Bankstown Basketball Association

45th ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday 7th September, 2019

Welcome to the Bankstown Basketball Association's Bruins 45th Annual Dinner

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Michele Austin
Debbie Cadee
Brett Foster
Tony Gale
Sharon Harget
Will Lopez - Director of Coaching

LIFE MEMBERS

LIFE MEMBERS

1978	Keith B. Fenton
1981	Bob Elphinston
1981	Peter Ray
1983	Vickie Croucher
1984	Lorraine Landon
1985	Maureen Elphinston
1985	Ramon Croucher
1986	Kevin Landon
1987	Alma Ryan
1988	Bill Douglas
1988	Steve Fairnham
1989	Flo Taylor
1989	Norma Bacic
1991	Phil Hudson
1993	Alex Bacic
1993	Marie Cook
1994	Jackie Bull
1994	Frank Stapleton
1995	Linden Evans
1996	Peter Bull
1996	Ian Tomlinson
1997	Sonny Thomas
1998	Matthew McKenna
2001	Joy Cooling
2003	Jeff Micallef
2003	Reg Cochrane
2006	Bill Hennessy
2007	Kerry Stubbs
2009	Rick Bywater
2010	Sharon Harget
2010	Lynne Greentree
2013	Maurie Moroney
2013	Melissa Giles
2016	Tracey Lopez
2018	Craig Landon
2018	Debbie Cadee

2016 Life Membership ~ Tracey Lopez

LIFE MEMBERS

LIFE PLAYING MEMBERS

1979	Dave Payne
1982	Alan Morris
1985	Debbie Lee
1985	Mark Ryan
1986	Gale Trevena
1986	Ray Dawson
1987	David Logue
1987	John Styles
1988	David Cracknell
1988	Greg Hemmings
1989	Jean Bywater
1991	Gai Farnham
1993	Jo-Anne Searson
1993	Michele Landon
1994	Peter Lopez
1994	Rick Petrie
1995	Craig Bacic
1996	Kerry Merrick
1997	Michael Ribarovski
1999	Glenn Pokorny
2000	Ashley Croucher
2001	Debbie Kramer
2001	Kellie Wilson
2002	John Blake
2004	Brett Foster
2006	Samantha Hennessy
2006	Bill Oakley
2007	Jeff McWilliams
2008	Briana Hennessy
2008	Greg Barnes
2009	Jaydene Barnes
2010	Adrianne Gilbert
2012	Kellie Parker [Butt]
2013	Richard Stubbs
2013	Paul LaBua
2015	John Cahill
2017	Matthew Caddy
2018	Mirinda Reed

2017 Life Playing Membership ~ Matthew Caddy

LIFE MEMBERS

COACH LIFE MEMBERS

1999	Robbie Cadee
2005	Tracy Samuels
2005	Michele Hennessy
2011	Ross Smith
2011	Jenny Lonergan
2015	Steve Fairnham
2015	Kristen Gibbeson
2017	Greg Barnes
2017	Kerry Stubbs

REFEREE LIFE MEMBERS

1993	Jeff Micallef
1993	David Coble
1994	Vickie Croucher
1994	Ken Larson
1997	Narelle Hargreaves
2000	Greg Best
2002	Tricia Best
2002	Steve Wells
2003	Joseph Lattouf
2007	Brett Hogan
2010	Annette Flanagan
2010	Mark Flanagan
2012	Robyn Dening [Plunkett]
2013	Peter Baxter
2015	Michelle Nicholas
2015	Peter Nicholas

2017 Coach Life Membership ~ Greg Barnes

2017 Coach Life Membership ~ Kerry Stubbs

Previous Award Winners

KEITH FENTON
Manager of the Year

1984	Maureen Duncan
1985	Pat Searson
1986	Jackie Bull
1987	John Watson
1988	Jackie Bull
1989	Rick Bywater
1990	Greg Hemmings
1991	Jan Thomas
1993	Flo Harbrow
1994	Marie Foster
1995	Sue Henney
1996	Neville Haskins
1997	Lynne Greentree
1998	Ebba & Ted Sielicki
1999	Louise Sliogeris
2000	Sue Henney
2001	Sue Henney
2002	Suellen Freeman
2003	Neville Bates
2004	Marie McBride
2005	Kim Wells
2006	Kim Wells
2007	Rhonda Butt
2008	Lynne Greentree
2009	Tony Gale
2010	Linda Mullens
2011	Laurie & Dianne Barnes
2012	Carolyn Bennett
2013	Carolyn Bennett
2014	Trung Quach
2015	Malcolm Edwards
2016	Karina Zaharis
2017	Belinda Tonna
2018	Suzie Vuljanic
2019	Mara Basic

2018 Winner

Previous Award Winners

ROBBIE CADEE
Coach of the Year

1979	Bob Smith
1980	Steve Fairnham
1981	Robbie Cadee
1982	Frank Stapleton
1983	Reg Sloggett
1984	Ross Smith
1985	Steve Fairnham
1986	Reg Sloggett
1987	Maureen Elphinston
1988	Robbie Cadee
1989	Ross Smith
1990	Jean Bywater
1991	Rob Murphy
1992	Jean Bywater
1993	Mark Gledson
1994	Matthew McKenna
1995	Corrina Lueg
1996	Dennis Cumerlato
1997	Tracy Samuels
1998	Chris Jones
1999	Matthew McKenna
2000	Maree Norman
2001	Tracy Samuels
2002	Tracy Samuels
2003	David Martens
2004	Jean Mitchell
2005	Tracy Samuels
2006	Tracy Samuels
2007	Jenny Hilzinger
2008	Ashley Henrisson
2009	Janet Williams
2010	Greg Barnes
2011	Richard Stubbs
2012	Greg Barnes
2013	Sam Gruggen
2014	Sam Gruggen
2015	Jenny Lonergan
2016	Greg Barnes
2017	Wayne Caddy
2018	Michele Austin
2019	Matthew Porter

2018 Winner

Previous Award Winners

SCOTT FENTON
Basketballer of the Year

1979	Ray Dawson
1980	Alan Morris
1981	Kerry Stubbs
1982	Debbie Lee
1983	Cliff Martin
1984	Karen Dalton
1985	Karen Dalton
1986	Vince Kelley
1987	Damian Keogh
1988	Michele Landon
1989	Karen Dalton
1990	Laura Howlett
1991	Greg Blake
1992	Dean McDowell
1993	Jo-Anne Searson
1994	Kerry Smith
1995	Briana Hennessy
1996	Adam Smith
1997	Adrian Crow
1998	Jody Austin
1999	Briana Hennessy
2000	Steven Markovic
2001	Brett Foster
2002	Brett Foster
2003	Briana Hennessy
2004	Jamie Lee Samuels
2005	Jamie Lee Samuels
2006	Dani Samuels
2007	Dani Samuels
2008	Jason Cadee
2009	Daniel Sepokas
2010	Jason Cadee
2011	Jason Cadee
2012	Jack Lopez
2013	Briana Maimone
2014	Dru Toleafoa
2015	Alex Opacic
2016	Jason Cadee
2017	Brett Foster
2019	Briana Maimone

2017 Winner

Previous Award Winners

BOB ELPHINSTON
Association Award

1979	Ernie Vine
1980	Linden Evans
1981	Bob Smith
1982	Kevin Landon
1983	Robbie Cadee
1984	Colin McDowell
1985	Bob Elphinston
1986	Lorraine Landon
1987	Alex Bacic
1988	Narelle Hargreaves
1989	Peter Bull
1990	Fay Cochrane
1991	Alex Bacic
1992	Peter Lane
1993	Linden Evans
1994	Vickie Croucher
1995	Sonny Thomas
1996	Matthew McKenna
1997	Emmanuel Farrugia
1998	Ken Pearson
1999	Wayne Caddy
2000	Reg Cochrane
2001	Sue Henney
2002	Sharon Harget
2003	Michele Hennessy
2006	Dick Phillips
2007	Kerry Stubbs
2008	Peter Gibietis
2009	Debbie Puckett
2010	Kim Wells
2011	Alex Bacic
2012	Kerry Stubbs
2014	Amy Halley
2015	Lynne Greentree
2016	Debbie Cadee
2017	Clive Puckett
2018	Brett Hogan
2019	Michele Austin

2018 Winner

2019 Representative Honours

Under 20 Referee ~ George Kostakis - Bronze Medal Game

Under 18 Angus Lake
Assistant Coach ~ Ashley Henrisson
Referee - Cooper Avery - Kevin Coombes Cup

Under 16 Earl Abadam, Luis Peralta
Will Lopez ~ Head Coach
Carolyn Bennett ~ Manager
Referee - James O'Toole - Bronze Medal Men's Game
- Marko Nikolic - Gold Medal Men's Game

Under 14 Club Championships
Referee ~ Caitlin Grove
Referee ~ Eli Newman

Under 14/15 Talented Athlete Camp [TAP]
Mason Hunter, Jennifer Mailei, Abbey Vallance

Under 14 Southern Cross Challenge
Lily Austin, Steven Hall, Azaleeah Oloapu

Under 15 Southern Cross Challenge
Morgan Botha

Under 15 Country Development Tour
Sienna Allie, Krite Behari, Farrell Fareo, Amali Lake, Vhalarie Mendoza

DAP
Lily Austin, Sienna Allie, Krit Behari, Kate Bishara, Tahlia Caddy, Jovon Dancy Jr., Farrell Fareo, Gordon Gill, Steven Hall, Vhalarie Mendoza, Azaleeah Oloapu, Pable Tamondong

SPP
Earl Abadam, Moses Bartley, Morgan Botha, Kiahna Davis-White, Harry Ellery, Angus Lake, Amali Lake, Jovan Paravinja, Luis Peralta

