



P.O. Box 37, Mill Park VIC 3082

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A.B.N. 92 675 241 543

General Manager Report – 2022 WCBA Annual General Meeting

Jason Kelly

Introduction

2022 has been a year of change for the Whittlesea City Basketball Association (WCBA), firstly with the appointment of a new General Manager to lead the WCBA administration team and work closely with the board of the WCBA. The adoption of a new strategic plan, and the return to a full year of basketball without covid lockdowns or interruptions.

Pam Hughes and Umberto Fato have been the constants in the administration team. Changes occurred with the staff and contracted positions, with Simone Brown leaving and being replaced by Rebecca Roberts, Pam Dahlstrom retiring, Damon Lowry and Brian Vaughans resigning from the Director of Coaching positions and being replaced with Shannon Bodley, and lastly Theo Gessas electing not to renew his referee advisor contract and being replaced by Jessica Baker. Luke Egan and Mannon Nolan-Black have come onboard, in the Basketball Development Officer and Player Development Officer roles respectively.

Current WCBA Administration and Support team are:

Role	Name	Type
Jason Kelly	General Manager	Full Time
Pam Hughes	Office Manager	Full Time
Umberto Fato	Programs Coordinator	Full Time
Rebecca Roberts	Competitions Administrator	Full Time
Shannon Bodley	Director of Coaching	Contract
Luke Egan	Basketball Development Officer	Contract
Mannon Nolan-Black	Player Development Officer	Contract
Jessica Baker	Referee Advisor	Contract

Jessica Baker has elected not to renew her contract. The Referee Advisor role is a priority for appointment in late December 2022 or early January 2023.

The redevelopment of the Mill Park Basketball Stadium has been completed with a new WCBA Office, Storage area, upgrade changerooms, upgrade toilets, and referee changeroom.

WCBA has entered a partnership with the City of Whittlesea and DPV Health for the **GE3 Equal, Safe & Healthy Basketball** project to purposefully provide healthy, safe and equitable environments that provide positive outcomes for all. Gender equity means **fairness of treatment of all genders**, according to their respective needs. This may include equal treatment or treatment that is different, but which is considered equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations, and opportunities. Taking a whole-of-sport-approach the project reaches all impact points across the WCBA from the board, to championship teams, junior domestic club committees and players and our referees' program.

GE3 will build the knowledge of decision makers on gender equity in sport and demonstrate to club leaders how they can use their influence to create positive impacts in sport for everyone, where



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gender does not limit their opportunities, potential or access within basketball. We will explore gendered stereotypes and how they impact all genders in sport. Opportunities to promote gender equity will be identified by completing a reflective gender equity audit and create action plans to strategically direct future changes.

A three (3) part workshop series will provide education and support in Health and Wellbeing, Equity in the game and Healthy Masculinities, where we explore the pressures from society about what it means to be a 'real' man and how these perceptions impact on the health and wellbeing of men and boys, and how these rigid stereotypes contribute to violence against men, women and oneself. A network of trained Health and Wellbeing Officers will be created and connected to each other by way of a Health and Wellbeing Network and linked into local support services. GE3 will work with coaches and leaders to explore how they can use their role within sport to provide safe, equal and healthy environments for young people that are not limited by gendered stereotypes.

A new WCBA logo, Whittlesea Pacers Basketball, has been developed and will be the new operational name of the WCBA. Thank you to the working group of; David Hughes, Theresa Waara, Umberto Fato, Suzanne Bodley, Shaun Carey, and Norman Arthur from mentor creative services. David Hughes and I are continuing to work with Norman on the Marketing Plan as per the strategic plan. Umberto and I are continuing to work with Norman on the rebranding and refreshing of the WCBA website and social media platforms.

Operational Activities

Junior Domestic Competition

The junior domestic competition is the entry into structured competition from our community. Thank you to the junior domestic clubs who have continued to support the competition and to the volunteers who coach, team manager, score, drive players to and from training and games, and most of all add to the safety and well-being of our basketball community.

