



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



**BASKETBALL
ACT**



BASKETBALL ACT LIFE MEMBERS

Colin Alexander
Peter Basket
Brad Barnes
Paul Bell
Ray Brady
Paul Clowry
Tony Cotton
Errol Cohen
Ian Ellis
Gary Evans
Stephen Fox
Brian Franklin
Kelly Grandin

Pam Grotegoed
Ron Harvey
Christine Higginson
Peter Higginson
Natalie Hurst
Phill Kelley
Grant Keys
Max Landy
Jerry Lee
Marlene Leonard
Barbara Lodding
Joe Marzano
Herb McEachin

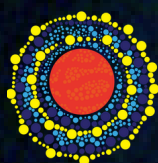
Kel McGrath
Bruce Minerds
Linda Muir
Richard Nesbitt
Graham Owen
Rodney Peters
Tony Plunkett
Alan Roberts
Roslyn Roberts
Terry Ryan
Don Withers
Allan Yates

Basketball ACT would like to acknowledge and recognise our Life Members, for their contribution to the game in the Canberra region.

Basketball ACT acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT, and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging, and we acknowledge and respect the continuing culture Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make to the life of basketball within the city and region.

Design elements taken from
Healing Together - Artwork by Sarah Richards - Marrawuy Journeys



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BOARD



PRESIDENT
Michelle Hocking



DIRECTOR
Alexandra Smith



APPOINTED DIRECTOR
David Mayo



VICE PRESIDENT
Nick Janssen



DIRECTOR
Fiona Van Der Snoek



DIRECTOR
Anthony Jennings



DIRECTOR
Nathan Vavic



APPOINTED DIRECTOR
Melinda Saunders

BOARD SUB COMMITTEES

OPERATING MODEL & GOVERNANCE:

David Mayo, Michelle Hocking, Nicole Bowles, Charles Bishop, Julija Deleva, Ryan Kinnane

FACILITIES: Nick Janssen, Nicole Bowles, Anthony Jennings, Brendon Byatt

NOMINATIONS: Emma Stonhom, Fiona Van Der Snoek, Rondelle Seden, David Simpson, Mike Steggs

FARM: Nathan Vavic, Nicole Bowles, Shane Lowndes, Victoria Jamieson, Alexandra Smith

