

## **Presidents Report YE June 2022 – AGM held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

Welcome to Life Members, Members and Visitors to the FY22 AGM of the Whittlesea City Basketball Association Inc.

The last 12 months started with us going into lockdown again as another Covid-19 wave hit our state. Incomes we received for the Representative program and Domestic Programs in FY21 had to be partially refunded in FY22. Then once we did return, we had compulsory isolations for close contacts of infected people and closures of venues for cleaning. This created nightmares with the domestic and representative areas of the Association as we lost venues and walkovers were called at short notice by clubs and teams, due to players not being able to leave their homes etc. The assistance by Federal and State Government was wound back towards the end of 2021, so we had to fund staff on reduced hours, wages, Referee costs, Court Supervisors costs and court hire contracts with the local schools and SSV. While at the same time we reduced the charges for Covid related walkers, and for a period did not charge a fee at all.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr of FY22 we kicked off our planning for the Associations FY23 – FY25 Strategic plan with numerous meetings with a broad spectrum of Stakeholders of the Association. I would like to thank Basketball Victoria and in particular Peter Eddy for their support with this process. A thankyou also, to all the people who attended the information gathering days and in particular the team lead by Damien Lehman which consisted of Michelle Venn, Alicia Allen, Anthony Dionis, Theresa Warra, and Jason Kelly who worked with Peter, Damien and myself and pulled the final Document together. This was presented to the board and with their support formally adopted by the members early this year.

In January we appointed the first ever GM, Jason Kelly, to the WCBA organisation. A risk seeing our financial situation at the time, but the Board saw this as an opportunity to start and position the Association to grow as we come out of Covid and to deal with this new way of living. I like to congratulate Jason on his achievements over the short period he has been in the role and that of his team over that period, Pam Dahlstrom (Retired), Pam Hughes, Umberto Fato & Rebecca Roberts for their efforts over some challenging times.

A special thankyou to Pam Dahlstrom who has held the role as Office Administrator/Bookkeeper over the last 10+ years, we wish you and Graham all the best in your retirement and your eventual move to Yarrawonga.

The Board as part of the Strategic Plan worked on reviewing the Constitution. I would like to thank Geoff McIlvenna, Ken Numa, and Jason Kelly for all the work you did on this project, and also to all members who attended Discussion and Feedback meetings so that this document was endorsed by our members at a special meeting in November.

We now have a document that is specific to our Association and in line with all our Governing bodies from BV through to the Australian Sports Commission and complies with the current rules and regulations of the Victorian Consumer Affairs.

I am going to leave it to Jason and Theresa, to present more detail on the Association's work and the achievements and where at times, we have missed the mark.

However, I want to call out one special achievement which shows the potential this Association has if we all work together, to provide the opportunities and pathways for our participants be they be players, officials, coaches, or Volunteers.

This year we had our first ever representative team, get selected to play in the Australian Club Championships where they finished the 5<sup>th</sup> highest ranked under 14 team in Australia. Congratulations need to go out to all that supported this team from the domestic coaches and clubs that introduced the players and coaching team to the sport through to the representative coaches, coaching directors and officials that have been involved with their development. Finally, to the coaching team of Rory Smith (Head Coach) and Brad Smith (Assistant Coach) the team of young men, the families and support volunteers who moulded and gave these boys an opportunity of a lifetime.

No organisation which has numerous components that make it up, can operate without the support of the people involved whether they be employees, volunteers, or participants. So, a big thankyou to all of you who have put your hand up to help us through another trying year. However, such an organisation requires a dedicated team to steer the ship. I would like to thank the outgoing board members Geoff McIlvenna, Pam Dahlstrom, Ken Numa, Theresa Waara, Damien Lehman, and Nicole Smith for their great efforts throughout the year.

A special thanks to Geoff, Ken and Damien who have not renominated for the Board. Both Geoff and Ken have been involved in this Association in some way since its inception and we wish them well in the future. To Damien a big thankyou from me and the association in the professional way you handled the difficult role of Complaints and Welfare which you took on during your tenure with us. To all three of you I hope you stay in contact and involved in some way as you experience, and guidance will be an asset to the Association

To the incoming board you have big shoes to fill, and the work will start straight away. Be prepared to hit the floor running as you face a different world coming out of Covid, and reduced family spending capacity, all of which will throw you challenges and offer up opportunities.

Last but never least to my family, it takes a special relationship with your family that allows you to work full time, then spend nearly as many hours again volunteering and giving back to the community. My family have allowed me the freedom to do this for over 30 years, and it has been such a big part of all our lives. Thank you

Regards



David Hughes

President