Throughout the year several meetings have taken place with the junior domestic club Presidents and delegates surrounding the operation and structure of the junior domestic competition. A significant discussion point related to the structure of the 'seasons'. Basketball operates eleven months of the year, which is unlike other sports.

Traditionally the junior domestic season has been Autumn (term 1&2) and Spring (term 3&4). Collaborating with the junior domestic clubs, the decision was reached to create the junior domestic seasons to reflect a truly Winter (Term 2&3) and Summer (Term 4&1) seasons.

There are significant positives moving to the Winter & Summer seasons such as; providing the opportunity for players and coaches to participate in basketball by avoiding clashes with traditional 'winter' and 'summer' sports, reduced administration work for the WCBA and more importantly volunteer junior club administrators over the Christmas-New Year period; allow continuity of competition over the Christmas-New Year period, avoid impacting family budgets at Christmas-New School year period; avoid potential delays in domestic clubs ordering new uniforms from suppliers over the Christmas-New Year period; and, changing the date of birth 'cut off' to match VJBL and



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avoid the potential of players playing in different age groups in the domestic competition and in junior Pacer teams.

To have the realignment, this meant operating the Winter 2022/23 season for terms 3&4 of 2022 and term 1 of 2023. This was agreed upon by the junior domestic clubs. The major challenges of a long season was the impact (increase) to the player fees (capturing three terms of fees rather than the normal two); the commitment of players, coaches, and families; players playing in multiple competitions; and the retention of players. As the figures in the table below, the number of teams has increased.

Innovation of introducing a 'grading review' at the conclusion of term 3 and term 4, would permit the movement of teams in grades where required. Clubs were able to request a review, however, there was no guarantee on movement.

Figures in table below for the teams entered the Spring 2021 and Winter 2022/23 season are below.

CLUB	SPRING 2021				WINTER 2022							
	MIXED	MALES	FEMALE	TOTAL	MIXED	+/-	MALE	+/-	FEMALE	+/-	TOTAL	+/-
Boomers Amateur Basketball Club	0	17	7	24	0	0	14	-3	0	-7	14	-10
Doreen Cougars Basketball Club	3	2	2	7	0	-3	0	-2	1	-1	1	-6
Dream Team Junior Basketball Club	0	5	1	6	0	0	8	3	1	0	9	3
Epping Storm Basketball Club	1	16	7	24	2	1	23	7	7	0	32	8
Keon Park Youth Club	0	8	3	11	0	0	7	-1	1	-2	8	-3
Lalor Lions Basketball Club	1	6	2	9	1	0	9	3	2	0	12	3
Marymede Flames Basketball Club Inc.	5	24	15	44	4	-1	21	-3	14	-1	39	-5
Melbourne Stars Basketball Club	2	6	4	12	1	-1	4	-2	4	0	9	-3
Mernda Bulls Basketball Club	3	10	3	16	3	0	23	13	11	8	37	21
Mill Park Blazers Basketball Club	1	15	4	20	2	1	13	-2	4	0	19	-1
Mill Park Rebelz Basketball Club	1	16	3	20	2	1	13	-3	5	2	20	0
Northern Saints Basketball Club	1	4	1	6	0	-1	4	0	1	0	5	-1
Pythons Basketball Club (Whittlesea City)	0	4	1	5	0	0	7	3	1	0	8	3
South Morang Basketball Club	1	15	8	24	1	0	14	-1	8	0	23	-1
Titans Basketball Club (Mill Park)	1	11	2	14	2	1	8	-3	1	-1	11	-3
Total	20	159	63	242	18	-2	168	9	61	-2	248	6
								1				
								1				



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Current teams in the Winter 2022 season by Age and Gender are highlighted in the table below.

