

WARRANDYTE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION



LIFE MEMBERS 2018



Above – 2013 Big V Women's Champions
Coach: Justin Nelson, Team manager: Jenni O'Brien

Below – U12 Friday night
Coach: Gavin Whitmore, player Damian Arsenis (4th right)



Message from WBA President

Today we honour the Warrandyte Basketball Association's Life Members for their significant contribution. As individuals, they exemplify dedication, vision and passion for the game of basketball in the Warrandyte community.

Our Life Members have helped shape the Association from its initial formation in or around 1975 with women's and men's teams, to adding representative basketball in 1982 to a growing domestic program, to registering as an incorporated association in 1986, to finding a first 'home' court at Warrandyte High School in 1987 and then subsequently Anderson's Creek PS. Throughout the 1990s and 2000s we saw continuing growth in domestic and representative teams proving the value of grass roots basketball, as well as entry into senior competition ranks as part of the Big V program. In more recent years, we have seen the Association continue to mature its operations and commitment to the development and promotion of basketball within our community, and our presence in the wider Victorian basketball community.

Throughout this long and locally celebrated history, there have been many individuals whose achievements have been significant and whose impact on the development of the Association has been profound. We pay tribute to our Life Members and are delighted to share with you the following reflections.

Thank you for your invaluable contribution and support.

Emma MacDougal
President

At the time of printing this booklet, the memories of the following Life Members were not available:

Frank Harper – Pre-1988
John McCartin - Pre-1988
Jan Van Kuyk – Pre-1988
Barbara Clark - 1988
Paul Hasking - 1994
Lyn Templeton - 1999

Lorraine Parfitt - 2004
Ann Cousens – 2009
Justin Nelson -2011
Gerry Pearce -2012
Bruce De Lacy - 2013

Alan Woolcock – Pre 1988

Alan started playing in the Sunday competition at Sheehans Road in 1975. We easily remember this as his number was 34, his age at the time. Others in the team were Theo Grummish, Stan Slabon, Ian Hodson and Brian Day.

He played in the over 30's teams at Bulleen, Eltham College and Warrandyte High, and his team won the premiership at Warrandyte High for 10 consecutive seasons. He played until his late 50s and stopped (in his words) "*because I was getting too slow.*"

Alan coached the Sunday women's team playing in B Grade, including Sue Grummisch, Fiona Barr, Kerri Summers, Shirley Kuipers and Jan Perry. He also coached the women's tournament team who travelled to Adelaide on Cup weekend.

He also coached many junior boys' and girls' teams over the years.

Additionally, Alan was on the Committee for many years and held the position of Treasurer.

I'm sure there is a lot more to his history but like most of us events are sometimes hard to recall.

Bev Day – Pre 1988

I was Secretary from 1979 to 1983.

My son, Nick, and daughter, Abbie, played in the memorable Netballers v Basketballers match which resulted in the formation of the Club. Abbie switched from netball to basketball after that match.

If I remember correctly the Warrandyte men's team, "F Troop" were already playing at Bulleen. My husband, Brian, joined that team and later formed the WACAS, coaching it and the Under 17 boys.

Most of the WACAS team played in C Grade mid-week in the Eltham competition with some success.

We also had a very successful registration day in about 1980 which resulted in the expansion of the team numbers to over 20.

My younger daughter, Maryka, played in the junior girls' teams and coached Under 10s for a couple of seasons. Transport and scoring for my family's games kept me busy!

Tom Hay – 1988 (deceased)

Thomas Hay (Tom) was a tireless worker for the Basketball Club and an innovator in a lot of ways.

He was involved in many facets of the Club and in many roles.

At the time he came to the Club there were no indoor stadiums, and all practice was carried out on the outdoor courts above the football ground. He had 5 children all of whom went on to play at the Club through domestic teams, and some coached in domestic and representative and also refereed for the Club. Some of his grandchildren, whom he unfortunately never got to meet, also represented the Club domestically and representatively.

Tom's coaching technique was innovative in a lot of ways. He was always dressed in his red and white striped tracksuit (this was well before coaches had Club attire) and he and his children all had warm up tops and tracksuits made by a family friend who lived up the road from them in Melbourne Hill Road. He was a very vocal coach, nobody was unsure of what message he was trying to get across. He coached several of his children and many other children making him well known throughout the basketball community.

He was also a referee and a very good one at that. Some would say a little unconventional in some ways. He was a very intuitive person and was an extremely good reader of the game situation, and although some people struggled with this he gained a lot of respect from many. He can be credited with a rule that has become known as the 'sin bin' rule. This is when reffing one game, he noticed a player getting frustrated and overly aggressive and decided to have that player removed from the court to cool down, to the astonishment of that player's coach. When the coach queried Tom about his actions, he simply justified it by saying that it is better for the player to cool down for a few minutes rather than being sent off or possibly reported. Unconventional yes; smart and intuitive - YES.