2019 Team Results

Championship Men		10th Position
Championship Women		Elimination Finals
Division 1 Men		Quarter Finals
Youth League Men		10th Position
Youth League Women		5th Position
Under 18 Men	Division 2	4th Position State Cup - Runners Up
	Division 3	8th Position
Under 18 Women	Division 1	5th Position
	Division 2	8th Position
Under 16 Men	Division 1	WJML - CHAMPIONS State Championships - CHAMPIONS
	Division 4	4th Position - Semi Finalists
Under 16 Women	Division 1	7th Position
	Division 3	WJML - CHAMPIONS
Under 14 Men	Division 1	5th Position
	Division 4	4th Position - Semi Finalists
Under 14 Women	Division 1	WJML - CHAMPIONS State Championships - Semi Finalists
	Division 2	WJML - CHAMPIONS State Cup - Runners Up
Under 12 Men	Division 1	WJML - Runners Up State Championships ~ Semi Finalists
	Division 2	WJML - CHAMPIONS State Cup
Under 12 Women	Division 1	6th Position
	Division 3	WJML - Runners Up

2019 Association Awards

	2018 WINNERS	2019 WINNERS
Senior Referee Encouragement Award	Eli Newman	Caitlin Grove
Jeff Micallef Referee of the Year	Marko Nikolic	Marko Nikolic
Vickie Croucher Junior Referee of the Year	Nicholas Newman	Nicholas Newman
Steve Wells Junior Referee Encouragement Award	Houda Chaufic	Chris Huang
Jacqueline Bull Scoretable Official of the Year	Michelle Nicholas	Sue Baxter
Coach's Recognition Award	Donna Moffat	Martin Karklins
Keith Fenton Manager of the Year	Suzie Vuljanic	Mara Basic
Robbie Cadee Coach of the Year	Michele Austin	Matthew Porter
Scott Fenton Basketballer of the Year		Briana Maimone
Bob Elphinston Association Award	Brett Hogan	Michele Austin

2019 Association Senior Team Awards

		2018 WINNERS	2019 WINNERS
Rookie of the Year Award	Men	Bosko Djurovic	Nicko Timonera
	Women	Kasee McIlvenny	Chantelle Taylor
Youth League Awards			
MVP	Men Div. 1	Keanu Reed	Thomas Daus
	Women	Tasmyn Haynes	Tasmyn Haynes
Defensive Player of the Year	Men Div. 1	Caleb Henwood	Sean Trostel
	Women	Meliame Mafile'o	Kasee McIlvenny
Coaches Award	Men Div. . 1	Thomas Daus	Cameron Jefferys
	Women	Sabrina Zenatti	Elena Berbeniuk
Div. 1 Men			
MVP	Men	Luke Davies	Andre Boykin
Defensive Player of the Year	Men	Paul Labua	Brett Foster
Coaches Award	Men	Brett Foster	Stephen Whitehead
Championship Awards			
MVP	Men	Alex Foster	Jack Lopez
	Women	Briana Maimone	Briana Maimone
Defensive Player of the Year	Men	Ryan Morgan	Alex Foster
	Women	Kellie Parker	Kellie Parker
Coaches Award	Men	Keanu Reed	Caleb Henwood
	Women	Olivia White	Andrianne Gilbert
Peter Lopez Most Inspirational Player		Ryan Morgan	Chris Christodoulides
Lorraine Landon Most Inspirational Player		Briana Maimone	Olivia White

2019 Association Junior Team Awards

Most Valuable Player

	2018 Winners	2019 Winners
Under 18 Men ~ Div. 1	Nicko Timonera	Angus Lake
Under 18 Men ~ Div. 2	Harry Ellery	Latrell Cruz
Under 18 Women ~ Div. 1		Kiahna Davis-White
Under 18 Women ~ Div. 2	Emma Rutherford	Daniela Fernandes da Mota
Under 16 Men ~ Div. 1	Earl Abadam	Earl Abadam
Under 16 Men ~ Div. 2	Jovon Paravinja	Farrell Fareo
Under 16 Women ~ Div. 1	Kate Bishara	Aleshia Wright
Under 16 Women ~ Div. 2	Aleisha Wright	Scarlet Heather
Under 14 Men ~ Div. 1	Krit Behari	Steven Hall
Under 14 Men ~ Div. 2	Taj Farley	Kai Allie
Under 14 Women ~ Div. 1	Morgan Botha	Jessie-May Hall
Under 14 Women ~ Div. 2	Ruby Hudson	Ella Rehayem

2019 Association Junior Team Awards

Coach's Award

	2018 Winners	2019 Winners
Under 18 Men - Div. 1	James Lesaguis	Nicholas Newman
Under 18 Men - Div. 2	Christian Diaz	Yuvraj Maharaj
Under 18 Women - Div. 1		Jessie Tonna
Under 18 Women - Div. 2	Zali Austin	Houda Chafic
Under 16 Men - Div. 1	Nicholas Spasenovic	Gordon Gill
Under 16 Men - Div. 2	Jerell Bernal	Jovon Dancy Jr
Under 16 Women - Div. 1	Isabel Baker	Kaia Dennis
Under 16 Women - Div. 2	Estela Irigoitia	Charlize Landon
Under 14 Men - Div. 1	Jovon Dancy Jr.	Patrick Dawes
Under 14 Men - Div. 2	Taj Stapleton	Gianni Wagaarachchi
Under 14 Women - Div. 1	Taneisha Gray	Tahlia Caddy
Under 14 Women - Div. 2	Tahlia Caddy	Kenisha Bickle

SOUL SPORTS

2019 Association Junior Team Awards

Defensive Player

	2018 Winners	2019 Winners
Under 18 Men - Div. 1	Adam Gordon	Lachlan Benson
Under 18 Men - Div. 2	Nicholas Newman	Daniel Ferreira
Under 18 Women - Div. 1		Zali Austin
Under 18 Women - Div. 2	Charli Campbell	Mia Portelli
Under 16 Men - Div. 1	Gordon Gill	Jerrell Bernal
Under 16 Men - Div. 2	Pablo Tamondong	Taj Farley
Under 16 Women - Div. 1	Lauren Mitchell	Sienna Allie
Under 16 Women - Div. 2	Arwen Parkison	Evie Donnelly
Under 14 Men - Div. 1	London Toalapai	Charlie McBeath
Under 14 Men - Div. 2	Mason Hunter	Ivan Stepic
Under 14 Women - Div. 1	Sienna Allie	Azaleeah Oloapu
Under 14 Women - Div. 2	Madelyne Assaly	Trinity Basic

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BRUINS 2019

Senior Team Reports

Championship Men

Championship Women

Youth League Men

Youth League Women

Division 1 Men

2019 Championship Men's Report

TEAM: Chris Christodoulides (Captain), Jack Lopez, Keanu Reed, Alex Foster, Mark Franco, Nicko Timonera, Christian Petrovski, Caleb Henwood, Christopher Vera, Stefan Erak, Thomas Daus, Ryan Morgan
Assistant Coach: Craig Landon, Martin Karklins, Will Lopez
Manager: Lisa Lo

After a disappointing and frustrating 2018 season in which we only had 2 wins, the squad was boosted by the return of Jack Lopez who had been playing in the QBL for the past few seasons. Jack instantly gave us a more completive advantage than what we had the year before leading the team in both Points, Rebounds and three pointers made.

Long time Bruin Chris Christodoulides replaced Ryan Morgan as Captain for the season as Ryan was unable to play this season due to Knee Surgery. Not only a vocal leaded Chris was able to pass on his experience to the younger player but also hit clutch shots in the dying seconds against Manly to force overtime and against Newcastle to not only force overtime but to propel us to victory against last years Champions.

In the end we had an up and down season finishing the season with in 10th spot with 6 wins and 16 losses. We suffered some blow out losses and some heart breaking defeats. But what we did do was giving valuable experience to our younger players. Of the 15 players that suited up for this season, 9 of which were under the age of 21. A bright spot was the play of 17 year old Rookie Nicko Timonera who played all of 1 game and average double figures in points.

Our last game of the season was our most difficult as we headed to Newcastle and due to Injuries, Illness and HSC trial exams we were forced to play our final game of the season in front of a packed crowd with only five players.

I for one was embarrassed due to the fact I had never coached a game with five players buy the end I had not been more proud of a group of players, Keanu, Alex, Jack, Chris Vera and Caleb played the full 40mins, without any bench we were only down 1 point at the half after trailing by 12 points, At the end of the third quarter we were down 7 points but in the 4th quarter we simply didn't have the legs and the game got away from us.

What was more impressive was that Caleb not only played 40mins but he played a full 40mins in the youth league game prior that day. In the first 2 minutes he copped a heavy knock to the head and I thought we would be playing the game with 4 players; Caleb shook it off and continued to play.

During the game he also starting getting cramps which become more server during a timeout in the 4th quarter with Caleb literally dragging one leg the whole 4th Quarter, both Alex and Jack said they would play the rest of the game with 4 players so Caleb would not have to risk any further injury, Caleb said he was fine and said he wanted to keep going this is a testament to the type of player, person and teammate he is and the exact foundation that the teams needs in building for the future.

In no particular order I would like to thank Sharon, Debbie, Will as well as the rest of the Bankstown Basketball Association and board for allowing myself and our players to compete at this level. I would like to thank our Manager Lisa for all here help this season as well as the coaching staff of Craig, Martin and Will for assisting me during games and especially for covering for me when I was away with the State team during Nationals.

Lastly I would like to thank my players for their hard work and effort it wasn't easy but we are defiantly headed ion the right track

ASHLEY HENRISSON
Head Coach

2019 Championship Women's Report

TEAM: Jaydene Barnes, Elena Berbeniuk, Andrianne Gilbert, Tasmyn Haynes, Meliame Mafileó, Briana Maimone, Brigid Newley, Kellie Parker, Mirinda Reed, Olivia White, Sabrina Zenatti,
Manager: Vickie Rosewell

After fifteen years of watching this team on the sideline, from the spectators stand, I entered the season feeling nervous, excited and unsure of our potential as an 'older team' in this strong, young competition. We selected a team with a mixture of both experience and youth and started the season, surprising everyone, with three straight wins. As the season progressed, it appeared that our two greatest challenges were playing away from home and injuries.

We continued strongly throughout the season, matching the intensity of our competition each week. Unfortunately, by June we suffered four major injuries to key personnel within the team. Given our average age, rotation was pivotal to our success so losing so many players in such a short period of time did present us with some challenges.

To the girls' credit, the 'uninjured group' maintained a strong commitment at training despite minimal numbers and each stepped up in their own way to secure some very memorable, undermanned wins. We were grateful to have two players (Meliame Fuimaomo and Elly Berbeniuk) step up from the youth league team and join us for the back end of the season. Their contribution at both trainings and games was certainly valued and helped with some much needed wins.

