

14 October 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

BASKETBALL ACT TO CELEBRATE 75th ANNIVERSARY IN 2024

In 2024, Basketball ACT will celebrate 75 years of delivering basketball in the Canberra region.

From small beginnings in the 1950's - where games were played at the Drill Hall Gallery and playing outdoors at Manuka Oval - through to the establishment of long-term homes at NATEX (currently known as EPIC) and Belconnen Basketball Stadium, basketball has played an important part in the lives of so many Canberrans, and continues to grow exponentially in popularity and participation.

The 75th Anniversary will commemorate and celebrate the sport - which has seen involvement at National Basketball League (NBL), Women's National Basketball League (WNBL), state league and national championships across the decades, as well as at the community and junior level - will showcase the strength of community sport and highlight the contributions of the hundreds of people who have chosen basketball as their sport.

To commence a year of celebrations, Basketball ACT will be holding a 75th Anniversary Reunion Dinner at Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden on 13 April 2024, which will bring together numerous people from across the region's basketball history and community to commemorate the historic milestone.

When announcing the 75th Anniversary, Basketball ACT President, Allan Yates, said "Basketball has a high profile in Canberra's rich sporting history. Apart from our 75 years of providing basketball services across a broad variety of community basketball activities for officials, social, Masters, wheelchair and walking teams and players, Basketball ACT has managed the Canberra Cannons and Canberra Capitals programs, the Canberra Gunners and Nationals programs, as well as ACT representative teams competing in Australian championships."

"The reunion dinner will bring us all together as a sporting community from across the decades, to share our love for the game and celebrate the commitment, dedication and passion of all of those who have been part of our success on-court and off."

Basketball ACT CEO, Nicole Bowles added to Mr Yate's comments by saying, "Basketball has provided many amazing highlights across its 75-year history, and has been part of the fabric of Canberra's growth and identity. The contribution of the sport is immeasurable, and Basketball ACT continues to add chapters of success to its history book".

"We are excited about the opportunity to come together with those who have been instrumental in building our sport, to celebrate our rich history, showcase our love of the game and what basketball means to all of us in the Canberra region."

Basketball ACT 75th Anniversary Reunion Dinner will be held on Saturday 13 April 2024 at Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden. For further information about the event, including tickets, please email 75reunion@basketballact.com.au

If you wish to organise interviews with Basketball ACT's President, Allan Yates or CEO, Nicole Bowles, please contact BACT Communications and Commercial Manager, David Lane at david.lane@basketballact.com.au or (02) 6189-0709.