



## Presidents Reports

Compiled by Grant Carson in his capacity as President for Port Macquarie Basketball Association, and for the period ending December 2023.

I would like to formally welcome our Life Members, Executive & General Committee Members, Sponsors, Coaches, Members & families.

I would like to thank my amazing board for their support, contributions, and willingness to challenge each other, as we strategise and guide the club forward.

As a board we continue to look at ways we can grow, develop and improve to ensure the sustainability of the association well into the future and to ensure that we are able to provide opportunities for everyone to enjoy our fabulous sport at any level.

This year we have been working to gain a better understanding of the strategic areas in which we operate and what our priorities in each of these areas are. Following I will outline some of these key areas and what we as a board are doing within them.

## Financial

As indicated in Andrew's Treasurer Report, the association continues to be in a strong financial position enabling us to consider many opportunities. I would like to thank Anthea Romer (former treasurer), Andrew Rhode and Julie Minihan for the significant amount of time invested into ensuring the financial records are maintained in a manner that enables us to easily identify the many positive programs we are running, whilst also allowing us to identify programs that may require some changes. This also allows us to budget for programs moving forward to ensure that we can maintain strong financial control.

Lyndal Harper, Nick Prior and Anthea Romer have both been instrumental for securing sponsorships in particular our major sponsors Andrew Miedecke MG in 2023 and Andrew Miedecke Ford for 2024-2025. More recently, we have secured Settlers Inn as a major sponsor, and we welcome their support and commitment.

Recently, Narelle Blair has also been heavily involved in applying for a number of Grants as well as looking at a wide range of fundraising opportunities to help us minimise costs for all our members. It is one of our goals to ensure that basketball is attainable for all that want to be

involved, and that the cost should not be a barrier for anyone. These sponsorships, grants and fundraising activities assist us in doing that.

## Governance

Over the last 12 months we have taken significant steps in further developing the governance within our board. For many years the board has been required to have a strong operational hands-on approach, and whilst in many instances this is still the case, there has been a concerted effort towards building our strategic plan. This enables our board to be strategic moving forward and to provide all our members the framework to be involved in any capacity that they can to help us as an association achieve our goals. As the saying goes many hands make light work.

With this being said we have introduced further Governance controls at Board level and I would like to thank the work of Anthea Romer and Rosemarie Lucas who whilst serving last year spent a significant period of work in introducing checklists and processes to ensure that we are well positioned moving forward.

## Competitions

As many of you know competitions has been an area that I have been heavily involved in for many years and I hope will continue to be for years to come as I enjoy nothing more than seeing as many people as possible at all levels enjoy our sport.

Our domestic competition continues to grow with now over 100 teams across all of our competitions (pre covid there was approximately 60 teams). Competitions now run across four days however court availability continues to be a constraint on future growth. We continue to engage the Stadium and now also utilising the newly constructed PCYC to ensure we can maximise whatever time we get to building on our competitions, whilst also trying to balance the need to provide training and development.

One focus area for our competitions is a move towards a club-based system. Last year we saw Howard and Nicole Marzan, as well as several other members, startup the Stingrays club and the Stingrays now have teams across nearly all the various competitions. We are actively engaging other key people in providing a framework to be involved in the establishment of additional clubs to participate in future competitions, and it is hoped that we can have at least two more clubs off the ground in the next 12 months. This will further enable our board to focus on our strategic objectives and providing competitions that offer an opportunity to all to enjoy and develop.

## Development

For several years the association was able to enjoy the support of Robbie Linton who was able to provide enthusiastic, high-energy support in driving development within our schools and the association. As Robbie's North Coast Basketball product continues to grow and expand, he made the decision that as Port Macquarie Basketball was strongly positioned, he would like to focus on building the growth of his Academy and other smaller associations closer to home such as Macksville.

I want to acknowledge the hard work, passion and dedication of Robbie which we are honestly finding it hard to replace.

In light of our significant growth, the increasing burden on volunteers and the decision by Robbie to focus on North Coast Basketball, in 2023 the Board made the decision to recruit an Operations Manager.