Clubs	U8 Mixed	U10 Girls	U10 Boys	U12 Girls	U12 Boys	U14 Girls	U14 Boys	U16 Girls	U16 Boys	U18 Girls	U18 Boys	U20 Girls	U20 Boys	Total Girls	Total Boys	Total
Mill Park Blazers Basketball Club	2	1	1	1	4	1	3	1	2	0	1	0	2	4	13	19
Boomers Amateur Basketball Club	0	0	2	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	14	14
Doreen Cougars Basketball Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Dream Team Junior Basketball Club	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	8	9
Mernda Bulls Basketball Club	3	2	4	3	7	3	5	2	4	0	1	1	2	11	23	37
Marymede Flames Basketball Club Inc.	4	2	4	4	5	4	5	3	3	1	3	0	1	14	21	39
Melbourne Stars Basketball Club	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	4	9
Northern Saints Basketball Club	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	5
Pythons Basketball Club (Whittlesea City)	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	1	7	8
Mill Park Rebelz Basketball Club	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	1	4	0	2	0	0	5	13	20
Epping Storm Basketball Club	2	0	3	1	3	4	4	1	7	1	4	0	2	7	23	32
South Morang Basketball Club	1	1	2	2	4	1	3	2	3	1	2	1	0	8	14	23
Titans Basketball Club (Mill Park)	1	0	1	0	3	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	9	11
Lalor Lions Basketball Club	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	2	9	12
Keon Park Youth Club	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	2	1	7	8
Independent Team														0	0	0
Care Bearz										1				1	0	1
Northern Phoenix												1		1	0	1
														0	0	0
Total	17	8	23	15	37	17	37	15	38	4	22	4	12	63	169	249

Planning for the new Winter 2023 season (term2&3) has commenced and a meeting with the junior domestic clubs will take place prior to the Christmas (if possible) or early in 2023 to commence the planning and implantation process.

There is a need to explore the pathways with in the junior domestic clubs. This will require working closely with the domestic club committees to identify the areas requiring attention to ensure the sustainability and viability of the individual club.

Sincere thank you to the club presidents, club committees, and club volunteers, for their continued support of the WCBA domestic competition.

Referees

Similarly, to many other associations in the Victorian basketball landscape, active referee numbers, and referees returning from the 'covid shutdowns', has impacted the WCBA.

Jessica Baker, Lauren Broderick, Shaun Carey and Geoff Weedon, conducted a series of referee schools throughout 2022, with 47 participants completing the course. A new initiate of a 'fast track' course where a condensed theory course in a short timeframe was conducted with great success and the 'fast track' course will be implemented again in 2023.

Moving into 2023 there will be a real focus on referee recruitment, retention, and coaching and education, retain and increase the number of active referees. Changes by Basketball Victoria on the referee remuneration rates, may also be a contributing factor to referee motivation and commitment. There is a need to work closely with the referee committee on the planning and implementation of the activities in the technical official's space in 2023.

Thank you to Jessica Baker, Lauren Broderick, and the referee committee for their assistance and support. A special thank you to Jessica Coverski for her hard work and support as the Secretary assisting the administration team with the tribunal coordination with the referees.



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Tribunal

Thank you to Blair Coldwell for his assistance in conducting the Basketball Victoria tribunals for the WCBA competitions.

Area	Number of Reports
Junior Domestic – Individuals	8
Junior Domestic – Team	0
Senior Domestic - Individual	26
Senior Domestic - Team	12
Spectators	2
Total	48

2022 we introduced a 'Notice of Behavior' which was distributed to individuals and/or teams who were in breach of the codes of conduct or for minor indiscretions brought to our attention, however, the instance did not warrant a tribunal report

NOTICE OF BEHAVIOUR	Sent
Junior Domestic	26
Senior Domestic	4
Total	30

To note, of the 30 Notices of Behavior which have been disturbed, there has been no recurrence of behavior or subsequent tribunal report.

Senior Domestic Competition

The senior domestic competition (Sunday – Wednesday inclusive) has seen a reduction in team entries over the past 12 months, as highlighted in the figures below.