Tom also was a player in the senior team and played with some of the legends of this Club. He was an athletic and flowing player. While not tall at 5'11, he was not afraid to get in on the rebounds and nothing was off limits. Defensively he was up and in and wore the opposition down, running all day long, his energy and tenacity were infectious.

Tom Hay – 1988 (continued)

His eldest son Darren got to play with him in a couple of the senior teams and he said it was one of the most enjoyable and memorable times in his basketball life. Darren also recalls his father as one of his hardest opponents.

As a member of this Club his contribution was invaluable, he would do anything for the Club without looking for pats on the back or credit. He developed a training manual for coaches at the very early level to enable them to give our younger teams the basics to enable smooth skill transition as they moved to the next age group. By doing this, he was enabling all our players from the earliest age group to get the basics and improve them. At that stage most of our coaches were parents, many of whom did not have any knowledge or background in basketball.

Each year the Club nominates a recipient of the Tom Hay Award, which recognises and honours that individual's contribution to the Club. To those recipients, we congratulate and thank you for your contribution.

Con Arsenis - 1992

My involvement with the WBC started in 1982 when my oldest son Damian started playing basketball followed by Christian, Simon and Dee later.

I coached Simon's Under 9 team (Runners up "A").

I was a Committee member, team selector, fixtures co-ordinator, on the fundraising Committee and then President of the Club. Whilst President, the "Redbacks" logo was initiated.

Two memorable times stand out:

1. Albany tournaments with a large number of teams and parents attending. This was a great time of supporting our children whilst developing long term friendships.
2. Fiji tournament with Dee and her team members coached by Gavin Whitmore. This was an unforgettable opportunity both to play overseas and help the locals develop the game. We were undefeated.



Gavin Whitmore - 1993

I first became involved with Warrandyte Basketball as a junior player in the late 1970s. At some point Ian Wood (Life Member) talked me into coaching and I continued to coach for the Club until 2008, often coaching three Friday night boys teams and a variety of domestic boys and girls teams. After a 5-year break, I returned to coach domestic basketball when my son Cameron started playing for Warrandyte Redbacks in 2013. The past 2 years have also seen me return to representative coaching for Warrandyte Venom.

I was a member of the Committee from 1984 to 1999. Whilst on the Committee I had various roles which included Vice President, stadium maintenance, social rep and boys' selection. I was also the Coaching Director for several years and was a referee for many years.

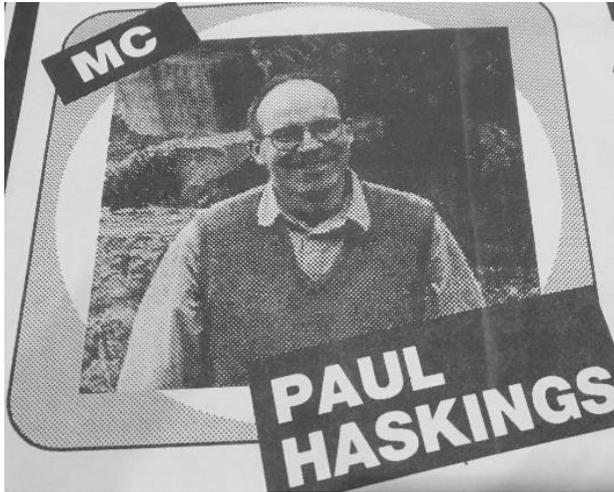
I have so many memories from my time at the Club. As a junior player, I remember training on a Sunday morning with the senior men's team at the Whitehouse. The early days coaching Friday night teams was a lot of fun and our annual pilgrimage to the Albury tournament was always a very social event. I remember one Friday night team needed Eltham to enter our team into Vic Championship as Warrandyte wasn't permitted to play in this grade. This team went on to win Vic Championship Reserve and probably were my most successful team that I continued to coach until under 18s. My first overseas trip was coaching for the Club in Fiji.

Being involved in the basketball Club has enabled me to meet so many families who I continue to bump into around Warrandyte. For those who knew me, gone are the days of the white ambulance and tech fouls. Since returning to coaching I have behaved. Well kind of!

Now watching my two children, Cameron and Sophie, wear the Warrandyte Redbacks uniform each Saturday, for the Club I have spent a lot of my life volunteering for is a proud moment.



Paul Haskings - 1994



Stan Slabon - 1995

We moved to Warrandyte in December 1975 and it would not have been long before Stan met up with Alan Woolcock at the Whitehouse Courts and joined a team, most likely early 1976. Our kids started playing as soon as possible (in fact I thought those were the first junior teams) in 1977, playing Under 12's although they were 6 and 7 years old, and coached by Alan and Stan.

