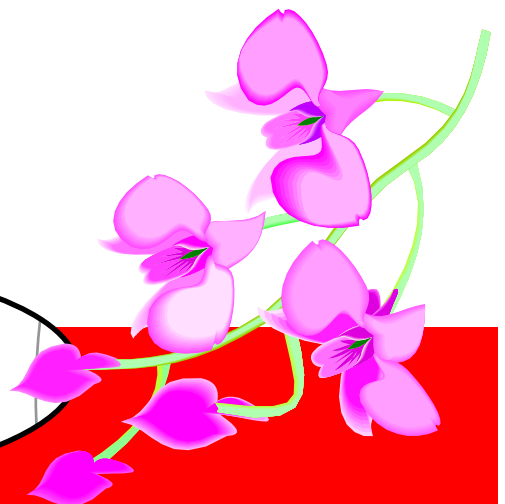
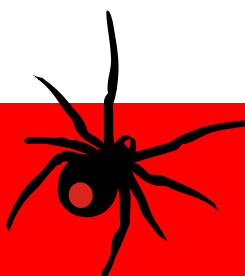
Kay had her difficult times out of sheer frustration but where her juniors were concerned she was like a mother hen. She had a very soft side not a lot of people were privy too ... I was one of the few.

All of the squash kids respected her and she knew everyone of them in every State in Australia. Kay had the best memory and was very organised. Tournaments were her forte. I traveled with her and Kim and everyone's mate Noel god bless him.

I had the best years of my life traveling with the Sharks Squash team to the Nationals and I still miss the camaraderie we had.

Kay was always getting me out of problems and I thank her for all my family. She was very passionate about Squash ... it was her life.

RIP Kay love Mezza.



Jayden Wadd

FORMER SHARKS COACH, QUEENSLAND SHARK and REDBACK REP

Such an amazing lady is so many different ways. Thank you so much for all that you did for us kids with squash and also outside of squash. The belief in us to succeed, the fun times traveling away, discipline on and off the court and so many other wonderful things. You will be greatly missed by all. Thanks and RIP Kay



I first met Kay when my family moved to Mackay and started playing squash at BG's in 2000. From day 1 she was this lovely little lady that I was scared to do anything wrong by at training. She was always making sure I would score after I played.

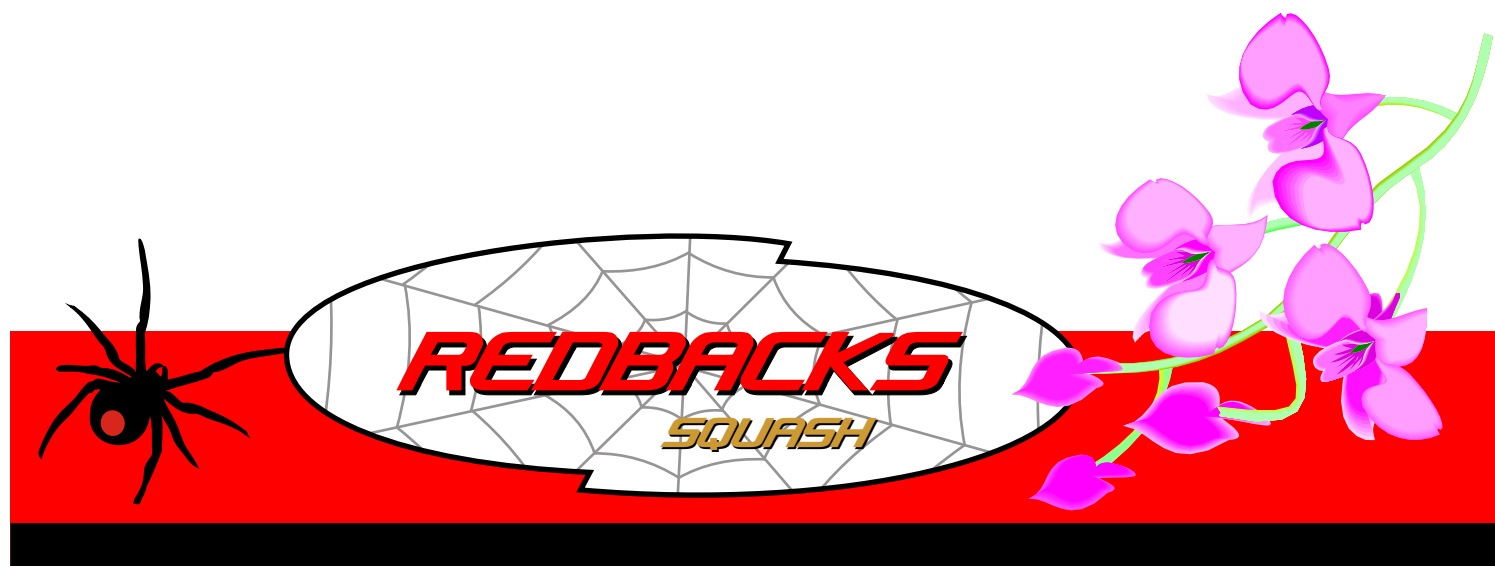
Over the years I had the absolute privilege of getting to know Kay on a different level. I have fond memories ranging from Monday and Tuesday afternoon training and struggling to walk up the stairs, then fixtures where she would take the time out from organising the whole night and watch part of the games of all the kids she coached; she would give them little tips to help them improve the game.