Day	AUTUM 2021				SUMMER 2022/23							
	MIXED	MALES	FEMALE	TOTAL	MIXED	+/-	MALE	+/-	FEMALE	+/-	TOTAL	+/-
Sunday	17	32	0	49	16	-1	26	-6	0	0	42	-7
Monday	0	33	0	33	0	0	31	-2	0	0	31	-2
Tuesday	0	20	7	27	0	0	8	-12	7	0	15	-12
Wednesday	0	39	0	39	0	0	23	-16	0	0	23	-16
Total	17	124	7	148	16	-1	88	-36	7	0	111	-37

2023 will see an increase focus on marketing and promotional of senior domestic competitions to encourage teams to register into the Winter 2023 competition.

Aussie Hoops

2022 has seen a dramatic increase in Aussie Hoops participation numbers, growing from one (1) program based at Mill Park Stadium with 15 participants in term 1, to four (4) programs, Plenty Parklands Primary School (Monday), Edgars Creek Primary School (Tuesday), Mill Park Stadium (Wednesday), and Al Siraat College (Thursday) and a total of 127 participants.



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Venue	Term 1			Term 2			Term 3			Term 4			
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Non-Binary	Total
Mill Park	13	4	17	26	17	43	22	11	33	38	11	0	49
Edgars Creek PS	0	0	0	16	9	25	14	12	26	15	11	0	26
Plenty Parklands PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	8	1	30
Al-Siraat College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	8	0	22
Total	13	4	17	42	26	68	36	23	59	88	38	1	127

Domestic Development Academy

Domestic Development Academy (DDA) was a new program introduced in term 2 of 2022, aimed at junior domestic players, from ages 10 – 17, who want to be better domestic players or eventually become representative players (may have missed selection into a team) and operates every school term. There have been several participants who have been part of the DDA in the current and past programs, who have now been selected into the 2023 Junior Pacers program. These participants will now decide whether to continue in DDA or not (more information to be provided in the next report).

Term 2			Term 3			Term 4		
Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
31	6	37	38	3	41	38	6	44

Pacers Development Pathway

Pacers Development Pathway is a program operated in term 1 for junior representative players, currently player in junior Pacer teams. The number of participants in the program is reflective of the number of teams (13 teams) and players (126 players) in the 2022 program.

Boys	Girls	Total
12	7	19

Representative Development Squad

Representative Development Program is aimed at identified junior domestic players aged 11 and below to 'try out' for representative program and operates in only term 2 & 3.

Term 2			Term 3		
Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
39	15	54	34	17	51



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High Intensity Training

High-Intensity Training (HIT) is aimed a junior representative player and is small group high-intensity training sessions in mornings or evenings during the week. These programs operate during school terms and led by Shannon Bodley, Luke Egan, and Mannon Nolan-Black.

High Intensity Training Sessions			
	Boys	Girls	Total
Session 1	10	1	11
Session 2	8	6	14
Session 3	13	1	14
Session 4	7	1	8
Session 5	11	2	13
Session 6	0	12	12
Total	49	23	72

Junior Representative Program

2022 was the first season since 2019 to play through the entire grading phase, regular season, and finals series. Coming out of the cancelled 2020 season, and the shortened 2021 season, the concerns for 2022 were the number of players electing to play or not play in junior representative basketball.

13 teams comprising of nine (9) boy's teams and four (4) girl's teams were entered into the 2022 VJBL season. A huge thank you to the coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, and most importantly the parents and families for their commitment to the program.

The U14.1 Boys team qualified for the National Junior Classic (Queens Birthday Long Weekend) finishing second (Silver Medal), qualified and finished 5th 2022 Under 14 Australian Club Championships Co-Hosted by both Penrith and Hills in New South Wales and made the Preliminary Final for the 14 Boys – VC Championship division for the season. Fantastic achievements, and it is to be recognize this is the first WCBA junior representative, male or female, to attend the National Junior Classic, U14 Australian Club Championships, and play in the Preliminary Final in the same year.

