



ALL SAINTS'
COLLEGE

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Eliana Hullett (Year 9)

COUNTRIES UNITE FOR TOP COAST FESTIVAL

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FORGING connections within the global netball fraternity will be the name of the game at the International Netball Festival beginning on the Gold Coast today.

Now in its eighth year, the five-day tournament at Palm Beach's South Coast Netball Association will feature 30 teams from Australia, Fiji, Malaysia and New Zealand in under-13, 15 and 18 age groups.

The brainchild of Helensvale-based Kiwi Jane Rushton, the competition has also expanded to Fiji in recent years and could arrive in New Zealand as early as 2019.

Rushton said the drive behind the idea was simple.

"My girls were playing netball (at Northern Gold Coast) and I saw the need for netball to encourage people to come and play. (The tournament) is just for everyone to have a positive experience and connect with players from other countries," she said.

"I just started it up and it's just grown from there. We run one in December in Fiji as well and ... we have a cut-off of 32 teams because there's not enough courts. It's a great community feel and connection."

While the Commonwealth Games have kept team numbers down for this year's event, Rushton said she had already received interest from South African and English officials about taking part in future tournaments.



ALL THE PHOTOS AND
ACTION FROM THE
NETBALL FESTIVAL
Next week's Bulletin

New Zealand's Tenn Miringa Kearns (left) and Savanna Miller (right) and Australia's Eliana Hullett are playing in the International Netball Festival. Picture: JERAD WILLIAMS