Kay always believed in us no matter what, even if we weren't on our best behavior. She believed in us no matter if we had completed all our training at home or not, or snuck some naughty snacks when we were meant to be watching what we ate.

As I finished juniors, Kay asked me if I would travel away and coach some of the kids as she wasn't able to travel with them anymore. For me, this is where the love of coaching came from. Kay was also very persuasive in convincing you to push yourself outside your comfort zone, and helped me to become one of the coaches of the Queensland Sharks. I can see why Kay always loved coaching and traveling with the kids. It is very rewarding to be able to see them having a great time but also playing their best which was something Kay was always trying to make sure of.

I just want to say many thanks for everything you have done for us Kay, on and off the court. I will continue coaching and passing on the skills you passed down to me so that many more people can learn this amazing game called squash.

You will be greatly missed by all.



Gillian Nielsen

PARENT and NR VICE PRESIDENT

Such sad news, she battled it to the end as only Kay could. I feel very privileged to have known and worked beside Kay. She was so intensely private and loyal that sometimes she really could be infuriating, but every now and then, she would let you into her world.

Kay was proud of all of her "squash kids". No matter how long it had been since she coached them, they were still considered to be "hers" and she was always watching out for them.

Kay was always ready to talk technique and strategy, having the ability to look at a player and say "look how he doesn't quite get his right foot around enough in the back corner". I think sometimes she shook her head in exasperation with me and my inability to see things straight away, but she was very patient and eventually, I got it.

She also wasn't afraid to call a spade a spade and sometimes that got her into some animated discussions (as you would be well aware). Rankings for tournaments sometimes drove her to despair and she would spend days making sure that it was "done right".

Passionate to the end, Kay will be greatly missed by many and the Squash world is poorer for her passing.

Teagan Ollett (Van Kerkwyk)