STAFF

Departed Staff during reporting period: Barb Turner, Karin Hagel



Chief Executive Officer
Nicole Bowles



Chief Operating Officer
Kelly Stirton



NBL1 & Facilities Manager
David Lane



Office & Facilities Coordinator
Patrick Lowndes



Administration Coordinator
Jazmin Wardlow



Play Our Way Coordinator
Elise Finney



Hearings Officer
Finlay Hodson



Integrity Officer
Ben Merchant



Communications & Engagement Manager
Brett McKay



Digital Coordinator
Patrick Munn



Participation Manager
Elijah Duke



Participation Coordinator
Che Peters



Performance Pathways & Coaching Manager
Leonard King



Performance Pathways - Female Lead
Carlie McAlister



Performance Pathways - Male Lead
Austin Clarke



Coaching Coordinator
Jontee Brown



Competitions Manager
Tanya Sharp



Comps Coordinator - Seniors
Rex Kunadia



Comps Coordinator - Juniors
Sam Odgers



Officials Coordinator
Ryan Buchaniec

ACT MEMBER CLUBS & SCHOOLS



Belconnen Ramblers



Norths



Gungahlin Flames



ANU Owls



Wests



Canberra City Stallions



Ginninderra Rats



Queanbeyan Roadrunners



Tuggeranong Vikings



Southern Valley Spartans



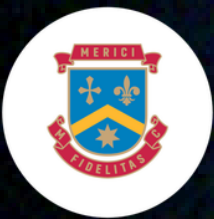
Warriors Basketball Club



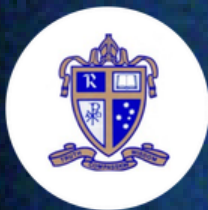
Weston Creek Woden Dodgers

CLUBS

North



Merici College



Radford College

South



Marist College



Canberra Grammar School

SCHOOLS



Burgmann Anglican School



Daramalan College

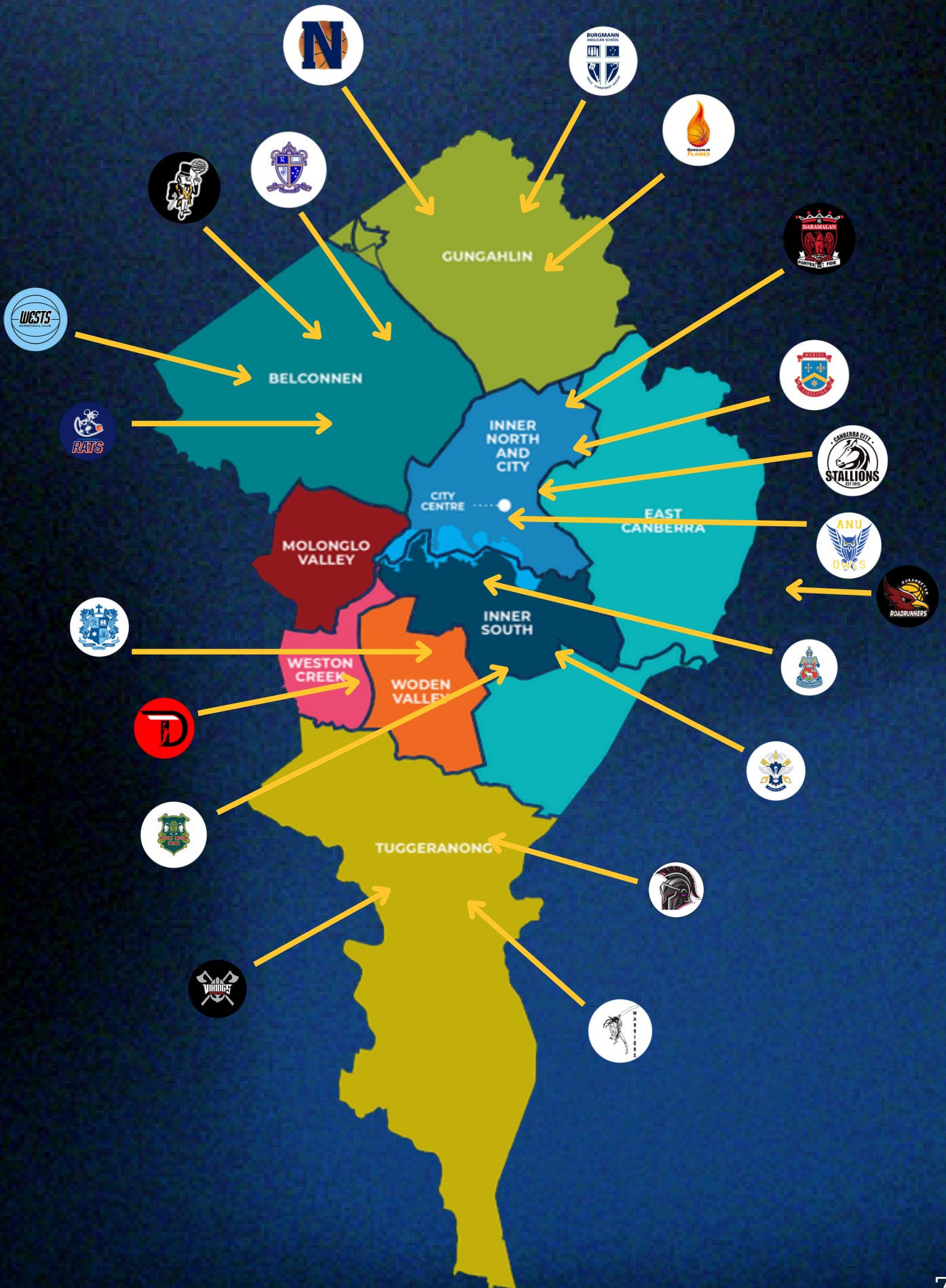


St Edmunds College



Canberra Girls Grammar School

ACT MEMBER CLUBS & SCHOOLS



PRESIDENT REPORT



It is my pleasure to present the Chair's Report for 2025 — a year defined by growth, achievement, and significant organisational progress. Basketball in the ACT continues to strengthen its position as one of the fastest-growing and most community-driven sports in the region, and the successes of the past year reflect the collective effort of our entire community.

Our representative programs delivered another exceptional year, with all five senior teams reaching finals in their respective competitions. The Gunners produced a historic season, securing the NBL1 National Championship Title at home—an achievement that energised our community and showcased the strength of our pathways. Our Ivor Burge Women were outstanding winning silver at the Australian National Championships, demonstrating the depth of talent and commitment within this program.

We also showcased basketball to the broader ACT community and beyond. In addition to more than 10,900 local competition games, Canberra hosted the NBL Blitz, the NBL1 National Finals, the Australian Masters Games, two South Sudanese National tournaments, and the Warriors NAIDOC Basketball Tournament—cementing the ACT as a vibrant hub for the sport.

This year saw meaningful progress in improving the environments where our community trains, competes, and connects. We advocated for improved access to secure, reliable, and fit-for-purpose school facilities. Change room upgrades were completed at both Belconnen and Tuggeranong stadiums, delivering safer and more functional spaces for all participants.

The Belconnen Basketball Stadium development advanced through key design and planning stages—an essential project to meet the demands of our rapidly expanding participation base and ensure our facilities reflect the scale and ambition of our sport.

Growth continues to be one of our defining strengths. Demand for basketball across the ACT remains exceptionally high, and our clubs and staff have worked tirelessly to support expanding competitions and programs. Our game cannot grow without coaches and referees, and this year we increased development opportunities across both the participation and performance streams.

We also launched initiatives that strengthen our culture and broaden our impact. Targeted programs engaging women and girls, Indigenous participants, and all-abilities athletes reflect our values and our commitment to building a sport that is inclusive, supportive, and future-focused.

This year marked the conclusion of one strategic plan and the launch of our next five-year plan—an important milestone that reflects disciplined governance and a clear vision for the future.

We modernised our Constitution and turned our focus to the Sharing the Load recommendations, examining organisational structure, functional responsibilities, performance pathways, competition standards, stakeholder relationships, and capability gaps across the ecosystem.

We established the Operating Model and Governance sub-committee to progress work on a new operating model designed to maximise delivery and organisational outcomes. This positions Basketball ACT to operate with greater clarity, efficiency, and alignment across all functions, ensuring we are structured to meet the demands of a rapidly growing sport and deliver consistently high-quality services in partnership with our community.

Our achievements this year are the result of the dedication and passion of many.

To our staff—Nicole and the team—thank you for your professionalism, resilience, and commitment to delivering quality experiences for our members and participants.

To the Board, thank you for your leadership, expertise, and unwavering commitment to strong governance and strategic stewardship.

To our clubs, volunteers, referees, technical officials, coaches, parents, athletes, sponsors, and partners—thank you for your energy, your belief in our sport, and your contribution to a thriving basketball community.

The year ahead brings enormous opportunity. With a new strategic plan in place, major infrastructure projects progressing, a modernised operating model underway, and a community that continues to grow in strength and diversity, Basketball ACT is exceptionally well positioned for the future.

It is an honour to serve as Chair, and I look forward to seeing basketball in the ACT continue to grow and evol

Michelle Hocking

Michelle Hocking | President

CEO REPORT



2025 was a landmark year for Basketball ACT (BACT), a year defined by growth, advocacy, renewed government partnerships, and major progress toward addressing the Territory's long-standing indoor court shortages. Basketball continues to be one of Canberra's most popular sports, with over 14,000 registered participants. A figure consistently referenced in ACT Government reporting and media coverage, underscoring the rapid demand growth that shaped our agenda this year.

Across competitions, performance pathway programs, officiating, community engagement and facilities planning, our organisation has strengthened its foundations and delivered real momentum for the future. Our achievements this year reflect not just operational effort but also deep collaboration with government, clubs, volunteers, partners and our wider basketball community.

Our Member Clubs continue to be the backbone of our ecosystem. Their tireless work in delivering local competitions, development pathways and community engagement activities ensures that basketball remains one of the most visible and vibrant sports in the ACT. We have invested in coach and technical official education, recognising that quality experiences on court are underpinned by confident and capable leaders. This focus ensures long-term sustainability and performance across the entire basketball journey.

Our vision of sustainable growth of the community involved in basketball by 100% by 2029 continues to take strong steps having recorded 83% growth in the basketball community between 2022 – 2025 (note this number includes both on and off court participants, fans and supporters).

