



Panthers Basketball Albury

"A club that gives back to it's members. More than just a basketball club, it's a basketball family."

Annual General Meeting - President's report, November 12th, 2024

Good evening to all here present at the Panthers Basketball Albury Annual General Meeting for 2024.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we meet today, the Wiradjuri people and pay my respects to Elders, past and present. I extend that respect to other indigenous people who are present.

A special welcome to our life members of Panthers Basketball Albury, we appreciate your long-term commitment to the club.

We would like to recognise the support of our club sponsors; Findex Albury, Ray White Albury North and Kreativ Dental Albury. together with Howlong Butchers, KBC Plumbing & Pipe Relining, Albury Return & Earn and Thurgoona Training Academy. Their support was committed previously over several years in assisting the club to financial support design and replacement our playing singlets for our players.

We have had a great 2024, with participation levels maintained through a somewhat disjointed 2024. We have worked well to maintain our players and parents' involvement and guided them through the change to Basketball Connect system, which was challenging. We have in the past month been able to manage through the change of using 2 facilities, Lauren Jackson Stadium and Scots school. This has impacted players, coaches, parents, and volunteers, but we appear to have survived!

Once the renovations to Lauren Jackson Stadium are completed, which is a significant investment by our local community to basketball and other indoor sports, I am sure basketball will continue to thrive and attract the next generation of players.

We would like to acknowledge the work of the ABA committee and Albury City Council in facilitating the use of 2 stadiums to ensure basketball competitions could continue whilst the extensive redevelopment of Lauren Jackson Stadium is being completed, expected to be completed by December 2025.

We have 217 players registered as at the current season (146 boys, 71 girls), comprising 18 boys' teams, 9 girls' teams. We have had the drop off in teams from 31 to 27 during the year and into the current season. Some feedback has been put down to disruption of using 2 facilities, as well as the financial impacts, together with having consolidation of some teams where we had continual lack of numbers.



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It was really pleasing to see us be able to add another U10 girls' team for season 2 and we were able to find strong demand once we had the commitment from ABA to add the team. This continues to be a focus area for us as a club.

This year we have been focused as a committee on continuing to maintain numbers of participants, engage parents to be involved and looking to put in place additional focus on governance and Child Safety requirements to protect our club members. We plan to introduce and communicate specific policy and documents in 2025 to formalise this. In having compliance around "Child Safeguarding", this helps protect our players, coaches, and volunteers.

Thank you to all our age Group coordinators for 2024, noting a majority of these are board members. If we can seek to encourage some other volunteers into this space, that would help to share the load of the volunteer work required for our club to operate and be successful.

This year with the change in the operating system from "Gameday to Basketball Connect", this has taken a fair focus of time from committee and needed to be managed with our parents. To this end, our Registrar Greer Ashby has been an awesome contributor.

On behalf of the committee and Panthers community I would like to thank all our age coordinators and team managers and a huge thanks to our coaches for the time, effort, and passion that they have put into coaching and getting our Panther Teams onto the courts each week.

A thanks to Murray High School as well who again have made their indoor and outdoor courts available for us to use for training which is greatly appreciated. This is the envy of some other clubs, and we appreciated the access provided.

A thank you to our committee members, Bern, Greer, Kris, Aaron, Josh, Kye, Andrew for your commitment throughout the year. I believe we have operated effectively and collaborated well, with a focus on the now and into the future.

A couple of special thankyou's.

Greer, your execution, management, and commitment as the Registrar has been first class. You have guided us, our parents and even the ABA at times through the change with Basketball connect and all associated challenges. I know this has impacted on your personal time greatly and we really appreciate your work.



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Bern, thank you for acting as our "treasurer", for your management of our financials, helping sort out the bank with the changes and for your continuing involvement as an active parent with our players.

Kris, thanks for stepping into the secretary role during the year after the resignation of Katrina. Your focus on what needs to be done, together with getting in and doing has been greatly appreciated. I know moving forward, that the clubs historic and future information is well contained digitally, and you will no doubt have more innovations to offer into the future.

Aaron's contribution to Panthers and the ABA is greatly appreciated. Aaron has joined the ABA committee, is the Competition Committee chair, as well as coaching numerous of our teams. I thank Aaron for his contribution to our club, but also the wider ABA and benefit to our children, as this is a significant impact of his personal time.

We continue to actively seek new committee and volunteers, as well as new families and players to grow our club community. I believe we as a committee have worked well as a team, sharing the load, and focused upon achieving positive outcome for our players and families.

Into 2025 we'd like to provide more development opportunities for players and coaches, and this can be something for the 2025 committee to work through collectively with ABA and potentially Scots to gain access to court facilities.

Thank you to the entire Panthers community (our players, coaches, and families), the other clubs and Albury Basketball Association for all your contributions to the domestic competition and making the competition a fun and competitive environment for our children.

On behalf of the Panthers Committee, we wish all the best for the remainder of the year, a safe and enjoyable Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Darcy Irving
Panthers President 2024