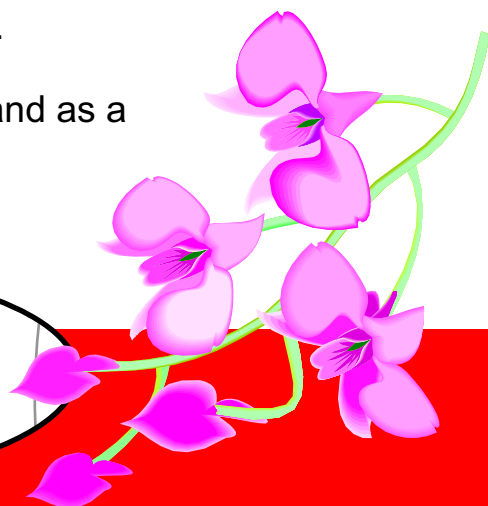
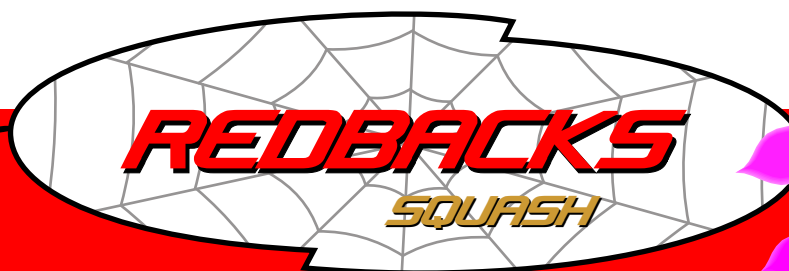
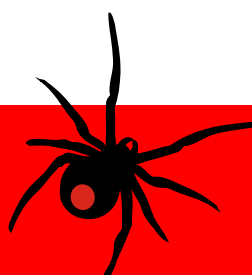
MACKAY LEISURE CENTRE OPERATOR, QUEENSLAND REP and REDBACKS REP

It is with a heavy heart that we let you know that Kay Barclay passed away last night.

Kay has been apart of the Mackay Leisure Centre family for over 40 years. A dedicated squash player in her younger years turned squash coach. During this time Kay has not only been a Mackay coach but has been a Northern Queensland coach as well as an Queensland coach.

Kay has coached many Australian number one juniors, and has done so much for the squash community. The amount of work and hours Kay has dedicated to her love of the sport is a true reflection of her as a person.

Kay has had a great impact on many people during her life and as a result today is a truly sad day for the squash community.



Peta Kraut (Hughes)

AUSTRALIAN REP, AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR CHAMPION and QUEENSLAND SHARK

Upon hearing the sad news of Kay's passing, I reflected on what I knew of her huge contribution and dedication to squash, particularly in Northern Queensland. I was fortunate enough to be awarded the Kay Barclay Achievement Medal in 2006, something I will forever hold as my own personal memory of Kay.

Although I've been out of the squash scene for a few years now, one thing that never fades is the friendship, memories and achievements formed representing Queensland as a junior and Kay Barclay and Noel Forster played a huge role as coaches leading us to victory many times.

A sad day for the squash community knowing Kay has hung up the racket for the last time, but certainly a life worth celebrating and one that will surely continue in all the juniors she has touched over the years.