In 2025 BACT completed a self-assessment against the Australian Sports Commission Sports Governance Principles. Overall BACT demonstrated we are excelling across the area of Governance and are developed in Financial Management categories for a sporting organisation. From this assessment the following key actions will be undertaken in 2026 - review of Club Affiliation Frameworks and embedding governance practices for multiyear financial projections in relation to budgets and cash flows.

Facilities remain both our greatest opportunity and most significant challenge. Demand for court space continues to exceed supply, highlighting the need for sustained advocacy and strategic partnerships. In 2025, we progressed key planning discussions with government stakeholders to ensure basketball's voice is clearly heard in infrastructure planning.

I extend our sincere appreciation to our valued sponsors and partners for their continued support throughout 2025. Your investment in basketball goes far beyond financial contribution. You play a vital role in enabling participation opportunities, strengthening development pathways, enhancing events and supporting the delivery of safe, inclusive and high-quality experiences for our community. Because of your partnership, we are able to grow the game in sustainable and meaningful ways.

In 2025, hundreds of volunteers generously gave their time, energy and expertise to support our clubs, competitions, events and representative programs. From coaches and team managers, to referees, administrators and committee members, your contribution ensures that thousands of participants can enjoy a positive and rewarding basketball experience each week. Your commitment extends well beyond game day. You mentor young athletes, create safe and inclusive environments, uphold the values of our sport and strengthen the sense of community that makes basketball in the ACT so special.

This year required adaptability and collaboration across every part of the organisation. Our team embraced new challenges, refined processes, enhanced service delivery and continued to raise the standard of the experiences we provide. Importantly, they have done so with a genuine commitment to supporting participants, volunteers and member clubs.

The culture within Basketball ACT continues to strengthen. There is a shared sense of accountability, purpose and pride in the work we do. That alignment enables us to operate more effectively and position the organisation for sustainable growth. I extend my sincere thanks to every member of staff for their dedication and professionalism throughout 2025. Basketball ACT is stronger because of your efforts, and I look forward to building on this momentum together in the year ahead.

Basketball continues to unite our community. The energy in our stadiums, the development of young athletes and the lifelong friendships formed through our sport remind us why we do what we do. Together, we will continue to grow the game and deliver positive impact across the ACT community.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Nicole Bowles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'N'.

Nicole Bowles | CEO

FACILITIES REPORT

In 2025, facilities remained one of the most significant enablers, and constraints, of basketball growth across the ACT. Participation demand across competitions, performance pathways, social programs and Learn to Play initiatives continued to exceed available court capacity, reinforcing the critical importance of strategic facility planning, advocacy and optimisation.

Basketball ACT continued to work collaboratively with government, education providers and venue operators to maximise access, improve safety and ensure facilities are fit-for-purpose to support the current and future needs of our community.

In partnership with the ACT Government, the Belconnen Basketball Stadium expansion reached a key milestone in 2025 with SQC Group appointed for early planning and design of three new courts including a FIBA Level 1 show court (≈1,800 seats) on the adjoining Oatley Court site (Block 16); preliminary design is scheduled to complete in early 2026.

Basketball ACT maintained its position as a credible and influential voice advocating for indoor sport infrastructure investment across the ACT. With the ACT Government announcing the consideration of additional multisport indoor sport facilities in the Gungahlin and Woden regions. Whilst opening four new indoor multisport courts across two ACT Government Public Schools has assisted in creating more spaces for the basketball community to train and play.

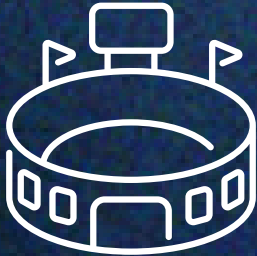


Improvements to the Belconnen Basketball Stadium continued with upgrades of the changerooms off court 1 and 2 completed. The upgrades were assisted through a ACT Government Facilities Grant. Whilst the stadium has been well maintained, the ageing facilities still require ongoing maintenance and replacement of core infrastructure over the coming years to ensure that the stadium continues to provide facilities that meet the required standards. Additional investment in the current stadium as part of this maintenance program will be required to continue over the short term.

Nick Janssen | Vice President



BASKETBALL IN ACT



**BACT competitions
played across eleven
(11) competition courts**



**delivered over 10,900
domestic games**



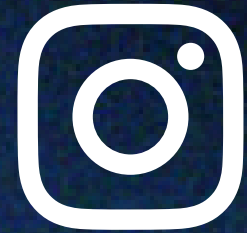
**The ACT Government
announced \$938,000 in
funding**



**7.2K+ FACEBOOK
LIKES**



**9.4K+ FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS**



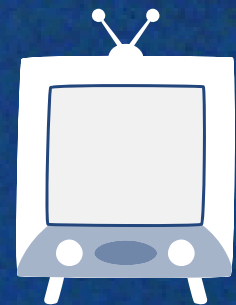
**6.2K+ INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS**



**14K+ BACT
MEMBERS**



8.6K+ FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS



**2ND MOST VIEWED NBL1
EAST CLUB**

FINANCE REPORT

ACT Basketball Incorporated completed the 2025 financial year with strengthened revenue performance, improved cash position, and stable asset valuations.

The organisation recorded a strong financial turnaround in 2025, achieving a surplus of \$162,463 compared to a deficit of \$(213,170) in 2024. This improved performance reflects full recognition of facility grant funding, revenue growth and effective financial management across operations.

Total revenue and other income increased to \$5.88 million (up from \$4.61 million in 2024), driven by continued growth across competitions, programs, and management services. Expenses increased moderately in line with activity growth with employee benefits, travel and court hire remaining the main expense items for the organisation.

Despite higher program delivery, the Association achieved a dramatic reduction in deficit, highlighting improved financial management and operational efficiency.

The organisation recorded positive operating cash flow of \$630,338, compared with a negative \$211,264 in 2024. This is largely driven by income received in advance from members, competitions and grants for the 2025/2026 financial year. Capital investment of \$230,624 supported facility upgrades and equipment. Year-end cash balance closed at \$678,614.

ACT Basketball Incorporated has demonstrated improved financial resilience and operational growth in 2025. The narrowing deficit, strong revenue performance, and solid cash position empower the organisation well for ongoing program delivery and strategic investment in facilities and community basketball development.

Nathan Vavic | FARM Committee



PARTICIPATION REPORT

In 2025, the Participation Department at Basketball ACT delivered a range of new initiatives aligned with the Participation Strategy and supported by Play Our Way grant funding. These initiatives strengthened community engagement, inclusion and participation pathways, reinforcing Basketball ACT's commitment to growing the game across diverse cohorts.