A most memorable game was against Hornsby. We had just lost two players to major injuries and we walked into Hornsby stadium with eight players, one sick (vomiting in the warm up). Within the first three minutes of this game, another player went down with an ACL injury so we were down to six. Midway through the second quarter, a second injury, this time a torn calf muscle, left us with five guards to finish the remaining two and a half quarters. A strong first half performance saw us with a good lead at half time. Despite Hornsby's strong inside presence and current WNBL player expertise, we came out after the break and had a very strong third quarter which saw us lead by as many as 22 points throughout the third. This was just enough to survive the late onslaught from Hornsby to eventually win by 4.

We finished the season with some strong wins and secured fifth spot on the ladder. It should be noted, that this was a very strong Championship Women's league, and to my knowledge, we were the only team in the top seven teams of the league, without a current WNBL player or an import. This is quite an achievement considering our major setbacks through injury. At the conclusion of the main round we lost our cross over game against the fourth seeded Hornsby who were keen to seek revenge from our last game.

This is the first time in approximately eighteen years of coaching representative basketball that I have coached a female group. Upon reflection, their competiveness and commitment to each other and the club made this equally as enjoyable as all previous years. Despite a lot of chatter at training and before games, when it came to game time – they were always ready to perform and rarely did they let themselves or the team down.

A big thank you must go to Vickie Rosewell who did an outstanding job as manager. Your passion for the joy of basketball and watching these girls play was infectious. Thanks also to Will Lopez for helping out as my assistant and working collaboratively to make decisions surrounding youth players' involvement in our team. Thank you also to Sharon for her continual support and to the club for giving me the opportunity to coach another mighty Bruins team.

Lastly, a big thanks to all the girls for welcoming me in. I had a very enjoyable season with lots of laughs and some real highlights from a coach's point of view. Your commitment to each other and to this club is something special and I was glad to be 'formally' part of it this year.

GREG BARNES
Head Coach

2019 Youth League Men Div. 1 Report

TEAM: Zac Anderson, Vishaal Behari, Thomas Daus, Bosko Djurovic, Caleb Henwood, Cameron Jefferies, Joason Khattar, Jordan Raish, Shareef Saipaia, Kobe Shannon, Milan Tintor, Sean Trostel, Angeloe Zafiratis

Assistant Coach: Sherwin Haldar
Manager: Sharon Bailey

What an opportunity this season was going to be! Coming into the season with 9 returning players from last season and a smattering of talented rookies my excitement and expectations were high. But alas, as soon as pre-season rolled around it became apparent that our biggest hurdle was going to be injuries.

As the regular season started we went into it with a couple of significant injuries and it showed in the results. We started 0-5 but with three of those losses being by less than 5 everyone was positive that once we got healthy we would turn those results around. We then went 3-1 over the next four games as we got everyone back from injury, including our biggest win of the season defeating Manly 98-74.

Unfortunately that run of good games ended as fast as it started as again we were hit with injuries and illness. Despite the absences, those that were healthy did not stop and battled every game. We managed to get a few more wins during the second half of the season. As a testament to the player's effort and fortitude 3 of our remaining wins were by 1 point, with a double overtime victory against Central Coast (who finished top of the table) being the most stress inducing but rewarding.

As our season closed we were again hit by a number of injuries and unavailability which meant we had to limp to the end of what was an eventful season that was not ours to win this year.

I have to say a big thank you to the boys for their efforts and commitment this season. It was a difficult year but at no point did we use it as an excuse going into training or any games. The comradery that has developed was shown by those that were injured who would still support the team on game day by turning up at both home and away fixtures. I also need to mention Vishaal Behari for being able to survive the season and suit up for every game, Jordan 'Forty Jordy' Raish for being the ultimate development player and Caleb Henwood who spent the whole season backing up on game day for us and Champ Men.

Thank you to Sharon Harget for your support and the behind the scenes work to make sure that we were are all ready to play in the League. Thank you to Will Lopez for your support, advice and feedback throughout the year. Thank you to Ash Henrisson for allowing me to work with you to build the development path from Youth League to Champ Men.

To Sharon Bailey, thank you for being the Team Manager again this season. Your enthusiasm and support of the team was clear for all to see.

Finally, a special thank you to my Assistant Coach, Sherwin, your commitment, knowledge and calmness was a huge help throughout the year .

MARTIN KARKLINS
Head Coach

2019 Youth League Women's Report

TEAM: Elena Berbeniuk, Alexandra Cox, Kiahna Davis-White, Georgia Gale, Tasmyn Haynes, Jamie Ladewig, Emily Mackenzie, Meliame Mafile'o, Kasee McIlvenny, Lusia Pikula, Emma Rutherford, Chantelle Taylor, Johanna Titus, Emily Vuljanic

Assistant Coach: Amy Venardos
Manager: Peta Haynes

Our goals for this season were simple. Firstly, we wanted to continue to get better on the court. This meant working on both our skills and team concepts all season long. We wanted to be committed. I can say that all the girls committed to attending training twice a week, and when here worked hard to get better. We wanted to be flexible and understanding. Everyone in our team had busy lives including High School, University, Work, family and social. We had to be understanding that sometimes, those things came first. Most of all, we wanted to have fun and to be excited about playing basketball.

I can say with great pride that the girls committed and worked hard this entire season. We faced challenges on the court, we also had to be understanding off the court when adversity hit. We began to see leadership in our team, and cohesion building. There were times of frustration, but more times of laughter. I asked them before I wrote this report what they would want it to say. The overriding points were that we showed resilience, fought right till the very end of our season, worked hard at each and every practice and enjoyed the season and the people we spent time around. We learnt how to deal with frustration whilst also being caring and building important relationships with our teammates.

On court, we started the season extremely well, winning 3 out of our first 4 games. This was quite an achievement for a team that had gone winless the previous season. We hit a patch where for a variety of reasons, we fielded smaller sides and played against extremely tough opponents, losing some close and not so close games. We learnt from every one of those losses and continued to work. We would end our losing streak winning 2 of our last 5 games down the stretch. Ultimately the head to head split with Sutherland cost us a chance at 4th place and a spot in the first round of the finals. Whilst the girls were disappointed, we had all realized that we had come such a long way this season.

I am extremely proud to have coached these girls this season. We have worked hard this year to improve and I see a future for them in our program. There are opportunities for these young ladies to continue to work on their game and to push for positions in our Championship side. I hope you will all return next year and I look forward to watching that happen.

I would like to say thank you our Manager, Peta. Peta is very passionate about the women's program and gave up her time every weekend to come and cheer on the girls, support them as much as she could and covered every detail so that all they had to do was play.

Another big thank you goes to our Assistant Coach, Amy. Amy was in her first season coaching after finishing her Youth career last season. Amy stepped up whilst I was away, Head Coaching practices and games and winning her first game as a Head Coach! An awesome achievement and I hope it was a special moment. Thank you for being at every practice and supporting the girls on and off the floor. We were very lucky to have you.

See you all at Trials next year!

WILL LOPEZ
Head Coach

2019 Division 1 Men's Report

TEAM: Ben Antonio, Greg Barnes, Steve Batey, Andre Boykin, Anthony Daniels, Brett Foster, Svetomir Gavrilovic, Jimmy Kien, Paul Labua, Fletcher Mullen Kyle Reed, Stephen Whitehead

Assistant Coach: Neill Caddy
Manager: Kylie Bridgement

The 2019 season for Bankstown Bruin's State League men was overall a good season. With a few new additions from our 2018 line up, the goal was set to make the top four in our allocated 'Pool A'.

Throughout the season due to our older playing group, some players struggled to travel the large distances required in our Pool to venues such as Orange, Dubbo, Wagga and ACT. Due to this travel requirement of the league, we had inconsistent personnel in our teams each game so it was hard to find a rhythm early in the season. Nevertheless, we were able to secure some wins in these early 'away games' to keep us in the hunt for the top four.

Entering into the back end of the season, we found ourselves in seventh spot with slim chances to make top four. Mathematically, we had to win our final five games to give ourselves a chance at a finals appearance. Finally, we knuckled down, had a full roster and showed our capabilities in the remaining five games. Our run home saw us beat Orange 98-70, Wagga Wagga 74-54, Dubbo 73-60, Lithgow 103-96 and our top seeded arch rivals Sutherland Sharks in a final 'must win' match.

Heading into this game we were full of confidence on the back of four weeks of solid basketball and beating Sutherland earlier in the season by three points. Sutherland had no match for our depth, diverse scoring power and our 'old school' team basketball approach. We were victorious on this occasion 92-75. This win secured fourth spot in Pool A and an eventual cross over match against Newcastle Hunters (Third Pool B). Unfortunately, we lost to Newcastle who were better on the day. The travel might have also been against us with the old bones having to get up early Saturday morning and travel up the coast. This was a disappointing end to the season as we all knew we had the potential to appear in the finals weekend.

Despite the disappointing finish, looking back on the season, as always in State League, it was a very enjoyable year. The team demonstrated an outstanding commitment to trainings and maintained our well known State League comradery throughout the year.

Thanks to all the players for their time and efforts. Special thanks must go to Neill Caddy for assisting me this year and making sure that he could make all games when it clashed with my other coaching responsibilities. Neill's calm, positive and committed approach is one I certainly valued and one that we as a club should be thankful for. Final thanks to Kylie for being our manager this year and looking after the uniforms each week.

Lastly, thank you to this great club for allowing a State League team. The competition is building up to a strong, competitive league and I am grateful that the club allows us to enter each year, to give an opportunity for us veterans to continue to wear these wonderful colours.

GREG BARNES
Head Coach

BRUINS 2019

Junior Team Reports

18 Men 2	18 Women 1
18 Men 3	18 Women 2
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16 Men 4	16 Women 3
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14 Men 4	14 Women 2
12 Men 1	12 Women 1
12 Men 2	12 Women 3

2019 Under 18 Men Div. 2 Report

TEAM: Moses Bartley, Lachlan Benson, Harry Ellery, Angus Lake, Malakai Manoa, Nicholas Newman, Jovan Paravinja, Bohn Storum, Wesley Titus, Luke Venardos

Assistant Coach: Mark Jackson
Manager: Sharlene Lake

This year coaching the U/18 boys was a trying but enjoyable year. The team as ravaged with injuries. We had key big man go down with injury very early in the season. There were games where we only played with six.