Alec MacDonald

NORTHERN REGION PRESIDENT

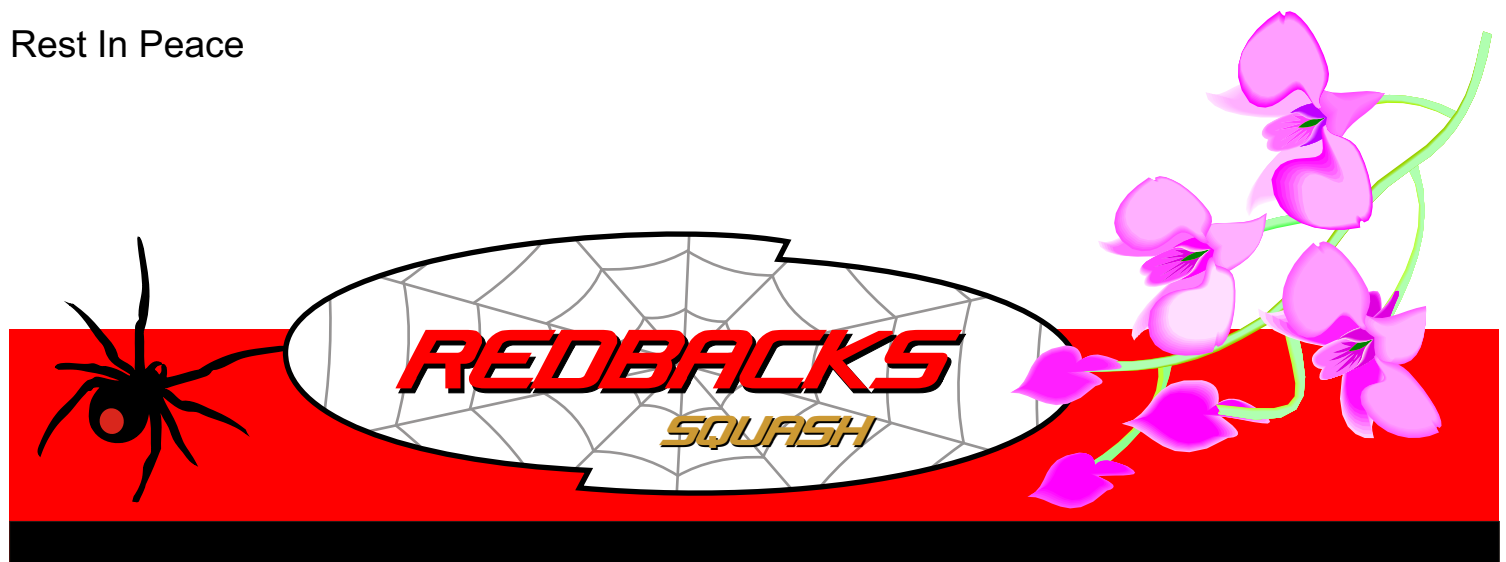
Where to start? Kay was and will always be remembered as the Mother of Squash in Northern Queensland.

Kay was always great to have at your back when in the trenches. She nurtured the game of squash through thick and thin times and is largely responsible for its continued existence in North Queensland.

There are literally thousands of young and some now not so young players that owe their enjoyment and skill level of squash to their relationship with Kay.

I do not possess the vocabulary necessary to do Kay the justice that she deserves, but can say this " We are all better squash players and more importantly better human beings for having the privilege of having known Kay."

Rest In Peace



Robyn Cooper

AUSTRALIAN REP & COMMONWEALTH GAMES MEDALLIST

When I think of squash in Mackay, I think of Kay Barclay. Kay has been instrumental in keeping squash going in Mackay and if it wasn't for her passion, enthusiasm and drive for the game I'm sure it would have died off years ago.

My first memory of Kay was when I was 7 years old. I entered my first squash tournament in the under 11 year age group. I entered many more tournaments after that and I can remember two ladies in particular: Kay Barclay and Muriel Atherton.

Both of these ladies worked tirelessly ensuring the tournaments were run in a professional manner. Kay being Kay, she would always play the tournament herself as well as manage and organise it. Kay being Kay, she would never stop. Always on the go. Her energy was incredible.

Kay was also a coach. I remember Tuesday afternoon coaching sessions. I remember Kay never missing a session. She would always be there to put us through our drills and fitness. Kay always had large numbers of players. Everyone loved Kay's sessions and right to her last was no different. She was always supportive of everyone, it didn't matter your standard.

Kay was involved at Club, Regional and State level. She was a mentor to many players and they had great respect for her knowledge and support. I can remember asking her one time if she was going to coach the Queensland team at nationals that year. Her response was that she wasn't up to it. However her illness didn't stop her and she was still coaching right to the end.

Kay, thanks for the memories. You will be sadly missed by all who knew you. RIP.

Annie Fox

REDBACK REP

A very beautiful, dedicated and strong woman left the squash community today. She was a wonderful coach and influenced so many, including myself greatly. Kay, you will be missed ever so much and the squash community will never be the same without you. Sending all my love to Mackay and to her family.



