

# Winter is netball-time for Hayley

Hayley Soar is passionate about her netball. The 15 year old had her first taste of the game when she was nine, at Patumahoe Primary School. "I found, when I was playing netball, I just 'clicked.' The more confident I became, the better I got. I feel really good when I play!"

Hayley plays Goal Defence and Goal Keeper for Patumahoe 2 and has this year again been selected for the Pukekohe U15 Representative A team. She played for Pukekohe High School last year, but Rep games come first.

"It feels really good when I make successful defences, but I'm always looking to get better. Counties Manukau Netball wanted to encourage their rep players, so they brought in Silver Ferns coach Yvonne Willering and top player Temapara George from the Development Squad to take sessions with us. They showed us all sorts of things - tactical and how to play with a positive attitude. I learnt just how to position my body when defending and how to force an intercept. Their guidance turned us into 'smart thinkers' - different players. Netball is a really rewarding game, no matter what position you play."

For Hayley, wintertime is a time for total commitment to netball. As well as training and playing, she umpires and co-coaches Patumahoe Primary Blue team with her younger sister Natasha. "They are awesome, they learn so fast!" Hayley's ultimate goal is to become a Silver Fern, like her heroes Anna Scarlett and Casey Williams. "I would like to be a PE teacher so I can pass on my passion and enthusiasm about netball to others," she says. ■



Patumahoe 2 Netball Team: Renne Conroy, Natalie Jamison, Hayley Soar, Ange Balle, Ambre Dawbin, Jenifer Marland, Nikora Foster