With the injury toll and a few guys travelling overseas it made it very hard to maintain chemistry and progression of skills. We did not have a session with everyone available all year.

We ended up finishing the season in fourth place. Our semifinal was against Norths Bears who we hadn't beaten in the regular season. We ended up winning the game by more than twenty points in the end. We played with good pace and chemistry. The preliminary final saw us come up against Blacktown Storm. This was another team that we had not beaten in the regular season. The game went into overtime with Blacktown eventually winning by
nine points.

Finishing fourth enabled us to qualify for the state cup. Our first two games we played Milton Ulladulla & Newcastle. We were able to easily account for both teams. The third game saw us against Sydney Comets the Metro league champions. It was a hard-fought game that saw us come out victors. This again drew us against Blacktown Storm in the final. Blacktown were the eventual winners of the State Cup with the U/18 boys as runners up.

I would like to thank Mark and Sharlene. Their organisation and dedication helped the team achieve the results that it did.

I would also like to thank the parents for the team and effort to get all the players to training games.

To the boys, I hope you enjoyed the season and learnt something. In this sport, the effort you but in is returned. Keep putting the work in and the results will come.

DANIEL WONG
Head Coach

2019 Under 18 Men Div. 3 Report

TEAM: Joshua Alou Khater, Liam Byrne, Latrell Cruz, Daniel Ferreira, Nima Goozal, Yuvraj Majaraj, Mihajlo Pejakovic, Aidan Phouisangiem, Brandon Puyo, Luke Venardos, Lucas Vukalovich

Assistant Coach: Karl Cruz
Manager: Chanel Byrne

It has been a pleasant and enjoyable experience coaching the U18 Boys this season. Unfortunately, we did not meet the goals we originally set out at the start of the season. A major reason for this is due to the multitude of injuries we experienced which resulted in our inability to play our original squad for any of our games this season which included preseason.

Unlike most under 18's teams our squad was quite inexperienced with many being new to representative basketball and only a few who have played division 1 before. As a result, this inexperience combined with only having 7-9 healthy players each week saw us struggle to find any consistency in a very competitive division.

However, to the squads credit they showed their willingness to improve and compete regardless of the difficult challenges in which they faced. Ultimately their improvement as individuals and as a teamed showed in the second half of the season. This was displayed by our ability to have strong and competitive quarters and halves. Unfortunately though in most of these games it came down to fatigue and foul trouble. However, the level of perseverance and character that was displayed by majority of this team made this a very enjoyable season.

I would also like to thank the amazing work and support of my manager and assistant coach. Chantel has been the most amazing, supportive and organised manager. Being a manger of any team is a difficulty task let alone the U18 boys and myself. KC has also been of great help in encouraging the boys during games and filling in as coach for the last couple of games. KC I hope to see you head coaching your own representative team in the coming seasons. Thank you Chantel and KC for everything you have both done for the team this season.

TERRY TSANGARLIOTIS
Head Coach

2019 Under 18 Women Div. 1 Report

TEAM: Zali Austin, Isabel Baker, Charli Campbell, Kiahna Davis-White, Jane Dunlop, Rachel Dunlop, Alice Haddon, Lauren Mitchell, Jessie Tonna, Kasey Vaughan

Assistant Coach: Yolanda Baker
Manager: Belinda Tonna

Coaching the Under 18 Div. 1 women's team this year was once again an enjoyable experience. The team consisted of 5 players returning from the 2018 Under 18 Div 2 team and 5 new team mates.

Coaching this group of girls was very rewarding both on and off the court as they worked hard throughout the season at practice and games to come together as a team. We finished the season with a 5 win 9 loss record finishing in 5th position on the ladder at the end of the regular home and away season just missing out of the WJML semi finals.

6 member of the team – Charli, Zali, Jessie, Kasey, Alice, & Jane will move to the senior side of Representative basketball and I am proud to have been a part of your junior development and look forward to seeing your continued growth.

To my Assistant Coach Yolanda thank you, for all your enthusiasm & support to both myself and the girls. A special thank you to my Manager Belinda for your friendship and ability to have everything organized not only made my job easy it also was very much appreciated by the players and parents.

Once again I was privileged to have a great group of parents. Thank you for supporting not only your child but the team & staff and I am extremely proud to have coached your daughters.

Last but no means least, thank you to the young ladies of the 18G1 team your bright smiling faces [sometimes], support, enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the season is what being part of BRUINS is about.

DEBBIE CADEE
Head Coach

2019 Under 18 Women Div. 2 Report

TEAM: Janissa Carrozza, Houda Chafic, Daniela Fernandes Da Mota, Natalie Hamad, Estela Irigoitia, Nikita Maika-Teal, Victoria Osullivan, Arwen Parkinson, Mia Portelli, Rayan Zakaria

Assistant Coach: Con Bnardos, Kase Mlvenny
Manager: Doria Chafic

This year we started off with a mixed team of experienced & new players.

Preseason games showed that we had some good individual players but as a team we needed to work together to win against the Division 2 teams.

In the first half of the season we went through with wins, against Blue Mountains and Norths 3, which came with great enjoyment and building the girls confidence. However, we still struggled with teamwork and making training sessions. As was to be the case for the whole season due to injuries and school commitments, but as a team group the girls & coaches bonded and in general enjoyed being together at training and on game days.

The second half of the season saw us start to improve with our focus and team work increase and against those teams that beat us by more than 20 points in the first round, we were competitive and finished with our head high after playing well. These games made the team realise that we could win with team work and effort on defence as well as offence.

After winning 2 of 4 games and with three games to play we found ourselves with a chance of making the final, which was quite exciting. Unfortunately, we only won two of three games loosing to Comets in Alexandria and missing out on the finals by one point.

In general, we had a successful season, with the girls improving in leadership and game skills and realising that when we play as a team, with no exceptions we can compete with the best and everyone improves as the group becomes more cohesive and work for one another.

I would like to thank my assistant coaches Con and Kassie for all their help and experience during the season and our manager Doria who kept us on track and supplied with the game essentials. I would also like to thank the parents for getting the girls to training & games and for being so supportive to the whole team, coaches included.

I hope the girls enjoyed their season and learned a thing or two from the coaching group. It is great to see friendships bloom and to see you all develop as players and people. Good luck to all the girls in the future and with those moving to the senior competition, good luck and enjoy, and hope the others are back as Bruins under 18s next season. Good luck and please keep playing basketball.

TONY GALE
Head Coach

2019 Under 16 Men Div. 1 Report

TEAM: Earl Abadam, Troy Abadam, James Apostolakis, Krit Behari, Jerrell Bernal, Gordon Gill, Liuis Peralta, Tyler Skarstrom, Pablo Tamondong, Saimone Tuedrea

Assistant Coach: Vishaal Behari
Manager: Carlyn & Carlos Tamondong

WOW! What a year 2019 has been. We started off the season having to complete in preseason to secure our position in division one. There was 6 teams going for 3 division 1 spots. During preseason we lost to Blacktown and Hills. It all came down to our last game. We had to beat Manly to stay in division 1. The boys came out firing and we beat them so we secured staying in division 1.

By only just managing to stay in division 1, we knew it was going to be a challenging season. With this challenge set, the boy were willing to step up and put the hard work in at training. Our lead up to round 1 was good, however we came up against a very strong Hills team. They beat us by 26 points. This game made the team realise that they are going to have to work even harder but once again were willing to step up to the challenge.

We then went on to win our next 5 games, including winning against the undefeated Sydney Comets. This game gave us a boost in confidence, however when it came time to our double header, we were unable to back up playing a second game in 1 day and our winning streak was broken. After completing round 1 we had only dropped 2 games and were sitting 3rd on the ladder.

Round 2 saw the boys really come together as a unit and start to play for each other. We only dropped 1 game in round 2, which was to Sydney Comets by 3 points, which then meant we finished 2nd after the regular season and had to face Comets again in the Semi Final.

The semi final came and the nerves got the better of us. Comets beat us by 23 points. The boys took a lot from this game and really learnt you need to be prepared game day as a group. Luckily we got the second chance prelim final. This was against Penrith. We won by 12 so made the grand final. Grand final came against Comets. The team was ready to play out of their skin to get the grand final win. They did it, winning by 4 points! We were crowned 16 Boys Division 1 Metro Junior League! This was definitely a highlight of the season. Whilst we enjoyed the win and were very happy, come Tuesday's training, the boys were back to training hard and were now focussing on State Champs.

Our preparation for state was awesome, however the week before a player fractured his foot so was ruled out. That didn't stop the team.

The weekend of State Champships approached. We played our first 2 games against Newcastle and Byron, winning them convincingly. Our last round game was against Penrith. We were trailing at halftime by 8 points but the boys learnt to never give up. We came back in the second half to win the game by 1 point in the last 7 seconds. Unfortunately we had a player hit his head against the wall during this game and was taken to hospital with a concussion so were down to 8 players.

Winning against Penrith meant we finished 1st in our pool and met Hills in the semi final. Hills came out firing and took an early lead of 24 points in the second quarter. With the boys having the belief in each other and staying as a unit, they all stepped up and grinded back in the second half. We ended up winning by 3 points.

It was a Grand Final rematch against Comets for the state title. Only having 8 players and backing up from a tough semi final that was only played 2 hours before, it was always going to be a big challenge to win. However like all season, the boys stuck together and rose to the challenge. We won the grand final by 8 points in overtime! We are now the U16 Boys Division 1 State Champions!!!

2019 Under 16 Men Div. 1 Report

Continued:-

Thank you to my assistant coach, Vish and my managers Carlyn and Carlos. You guys have been amazing this year. Your help is greatly appreciated. I also want to thank all the parents for being so supportive all year.

To the boys, I hope you really enjoyed this year as much as I did. Your dedication and hard work at training is very inspiring and paid off. You have all grown so much, not only individually but as a group and has been an absolute pleasure to coach. You all deserve getting the double championships. Huge congratulations and keep up the hard work in the future! 2019 has been a year I will never forget.