A key highlight was the delivery of the She-Hoops Indigenous Camp, led by Ally Wilson and Tess Madgen. The camp provided participants with high-quality basketball experiences alongside cultural education and connection, creating a meaningful environment that celebrated identity, learning and participation.

Within the Inclusion portfolio, Basketball ACT recorded significant growth in wheelchair basketball engagement throughout 2025. A total of six wheelchair basketball clinics were delivered across the year, reaching both the basketball community and the broader public. To support the continued development of the pathway, a Wheelchair Basketball Referee Course was delivered, resulting in 12 referees now qualified to officiate wheelchair basketball. This progress supports future competition delivery, with plans underway to launch a Schools Wheelchair Basketball Competition in 2026.

Further strengthening inclusive delivery, Basketball ACT partnered with Special Olympics to deliver an Inclusion Coaching Workshop. Six Participation Coaches undertook the workshop to upskill in the delivery of Ability Hoops, ensuring high-quality, inclusive experiences for participants of all abilities.

In July 2025, Canberra proudly hosted the SSANBA Junior Classic, delivered across Belconnen and the Australian Institute of Sport. The event was a significant success, welcoming close to 30 teams from across the country. This event further strengthened the ongoing Memorandum of Understanding with The Eagles Sports Association, reinforcing collaboration and cultural connection through basketball.

In the area of female participation and retention, Basketball ACT appointed a Female Play Our Way Coordinator, Carlie McAlister, to lead and shape female-focused initiatives aligned with government funding objectives. A new Mums & Bubs program was launched in Term 1, welcoming women back into the game and averaging five participants across three terms. The department also secured a partnership with Fearless Women, enabling the delivery of community workshops and providing free one-on-one counselling support for female members of the basketball community.

Significant progress was also made in the Indigenous participation space. Basketball ACT launched the **Waraa Joeys** program for children aged 5–10, with “Waraa” meaning *shine* in the Dunghutti language and “Joeys” symbolising the next generation. The program averaged 11 participants across three terms, providing a culturally safe and engaging introduction to basketball. Additionally, the Indigenous Game Development Program was renamed **The Gudhurr Boys**, with “Gudhurr” meaning *strong* in Dunghutti. Participants in the program contributed to the design of Indigenous artwork featured within Basketball ACT stadiums, collaborating with **Marroway Journeys** to create meaningful and lasting visual representations of culture and community.

2025 marked a pivotal year for the Participation Department, defined by strategic growth, strengthened partnerships and an unwavering commitment to inclusion. Through targeted investment, culturally informed programs and community-led initiatives, Basketball ACT continues to build accessible and welcoming pathways into basketball.

With strong foundations in place and ambitious plans ahead, the department looks forward to further expanding its impact and opportunities for participation in 2026 and beyond.

Elijah Duke | Participation Manager

AT A GLANCE - PARTICIPATION

PARTICIPATION

2362

COACHING HOURS

968

SESSIONS DELIVERED

17/13

MALE/FEMALE COACHES

12

SCHOOL CLINICS
DELIVERED

16

COMMUNITY EVENTS
ATTENDED

SHE HOOPS



174

SHE HOOPS CAMP
PARTICIPANTS



2

COMMUNITY
Camps/Workshops

WHEELCHAIR



6

WHEELCHAIR CLINICS
DELIVERED



12

QUALIFIED WHEELCHAIR
BASKETBALL REFEREES

FIRST NATIONS

17

WARAA JOEYS PARTICIPANTS

27

GUDHURR BOYS PARTICIPANTS

\$5,000

GRANT RECEIVED

PLAY OUR WAY



18

MUMS & BUBS PARTICIPANTS



37

FEMALE COACHES
ATTENDED A CLINIC



2

LEADERSHIP EVENTS HELD

LEARN-TO-PLAY

895/433

MALE/FEMALE PARTICIPANTS

11

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

COMPETITIONS

2024/2025 was a year of changes and challenges. With the longer club-based Junior Summer season back up and running, and our first taste of Junior Open we saw more growth in the Junior space. While the growth is exciting it did prove challenging with court space and referee coverage.

In Senior Premier League we saw our Women's Premier 1 competition increase to seven teams after being as low as five teams in previous seasons.

In the Senior Social competitions, we managed to get a Tuesday Women's competition back up and running, which was a very exciting achievement and something we had pursued for several seasons.

Growth across most of our competitions has meant we have again had to search for new venues. We have been lucky enough to have new school venues come online such as Shirley Smith High School, Aunty Agnes Shea High School, and more regular weekends at Marist College. We have continued to take full advantage of the newly built Collegians Centre at Radford College.

2025 also saw hugely successful School Competitions, with massive growth in the number of teams across all divisions, including the 3x3 competitions.

Tanya Sharp | Competitions Manager

AT A GLANCE

2025 SPL CHAMPIONS



PREMIER LEAGUE 1



MEN



WOMEN



PREMIER LEAGUE 2



MEN



WOMEN



2025 JPL CHAMPIONS

BOYS



U12 JPL



U14 JPL



U16 JPL



U19 JPL

GIRLS





2025 SUMMER SLAM CHAMPIONS

SENIOR MEN

NBAGA

SENIOR WOMEN

Team Demmery

U17 BOYS

Team Hunia

U17 GIRLS

Team Gooch

MEN

NBA Global Academy

WOMEN

Team Norton



BASKETBALL ACT

SG&JP CUP

Primary School Competition

2025 SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

2025 SUE GEH CUP CHAMPIONS

Year 3/4 Girls: St Anthony's Primary School

Year 5/6 Girls: Radford College

2025 JAMIE PEARLMAN CUP

Year 3/4 Boys: Radford College

Year 5/6 Boys: Macgregor Primary School

KATE TOMINAC

College Girls: Lake Ginninderra College

JOHN STELTZER

College Boys: Lake Ginninderra College



TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

The 2025 season was a year of strong growth and strategic development for Technical Officials at Basketball ACT. With almost 11,000 games delivered across ACT competitions, the continued expansion of our officiating workforce has been essential to supporting the increasing participation and competition demands across the region.

Referee recruitment remained a major success in 2025. A total of 411 participants achieved their Community (Level 0) referee accreditation. This included 331 new referees completing the community course, 80 participants from the U14 Development Program, 97 officials undertaking club-based programs at Marist College and Gungahlin Flames, and 15 participants through the BACT Gudhurr Boys Indigenous Program. This strong intake has significantly strengthened match coverage while building a sustainable pipeline for future development.

