

NEW GOALS IN SIGHT

Life hasn't slowed down for world champion netballer Bianca Chatfield since retiring, writes ERIN DELAHUNTY

With a schedule that would make most peoples' heads spin, retired netball champion Bianca Chatfield appears to be approaching life after a stellar 17-year career in the same tenacious and uncompromising way she played.

Born in Somerville on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, Chatfield, who was one of the youngest players to debut for the national side at 18, retired last year as one of Australia's most celebrated netballers.

Chatfield did it all; winning a world championship in 2007, Commonwealth Games gold in 2014, as well as silver in 2006, trans-Tasman ANZ Championships in 2009 and 2014 with the Melbourne Vixens, and a swag of premierships with the Melbourne Phoenix. The rugged defender also managed to fit in a teaching and human movement degree, a diploma in management and a graduate certificate in elite athlete mentoring.

While some see retirement as time to relax, Chatfield, 33, is the opposite, though she admits not missing the ice baths and "revolting" skinfold tests.

"I like doing lots of different projects. I don't want to lock myself into one thing," she says. "I know my life would exhaust some, but I feel really balanced."

Melbourne-based Chatfield is head coach at Victoria University's elite Netball Academy and has been involved in developing a netball specialisation for the university's diploma of sport development.

As president of the Australian Netball Players' Association, Chatfield works towards greater professionalism

in the sport. She has a personal development business with fellow retired netball star, Sharelle McMahon, and runs clinics throughout Victoria with current Vixens mid-courter Madi Robinson through a program funded by Chemist Warehouse.

Chatfield was this year an ambassador for the Melbourne Renegades Big Bash side, which included working as a mentor to the women's side and MCing at matches.

She'll also be part of the TV coverage of the ANZ Championships this season.

And then there's her newest "baby"; The Ignition Project, an online leadership and personal development program she has devised with Leigh Russell, a high performance coach and former Netball Victoria chief executive officer.

She says the program is about passing on her hard-won knowledge. "You won't read it in text books, but it's stuff that can be deal-breakers in career, business and life."

Key to Chatfield's post-netball life is balance. "I am quite a healthy person and, while I have no desire to step back on to a netball court, keeping fit is important to me. It is nice to be able to randomly have a night out with a few glasses of wine and not have to be accountable to anyone." Here's cheers to that. [W](#)



KICK-START FOR LIFE

The Ignition Project is a four-week online leadership and personal development program designed to teach women and girls how to "put the fluff to the side" in pursuit of real-life success. The brainchild of Chatfield and Leigh Russell, a high performance coach known for her work on FoxTEL's *The Recruit*, the program includes a series of emails, videos, interactive Q&As and literature for \$89. Chatfield says it's about sharing "the stuff I wish I'd known when I was starting out." theignitionproject.com.au

ABOVE Bianca Chatfield and Leigh Russell have teamed up to create a program to assist personal development for girls and women. LEFT Chatfield applies the same tenacity that made her a champion netballer to her off-court projects.