There were teams of 12 players so two were rostered off each week. Kids were dropped off at the Whitehouse and we drove the whole team to games – all piled into the back of the wagon! Little girls skipped down the court, asking after the game who had won – when we played Eltham and lost 100 – 0.

Stan says he first played in F Grade and remembers the Grand Final where only one Warrandyte player was left on the court after everyone else was fouled off. The team was upgraded.

He would no doubt consider his greatest contribution to be coaching for so many years, seeing so many young kids develop their skills as players, and especially the development of the elite Friday night Championship sides.

I consider one of his greatest attributes was his coaching style – every player got a fair time on the court. Those who turned up to training were the ones who were named in the starting 5. The 'best' players were not automatically kept on at the expense of the others who worked hard to contribute. The emphasis was on teamwork rather than individual brilliance (especially with the younger ones). He taught children to be fair players and to treat the opposition with respect.

Tournaments in Adelaide were great – especially when combined with touring the wine regions!

Lyn Templeton - 1999

Below: Lyn Templeton (left), Karen Pearce (right)



More memories ...



Above – U15A grade premiers - #51 Damian Arsenis, #15 Clinton Grybas

Below – Alan Woolcock, Stan Slabon, Ian Wood and Bruce Templeton

**WARRANDYTE
BASKETBALL
NEWS**

**WARRANDYTE
REDBACKS**

AUGUST
EDITION - 1992

ABOVE: "Oooh, who brought the oxygen tank this week?"... By the looks of things this is a much-needed time-out for Andersons Creek in the over 30 section of the men's competition. Remember however, these guys are reigning champs, you ought to see the other blokes!

Ian Wood - 2002

I commenced with the Club in the summer season of 1981 coaching the Under 8's. I was introduced to Stan Slabon in 1983, who was the coach of the Club's only Friday Championship (nee Representative Side) at the time. I was given the opportunity to coach a Championship Team in 1983 and continued coaching teams until 2015. I then continued coaching for over 35 years and held a Level 2 coaching accreditation. At one stage I was coaching four Friday night Championship Teams plus three Saturday Redbacks teams in the same year.

I joined the Committee in 1983 for a few years and was the Championship co-ordinator for several years, whilst also being the Club Representative for both the Boys and Girls VJBC Teams when meetings were held at Albert Park. During this time, the Club boys' program grew from one team in 1982 to nine teams by 1987, and the girls' team recommenced in 1988 (one team) to six teams in 1994.

Other roles include the Boys Coaching Co-Ordinator, Head of Coaching and selector for several years.

During my time at the Club, I have had the good fortune of being involved in a number of achievements, of which I have special memories:

- Being involved with the Club's naming of "Redbacks";
- Assisting the Friday night Championship teams grow and improve in gradings and competitiveness;
- Establishing the Club's end of season junior team's trips to Albury/ Wodonga (commenced in 1985);
- Being Assistant Coach of North East Melbourne Arrows (SEABL team) - a combined Eltham and Diamond Valley team, coached by Bob Hillman. I then coached this team during most of the summer season against coaches of the likes of Lindsay Gaze, Gary Fox, Bruce Palmer, and players that included many of the elite Australian and NBL players; and
- Being nominated by the Club and then selected to be one of the "Kings" in the Warrandyte Festival a few years ago - it was a great honour.

There are also the large number of players and their families whom I have been involved with over the many years and I always feel very grateful for the opportunity to (hopefully) have had a positive influence on their lives. It is always a great feeling when these former players (now adults) come up to me and have a chat about my days coaching them.

Ian Wood – 2002 (continued)

Additionally, upon the arrival of Justin Nelson, I had the great pleasure of assisting and seeing one of my long-term dreams come to fruition - the establishment of the Big V teams, and more importantly to me, the Big V Men's program. I had wanted this to take place for over 25 years. I always felt frustrated having to sign clearances for very good Warrandyte junior players whom I coached so they could pursue their passion and potential to play at either State Junior Basketball or with VJBL Championship grades. The Big V program just gives so much opportunity to our junior players who want to achieve.

Other personal highlights include playing in a game with my daughter Emma in a mixed team demonstration game at a Club presentation day and the many long-term friends that I have made along the way with this great Club.

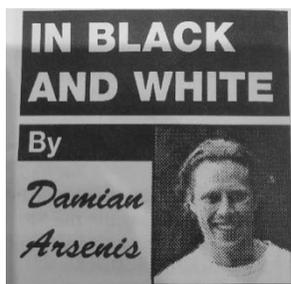


Damian Arsenis - 2003

I started off as a 6-year-old, training on the outdoor courts at Anderson's Creek PS and at the football ground when Warrandyte home games were played at Park Orchards.