MATT PORTER
Head Coach

2019 Under 16 Men Div. 4 Report

TEAM: Stavros Avgoustis, Blake Byrne, Jovon Dancy Jr., Farrell Fareo, Taj Farley, Will Govender, Raymond Hatem, Tyrone Lejero, Connall Millar, London Toalepai, Jared Vaughan

Assistant Coach Nathan Miller
Manager: Nathan Miller& Alison Miller

The 2019 season started with high hopes for the Under 16 Div 2 boys. We started strong in the pre season winning our first game convincingly, but weren't able to maintain that strong start, losing the remainder of our pre season games. Regardless of the results in pre season, the goal of the season remained the same, challenging the boys to grow as basketball players and learn to play the game of basketball without the constraints of plays holding them back.

The regular season started strong with a convincing victory over Inner West. The boys showed what they were capable of in that first game and gave Nathan and I a lot to look forward to for the season. We had two losses in the first half of the season that were easily winnable, but as a coaching team we challenged the boys to step up mentally and know their abilities. The second half of the season was dominant from the boys only losing one game to Inner West by a single point. Each game saw us getting better and become more cohesive on court with our wins having larger margins, yet a spread across all players in points.

The quarter finals saw a challenge for any coach as we had played Glebe two weeks prior and defeated them by 30+ points. To get the boys ready mentally was the main goal of our preparation for this game so they did not enter the game with a "we already have this" mentality. The finals are a different kind of beast as they learned with a tough third quarter in this game which saw Glebe come within 8 of us. I challenged the boys to play as a team in the fourth quarter that deserved to play the following week and they stepped up to take that game by 17 points.

The semi-final was possibly the boys best game of the season and was a culmination of the goals that the coaching staff had set from before the first training session that season. Camden Valley were the minor premiers and had not dropped a game all season. This team posed a very big challenge to the boys and they stepped up in the first quarter to show the other team and themselves that they belonged. Unfortunately the old saying "just because you deserve it doesn't mean they are going to you" became a reality for us that day, going down to Camden Valley 77-68 (ironically the same score as the regular season game). The boys played that game with fire, intensity and all the heart I could have asked of them. I was incredibly proud to see those young men and say I was their coach that day.

To Nathan, Alison and the Millar girls, thank you for all your assistance this season. To say I had a great team behind me in the coaching staff would be an understatement. Your commitment and care from the boys throughout this season has been phenomenal and the players and I cannot thank you enough.

To the boys, what can I say but thank you. Thank you for trusting me to be your coach and taking on any feedback I gave you. Thank you for making me love the game of basketball more from seeing it through your eyes. Thank you for letting me see you grow week to week as not only basketballers, but young men. I can only hope that you have learnt as much from me as I have from you this season.

MIRINDA REED
Head Coach

2019 Under 16 Women Div. 1 Report

TEAM: Sienna Allie, Kate Bishara, Morgan Botha, Taliyah Bywater, Kaia Dennis, Amali Lake, Vhalarie Mendoza, Nikolina Sipka, Lillian Williams, Aleshia Wright
Assistant Coach: Marianne Bishara
Manager: Karen George

The entire Under 16 Girls squad this year was an amazing group of basketball players. I'm very proud of the commitment and dedication to training and playing that was shown by both teams in this age group. So many of the families involved are extremely passionate about the sport, and that led to a positive environment to play and coach basketball.

For the division one team, we had a core group of returning Bruins players that made picking that team next to impossible. Much of the overall squad was bottom age, which meant that we ended up with seven bottom age players in division one. The learning curve was steep. Some hadn't played with a shot clock before. Most had never played a zone offense, or defense at rep level. Every week was a new lesson, often against teams who had more experienced and skilled players. It really took a while before we found our feet.

Four games in, we'd had four heavy losses. We had managed to stick with teams over stretches of one or two quarters, but couldn't put four quarters together in one game. Then, after a bye, round 5 was a double header. Against Norths, something seemed to click and we got significant contributions from every player. In a tight contest that went to the wire, we ended up losing by 4 points. We also narrowly lost the next game that day against a fresh Hornsby team. Losing was tough, but as a team, we could certainly feel the tide turning. There was belief. Redemption was close. We played Hornsby at home the very next week, and got them! A convincing 17 point win. We followed that with a very gutsy home win against Hills the week after. In 5 years playing reps, many of the squad had never beaten a Hills team. Victory was sweet!

Another highlight for the season was attending the John Martin Country Tournament near Gosford. Many memories and friendships were established during this weekend, and again many of these players got to experience travelling with a team and tournament play for the first time. The weekend was full of very competitive games, including probably our best team performance the whole year, a 1 point loss to Illawarra.

The players heading to the U18 age group should certainly take renewed confidence that their talent and skills hold up against the best players in NSW. The experience of running with such a young group of players demonstrates their leadership, their solid understanding of the game, and their willingness to make others better. For the players remaining in U16, the experience has been invaluable. Expectations will be high, but you now know what it takes.

Special thanks to our Assistant Coach Marianne Bishara, who was very constructive and cool headed, and also provided essential scouting insight on opposition players. We are very grateful to our Team Manager, Karen Wright for having my players and parents happy, on time and organised. Also, Karen did an excellent job with all the logistics of our country tournament trip. We are also very appreciative of the fantastic work of Ashley Corish and Ash Kaesler, working together to make both teams better.

Lastly, the player parents for this team are awesome. There are high standards expected from a representative basketball player at Bankstown, and this group of parents ensured that these standards are met, and typically exceeded. They provide support for every child on the team regardless of experience or ability. There is a real focus on fundamental skills, long term progression and realistic goals. The celebration of team based achievement, big or small is heart-warming. It rubs off on your kids, and makes them a pleasure and a privilege to coach. Thank you.

GLEN WILLIAMS
Head Coach

2019 Under 16 Women Div. 3 Report

TEAM: Evie Donnelly, Sally Gordon, Scarlet Heather, Ashleigh Kerr, Charlize Landon, Alyssa Nguyen, Bridgette Portelli, Naomi Sleiman

Assistant Coach: Ashleigh Kasler
Manager: Jenny Sleiman

This year has been a fairy tale for us! The 2019 representative season for myself, Ashleigh, and our group of special young women has been an absolute rollercoaster. As our year started our girls were a group of excitable and eager players to commence a long and developmental based year. Most of our players had not played together as team previously within a representative competition and our skill level was noticeably varied.

We focused throughout the season on continuously working to develop each player's individual skills in all aspects of our game – offence, defense and our ability to play transition basketball. Every week the girls came to practice with a positive attitude and were a cohesive team.

We remained positive about what we could achieve throughout the year! We unfortunately had four losses – two of which came against St George, and two from Springwood. We had competitive and close games against Hornsby and Sutherland, however managed to get good wins over both of these teams in the first and second rounds. We headed into the finals placing third and having to fight out way through to the Championship Game.

In the first round of the finals we versed Hornsby and had a competitive win to ensure our placement in the Preliminary Finals. The girls knew we would have to play the best game of the season to beat St George (who had lost to Springwood in overtime in the semi-finals). We played with high energy and were aggressive, and came together to pull off one of the biggest upsets of the season to head into the final against Springwood.

Our Championship Game against Springwood had a phenomenal third quarter hitting five back to back three point shots to give ourselves the biggest gap against Springwood throughout the game. We continued to play with heart, passion, focus, and energy, (with amazing defence), to win the Junior Championship for Division 3! Springwood were completely shocked at this result as were we!

I would like to thank my assistance coach, Ashleigh on her courage to stand beside me and contribute to the skills and development of the girls. To our manager Jenny, this season would not have been possible without your dedication to this team – we appreciate your time and effort!

Lastly, I would like to thank this unique, funny, dramatic, and zealous bunch of girls. I am proud to have been part of your Bankstown Bruins Representative basketball development and you will never know how much this season meant to me. I hope you always hold this fairy tale year of basketball very closely to your hearts, and continue to be play with Pride and Dignity in every game of basketball. I heard this season that "we will get there", and I am so excited to say we did! Go Bruins!

ASHLEY CORISH
Head Coach

2019 Under 14 Men Div. 1 Report

TEAM: Jalen Dancy, Patrick Dawes, Steven Hall, Mason Hunter, Liam Isaako, Phoenix Koumbaros, Charlie McBeath, Orlando Sam, Taj Stepleton, Dominic Vuljanic

Assistant Coach: Cooper Avery
Manager: Suzie Vuljanic

Our season was definitely a story of 2 rounds. We began our season with great hope and with goals set out by the staff to improve our skills, our understanding of the game and its flow, and to constantly strive to work hard and represent the Bruins in the right way including practice and games. We struggled early on in our season and our first round didn't go to plan. Whilst the boys were working hard, we were not seeing the results of this early on. We would move through Round 1 of the competition with a record of 2-5.

During a rough loss against Norths in Round 6, we spoke passionately in the change room about the reasons for the loss. Our effort simply wasn't at the standard we expected of Bruins in this particular game. This was a big turning point for our attitudes and the way we viewed Representative basketball. We would go on to win our Round 7 clash before starting a remarkable Round 2. We would lose out first game of Round 2 against 2nd place Hills, however we pushed them in to overtime after losing by 30 points in the first game of the year. We then went on a run of 4 straight wins and played some incredible basketball during this time turning around the results of the first round. We would lose to Norths again however by a much smaller margin and closed out our season with a great win against Camden. We finished round to with a 5-2 record bringing our season to 7 wins and 7 losses.

Ultimately the head to head split cost us a chance at the post season. We had beaten 4th placed comets by 5 points. Unfortunately, they had beaten us by 6 points. So, we would miss out on 4th place and a spot in the semi-finals by 1 point. A disappointing way to end what had been a great second half of the season.
Despite our season ending prematurely, I am extremely proud of this group of boys. We battled adversity and injuries throughout the year. They were asked to work extremely hard each session, often pushed to their limits. Our focus broadened, not only on how we could improve as a team and as individuals, but also learning how to become leaders amongst each other and to the Division 2 boys when we trained together.
I was extremely impressed with how our basketball improved and the style of play in which we exhibited. We spoke about a style that would be a great representation of the Bruins. Our team played hard nose defense, rebounded the ball well, and learnt to pass and share the ball as well as any team in our league. Thank you boys and parents, for trusting the work we were doing and believing in the style of play. I hope you have seen the improvement you have made this year and have understood the rewards of hard work.