Chris Clyne commenced in September last year but unfortunately the move from Victoria and the demands of the role meant we mutually agreed to dissolve the appointment in November.

The issue of managing our growth and the workload that comes with all our programs against having sustainable funding for paid staff continues to be a challenge for PMBA into 2024. Whilst we continue to run Development programs within schools, Aussie Hoops and Introduction to Basketball through our imports and other local coaches we have identified that Development is one of our key challenges.

We are exploring a number of approaches at the moment and in particular believe clubs will assist in some way to development at a local level through an alignment with schools and Port Macquarie Basketball providing key resources and direction.

We are also looking at exploring other locations where we can offer this development, and in the 2024 calendar year we have started running both the Aussie Hoops and Introduction to Basketball out of Wauchope, and we will look to further build on this as well.

## Representative

At a Junior Representative level Port Macquarie Basketball entered teams into the North Eastern Junior League. We had 12 teams representing, from our Under 12 Girls and Boys teams right through to our Under 20s Mens Team with varying amounts of success. We were successful in winning the Under 18 Mens Division 1, Under 16s Men Division 2, Under 14 Girls Division 1, and were runners up in the Under 16s Mens Division 1 competition. One thing which was noted throughout the season was that all teams were competitive and improved greatly as the competition progressed and represented Port Macquarie in a positive manner.

We also had 6 teams participate in the John Martin Country Tournament where teams came up against associations from all over Country NSW. Of significant note was our Under 16s Girls team taking out the division 2 competition.

In 2023, Port Macquarie Basketball also re-entered a team into the Senior Waratah League competition. With the decision made to bring on board two imports in the "Dre's", significant success was had, taking out the Minor Premiership after winning 17 of 20 games under the watchful eye of Coach Nick Prior. Unfortunately, timing meant we lost two key players in Logan Myers and Harry Bates to College in America and despite a tireless effort from all the players we ended up coming up short against a red-hot Canberra Gunners Academy team in the semi-finals. Andre Woolford took out the scoring title and was named as the Waratah League MVP for the 2023 season. He has since gone on to a contract with Bankstown Bruins in NBL1 with significant success in 2024. Logan Myers was also named in the All Star 5 as a forward in this competition.

Our representative program continues to go from strength to strength and in 2024 we have even more teams representing Port Macquarie Basketball and we are also super excited to have nominated a team in the Waratah Women's League for the first time in many years. We see this as part of the pathway to building and strengthening our Womens and Girls competitions moving forward.

I would like to thank our representative delegate Nicole Galea for all her tireless work as our representative delegate, as well as the managers of all the teams, who ensure the teams are prepared to represent Port Macquarie Basketball. I would also like to thank Nick Prior as coach and Coaching Director and all the representative coaches and assistant coaches who give their time so willingly to pass on their knowledge in order to ensure that teams are equipped with all the necessary skills to be able to compete. We are constantly getting more and more coaches join our association and this can only help in making our association successful.

## Technical

As we all know our games do not happen with our officials. Debbie Burghardt continues to be instrumental in providing the tools and pathways to our officials at all levels. Port Macquarie continues to grow its referee numbers with many new refs joining the ranks in 2023 at a domestic level and many more representing Port Macquarie Basketball at representative level with eight referees representing PMBA being selected to referee at the NEJL finals.

We will continue to work with Debbie to further build and develop our referees and we are very thankful for her efforts, knowledge and experience in this area. For all our referees who undertake an often thankless job we are truly appreciative of you continuously showing up to enable everyone to participate.

As a board we all want everyone to have a great experience, and I am proud to see the amazing progress we are making every day towards this.

I again want to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to making this year one of our best ever. Basketball is going through incredible growth, and as an association we will continue to look at ways to harness this growth, develop and improve our existing offerings and continue to strive towards becoming more and more professional.

I'm so proud that our club has been in the position to invest in our future with the right structures to meet that growing demand, and all supported by amazing volunteers, a diligent board who continue to work to ensure we can all have a great experience in a safe environment.

Thank you for your support in 2023 and here is to great success in all programs in 2024.