



# PIRANHAS

## The Caulfield Malvern Basketball Club

**2015 PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE CAULFIELD MALVERN BASKETBALL CLUB  
ON SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2015 AT 7.15PM  
AT SIDETRACKED ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE**

This year marks another successful year for our Club, now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year since we were established in 1999. With the Summer 2016 Season starting this week, we have 56 teams registered and 111 new or returning members to our Club, 32 girls and 79 boys. What is most pleasing is that we have 5 new Under 8 teams with the possibility of having two more Under 8 teams entered after the grading games.

I would like to welcome all new players and their families today and thank all our members for supporting and being part of such a wonderful and supportive community. I would especially like to thank our coaches and managers who contribute their time and expertise to the development of our players and the day to day management of our teams. It is a massive exercise organising more than 450 players into teams and Alison Emerson has been instrumental in assisting me with that task and managing the Girls Program which is going from strength to strength.

We had 49 teams playing in the Winter 2015 Season and our results were impressive with 18 teams making it to the Grand Final and 9 teams winning their Grand Final. Congratulations to all the teams for such great results.

In my role as President and Secretary, I am supported by other members of the Management Committee: Michael Saba (Vice President), Pat Doherty (Treasurer and Coaches Advisor), Georgina Walton (Communications and Marketing), Alison Emerson (Girls Program Coordinator) and Michael Walton (Youth Representative).

There are also a number of people who assist with the management of the Club and I would like to thank them for their valuable contribution:

- Guy Russo, our Club Administrator
- Jodi Hunt, our Uniform Coordinator for the past couple of years, and Sophie Carkeek who has now taken on this role
- Michael Woolrich and Phil Knight for assisting with team selection and Narelle Stack for developing our approach to grant applications
- Jackie Kerr who has led the organisation of this years Sidetracked event and her team of helpers – Sarah Goodwin, Carol Redrup and Fiona McSweeney.



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In January this year, the Committee held a strategic planning meeting to confirm our purpose, our values and strategic imperatives for the next 3 years.

Our purpose is to:

- Encourage and develop basketball in our community; and
- Provide a positive experience that will allow children to thrive and develop a lifelong love of basketball.

Our values are centered around:

- Community
- Inclusiveness
- Learning
- Respect
- Fun

Our Strategic Imperatives can be summarized under the following key themes:

SUSTAINABILITY	LEARNING	GROWTH
• Governance	• Development of Coaches	• Relationships with other Schools in Stonnington and Glen Eira
• Volunteers	• Development of Players	• Promotion of Aussie Hoops
• Venues		

Our progress and initiatives in support of our Strategic Imperatives in 2015 are set out below:



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### Sustainability

For us to be a successful and sustainable Club, it is vital to have a strategic focus and to engage our entire membership and community in the delivery of our goals. This process started with the strategic planning meeting in January and in July, we held our first Coaches and Managers meeting to bring our key volunteers along the journey. This meeting was so successful that we plan to hold two such meetings a year. Around 45 coaches and managers attended the meeting to be briefed on the strategic planning imperatives and the new team selection policy and process. Everyone then participated in active discussion around the teams for the Summer Season which provided invaluable feedback to the Committee. We asked our coaches and managers to go out to their teams to make sure that players registered promptly and I am pleased to advise that your efforts were rewarded with a significant number of registrations in by the due date.

We are a Club run entirely by volunteers and it is important that we foster a volunteering culture. It is so pleasing to see parents, family members and past players stepping up to help the Club and we want you to know that it is greatly appreciated and rewarding.

Another key area of sustainability is for the Club to be financial. Three years ago, our membership fees were only just covering our main expenses – court hire and team registrations.

Today, we have funds that we can apply towards the achievement of our strategic goals particularly in the development of our coaches and players. We have been able to do this through a disciplined approach to the collection of membership fees and the establishment of our on-line payment system. We have Georgina Walton to thank for setting up this facility for the Club.

A key reason for building a financial reserve is to cover the increasing cost of hiring courts for training. We spend almost \$35,000 per year on court hire and the availability of courts in the Stonnington and Glen Eira municipalities is scarce. We are very fortunate to have arrangements in place for the hire of Lloyd Street School Gym, Caulfield Grammar Junior and Senior School, Glen Eira College and Orrong Romanis.

An important function for the Committee is ensuring that these arrangements remain in place but as the Club grows so does our need for extra court space.



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### Learning

The development of coaches and players is an important priority for the Club. There are a number of initiatives underway:

- Pat Doherty, assisted by Alison Emerson, has developed a sequential teaching program which aims to set out the skills and understandings for different levels of development. Supporting the program are two resources:
  - A planning resource for coaches to prepare their team training programs
  - A resource of training activities and drills

The framework for the program has been developed and the next stage is for a working group of interested coaches to come together to contribute to the content of the program and the resources. We expect to roll-out the program in phases over the next 12 months.

- We will be running sessions for coaches and interested parents in the next month including a basic session for Under 8 and Under 10 coaches and a more advanced session for coaches of more experienced teams. Michael Woolrich will be conducting these sessions. We also encourage our coaches to undertake basketball accreditation courses and the Club reimburses the cost on successful completion. We are very keen to get more of our older players to become coaches for our Club. Michael Walton and Mitch Pollard are great role models in this regard.
- We launched our Aussie Hoops program last term with Ivan Platenik running the program for us. Ivan is a Falcons Big V player and an experienced coach. This term, Ivan is conducting training sessions for beginner boys and girls on Sunday mornings at Lloyd Street.
- As you know, our Club participates in the Waverley Basketball Association competitions and many of our players who want to take their basketball to the next level play representative basketball for Waverley Falcons. A number of our promising players were invited to participate in development programs with Waverley Falcons during the year and we also have coaches who coach Falcons teams. Participation in this way contributes towards the development of our players and our coaches.



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### Growth

Basketball continues to be a popular sport and our growth in player numbers is consistent with the general trend. The Summer Season does tend to attract more players especially as we get the return of a number of players who take the Winter Season off to play football.

The keys to successful growth are:

- Our Aussie Hoops program geared to younger children that are not quite ready to play in competition but soon become eager to join a team after the experience
- Ensuring that children in Prep to Grade 2 in our school communities are organised to form teams
- Developing links with other schools in the Stonnington and Glen Eira municipalities

There is so much we can do in our community to develop greater participation in basketball and I encourage everyone to promote the sport and spread the word that Piranhas is a family oriented Club driven to provide positive experiences for our members.

I would like to conclude this report by paying tribute to Jan Dowler from the Waverley Basketball Association who passed away unexpectedly at the end of last year and to also thank Shane Palmer and Andrew Kelly for their management of the Junior Competition at Waverley. They are a delight to deal with, very organized and responsive to the needs of our Club.

**Rita Harris**  
**President**