I would like to say a special thank you our Manager, Suzi. Suzi is extremely organized and was on top of every detail. But most of all, she was invested in our team and wanted to see all the boys improve and support each other throughout the year.

Another big thank you goes to our Assistant Coach, Cooper. Cooper was willing to learn and gave his best efforts and attention to the boys all season long. I hope you have learnt a lot, enjoyed your first year of representative basketball and are excited to continue your coaching journey.

Thank you all for a great season. I hope to see you all in Bruins colours next year.

WILL LOPEZ
Head Coach

2019 Under 14 Men Div. 3 Report

TEAM: Noah Al-Kahil, Kai Allie, Zachary Benci, Aarnav Mahant, Angelo Restauro, Wyatt Rossington, Ivan Stepic, Adonis Thanos, Gianni Wagaarachchi, Zakaria Zakaria, Malakai Kalananda, Aiden Nguyen

Manager: Ravi Wagaarachchi

Our main focus for the u14s bottom age team was breaking the zone press of other team, playing full court defense and execution of a great transition offense.

This year's group had successfully understood the concepts of moving the ball and making the correct pass during zone press. It is one of the more difficult concepts to grasp when moving from 12s to 14s.
Playing full court defense and sticking to our man to man principles is another skill the boys have achieved. Understand the value of trusting each other and the reliance of help defense. They will have to work on direct communication and containing bigger players during defensive next year.

Finally the skill of moving the ball ahead during a transition offense has improved throughout the season. We are making better decision when to kick the ball head and we are able to finish at the rim with pace. The division has been a great learning environment for the boys. We have had a good mixture of teams to compete against, each bringing a different style of play.

Reaching the preliminary final is a great achievement for our boy and is evidence they will be able to compete in the next year.

I hope all the athletes enjoyed the season and they continue to work hard on their basketball journey.
I would like to thank all the coaches who helped with the development of these boys, Will Trieu, Sam and Michele. Special thanks to Champ Men Head Coach Ashley Henrisson, NSW Head Coach Will Lopez and BA HOF Debbie Caddie. Thank you Ravi for your great organisation skills and support me during the battles. Thank you to the parents for committing your son to training every week and helping with score table. Without committed parents we would not have athletes for this wonderful sport.

To the boys, I hope you enjoyed your time as bottom age 14s. Enjoy your break. I hope to see you all back in October, prepared to learn more and become better players.

SHERWIN HALDAR
Head Coach

2019 Under 14 Women Div. 1 Report

TEAM: Madelyne Assaly, Lily Austin, Emmily Baker, Tahlia Caddy, Kira-May Filemu, Jessie-May Hall, Adalaide Loane, Jennifer Mailei, Azaleeah Oloapu, Abbey Vallance

Assistant Coach: Jodie Craig
Manager: Micharla Caddy

Our Bruins Division 1 U/14 girls' team (Madelyne Assaly, Lily Austin, Emily Baker, Tahlia Caddy, Kira-May Filemu, Jessie-May Hall, Adelaide Loane, Jennifer Mailei, Azaleeah Oloapu and Abbey Vallance) had a successful season. Our team consisted of 2 new players into our program and these girls quickly fit in, both on and off the court and became part of the Bruins family. Every girl in this team knew their role and whether they started or came off the bench, they were all contributors to our success!

At the end of the first round we were sitting in 1st place with only 1 loss to Manly and it became clear from there that our goal was to make Nationals! We finished the second part of the season without a loss, which meant we retained our number one spot, and we would now be traveling to Ballarat in October for Club Championships.

Our semi-final match up was against Hills and even though Lily was out injured, we came into the game confident on a 12 game winning streak. To say we had a shaky start would be an understatement. We missed layup after layup and it took us a while to shake our nerves. Once we found our groove, our shooting was back on track. Jessie finished with 21, after sitting all of the second quarter on foul trouble. Azaleeah and Kira completely shut down their tall centre, with their fronting defence and excellent split line help. Abbey played the entire game in the point guard role and led our team brilliantly contributing 9 points. Jennifer was an offensive threat also scoring 9 and Emily and Maddy came off the bench to contribute at both ends of the floor to help us advance to the grand final after winning 74-37.

The grand final match up against Manly was going to be tough as we had lost convincingly to them in Round 1 by 17 and then reversed the result in Round 2 by 8 points, but they were missing 3 of their starters. Our girls were fast becoming the team everyone came to watch, as we were playing 'old school' style basketball with our relentless run and jump defence and impressive passing. Our first quarter was 8 minutes I will never forget. Our defence was stifling and Manly struggled to score. Lily had just came back from a broken finger and hit a huge 3 pointer at the end of the quarter giving us a comfortable lead 16-4. We never looked back from there and continued to dominate our opposition to claim the title of Metro Champions winning 50-30. Although a massive defensive team effort, Kira-May and Adelaide kept their two main players to 5 and 6 points respectively and a Jessie had a MVP performance, even on 1 leg! She plays an exciting brand of basketball and has exceptional quicks and amazing anticipation on defence. Azaleeah played a true captain's game, with her talk and leadership. Her ability to find the open player in the key is impressive and her defensive presence in the paint is intimidating. Offensively, Jennifer finished off well and Tahlia, as always, seems to find herself free under the basket for those offensive boards and easy baskets.

Our State Championships were held in Maitland and our first match up against Gosford was physical. A confident and aggressive start from Adelaide at both ends and a game high 22 points from Azaleeah Oloapu saw us win 65-36. Maitland were our next opponents and after a very sluggish start, we easily overcame them with a strong 74-28 performance. Tahlia, Emily and Maddy were excellent contributors off the bench at both ends and Azaleeah put in another 21 point performance. We were ready to face Hills for the fourth time this season and our big girls Kira-May, Jennifer and Azaleeah continued their domination over their much taller opposition. It was good to have Jessie-May back after her injury and she was back to her best with her numerous steals and intercepts and a game high 24 points. Some amazing passing by Lily to Azaleeah saw her have 24 points and claim a team win 67-45.

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2019 Under 14 Women Div. 1 Report

Continued:-

We would now face Newcastle in the semi-final. They were an extremely well drilled team with 2 tall and athletic inside players who played an aggressive style of defence. Their point guard was a very talented player and Abbey did a fantastic job on her, but she shot the lights out and they led from start to finish. A brave effort from the girls saw them fight to the end and this was the first time all year we have been really challenged so it was great to see them in this situation. Lily kept us in the game with a barrage of threes and Jessie-May and Azaleeah's scoring kept our points ticking over, however it wasn't enough and we went down 59-56. Although extremely disappointing, this was a excellent learning curve and we definitely got a lot out of these 4 very physical games.

This is a special group of girls and as we head off to Club Championships in October in Ballarat, I'm excited to see if we can match up with the best in Australia! Defence wins games, and this has been our strength throughout the season, coupled with outstanding teamwork and passing we are hoping to shake a few teams up at Nationals.

I would like to thank Jodie Craig, my assistant coach, whose knowledge of the game is unmatched and she has helped our big girls immensely this season at both ends of the court. To our manager, Micharla for her super organisation throughout the year and to her husband Matt for always jumping in to help when needed. To the amazing group of parents who are always extremely supportive, positive and encouraging. Thank you for your assistance with bench every week and for getting the girls to every training and game. Finally to my amazing group of girls. It has been a most rewarding season and I have loved every moment. We are Metro Champs! I am super proud of you all and I will treasure this team forever. I wish you all every success in your future basketball endeavours.

MICHELE AUSTIN
Head Coach

2019 Under 14 Women Div. 2 Report

TEAM: Trinity Basic, Kenisha Bickly, Leilani Filemu, Chloe Jankoski, Ava Pezzutti, Ella Rehayem, Mia Summerland, Cyan Taripo, Dawn Taripo, Isidora Vasiljevic, Georgia Elvin, Caitlin New

Assistant Coach: Andrew Bickle
Manager: Mara Basic

This year, coaching the U/14 girls was a rewarding experience. I had the honour of coaching many of these girls for the past 3 years and got to work with 4 new girls this season.

From the very first pre-season training session the girls were ready to go and focussed on the goals. We had a score to settle with Hills after a very competitive season in 2018. We set ourselves the challenge of improving the skills and knowledge of each and every player. Our new players settled in quickly and before we knew it the teamwork was great.

The first round of the season was positive for us as we only lost 2 games. The back half of the season proved tougher though as all teams improved. I was most impressed by how our girls really dug deep when we found ourselves in a bind, winning some games by the narrowest of margins.

Andrew and I started seeing the girls execute things we had been working on and some made huge improvements throughout the season. Caitlin and Georgia, our development players worked very hard to improve as well, having the opportunity to play some games and supporting from the bench every single week.

As the season progressed it became obvious that Hills and Hornsby were the teams to beat. We knew we had to keep working hard if we wanted to match it with the top teams, and after a few tough fought wins late in the season we edged out Norths Red to finish in 4th place.

The Semi-Finals for us meant that each game was a must win. Under the assistance of Will Lopez, we trained with great intensity, fine-tuned some of our offensive plays, and most importantly lifted our defence to a new level. We knew Norths Black would be tough opponents, so we made sure we came out fighting from the start. We ended up leading by 10 points during the game, but Norths fought back to lead us by 2. Our season was on the line. We had to dig deep and we held on for an amazing 1-point victory which was beautifully assisted by Trinity hitting three 3 pointers.

We now found ourselves in the Preliminary Final against Hornsby, a team that we had not been able to beat throughout the season. Again, we put into practise the areas that we had worked so hard on all year, and we went into the game with a 'nothing to lose' attitude. Our girls never truly looked in doubt and defeated Hornsby by 4 points, booking a place in the Grand Final against Hills Hornets.

Although feeling confident, we knew Hills were going to be tough to beat. Hills had beaten us 7 times in our last 7 match ups. But there was something different amongst our playing group this time. Greater belief, skills developed based on a year of hard work, and a true desire to be champions. And 2019 Division 2 Metro League champions our girls are! The team played an amazing Grand Final, not allowing Hills to lead at any time during the game. Truly an incredible victory. Congratulations to Ella who was awarded MVP.

