



President's Report 2019

Williamstown Cannons 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 one which continues to provide a safe and healthy environment for approximately 550 children across 72 teams to enjoy their passion for basketball.

This has been a particularly busy year for the Club with the focus of the Committee being on both the smooth running of its operations and developing the infrastructure further necessary to support a Club of our size.

Fundamental to the actions and decisions of the Committee have been the cornerstones of sensible financial management coupled with the aim to deliver a consistent and enjoyable playing experience for players and their families.

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

- Coaches and Team Managers night with guest speaker, Avi Myerson provided a great insight to the world of a highly qualified basketball coach.
- Development of selectively streamed squads with the assistance of BTR (Below the Rim a basketball coaching business run by former Cannons President Michael Streeter) saw many Cannons players feature at the American AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) tournament held for the first time in Australia in October.
- Development of Sponsorship packages and commencement of targeted discussions with prospective sponsors.
- Summer 2019/20 Season saw the changeover of the club's uniform to a more modern design that also incorporates a reversible jersey to replace the requirement for clash tops.

It should be noted that the Club has retained a firm financial base (refer further detail in the Treasurers Report) and the current year saw this further improve.

Another highlight was the third Annual Cannons Christmas party held at the Bayview Campus of Williamstown High School. This event continues to draw an excellent response from our players and their families. 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.

Annual General Meeting

Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club Inc

Registered No A0031670Z



We are the largest Club in our Region and with this position 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 is the wider Cannons family that includes our Committee, Coaches, Team Managers, Uniform Co-ordinator 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 physical infrastructure required to train for these competitions is important. Many of our members will recall the active role the Cannons played in endeavors to secure better facilities for basketball in our local area during 2017/18.

The Hobsons Bay City Council (HBCC) have elected to spend approximately \$ 16 M on the redevelopment of the Altona Sports Complex, home to ABBA. Despite the best efforts of our Club, including personal and written presentations which clearly demonstrated the high concentration of children and families involved in basketball within Williamstown and neighboring areas, the Council have not warranted it needed to spend any funds on developing stadiums within our area.

We would urge Cannons families to continue to remind our locally elected representatives of the importance of having access to safe and appropriate facilities to train in our local area. We should not give up the effort in securing this outcome for our children.

Given this situation we would also remind the Cannons family, particularly our Coaches and Team Managers of the need to look after and respect the arrangements within the facilities that we do have hire agreements. Doing the right thing leads to better access of these stadiums and minimizes the unnecessary follow up work by committee members and unnecessary costs.

Last year, the Mark Jennings award was won by Aimee Devan, since 2014 the Club has awarded this in memory of Mark and acknowledgement of his significant contribution. It is awarded to a player between U16 – U18 who demonstrated leadership, dedication and service to the Cannons.

Cannons like most not for profit 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 & Westgate Representative
- Lauren Ditmar – Secretary
- Karen Matters – Registrar
- Samantha Ladd – Treasurer
- Chris Herreich – Head Coach
- Georgie Evanson – Stadium Co-coordinator
- Jeremey Barnes – Sponsorship & Marketing Coordinator

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- Loretta Laudato – General Committee
- Leon Suslov – General Committee

I'd also like to thank those that support the committee, including Age Group Coordinators, Uniform Coordinator, Coaches, Team Managers and parent/guardians.

Lucy Francis has provided many years' service as Uniform Coordinator and was instrumental in facilitating the major piece of work in the uniform change. Lucy is now leaving this role.

Karen Mathers took on the Registrar role for a season when Kim Hoy vacated and we thank her for her effort and diligence in this role, she is vacating the role as her family are moving overseas in early 2020. We wish them all the best. Both these ladies have been ably assisted by Valeria Suslov in the administration of the Registrar duties.

My final acknowledgement is reserved as a note of special thanks to Kim Hoy who has provided approximately 4 years of outstanding service to our Club. Kim acted most recently in the dual roles of Secretary and Treasurer as well as being a dedicated coach.

Kim's contribution in particular to the upgrading of the Club's policies and procedures has helped lift the platform of the Club operationally and these actions will greatly benefit everyone for many years to come.

I am pleased to be able to flag what I believe will be some exciting developments on the horizon for the Club in the next year. We are actively considering changes to our Player & Coaching development delivery, which is of course the core business of the Club. Stay tuned for further announcements in this area.

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, learning and developing in the game.

Go Cannons!

Shaun Huntington

President

Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club