Karen & Wes Dyer

**PARENT and NR TREASURER : AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR CHAMPION,
QUEENSLAND SHARK and REDBACK REP**

Yes, Kay's passing was sad. I was fortunate to walk the last couple of miles with her during her struggles and must say that she kept going until the bitter end.

When I visited her on Thursday last week, she was still full of beans, but I could tell that the countdown had begun.

She welcomed Wesley during the visit and was extremely happy to see him. Not once did she not want him there. He saw her at her worst, but she was still very welcoming.

On Saturday afternoon when I popped in she drifted in and out of sleep, mid sentence, but still thanked me for the visit and went off to sleep. I said my goodbyes then and told her to sleep tight. I knew that would be my last visit. She did tell Alec and myself that you'd had a chat on the phone. Oh, she spoke so highly of you!!

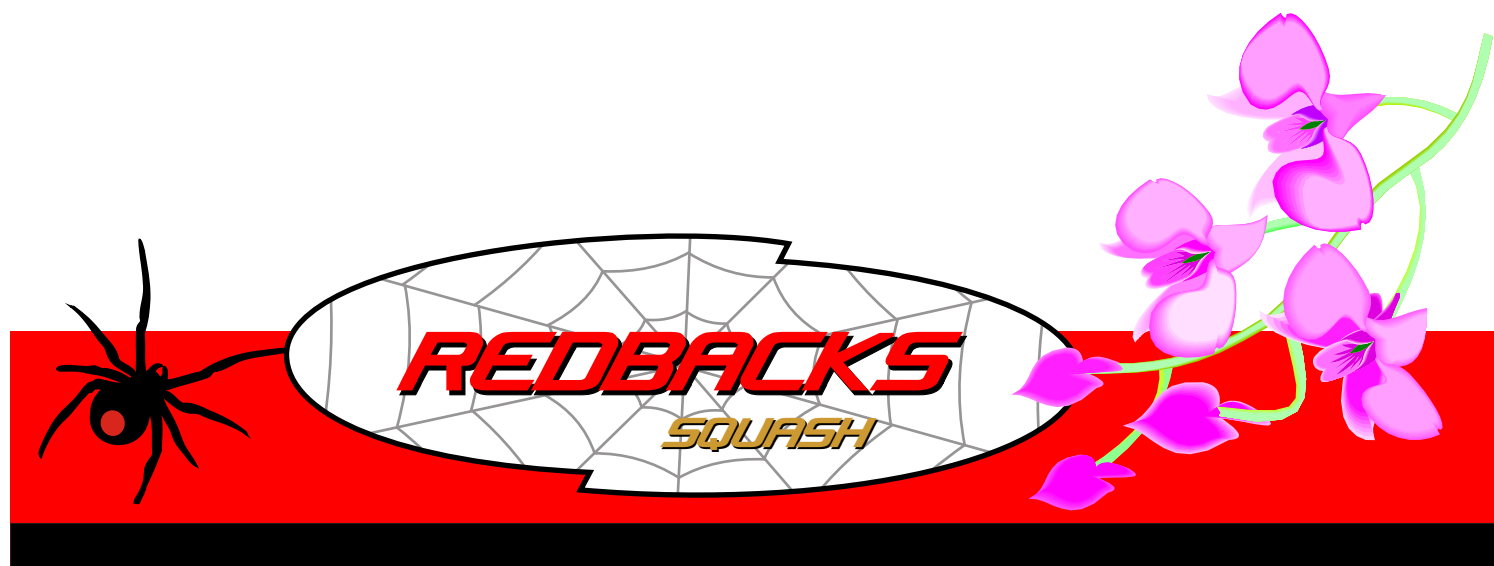
Our family immigrated here in 2009. One of the first things I was told by a squash mum was to be careful of this coach. She can be a live wire! Don't ever keep your child from training and fixtures without letting her know or you'll get served!!

Oh my, I always tried to keep on the straight and narrow, but got to know how angry this little lady could get! Kay was a passionate soul. She lived for every child that she worked with.