Continued over….. ➡

2019 Under 14 Women Div. 2 Report

Continued:-

With such a successful season came the well deserved opportunity to compete in this year's State Cup. While still on a high from winning the Metro League Grand Final the previous week, we continued our winning ways by defeating Gosford, Queanbeyan and Hornsby in the pool games. This allowed us to advance to the final where we were matched up against Hills Hornets for our 4th Grand Final against them in 2 years. But this one wasn't to go our way. All our girls played with great determination but unfortunately got beaten by the better team on the day.

Along with our Gold and Silver medals this season, one of our greatest achievements has been the professional way that our girls have represented the Bankstown Bruins Basketball Association, which is greatly admired by our competitors.

I would like to thank Andrew Bickle for his dedication and commitment to the girls and for improving his own knowledge. Thanks also to Mara Basic for outstanding work as Manager. Also, Michele Austin and her assistant Jodie for helping myself and the girls along the way as well as Will Lopez for his continued support.

DONNA MOFFAT
Head Coach

2019 Under 12 Men Div. 1 Report

TEAM: Virgilio Agito, Ethan Antala, Finnlay Benson, Jamil Charmand, Marko Dopudj, Rubin Jamison, Jermaine Maningo, Jordan Tonna, Max Venardos, Howard Yu
Assistant Coach: Andrew Antala
Manager: Bart Tonna

What a year, what a team.

We started off the season very strong, starting with our pre-season games, where we were the talk of the competition. We are not the biggest, but we were the fittest and the fastest.

We started off the metro league strong going 3 – 0 in our first three games. We dropped our fourth game due to a sloppy effort against the Comets. The boys played very hard and our defence and transition offence were key to victory, we ended the first round with a respectable 5 – 2 record.

The second round was where we took off, only dropping one game to our arch nemesis, Norths, ending the main round in second place with an 11 – 3 record.

We were matched against Manly in the semi-finals and whilst the boys played hard, we were down big (16 points) late in the third quarter. The boys rallied to end the third quarter still down by 12. In the fourth quarter, something clicked and the boys came out hungry and we pulled off a stunning comeback winning a down to the wire battle 62 – 60.

The grand-final against Norths was an awesome atmosphere, playing at home in front of a very large crowd. We gave everything we had and more, but unfortunately came up short losing in the last minutes of the game, after being down by 2 with 4 minutes to go, a few silly fouls and unforced turnovers by our team was the difference between the two teams and we ended up losing by 10.

Whilst the team lost the grand-final they came back to training two days later hungry to make amends and work hard to prepare for the state championships.

At state championships, we won all of our pool games convincingly, defeating Gosford by 19, Bellinger by 45 and the Sydney Comets by 11. That left us matched up against Manly in the semi-finals (something of a tradition for this team) and Norths were matched up against Sydney Comets.

We came out very strong leading for most of the first half, but once again fouls and unnecessary turnovers were our greatest enemy and we lost the game 70 – 59. Manly eventually went on to claim victory against Sydney Comets in the grand-final.

To the parents, thank you for your patience and trust in us as coaches to develop your son's skill, passion and understanding of this beautiful game of ours.

To Bart, our Manager, you are an absolute legend, you have allowed Andrew and I to focus on the development of the boys and preparation for games and truly created a community of trust with the parents.

To Andrew, our Assistant Coach, your training and pre-game preparation was always invaluable, your care and compassion towards the boys cannot be understated and we all thank you for your generosity of time. To the boys, I hope you maintain your passion for the game of basketball

SAM CHARMAND
Head Coach

2019 Under 12 Men Div. 2 Report

TEAM: Christopher Berari, Philip Falaniko, Farris Fareo, James Obuzome, Pavle Paravinja, Joshua Sabbagh, Malakai Sinisa, Viktor Voytenko, Adam Williams, Anthony Zacharias

Manager: Sue Zacharias

The Under 12 boys had a successful season in 2019. We had eight new players to representative basketball and it was initially an adjustment to get use to the expectations and skill level. The progress, which the boys showed individually and as a team throughout the season was very impressive. We were fortunate enough to finish the regular season as minor premiers and progress to the State Cup. Our goal was to make the semi-finals and make it to State Cup, so we had already exceeded our expectations.

The highlights of the season include:

- Winning against Norths with eight players, in the second last game of the season, this put us on top of the ladder.
- Going into the semi-final against Hills, we only had seven players available. We went down early and experienced foul trouble for one of our starters. The boys showed tremendous fight, poise and Bruins attitude to fight back and win by five points. This was extremely satisfying as a number of boys, who don't play regularly, stepped up, under finals pressure.
- It was an amazing atmosphere at our grand final against Hills at home. Hills had a strong win over Blacktown the week before. It was an intense start as expected, with both teams playing at a high level. We managed to build a comfortable lead after half time and hung on for the victory!
- At the State Cup, games got progressively more challenging each game. One of the highlights was the sportsmanship and comradery of our country counterparts. In our third game against Blacktown, we had a close hard fought game, in the end going down by two to the eventual winners.

I would like to thank Suzie for her dedication, hard work and love throughout the season, she was someone I could rely on for feedback and support. Thank you to the parents for your dedication and commitment to your children. Finally, thank you to the players for your hard work throughout the season!

WILLIAM TRIEU
Head Coach

2019 Under 12 Women Div. 1 Report

TEAM: Jordan Algie, Mataea Craft, Maria Fernandes da Mota, Charlotte Hunter, Desiree Lin, Violet Loane, Rhianna Pang, Sienns Skarstrom, Kiara Stapleton, Kaiah Wong

Assistant Coach: Jason Skarstrom
Manager: Belinda Hunter

I have been very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to coach these 10 young girls, some for the second year running and some for the first time. What a season we had. We had a team consisting of returning players and some playing representative basketball for the very first time, which is a task in itself. Committing to a season of representative basketball is not one that comes easily. It means two trainings per week, extra work I gave the girls outside of the two sessions and then the games every Sunday. For children this age, that takes commitment and desire and I can say that each of the girls brought both of these qualities week in, week out. The girls had to quickly learn about teamwork and that it takes everyone to work "together" to achieve the end result.

The girls absolutely gave it their all however unfortunately their position on the ladder at the end of the season does not reflect how well they played, how hard they fought at times and how close many of the games were especially to the top 4 teams. It is a true reflection on just how tough this Division was this year that a team like ours who didn't make the finals only lost to the competition winning team, Manly by 4 points in Round 1 and 5 points in Round 9. For them to take out the title was a true reflection on just how close we were. We had a few disappointing games which unfortunately cost us a spot in the finals and also State Championships however throughout the season we had hard fought wins & losses. To say I am proud of the girls is an understatement, they amazed me each week with their sportsmanship, teamwork and maturity and this was evident on the court.

I hope all the girls can take away some things they learnt this year because at the end of the day, it was my job to teach them the skills of playing basketball and to be a basketballer. I too have learned during the year ways to improve as a coach. My personal goal at the beginning of the season was to ensure that each child learnt new skills and improved as players and I'm pleased this was achieved.

I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching the girls this year and I hope the girls have enjoyed their season too. My job as Head Coach would not be possible without the support and guidance from Jason in the coaching aspect. Jason would often take the Thursday training session for both Div. 1 and Div. 2 due to my work commitments and his knowledge of the game and enthusiasm towards the training sessions assured me the girls were in good hands. Jason and I work very well together as coaches and we always made sure we discussed everything before making a decision. And then there is Belinda, who is a very dear friend of mine, but also an amazing Manager to myself and the girls. She is the one who keeps the parents informed throughout the season with what's going on and keeps the girls smiling on the bench. Without her, the team would not be so organised. I can't thank you both enough for all your help this year and I really do appreciate you both being by my side.

Also to all of the parents, I too know how difficult sport can be and the commitment that it takes. I thank you for allowing me to coach your children and I can truly say all the girls are respectful, hardworking and committed and that comes from the support you give to them and myself.

As I always say to the girls, this experience you have been given to play basketball comes from your parents so I do thank you.

Continued over….. ➡

2019 Under 12 Women Div. 1 Report

Continued:-

To all the girls, keep training, keep moving and most importantly keep smiling because you are all very special to me and brought me so much joy this year. I hope to see you all back again next season whether in Under 12's or 14's for another great year of representative basketball. Some words I still remember from a wise coach during my own basketball career that I would also like the girls to take away is, "It's not about being the best, its about being your best".

See you all in 2020.

KELLIE STAPLETON
Head Coach

2019 Under 12 Women Div. 3 Report

TEAM: Eden Allie, Shayla Bickle, Hannah Elvin, Adelaide Filemu, Elana Hatem, Miami Maningo, Imogen Meilak, Elizabeth Nish, Ariel Oczak, Scarlett Tran

Assistant Coach: Hayley Nish
Manager: Kylee Elvin

As a first time head coach the one thing I was most worried about was to not let a group of 9-11 year olds girls drive me crazy. That concern quickly went away once I got to know them, a fun, respectful, kindhearted group of girls that had a fabulous season. Without playing any pre season games I was quite nervous how the girls would go in their first real game, which was against Hills. I wanted to get that first win promptly to settle the team and to start on a positive step. The experience of playing away for the first time in an unfamiliar setting quickly disappeared as the team took a 15 point lead early in the game, only to let it slip away in the fourth quarter, but they fought to get a 3 point win and the girls never looked back. We started the season 12-0 an amazing effort from a team predominantly made up of bottom and double bottom-aged girls. The challenge I faced as a coach was to teach the girls to stay humble and hungry as every team gave us their best game. This season our only loss was to Inner West, who we would eventually meet in the Grand Finals. The girls played valiantly in their first championship match, I was so proud of their effort and fight having to comeback twice in the game, eventually in overtime we went down 40-42.

The Bruins coaching staff selected a superb group of girls who have high potential in the game of basketball, I would love to see them grow and develop into the players they can be. My appreciation goes out to Debbie and Will who gave me this opportunity to coach thank you for your utmost support. The U12 div1 girls pushed us at our joint training sessions, and we wouldn't have become the team we were without Kelly and Jason to guide us. I want to greatly thank the parents for their commitment and dedication in getting the girls to training and games on time. Their support throughout the season was positive and encouraging, which made it a pleasure for me to coach; and the teams' training attendance for the season was exceptional, it reflected our overall record of 13-1 finishing on top of our division.