The 2022 VJBL results are as follows:

- U12.1 Girls – Semi Finalist
- U14.1 Girls – Grand Final Runners-Up
- U14.2 Boys – Played in the round of Finals
- U14.3 Boys – Grand Final Runners-Up
- U16.2 Boys – Preliminary Finalist
- U18.1 Girls – Elimination Finalist
- U18.2 Boys – Grand Final Runners-Up
- U14.1 Boys – Preliminary Finalist



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5- & 10-YEAR Whittlesea Pacers Junior Awards

5 Years: Marc-Anthony Aline, Lincol Coffey, Zac Geisler, Marc Heale, Eliana Lumani, Kendra Reukers, Alvin Santosa, Isaac Szeremeta, Robert Varrica and Brennan Watts

10 Years: Shaun Carey and Callum Stojanovic

2022 Whittlesea Junior Pacers Awards

Coaches Award		Defensive Award	Pride, Determination & Resilience Award
Boys			
U12.1	Jay Stilsby	Matai Afitu	Zane Madin
U14.1	Nicholas Nicolazzo	Adrian Jones-Cascun	Jesse Nassif
U14.2	Massimo Pierorazio	Joshua Sadza	Dillon Mahanayake
U14.3	Aston Santosa	Sam Materia	Jack Stilsby
U16.1	Marc-Anthony Ali	Jeremiah James Parentila	Petar Talevski
U16.2	Zac Geisler	Zane Coelho	Aidan Schwabl
U16.3	Hunter Amos	Brennan Watts	Bailey Taylor
U18.1	Kuir Dhieu	Samuel El Ali	Dimitar Talevski
U18.2	Blake McDonald	Jonathon Schwabl	Jida McCrae-Cooper
Girls			
U12.1	Hope O'Loughlin	Ashleigh Williams	Alannah Fernando
U14.1	Maddyn Smith	Chenai Chidziva	Ostara Findeis-Ellis
U16.1	Jacqueline Wharton	Lila-Grace Stainsby	Abbey Quirk
U18.1	Maddison Jury	Maddison Aquilina	Isabella Ryan

Whittlesea Junior Pacers Coach of the Year Award: Rory Smith

2023 tryouts saw more than 400 individuals participating, with eventually 285 players selected to play in the 29 teams registered into the 2023 VJBL competition. The marketing and promotion for the program, including the online registration form, commence in June to maximize exposure to the program.

Figures comparing the 2022 program to the 2023 program is below:

	Boys Teams		Girls Teams		+/- Teams
	2022	2023	2022	2023	Total 2023
U12	1	4	1	2	4
U14	3	6	1	3	5
U16	3	6	1	2	4
U18	2	4	1	1	2
U20	0	1	0	0	1
Total	9	21	4	8	16



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Senior Representative Program

2022 Senior Representative Program consisted of; Senior Men (D2M), Youth League Men (YL2M) and Youth League Women (YL2W), with the Youth League Men and Youth League Women participating in the final's series. Both teams performed very well, however both teams fail short of the grand final series in the respective competitions.

The Senior Women team was entered in 2022, however, due to the lack of playing numbers, the team was withdrawn from the competition. The decision to withdraw from the 2022 Big V competition had an impact financially on the WCBA, however, the decision was made in the best interest of the program.

2022 saw Division 2 Men missing out on finals. Youth League Men and Youth League Women, both made the Preliminary Finals, however, both fell agonizing close and missed making the Grand Final.

2022 Whittlesea Senior Pacers Awards

	Most Valuable Player	Golden Hands Award	Defensive Award	Coaches Award
D2M	Brendan Hughes	Chris Petrero	Brendan Hughes	Rory Smith
YLM	Taj Pilapil	Chayse Pinono	Kobe Bodley	David Barron
YLW	Rani Taylor	Rani Taylor	Maddie Pouflis	Athanasia Theochari

Whittlesea Pacers Senior Coach of the Year Award: Sam Halpin

Robyn McCoy Award: Sandra Jones-Cascun

Ray Barbara Award: Callum Stojanovic

Ray Barbara Award: Rani Taylor

Appreciation Plaques for contribution and support: Andrew Damn and Adrian Jones-Cascun