Wes told me that his happiest moment was at the 2016 QJC when he was playing in the final and looked up to see Kay fist pumping and telling him to come on!! He went on to win and she was overwhelmed with joy.

During the AJC Kay txt'd me to ask whether Wes had arranged a sub for his Thursday night fixtures. It was just before he went on court to play in the final. Well, there was a bit of a break in our conversation as we sat in Mackay holding our breaths. After it was done, she txt'd me and I quote: "who cares about the sub, Wes is a National Champion yeah!!"

We were extremely fortunate to have her for the last 7 years of her life. She was and will always be the best. May you rest easy Kay. God bless your soul.



Karen & Wes Dyer

**PARENT and NR TREASURER: AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR CHAMPION,
QUEENSLAND SHARK and REDBACK REP**



Here is a pic that I took of the two of them a few years ago. I always laugh at this. They had a very unique relationship. I called it a love/hate relationship.

They would fight like mad, but all Wes had to do was send her a quick apology txt and she'd forgive him on the spot!

My boy is so bitterly upset about his coach.

Ros Preston

Q SQUASH PRESIDENT

It is with great sadness we farewell Kay Barclay. She has been a complete legend of our great game. Her passion, guidance and dedication will be so greatly missed by so many both here in Queensland as well as throughout Australia.

My many memories of Kay started some 13 years ago when my daughter Kelly made the "Sharks Team" for the very first time (this was the first year we actually won the Overall Team Championship at the AJC and I remember well, those wonderful trips).

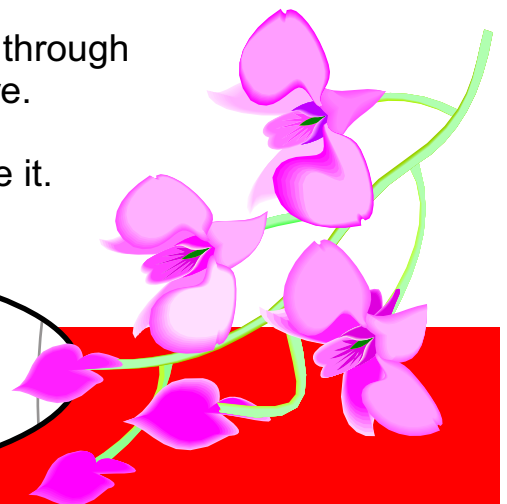
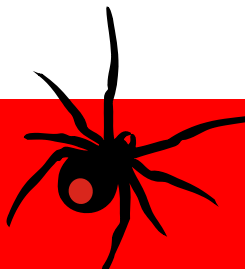
Kay had a unique knack of being able to instil respect, politeness and a love of the game into all of our young junior players and respect her they did as she developed many of them into age champions.

Q Squash will never be able to thank her enough for everything she has done for the development of squash in our great State.

I personally cannot thank Kay enough for her friendship and guidance she has provided to me over the many years that I have known her. I could discuss anything with her and always knew that she would provide great advice on how to solve any problems and the best way to deal with it and move forward.

We send our thoughts and prayers to her family and friends through this difficult time. Her memory will be continued forever more.

God bless you Kay and now may you RIP you really deserve it.



Virginia, Chris, Stephanie and Ainsleigh Lugger

FORMER NR TREASURER

Squash was Kay's life!

I met Kay in 2001. Kay was watching Chris and I play. She told us all about the fixture competitions available and soon after Chris and I joined up ... and she also signed both our daughters up to play juniors as well!

Kay spent many hours over the years training so many children to become junior competition squash players. Ainsleigh trained and played in the Northern Region qualifiers. In time she represented the Redbacks at the Queensland Junior Championships.

I didn't know Kay had trained so many elite players. She drilled the kids hard at training, but I loved to see the juniors change over time to become very good players.

