

President's Report - (Kevin Lemmar)

Hi and welcome to the Hurstbridge Hurricanes 2025 Annual General Meeting.

I would like to start by acknowledging the tireless efforts and dedication of each and every member of our basketball community. From the players on the court, to the coaches who inspire and lead, to the volunteers who work behind the scenes to ensure our club runs smoothly, we are all an integral part of this family.

This past Autumn season we fielded 32 teams. 19 Boys teams and 13 Girls teams. The Spring season we fielded 35 teams, 22 boys and 13 girls. We have had coaches and many players competing at a representative level. We are confident that these appointments will only help to lift the skill and level of knowledge that flows through our club.

As a committee, we are dedicated to serving our club and its members to the best of our abilities. We are committed to fostering a positive and inclusive environment, to providing opportunities for growth and development, and to ensuring that every member of our club feels valued and supported. This past year we have managed to have more coaches accredited, hopefully we can continue to encourage this for all of our coaches. Moving forward we are planning to engage in more development both for our coaches and our players through targeted clinics.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your help and support over the past 5 years. It is with a heavy heart that I have decided to retire my presidency of the Hurstbridge Hurricanes Basketball Club. It has been a very rewarding and fulfilling time for me.

When I first took over we were hit the Covid period which was a very challenging and frustrating time both for navigating the various legalities and also for our finances. At one stage I even went to the Bendigo Bank to see if needed we would be able to obtain a loan. They said this was not a problem. however with the help and support of a fantastic committee we soldiered through and the loan was not necessary.

After a lapse of over 10 years, the floor at the stadium was in disarray. I negotiated with the council to reseal and polish the court, this has been a big plus. I also arranged for new adjustable side rings to be installed which has greatly benefited our playing community, particularly those in the younger age brackets. We organised outside signage to state that this is the home of the Hurstbridge Hurricanes Basketball Club for all to see. Also, after discussions with the committee we installed a large Magnetic sign inside the stadium which not only celebrates that we are the Hurstbridge Hurricanes but also has allocated space for advertising our sponsors logos.

We coordinated the entry of an under 16 Boys team into the Eltham Dandenong Basketball Tournament which they won against a team from Adelaide. I would love to see the Hurricanes

continue to enter tournaments and flag the Hurstbridge banner. As our major sponsor Mason White McDougall sold to Jellis Craig our sponsorship was in question. I managed to negotiate a new contract which will see this needed support continue into the future. We also managed to secure two more major sponsors in Camprint and Off Road Gear.

We also have had Bendigo Bank continue their sponsorship and support throughout. They are a great supporter of our club in many ways and are currently sponsoring specialised training for our Hurricanes community for the entire season.

Recently due to our collaboration with the South East Melbourne Phoenix I was able to organise for our u14 girls to play a game against the Cairns Taipans as the half time entertainment at one of their matches.

We are still in discussions with Deputy Lord Mayor Naomi Joiner about the potential for a second court. This has been ongoing for a few years but worth persisting with.

I would like to thank the past and present committee who have been behind me all of this time and have helped in making this club such a success. I am quite confident that I have left the club in a great space and wish the club a fantastic future.

Your retiring president,
Kevin Lemmar