Whittlesea Pacers Senior Milestones:

50 Games: Kobe Bodley, James Larobina and Zac Donoghue. Rani Taylor 50 games in Big V.

100 Games: Rory Smith and Dean van Lunenburg

150 Games: Chris Petrero

200 Games: Brendan Hughes

250 Games: Jason Dirkx

Whittlesea Pacers Senior Players and Coaches were nominated for Big V league awards, with Chayse Pinon being awarded the Youth League 2 Men 'Golden Hands Award'. Other nominations were; Chase Page (Youth League 2 Men - MVP), Sam Haplin (Youth League 2 Men – Coach of the Year), Rani Taylor (Youth League 2 Women – MVP) and Isabella Ryan (Youth League 2 Women – Defensive Player of the Year).

Thank you to Ash Bryar (D2M), Sam Halpin (YLM), and Anthony Archangel (YLW), and their assistant coaches and support staff, for all their assistance through the Big V season. Thank you to all the 'Game Day' volunteers, in particular Andrew Damn, for all their hard work and assistance with home games.



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School Holiday Programs

Throughout 2022 school holiday periods there were several camps conducted, which included a free 'Girls Only Camp' led by Mannon Nolan-Black and Lauren Scherff (WNBL Perth Lynx player) with 66 participants.

Grassroots Camp: Aimed at 5-14 years old who play domestic basketball or looking for an activity in school holidays. Operated in all school holidays periods and are conducted over two (2) days. As highlighted by the figures below, the participant numbers increased on every camp.

Term 1			Term 2			Term 3		
Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
9	8	17	27	9	36	28	11	39

High-Performance Camps: Aimed at junior representative players. Operate in all school holidays and are an intense 3-hour block of activity.

Term 1			Term 2			Term 3		
Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
19	5	24	42	11	53	52	16	68

Sporting School Programs

Sporting Schools program was continued in 2022 and was delivered by Luke Egan with the assistance and support of Indiana Bodley and Shannon Bodley.

Eight (8) schools with a total of 90 sessions, capturing 760 students, have been delivered in 2022. There are plans for these schools to return in 2023, as well as others, which may be subject to the continual funding through the Sporting Schools government initiative.

WCBA Tournament

2022 WCBA Tournament was conducted with a total of 122 teams (74 Boys teams and 48 Girls teams). The teams were a mixture of representative and domestic teams. Thank you to all the volunteers, Supervisors, and Referees.

WCBA Tournament is set for Friday 21 April – Sunday 23 April 2023. The competition will be set up in PlayHQ in the December/January period to be able to open registrations in late January (this will coincide with the Australia Day Tournaments) and a heavy marketing campaign to increase the number of team registrations.

WCBA Strategic Plan

A two-day workshop in February 2022 took place with key stakeholders of the WCBA coming together, which was facilitated by Peter Eddy from Basketball Victoria, with the assistance of Connor Carey. Following the workshop, a strategic plan working group was formed, consisting of three (3) board members, three (3) junior domestic club representatives, and myself, led by Peter Eddy to commence formulating the strategic plan from the information, ideas, and feedback from the workshop.



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Over the proceeding months, this working group, refined the plan to present to the WCBA Board for adoption. On Monday 11 April 2022, the Whittlesea City Basketball Association (WCBA) Board was presented with the WCBA Strategic Plan for 2022 – 2025 from the strategic planning working group and, the plan was endorsed unanimously by the WCBA Board.

The WCBA Strategic Plan was adopted by the WCBA membership on Thursday 7 July 2022.

The WCBA board along with the administration team have continued to execute the strategic plan with many Key Focus Areas commence or beginning in 2023.

WCBA & SSV

Throughout 2022 there was a series of meetings and conversations between Rod Leonard and I, discussing various topics, issues, and concerns, in the operational aspects of Mill Park Stadium, and the working relationship between SSV and the WCBA.