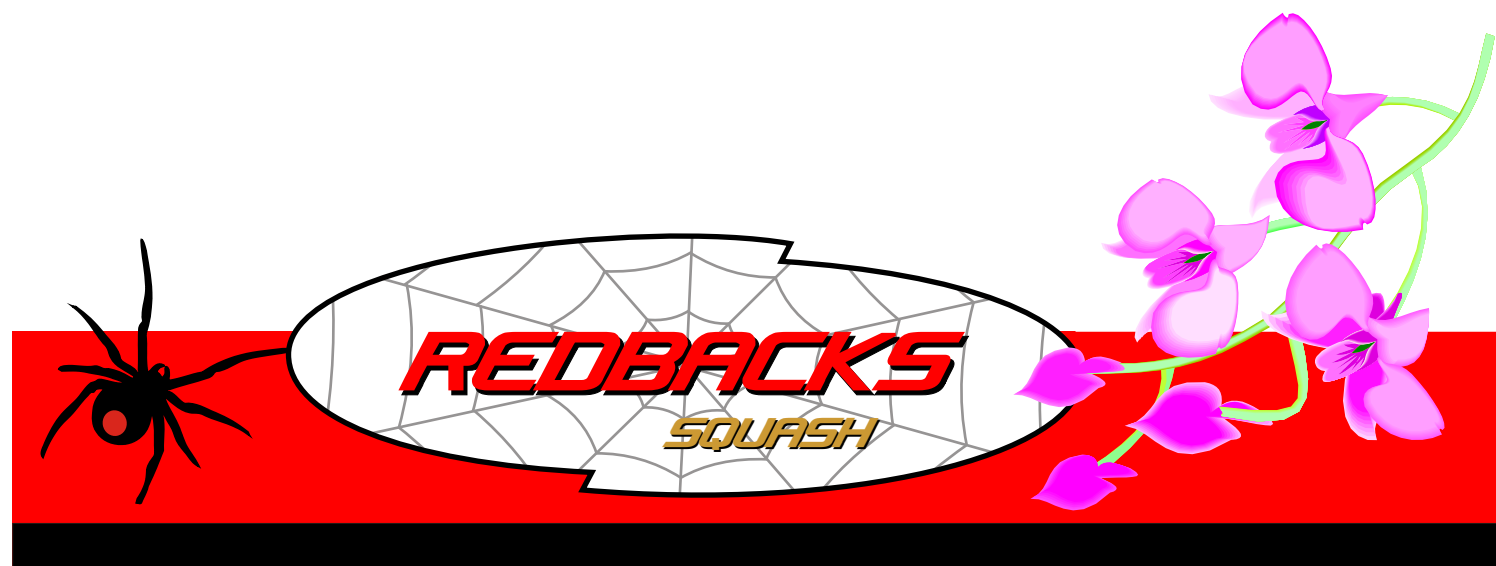
I became Treasurer for BG's inhouse club and Northern Region, spanning over 10 years. Any questions I had about anything or anyone I just went to Kay ... she knew the answers.

Kay travelled with our juniors to tournaments and put up with the parents questioning their child's squash playing. Her memory was vast and her knowledge of squash was enormous. I could ring Kay to ask about something we had discussed weeks prior and she would remember for me.

Kay had a hard time keeping everyone happy but there was always a game for them at their level of squash. Kay always had a game for anyone who wanted to play fixtures. Being a qualified Level 2 Coach, she ran Level 1 training courses for adults so they could help train the juniors.

Outside of squash Kay and I talked about our gardens and she gave me cuttings of her gorgeous plants. I made her QJC shirts and pants shorter, helped her with Saturday training, ran Monday night fixtures for a while (with lots of help from Gillian) to help Kay out when she was sick. Unfortunately, I assumed Kay was always going to be there. She gave so much.

Kay was a part of my families life. I held her hand and kissed her goodbye.



Del Greenslade

FORMER NR COMMITTEE MEMBER & FORMER Q SQUASH BOARD MEMBER

Where does one begin to talk about Kay?