A key initiative in 2025 was the restructure of our Referee Development Framework, aligning more closely with Basketball Australia through the introduction of the State Referee Development Program. The new three-tier model — Breakthrough, Accelerate and Emerging — provides clearer, more targeted pathways for referees at different stages of their progression.

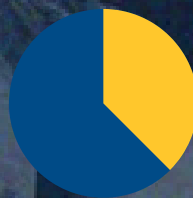
The Breakthrough Program supported six referees operating in or aspiring to the NBL1 level, including participation in an eight-month BACT x NBL mentoring program. The Accelerate Program worked with nine referees targeting national championship appointments through a structured 12-month development plan. The Emerging Program focused on identifying and supporting referees progressing toward representative and interstate opportunities. These changes have positioned our referee pathway for continued long-term success.

The ongoing work of our referee supervisors has also been critical, providing weekly mentoring, feedback and on-court development across competitions.

Referee Coverage (%)
Male/Female Referee (%)



100%
Senior Premier League
99.75%
Senior Premier League
90.96%
Junior Competitions (Div 1-6)
88.11%
Senior Social Competitions



68.2%
Male Referees
31.8%
Female Referees

Our Scoretable cohort also experienced steady growth in 2025, with 36 officials completing the Level 1 Scoretable accreditation. Throughout the season, the team delivered coverage across 11 WNBL games, 45 NBL1 East games including finals, 18 Waratah League games, and 65% of Senior Premier League 1 fixtures, in addition to supporting Basketball Australia camps and national scrimmages.

Their professionalism and reliability continue to enhance the delivery of competitions at both local and national levels.

The statistics program, while the smallest group within Technical Officials, continued to perform strongly. Nine new statisticians joined in 2025, further strengthening capacity in this specialised area. Across the season, the group supported 11 WNBL games, 45 NBL1 East games and 85% of Senior Premier League 1 competitions, as well as contributing to Basketball Australia camps and national scrimmages at the AIS. Their attention to detail and commitment underpin the performance analysis and integrity of our competitions.

Overall, 2025 has been a year of consolidation and growth across all areas of Technical Officials. The combined efforts of referees, supervisors, scoretable officials, statisticians and volunteers have ensured the successful delivery of competitions across the ACT. We thank all involved for their contribution and look forward to building on this strong foundation in 2026.

Ryan Buchaniec | Technical Officials Coordinator

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS HIGHLIGHTS

FIBA U15 Oceania Cup

Basketball ACT played a huge part in the smooth running of the U15 Oceania Cup hosted at the AIS Arena. The support that our Technical Officials provided was an amazing experience for them to represent the ACT on the international stage.

Congratulations to referees Jack Taylor and Calia Hanks; Liam Krogh-Neumann, Cheryl Olley, Amy Jones, Carolyn Ackland, Sharna Edwards, and Vidas Sadauskas were scoretable officials, and also to statisticians Mark Harris, Suzanne Helson, Michael Hanley, Allison Rankin, Patrick Munn.

NBL1 National Finals & NBL Blitz

In a year that has already given so many opportunities, we were incredibly fortunate in August 2025 to host the NBL Blitz and the NBL1 National Finals at the Southern Cross Stadium and AIS Arena.

This is the closest that our Technical Officials have been to NBL in many years, having the best seats in the house and doing a fantastic job in these games.

Reserve Referees: Mitchell Hudson, Ryan Buchaniec, Ryan Blundell, Ashton Tulk.

Scoretable: Melanie Forey, Glenn Schultz, Carolyn Ackland, Annette Anderson, Esther Doherty, Cheryl Olley, Paul Vels, Liam Krogh-Neumann, Sharna Edwards.

Statisticians: Allison Rankin and Erica Cooper (NBL1 Men's Final), Caitlin Preston (NBL1 Women's Final), Mark Harris, Michael Hanley, Suzanne Helson, and Olivia Young.

National Championships

Basketball ACT was fortunate enough to have a lot of our Technical Officials represent the ACT on the national stage. Congratulations to the following technical officials

U20's National Championships: Referees - Rhys Boreham (U20W Bronze Final), Jackson Tomas (U20M Bronze Final)

U18 National Championships: Referees - Ryan Buchaniec, Ryan Blundell (U18M Bronze Final); Referee Coaches - Anthony O'Brien, Mitchell Hudson; Technical Officials - Sharna Edwards, Suzanne Helson

U16 National Championships: Referees - Hannah Creighton, Ashton Tulk (U16M Bronze Medal Final); Referee Coach - Matthew Ryan; Technical Officials - Allison Rankin, Paul Vels

U14 Club Championships: Referees - Kelsey Welfare, Luke Lancaster; Referee Coach - Rebecca Murphy, Tech Manager - Ryan Buchaniec

School Championships: Referees - James Morton, Kelsey Welfare, Christian Rowell, Harrison Chase, Rishi Gentry, Georgia Kerr; Referee Coaches - Marlene Leonard, Kevin Poulton.

PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS



In 2025 Basketball ACT Performance & Pathways continued to improve, grow and develop athletes and coaches across the Territory.