There is still a need to discuss the transition of; Referee & Education training budget; transition of senior domestic game day operations, WCBA user agreement, and continued working relationship between WCBA and SSV, with the objective of a total transition by 230 April 2023.

Rod Leonard resigned from his role as General Manager of Sports Stadiums Victoria (SSV) in September 2022 and was replaced by SSV board member Steve Baldwin.

Scott Ryan (Centre Manager) and I communicate on a regular basis on day-to-day operations and functions between SSV and WCBA. Scott has been a strong supporter and advocate for the WCBA. I would like to thank Scott Ryan for his continued support of the WCBA.

New Programs & Initiatives

Deadly Basketball Clinic & Cultural Workshop Day

WCBA collaborated with Ricky Baldwin and the Koorie Basketball Academy to deliver the “Deadly Basketball Clinic & Cultural Workshop” on Sunday 31 July at Mill Park Stadium. Led by Ricky Baldwin, Coach Chris Patton (ex-NBL player), Coach Dave Hickey (current NBL Player), and Monique Conti (WNBL and AFLW player), 64 participants took part in a basketball clinic and cultural workshop day. The participants were invited to remain and watch the Senior Pacers teams play and observe the ‘Welcome to Country’ pre-game and participate in the half time activities.

Looking forward to 2023, we will be continuing our working relationship with the Koorie Basketball Academy.

All-Abilities (AA) Basketball Program

A meeting between City of Whittlesea, Basketball Victoria, Anthony Dionis (Mill Park Rebelz Basketball club) and WCBA to explore the reintroduction of an All-Abilities program for WCBA. A six (6) week pilot program was set up on a Sunday afternoon (for children) and Tuesday mornings (for adults). Although with only small numbers (three (3) in the children and two (2) adults) there is a need to continue the program.

Although a small uptake in 2022, with increased marketing, 2023 will see All-Abilities continue, commencing in February.



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Walking Basketball Program

A meeting between City of Whittlesea, Basketball Victoria, U3A (University of the 3rd Age), and WCBA to explore the introduction of Walking Basketball. A six (6) week pilot program was led by Luke Egan with eight (8) participants attending.

2023 will see Walking Basketball continue, commencing in February.

WCBA & Whittlesea Community Basketball Association

An initial meeting between Trevor Croughan and Megan Harper (City of Whittlesea) and WCBA took place to commence dialogue of how a working relationship between WCBA and Whittlesea Community Basketball Association (both the junior and senior programs operating in the township of Whittlesea) can be created. The next steps are to meet with the three organizations in 2023.

Mill Park Stadium (MPS) redevelopment

The redevelopment of Mill Park Stadium both internally and externally has been completed. The name of the venue was changed by City of Whittlesea from Mill Park Basketball Stadium to Mill Park Stadium. There are a few items requiring attention (referee room ceiling) which should be corrected over the next few weeks.

Official Opening for the redevelopment took place on Monday 31 October. During the speech on behalf of the WCBA it was mentioned the growth in our participation, competitions, programs, especially in the female space. Conversation with Lily D'Ambrosio, Colin Brooks (Minister for Child Protection and Family Services, Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers), Julie Wilson, and Andrew George, relating to the need for new courts, accessibility, and costs for court hire, to remove barriers to participation.

The Future

In closing I would like to sincerely thank Pam Hughes, Umberto Fato, Rebecca Roberts, Shannon Bodley, Luke Egan, Jessica Baker, and Mannon Nolan-Black, for all their hard work and support in 2022.

I would like to thank David Hughes, Geoff McIlvenna, Pam Dahlstrom, Theresa Waara, Ken Numa, Damian Lehmann, and Nicole Smith, as the board of WCBA, for their hard work and support during 2022.

Lastly, however by no means no less, thank you to all members, players, coaches, referees, families, and volunteers, of the WCBA for their continued participation in basketball here at WCBA.

Jason Kelly
Whittlesea City Basketball Association
General Manager
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