There were those who loved her and those who thought she was a cranky old lady but which ever you were there was a respect. Kay was a lady who told it as it was, as she used to say to me "if they don't like it tuff luck"; but underneath Kay was a kind, loving, gentle person with an incredible sense of loyalty to the ones she loved and the game of squash especially the juniors.

There was also another side of Kay the one who loved to garden, boy did she have a green thumb and of course it was all put to good use when fundraising for the juniors. If you look in Kays room at the courts you will soon realise what her other love was, dogs and cats and especially her little sausage dog.

Kay was from the old school where respect and commitment were important and over the years she tried and did instil this into the numerous juniors who passed her way including my own son Lee.

We have seen many coaches and helpers come and go through Northern Region over the years but Kay was always there to guide, teach and encourage, the stable one that everyone knew would be there.

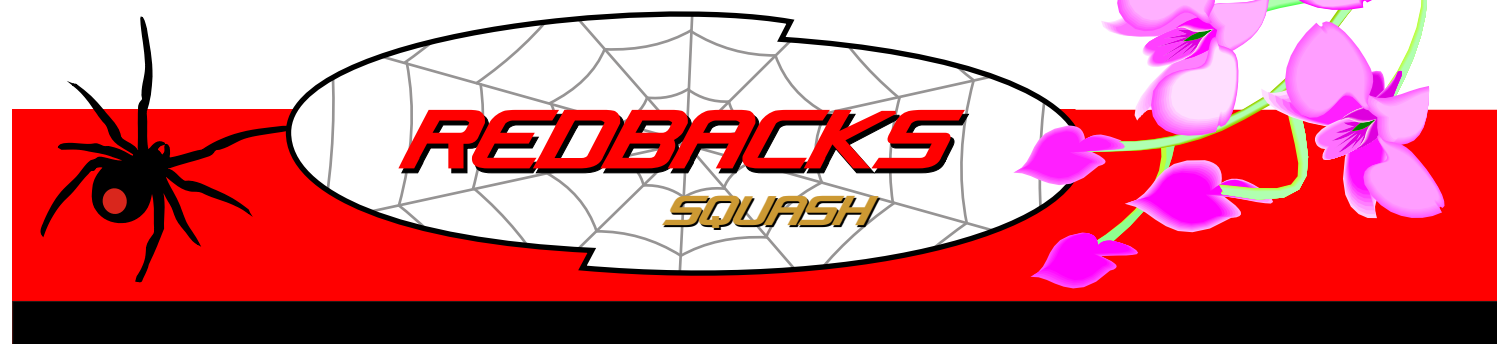
Her dedication and love of Northern Region and Mackay Leisure Centre (BG's to us oldies) and its players especially the juniors gave her the strength to fight on for as long as she did.

I knew Kay for 25 years and in all that time her passion for squash, to see the game grow and survive, never waned hence against all odds and obstacles sent her way she managed to still get everyone a game on fixture nights, run the Mackay Open each year and hold Regional and State titles in Northern Region.

Even in her final days Kay was making sure everyone had the necessary paper work and tools required to keep things moving along and growing.

I was fortunate enough to spend several hours with Kay over that week and she never talked of herself ... such is the person.

On the day I had to fly home I visited her in hospital and said "I didn't want to say goodbye" knowing it would be our last. She gave a little chuckle smiled and said "well you are going to have to". I gave her



Del Greenslade

FORMER NR COMMITTEE MEMBER & FORMER Q SQUASH BOARD MEMBER

a kiss and reluctantly said “goodbye”.

Mackay, Northern Region and Queensland have lost an absolute icon, but Kay being Kay would want no fuss and that everyone move on and get on with the job of keeping the game alive and respect and support each other.

Rest in Peace my friend.



2015 QJC - John Lockton Photography

REMINDER

If you read this tribute and you feel you want to be included it is not too late. Simply email kim@squashmedia.com.au with your contribution and it will be added and the file updated.





KAY BARCLAY



RIP