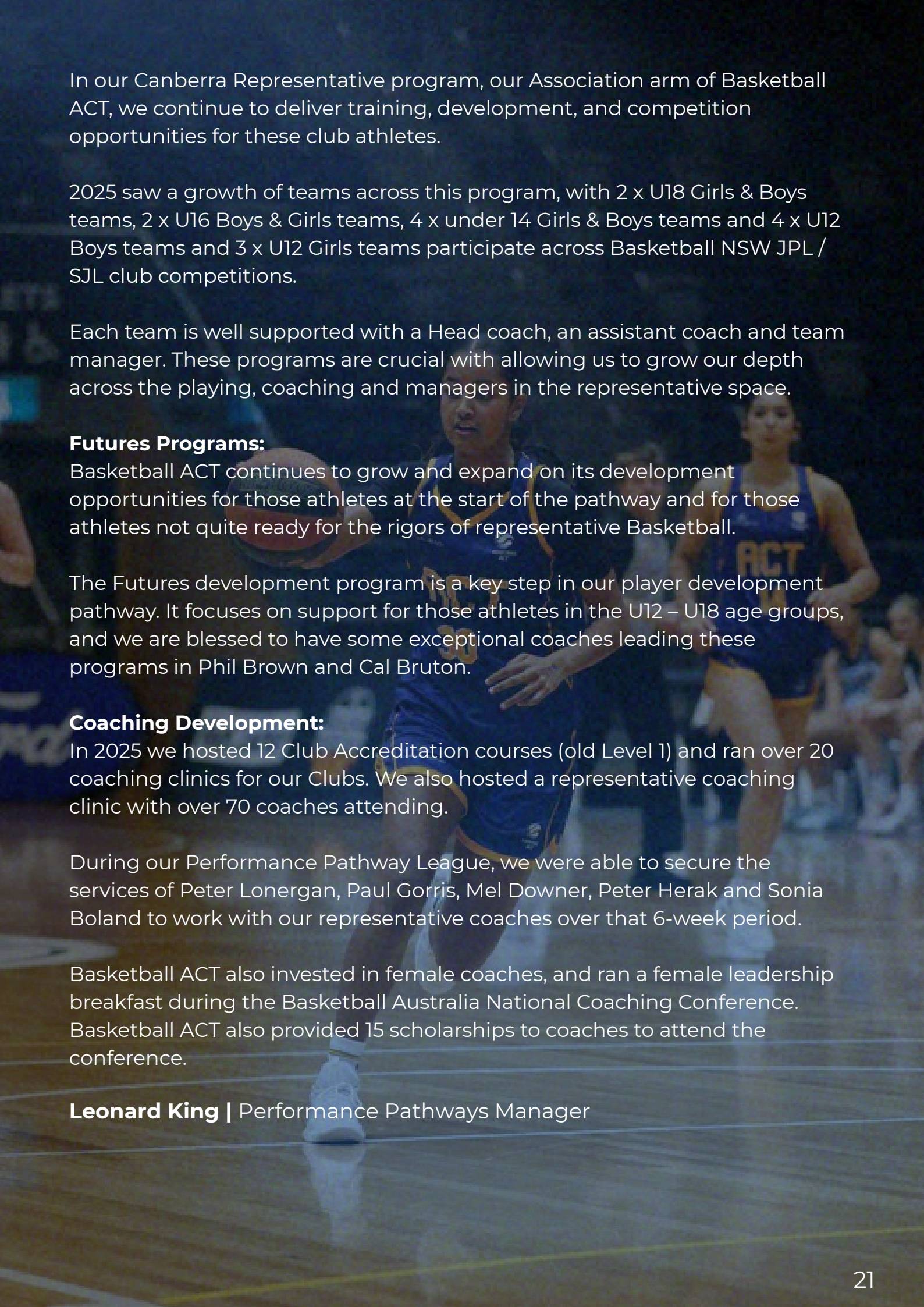
Our ACT teams and Canberra Representative teams continued its trend towards being more competitive at National Championships and Region competitions, including a NBL1 National Championship for our Gunners Men's team, a Silver Medal for our Women's Ivor Burge team and a second finals appearance for our rising Nationals NBL1 team.

Performance pathways can be very tough, especially when we are going up against bigger States & Territories.

Demonstrating our commitment to the Performance & Pathway programs we introduced a number of exciting initiatives to help support our representative playing and coaching community.

The **Hooping Well** program was established to support of athletes' mental health and wellbeing. We contracted Eric McAlister to run these sessions, and feedback was very good.

We also introduced XPS a player and coach management system. This is a centralized technology that manages our team training plans, player attendance, communication, injury tracking and load management.



In our Canberra Representative program, our Association arm of Basketball ACT, we continue to deliver training, development, and competition opportunities for these club athletes.

2025 saw a growth of teams across this program, with 2 x U18 Girls & Boys teams, 2 x U16 Boys & Girls teams, 4 x under 14 Girls & Boys teams and 4 x U12 Boys teams and 3 x U12 Girls teams participate across Basketball NSW JPL / SJL club competitions.

Each team is well supported with a Head coach, an assistant coach and team manager. These programs are crucial with allowing us to grow our depth across the playing, coaching and managers in the representative space.

Futures Programs:

Basketball ACT continues to grow and expand on its development opportunities for those athletes at the start of the pathway and for those athletes not quite ready for the rigors of representative Basketball.

The Futures development program is a key step in our player development pathway. It focuses on support for those athletes in the U12 – U18 age groups, and we are blessed to have some exceptional coaches leading these programs in Phil Brown and Cal Bruton.

Coaching Development:

In 2025 we hosted 12 Club Accreditation courses (old Level 1) and ran over 20 coaching clinics for our Clubs. We also hosted a representative coaching clinic with over 70 coaches attending.

During our Performance Pathway League, we were able to secure the services of Peter Lonergan, Paul Gorris, Mel Downer, Peter Herak and Sonia Boland to work with our representative coaches over that 6-week period.

Basketball ACT also invested in female coaches, and ran a female leadership breakfast during the Basketball Australia National Coaching Conference. Basketball ACT also provided 15 scholarships to coaches to attend the conference.

Leonard King | Performance Pathways Manager

JUNIOR PERFORMANCE

BACT sides contest all National Championships hosted by Basketball Australia

2025 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

U20s and Ivor Burge - Ballarat, Victoria

U20 Mens team

U20 Womens team

Ivor Burge Womens team - *Silver Medalists*

U18s and Kevin Coombs Cup - Brisbane, Qld

U18 Boys team

U18 Girls team

U16s National Champs - Bendigo, Victoria

U16 Boys team

U16 Girls team

U14s Club Championships - Perth, WA

U14 Boys team

U14 Girls team - *Shield Winners*



SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES - CANBERRA NATIONALS



1. Jasmyn Boutzos
2. Abby Solway
3. Jade McCowan
4. Carlie McAlister
5. Elise Finney
6. Callie Bourne
7. Mikala Williams
8. Ilijana Matijevic
9. Alison Francis
12. Abbie Ketels
15. Abbey Emmerton



Head Coach: Shane Wallace
Asst Coach: Sarah McAppion
Asst Coach: Darren Noack
Dev Coach: Blake Gattringer
Manager: Anita Wallace



SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES - CANBERRA GUNNERS

0. Robbie Emelifeonwu
1. Mitch Robinson
2. James Toohey
3. Brooklyn Bruton
5. Cam Pender
7. Lachie Smith
8. Will Mayfield
9. Derek Emelifeonwu
10. Will Rice
11. Angus Byatt
12. Glenn Morison
13. Zac McDermott
14. Edward Bigg-Wither
15. Lucas Schmidt
81. Theus Evan Wardlow

Head Coach: Peter Herak
Asst Coach: Andrew Martin
Asst Coach: Mark McKenzie
Manager: Marty Capon



SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES - WHEELCHAIR



1. Jontee Brown
2. Brad Burns
3. Michael Gray
4. Victoria Simpson
5. Dean Gerke
6. Rachel Gerke
7. Jackson Gray
8. Talyn Reedy
9. Ross Ballard

Manager: Dean Gerke

Manager: Sharnie Gray



2025 NBL1

CHAMPIONS

OF THE EAST

The Canberra Gunners claimed a second NBL1 East title in four years, beating the Illawarra Hawks 99-91 in a rollercoaster Grand Final in Penrith.