I want to give special mention to Hayley our assistant coach and Kylee our team manager, as a coaching staff we edified each other. Hayley took over the team while I was away during my honeymoon and throughout the season she imparted her Bruins experience and game knowledge upon the girls, such a valuable asset at this stage in their basketball lives, her support during each training session was priceless and key to our successful season. Our amazing manager Kylee kept our team running like a well-oiled engine; her organization and communication with the parents was remarkable, rostering parents on bench, planning training session dates, player availabilities, uniform management, but the one thing I greatly appreciated was her support as a parent to the entire team, encouraging them no matter what they did, giving the girls indispensable advice and moral support, and with her connections Kylee was also my personal scout. I extend my gratitude and personal thanks to these two amazing people; they allowed me to give my full attention as a coach, which made it an enjoyable experience. Finally to the girls' thank you for an amazing season I can't wait to see what the future holds for each and every one of you.

SIDNEY MANINGO
Head Coach

2019 Referee Report

Bankstown Basketball Referees have a proud and distinguished history and this year we have been able to add another successful year to the history books.

This year Bankstown Basketball Referees have expanded in numbers allowing us to cover 100% of games in both the Senior and Junior domestic programs.

A large number of our officials were nominated and were rostered to participate in the Basketball NSW Waratah league, with some great results from our referees. Four officials were selected to attend the finals weekend played in Gosford on August 17th and 18th 2019.

George Kostakis was appointed to the Youth League Men's Division 1 Grand Final.

Marko Nikolic was appointed to the Division 1 Women's Grand Final.

Caitlin Grove – Semi Final Youth league Men Division 1

Eli Newman - Semi Final Division 1 Women

Bankstown Basketball has also been well represented at Australian Junior Championships in 2019

George Kostakis [U20 National Championships]

Marko Nikolic [U16 National Championships – Gold Medal Men's Game]

James O'Toole [U16 National Championships – Bronze Medal Men's Game]

Eli Newman [U14 Boys Club Championships]

Caitlin Grove [U14 Boys Club Championships]

In closing 2019 was an outstanding year for our program, with change and new ideas being bought forward. I believe this will set us up for another great year.

Congratulations to all officials on a fantastic season.

MICHELLE NICHOLAS
Referees Manager

2019 Scoretable Report

Bankstown Scoretable Officials met their commitment with 100% . Servicing 16 Junior Representative teams & 5 Senior teams.

Some of my aims this year were to Retain existing officials, Recruit new officials and Retrain existing officials if required.

Junior Representative Competition:

- ✍ Clinics for parents were held at the beginning of the season to assist their knowledge, in preparation for the Junior Rep season. Approx 80 parents were in attendance.
- ✍ We provided a qualified Chairperson, of mostly Level 2 and above, for each junior home game. Our Chairperson also assisted the parents by giving them pointers during the games. Bankstown are one of the only Associations who did this during the competition. This eliminated some of the stress by parents knowing they had an official to help them. Many of the other metro associations gave favourable comments to Bankstown for their assistance from these Chairpersons.
- ✍ When finals of metro came around, 8 of our scoretable officials were used on Grand Finals on many of the age groups.

Senior Representative Competition:

- ✍ The Senior Rep games were held on Saturdays or Sundays or sometimes even both days.
- ✍ 4 Scoretable officials were rostered to each bench for each game.
- ✍ Our senior officials performed amazingly well with only a few small hiccups for the season.
- ✍ 4 Bankstown officials was selected to attend finals weekend in Gosford: Peter Nicholas, Sue Baxter, Peta Haynes, Irene Wong and Heidi Wong being awarded a Grand Final position.
- ✍ We recruited 2 new officials during the season and successfully educated them.

We continue to provide officials to service both the NBL and WNBL and these officials are: Peter Nicholas, Irene Wong, Peta Haynes, Sue Baxter and Michelle Nicholas.

Thankyou's
I would like to thank all of the Senior Officials, from the Juniors and Seniors, for their hard work and availability during the season and for taking time away from their family commitments and in making the Bankstown Scoretable program one of the best in NSW.

MICHELLE NICHOLAS
Referees Manager

2019 Statician Report

As the Bankstown Championship home round games have now been completed, I stop and reflect on the season that is coming to a close. As many of you would know, this was my first season taking over the reigns as Stats Coordinator at Bankstown Basketball. I have been fortunate to have had the support of great stadium office staff and a new General Manager to ensure that I was given the tools to be successful this season. At the end of last season, our long standing Stats Coordinator retired and we had a number of other statisticians finish the stats career leaving us with a depleted Stats crew.

Putting aside our low numbers, this year we had a record number of new Statisticians. They were the best bunch of new statisticians that anyone could ask for. All of these people gave their time to attend the Level 1 training course, attend practice games before and during the season and have stepped onto the roster with no complaints and have given their all. You are all amazing people and I could not have done this without you. The amazing new additions to the stats team include (in no particular order); Emma, Javiera, Sandi, Sue and Julie.

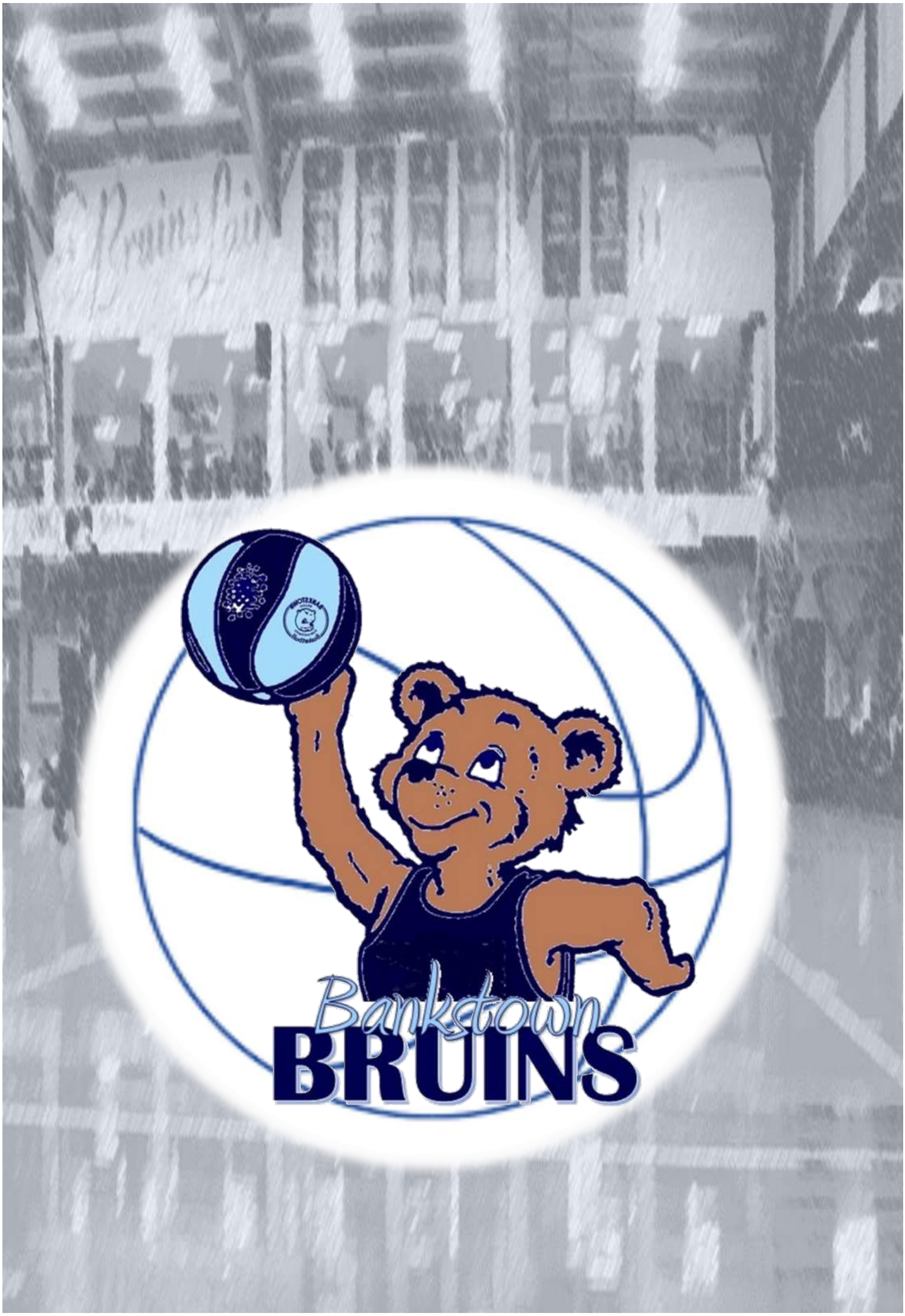
We have also been fortunate to have the support of statisticians from other associations to bring their knowledge and experience to not only provide a strong foundation for this season but also assist in the training of our amazing new level 1's. I personally would like to thank Danielle from Penrith, Ros from Hills and Daniel from Comets for their help this season. We appreciate the time that you have given up away from your families to assist with Bankstown games, on top of your own home games. You have all become part of our Bankstown family and we hope that you have all enjoyed your time with us also.

We cannot forget Evan who has been with us since last season. Evan achieved a milestone in his stats career this season, calling his first Championship game. Congratulations Evan on stepping up and showing us what you have learned and well done on having a great game!

Finally, I would like to thank Sherwin for stepping up and being my Assistant Stats Coordinator (2IC) this season. He was there for every training session we offered pre-season and also at every home game to make sure that we delivered great quality stats. This season Sherwin was appointed on the WNBL panel and also volunteered at the National championships in Canberra. On a personal note, as a Statistician you have gone from strength to strength and I look forward to see where you go with the rest of your stats career. I thank you for your support and look forward to many seasons ahead.

So finally, thank you to everyone this season for your efforts. Without your support, we would not have got through the season in the fashion that we did. I personally appreciate your commitment, kind words and laughs that we have had this season and can't wait to see what next season brings.

ROBYN DENING
Stats Coordinator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