

President's Report 2018

Williamstown Cannon's Basketball Club

It has been my privilege to serve as the President of the Williamstown Cannons for the past year.

Our Club is a vibrant and healthy one which continues to provide a safe and healthy environment for approximately 550+ children to enjoy their passion for basketball.

This has been a particularly busy year for the Club with our main aims as per the Strategic Plan being;

1. Improve the process of financial record keeping to gain time efficiencies and improve financial reporting
2. Develop and implement a Player Development Program
3. Develop Club Sponsorship Packages with the view to obtaining Club sponsors
4. Continue implementation of the Coach Development Plan (2016) with a focus on hosting a coach night with a guest speaker.

With respect to these aims we have made considerable progress with the following completed actions;

- Introduction of accounting software moving from a manual record system
- Introduction of a formalised budgeting process
- Investigation into the feasibility of running school holiday skills camps for Cannons members
- Commencement of discussions with various qualified providers to offer upskill programs for both our players and coaches
- Creation of a new committee role to manage Stadium usage
- Researching and developing potential stadium resources to support the Club needs

Another highlight was the second Annual Cannons Christmas party held at the Bayview Campus of Williamstown High School. Both years we have run this event, an excellent response from our players and their families has been evident. We believe that this event gives the Club one of the few chances to come together as a whole and celebrate the past year as well as acknowledge the work of all our volunteers.

Whilst we believe this has been a successful year for the Club the Committee is cognisant of the fact that there is much work still to be done to ensure the Club continues to fulfil its stated mission.

Alongside the growth in the Club comes a need for considerable operational effort to merely get our players training, registered and playing week in week out. Accommodating the needs of our girls and boys are the wider Cannons family that includes our Committee, Coaches, Team Managers, Uniform, Training, Clash Top and Age Group Co-ordinators as well as individual player parents and Guardians.

Cannons play across two Basketball Associations being the Altona Bay Basketball Association (ABBA) and the Westgate Basketball Association. There is a good spread of support for both competitions

including considerable growth in numbers electing to play at Westgate. The Club enjoys a healthy relationship with both competitions and believe that offering our members choice in where they play is important.

Much of our time as a Committee this year was taken up in lobbying for improved access to courts which included making formal presentations to both the Hobsons Bay City Council (HBCC) as well as the local State Member for Williamstown, Wade Noonan. I would encourage those interested to take the time to read the Club's response to the HBCC Sports Facility Needs Analysis which is available on our website.

In short as a Club we have already reached our maximum capacity based on current numbers. There are wait lists for playing spots at all age levels and when teams are formed ability to schedule sufficient training time (one session per week) is becoming increasingly challenging. When we advocated at Council our views have been assessed and incorporated in their adoption of the Sports Facility Needs Analysis report. There are two major points that if delivered will assist in supporting our requirements being;

- Redevelopment of the ABBA Stadium with a further 4 courts and;
- Possible redevelopment of the Pasco Street campus of Williamstown High School

Neither of these however will provide a 'quick fix ' and I would encourage all in our Club Community to continue to ensure that the decision makers in these areas remain aware of our needs.

Cannons like most local sporting clubs is administrated by a dedicated group of regular volunteers and I would like to take the time to thank the following individuals who have worked hard to serve the best interests of the club this year, firstly my fellow committee members;

- Darren Knight – Vice President & ABBA Representative
- Kim Hoy – Secretary & Interim Registrar
- Samantha Ladd – Treasurer
- Chris Herreich – Head Coach
- Georgie Evanson – Training Co-ordinator
- Lorretta Laudato – General Committee

Supporting the committee are our Age Group Coordinators, Training Coordinator, Uniform Coordinator, Clash Top Coordinator, Coaches, Team Managers and parent/guardians.

My final acknowledgement is reserved as a note of special thanks to Penny Milhe who has in many ways been the heart and soul of the Cannons for many years. Penny has served on the committee for 8 years filling various roles whilst also finding the time to coach several teams and perform many, many other duties for the Club. Her efforts have helped provide the strong platform we have today.

Our Club is a great place to be involved with and I thank all in the Cannons community for making it what it is today. I wish the new committee when formed post AGM every success in continuing to ensure that there are plenty of well-resourced and supported children out on the local courts in the Yellow and Blue club colours having fun and learning the game.

Go Cannons !