After beating Sutherland and the BA Centre of Excellence to win through to a third Grand Final in four years, the Gunners had to dig deep to break away in a match full of momentum swings.

Derek Emelifeonwu was named Grand Final MVP with 28 points, four rebounds and three assists, Glenn Morison finished with 28 points, and James Toohey added 12 points, six rebounds, three assists and two steals, including a match-winning three late in the game.



2025 NATIONAL

CHAMPIONS



Southern Cross Stadium

Canberra (East)

Sandringham (South)

Friday 29th August

Canberra (East)

Southern Districts (North)

Saturday 30th August

Canberra (East) 86

Geraldton (West) 67



Sunday 31st August

NBL1 AWARDS 2025

NBL1 EAST + NATIONAL FINALS ALL STAR 5

NBL1 EAST



GLENN MORISON
ALL STAR 5



WILL MAYFIELD
NATIONAL
FINALS MVP /
ALL STAR 5



DEREK EMELIFEONWU
EAST GRAND FINAL MVP



2025 NBL1 NATIONAL FINALS

& NBL BLITZ

Canberra hosting the NBL1 National Finals alongside the pre-season NBL Blitz in late August represented a huge opportunity for basketball in the ACT, the Canberra Gunners delivered on the court, creating incredible history in the process.

Pete Herek and the team became the first NBL1 East outfit to claim a National title, as well as becoming the first hosts to claim a National title, overcoming a string of more fancied opponents in the process, and firmly putting the Canberra Basketball program on the map as one of the best in Australia.

Having beaten the strength of NBL1 South Champions, Sandringham, and NBL1 North winners, Southern Districts, the Gunners were crowned best in the land courtesy of their 86-67 win over NBL1 West Champions, Geraldton, in front a loud, parochial sell-out crowd at the Southern Cross Stadium in Tuggeranong.

Will Mayfield was named National Finals MVP with 21 points and 14 rebounds in the Final, while he and Gunners co-captain Glenn Morison were named in the National Finals All Star Five, repeating their being named in the NBL1 East All Star Five as well.

The Canberra basketball community delivered as well, with upwards of 2500 spectators across the three days, including capacity crowds for the Gunners' semi-final and for the Final as well.

The National Finals being played in the Capital concurrently with the five-day NBL Blitz was a huge vote of confidence in the game in the ACT and surrounding region and only strengthens the calls for a Canberra return to the NBL.

The Blitz delivered five straight sold-out nights for the NBL, with all 10 teams playing twice in front of more than 18,000 fans across the five double-headers at the AIS Arena.

"For tickets across all five days to be completely sold out is just incredible," NBL Group CEO David Stevenson said at the conclusion of the event.

"Bringing the Blitz to Canberra has been huge success and this is clear evidence of the city's love for the NBL and basketball. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr, Sport Minister Yvette Berry, the local basketball community, and all of our NBL clubs & players for their efforts in making this event happen."

The New Zealand Breakers were declared NBL Blitz winners, ahead of the Tasmania JackJumpers. Breakers' import Izaiah Brockington had an impressive Blitz debut, awarded the Ray Borner Medal as tournament MVP.



STATE TEAMS - BOYS



U16

Bryson Abraham
Chase Obranovic
Conno Spencer
Daniel Smith
Harrison Kemp
Jack Djokic
Kofi Okai
Lewis Wilkins
Orlando Blazeski
Reuben Ritchie
Sekou Traore
Tanae Booker

Head Coach: Andrew Gooch
Asst. Coach: Rhys Brown,
Jontee Brown
Manager: Emma Spencer

U18

Austin Fage
Ben Schultz
Ben Godwin
Bul Dhieu
Daniel Schultz
Karel Maury-Laib
Nicholas Stephenson
Oliver Houghton
Ryan Gooch
Samuel Rice
William Macleod
Zachary Brown

Head Coach: Darren
Stephenson
Asst. Coach: Andrew
Rice, Garang Bul Kuer
Manager: Mellissa Fage

U20

Ajak Nyoun
Aleer Chol
Antony Simovski
Cohen Stonham
Damian Cooney
Dante Bruton
Josh Buchaniec
Oliver Dyason
Owen Nihill
Seliano Melekiola
Stirling Musgrove

Head Coach: Reece Kaye
Asst. Coach: Mark
McKenzie, James Toohey
Manager: Chloe Tugliach



STATE TEAMS - GIRLS



U16

Anika Gajjala
Ashley Ward
Emma Tootell
Georgia Gardner
Laela Watson
Mia Absolon
Mya Lomu
Rebecca Joseph
Samyra Mahajan
Scarlett Cooke
Sneha Merson
Sydney White

Head Coach:
Kat Swanston
Asst. Coach:
Jessica Mead
Manager:
April Croft

U18

Ava Tawake
Hena Lomu
Indiana Clowry
Jorja Langi
Kaiya Barsby
Madison Scholfield
Maya Hart
Molly Lacey
Olivia Brankovic
Zara Funnell

Head Coach: Jenny
Loneragan
Asst. Coach: Kelly
Grandin
Manager: Tracey
Peacock

U20

Achol Agok
Amber Virgo
Damilola Bademosi
Ella Collins
Katiah-Ann Tait
Millah Sullivan
Poppi Laine
Rhiannon O'Brien
Sophie Brennan
Zara Russell

Head Coach: Lizzy
Tonks
Asst. Coach: Abbie
Ketels
Manager:
Kris Langhorn

IVOR BURGE

Abby Causer
Ayesha Williams
Amelia Inveen
Jasmine Funnell
Laura Montgomery
Madilyn Janssen
Mikayla Metcraft
Monica Salazar
Rosa Faumaunia
Sophie Hall
Temeka Swanston

