

Ballina Basketball Incorporated

President's Report – AGM 2025

Presented by Kris Davis, President



A Year of Firsts, Growth and Momentum

It's been a year of firsts, new faces, learning, and momentum for Ballina Basketball. As a club, we've taken meaningful steps to lay strong foundations that support both our current members and future generations of players, coaches, and officials.

Strategic Direction and Club Culture

We developed a strategic plan focused on strengthening our club culture and driving long-term development across all levels. As part of this, we established a clear set of core values, **Respect, Accountability, and Integrity**, which now guide everything we do, from grassroots to representative programs.

Representative Basketball

We've worked hard to bring pride and prestige to our representative program. Representing Ballina is something we want families to view as an honour, a reflection of commitment, growth, and community.

This year, Tiffany Chilcott stepped into the rep delegate role for the first time and did an incredible job supporting the program and the seven teams entered in the Northern Junior League (Division 2).

Key initiatives included:

- Excellent parent-coaches who supported holistic player growth and competitiveness.
- A comprehensive Rep Information Booklet for families.
- New supporter apparel and warm-up tops featuring sponsor logos.
- A detailed sponsorship package to help families gain local support.
- Two training sessions per week offered to all rep teams.
- A new Rep Launch Day with uniforms, team-building, team photos, a scoreboard clinic, and a warm-up session led by Cal from Jetts Gym.

- Partnership with Jetts Gym, providing a free PT session to each team.

While we're still building a more competitive and committed mindset, these improvements supported coaches and managers and helped players grow while having fun.

Result: FIVE out of SEVEN teams reached the grand final, with the U14 and U16 Girls crowned champions. We are working towards entering teams in Division 1 next season.

Development Pathways

Referees

- Multiple Community Referee and Association Development clinics and workshops developed young officials.
- A referee development team (Matt Earl, Steve Cray, and myself) established a clear referee pathway and rewarded performance with grand final appointments.
- Continued financial support for referees involved in rep programs.

Coaches

- Targeted clinics with Darren Allie and Adam Marjoram focused on Ballina's on-court identity and how to execute it.
- I became a Coach Presenter, joining Steve, Marty, and Lauren in delivering accredited coach education.
- Ongoing mentorship with coaches across rep teams.

Players

- Revamped Aussie Hoops at BISC with 6 coaches, 4 new portable hoops, and 'Effort, Bravery & Teamwork' collectable cards handed out at sessions to begin developing a positive culture at an early age.
- New equipment including cones, bibs, beanbags, scarves, tags, and a lockable trolley.

Aussie Hoops Hubs launched at schools:

- Teven PS (Term 4, 2024)
- Emmanuel Anglican College (Terms 2 & 3, 2025)
- A \$1,000 Basketball Australia grant supported the EAC hub

Aussie Hoops Participant Growth:

- Term 3, 2024 — 42 participants
- Term 4, 2024 — 70 participants (Teven & BISC)
- Term 1, 2025 — 57 participants
- Term 2, 2025 — 80 participants (EAC & BISC)
- Term 3, 2025 — 71 participants (EAC & BISC)

Surge Squad Initiative

With no U12 rep teams in 2024, we launched Surge Squad for 9–11-year-olds to bridge the gap between Aussie Hoops, local comp, and rep-level skills. In terms 1 & 2 in 2025, Boys' and girls' sessions were held weekly, and many players transitioned into North Coast Shield teams in Term 3.

Result:

- 1 x U11 boys and 1 x U11 girls NCS team
- 2x U13 boys and 2x U13 girls NCS teams

Competitions and High-Level Opportunities

Junior Competition

- Amanda Screen stepped in as coordinator, bringing care, energy, and structure.
- U10 Mini Ball was introduced (cross-court format).
- Launched a girls' only competition. Over 12 months, it has expanded into primary and high school competitions with 4 teams in the PS and 6 teams in the HS comp. The girls' competitions now mirror the boys' competition, fostering a sense of unity and team spirit.
- Rep teams have been integrated into the boys' competition for development.
- The U18 boys competition has been expanded to U23 to reduce dropouts and help boys transition to senior levels.
- Medals and new and improved uniforms were introduced to elevate competition.
- Ongoing encouragement for juniors (rep and non-rep) to transition to senior levels, including participation in Division 2 and Sunshine League.

Senior Competition

- Matt Earl coordinated referees.
- Ange Vado manages the competition with the support of Joselyn Hilyard and myself.
- We currently have six teams playing in the women's competition and are seeing younger players participating, which helps the competition to continue growing and remain sustainable.
- In the men's, there are eight teams in Div 1 and seven in Div 2. The competition is getting stronger all the time, and both divisions are highly competitive.
- Currently trialling a flexible borrowing system to avoid forfeits, especially in women's games.

Sunshine Conference

- Entered both men's and women's teams in 2024 and 2025 seasons.
 - Women: 2024 Grand final runners-up.
 - Men: Didn't make finals but, aiming for finals this season.

North Coast Shield

- 2024: 9 teams competed; U12 and U14 girls won their grand finals.
- 2025: 13 teams entered. Huge thanks to Laura Matthews for coordinating for the first time and organising so many teams with dedication and care.

BNSW Pathway Engagement

- U13 Talented Athlete Program: Congratulations to Vincent Benfield.
- U12 Skills Days & Jamboree: Well done Bruce, Adele, and Imogen.
- Referees Selah, Cooper, Evie and Halle were selected to referee and participate in the development program at Jamboree.

Development Camps

- Hosted a Country Development Camp with Adam Marjoram (Jan 2025).
- Strong local coaching support.
- Adam described it as "the most supported camp he's ever run."

Events, Grants, and Community Engagement

3x3 Holiday Events

- Funded by \$9,000 Office of Regional Youth grant.
- Two free events including singlets, BBQ, and paid referees.
- Purchased a BBQ for use at future events and clinics.

She Hoops Clinic & Female Leadership Workshop

- Delivered by:
 - Nat Hurst (Canberra Capitals / NZ Tall Ferns)
 - Makayla Ruff (Sydney Flames)
- Included a girls' skills session and a leadership workshop for women aged 16+ (10 female participants).

Other Support & Partnerships

- Ford Aussie Hoops grant (\$3000).
- Woolworths grant (\$500).
- Lennox Gelato: Ice cream for girls' comp finals and reward vouchers for Surge Squad.
- Cherry St Sports Club (\$2500).

Operations and Systems

- Successfully transitioned from GameDay to Basketball Connect, with some teething problems
 - Transitioned to Wilson basketballs, aligning with BNSW.
 - **A massive thank you to Ange Vado who:**
 - Launched our new website.
 - Created an online shop for apparel orders.
 - Continues to run our social media presence and share key moments with the community.
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In Closing

This has been an enormous year, and none of it would be possible without the people behind the scenes.

Thank you to our committee, coaches, referees, volunteers, sponsors, and the many families and players who bring their time, energy, and love for basketball every single week.

A special mention to **Zoe and Ange** for their massive contributions behind the scenes — from governance, finance, and operations to communications and tech support. The year-round commitment you both give to the club hasn't gone unnoticed. I'm incredibly thankful to have had your support in my first year as President.

Together, we've taken giant steps forward. I'm proud of what we've achieved and excited for what's still to come.

Kris Davis

President – Ballina Basketball