Head Coach: Daniel
Ferrington
Asst. Coach: Nick
Janssen
Asst. Coach: Melissa
Metcraft
Manager: Tanya Funnell



ACADEMY TEAMS



2025 Nationals Academy

Abbey Emmerton
Alison Francis
Laura Topp
Natalia Brankovic
Emily Sampson
Katiah-Ann Tait
Poppi Laine
Jiaxi (CC) Huang
Hannah Bowles
Millah Sullivan
Madison Schofield
Hena Lomu
Georgia Noack

Coach: Clare Gallon
Coach: Darren Noack
Ass Coach: Ellen Robinson
Ass Coach: Jayelin Janssen
Manager: April Croft



2025 Gunners Academy

Che Peters
Aler Chol
Antony Simovski
Omar Moustakim
Reuben Layton Thompson
Owen Nihill
Malcolm Fitzgerald
Kai Grant
Seliano Melekiola
Damian Cooney
Austin Fage
Declan Kain
Bul Dhieu
Jordan Jonathan
Ryan Gooch
Lucas Schmidt
Robbie Emelifeonwu

Coach: Mark Mackenzie
Ass Coach: Daniel Slater
Ass Coach: Vivek Gupta
Manager: Megan Nihill



◀ **Emily Sampson**
Waratah League
Women's All Star 5

2025 AWARDS & MILESTONES

MERIT AWARDS - NATIONAL

-  Alex Toohey - Golden State Warriors, NBA
-  Bul Kuol - Sydney Kings, NBL
-  Jesse Wagstaff - Perth Wildcats, NBL
-  Akech Aliir - Melbourne United, NBL
-  Alex Toohey - Sydney Kings, NBL
-  Tad Dufelmeyer - Brisbane Bullets, NBL
-  Issie Bourne - Adelaide Lightning, WNBL
-  Claudea Waihape Andrews - UC Capitals, WNBL
-  Nikki Worner - UC Capitals, WNBL
-  Jontee Brown - Wollongong Roller Hawks, NWBL
-  Jackson Gray - Manly Wheel Eagles, NWBL
-  Michael Gray - Manly Wheel Eagles, NWBL
-  Victoria Simpson - Manly Wheel Eagles, NWBL

COACHING & TEAM SUPPORT

-  Jenny Lonergan - Asst. Coach Australian U15 Girls Oceania Cup & U16 Girls Asia Cup
-  Natalie Hurst - Asst. Coach, UC Captials; WNBL
-  Aiden Barnett - Asst. Coach, UC Capitals; WNBL
-  Tracey Peacock - Manager, UC Capitals; WNBL
-  Rohan Foy - Head Coach, Manly Wheel Eagles; NWBL;










LIFE MEMBERS

- Brad Barnes
- Tony Plunkett
- Grant Keys
- Paul Clowry

OUTSTANDING SERVICE

- Mel Berg
- Ryan Kinnane

MERIT AWARDS - INTERNATIONAL

-  Isabelle Bourne - Australian Opals, Asia Cup winners
-  Ajak Nyuon - Australian Emus, FIBA U19 World Cup + Basketball Australia COE
-  Zara Russell - Australian Gems, FIBA U19 World Cup + Basketball Australia COE
-  Jontee Brown - Australian Rollers, Rollstuhlbasketball Nations Cup, Germany
-  Victoria Simpson - Australian U25 Devils
-  Jackson Gray - Australian U23 Spinners
-  Madilyn Janssen - Australian Pearls
-  Temeka Swanston - Australian Pearls
-  Jasmine Funnell - Australian Pearls



* **NBL** - National Basketball League; **WNBL** - Women's National Basketball League; **NWBL** - National Wheelchair Basketball League; **WNWBL** - Women's National Wheelchair Basketball League

2025 AWARDS & MILESTONES



PREMIER LEAGUE 1

Most Valuable Player



Will Paterson



Katiah-Ann Tait

Defensive Player of The Year



Jesse Wilesmith



Achol Agok

Coach of The Year



Adrian Kirk



Tony Cotton

Leading Scorer



Brooklyn Bruton



Katiah-Ann Tait

PREMIER LEAGUE 2

Most Valuable Player



Purevbaatar Narantuya



Maya Hart

Defensive Player of The Year



Max Majstorovic



Grace Buckmaster

Coach of The Year



Fred Nguyen



Rob Parker

Leading Scorer



Nicol Bolos



Maya Hart



BEST & FAIREST



Ari Urack (U12B)



Lydia Rossiter (U12C)



Jaxon Townsend (U14B)



Maimuna Shave (U14G)

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER



Reuben Ritchie (U16B)



Maiah O'Brien (U16G)



Aler Chol (U19B)



Amber Virgo (U19C)

2025 TECHNICAL OFFICIALS AWARDS & MILESTONES

ACT REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Jack Taylor

PREMIER LEAGUE REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Rhys Boreham

ALAN ROBERTS MERIT AWARD

Marlene Leonard

REFEREE'S REFEREE AWARD

Jackson Tomas

SCORE TABLE OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Paul Vels

STATISTICIAN OF THE YEAR

Mark Harris

RISING STAR AWARD

Jack Kelley

WILLYAMA SERVICES JUNIOR REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Georgia Kerr
Rishi Gentry



TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Jack Taylor - NBL/WNBL, U15 FIBA Oceania Cup

Mitchell Hudson - WNBL

Michelle Cosier - WNBL

Ethan Tulk - WNBL

Sharna Edwards - WNBL, U15 FIBA Oceania Cup

Carolyn Ackland - WNBL, U15 FIBA Oceania Cup

Liam Krogh-Neumann - WNBL, U15 FIBA Oceania Cup

Paul Vels - WNBL, U15 FIBA Oceania Cup

Cheryl Olley - WNBL, U15 FIBA Oceania Cup

Annette Anderson - WNBL, U15 FIBA Oceania Cup

Suzanne Helson - WNBL, U15 FIBA Oceania Cup

Patrick Munn - WNBL, U15 FIBA Oceania Cup

Michael Hanley - WNBL, U15 FIBA Oceania Cup

Allison Rankin - WNBL, U15 FIBA Oceania Cup

Mark Harris - WNBL, U15 FIBA Oceania Cup

Olivia Young - WNBL

Erica Cooper - WNBL

Amy Jones - U15 FIBA Oceania Cup

Vidas Sadauskas - U15 FIBA Oceania Cup



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ACT***

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