I started coaching and refereeing at 12 years old, eventually achieving Level 2 accreditation for both, whilst also joining the Committee as a 16-year-old. As a dual recipient of the Daryl Valentine Award, I managed the Club's newsletter, was referee coordinator and coach, and held the positions of Vice President and President before stepping down after 10 consecutive years on the Committee.

My most significant achievement was overseeing the Club's affiliation with Basketball Victoria, which allowed Warrandyte teams to play at the highest level for the first time and allowing teams to be entered into the Big V program. I remained as Chairman of Selectors for boys for both domestic and representative levels, and Head Coach of Under 12 boys, guiding the program's first male team into the Victorian Championship division. I continue to share my love of the game with my three girls, coaching my eldest two out of the Melbourne East Basketball Association (Nunawading Spectres) while also running The Pick and Roll, Australia's largest independent basketball media outlet.



Bill Bottomley - 2004

In terms of a brief history in no particular order and with very subjective dates, I -

- first became involved with the Club in the mid-1980s when our daughter began playing;
- was 'keeper of the keys' from the late 1980s to 2005, initially in an ex Committee role;
- organised training times and sometimes found coaches for domestic and rep teams, initially in an ex Committee role;
- involved in try outs for rep teams;
- involved in discussions re WSC construction and served on the Committee of Management for the Stadium;
- commenced coaching in mid 1990s; and
- commenced reffing in mid to late 1990s.

There are probably some things I've missed, but senile dementia is a wonderful thing.

Sue Anderson – 2006

I was encouraged by Clinton Grybas to join the Committee. He told me that I could make a huge contribution to the WBA. Little did I know that it would become a major part of my life.

1988 Joined Committee.

1994/95 Appointed Fixtures Officer. Attended fixtures day and was responsible for the issuing of score sheets. The EDJBA had to be informed of the results of the Saturday games and score sheets sent to the - association usually on Sunday morning.

1996 Appointed Treasurer/Fixtures Officer and was responsible for all financial transactions for the Club. This included collecting over a \$1,000 each Saturday night, counting the money and banking it on Monday.

1997 - Appointed referees co-ordinator as well as Treasurer and Fixtures Officer.

1998-2000 Fixtures Officer, Referees Officer.

In my spare time I also looked after the stadium at the High School on Friday nights and then the new stadium at Anderson's Creek.

I was also on the -Social Club sub-committee:

- Events included the tent at the Warrandyte Festival cooking BBQ pork rolls. The Club usually raised more than \$2,500 at the Festival;
- Arranged sausages and bread for the Saturday sausage sizzles at the High School; and
- Arranged sausages and bread for the FREE sausage sizzle at presentation days. 500 - sausages is a lot to cook even for Malcolm.

One of my most memorable moments was helping Clinton distribute the WBA newsletter from 1990 to 1996. Clinton often dropped into our place on his way to visit his mother.

Malcolm Anderson - 2006

While I was helping Sue with some of her duties on the Committee, I was also coaching a number of teams over 10 years and also on the boys' selection Committee during this time.

Major Highlights

Coached the U19 and U20 boys A grade Premiers.

Coached the first winning team at Anderson's Creek Primary school when the U19's beat the Redback Legends coached by Ian Wood 50 to 32.

12AR Friday night championship won against Melbourne Tigers in overtime.

U19 and U20 won A grade against Balwyn in Saturday comp.

Thanks to Callum we have had a lot of memorable moments during his time playing for WBA with over 100 trophies displayed or stored. In 1998 Callum formed a team to compete in the Greyburn which ended up winning against the HITMEN.



Tony Oliver - 2007

In 1995 we moved from Bathurst to my wife's property in North Warrandyte. This had been in her family for many years and it was only logical that we would set up there, when I had joined CUB.

As we were packing up in Bathurst, the three kids were doing soccer, netball, and hockey. *"Yes, we will keep playing all those sports"* they said.

My next memory was then going up to Warrandyte High School to a long table when all three signed up for basketball. No soccer, no hockey, Tori (middle one) did a bit of netball for a couple of years as well as basketball.

So that started a relationship with the Warrandyte Basketball Club as it was then that has been a joy in my life and left me with many positive memories and friendships in the community.

I did all the standard things that you do as a basketball parent. Saturday morning became a logistical exercise which went from perfection (all three playing after each other at the same venue) to hell – all three playing at the same time at three different venues.

You cheered when they won, you were sad when they lost, you remember the games that went well, you remember the games that didn't.

You start to realise some things about your kids that you didn't know. I was driving a daughter home after a match. *"I thought it was a bit hard when the ref called that foul on you at the top of the key"* I said. *"That's OK Dad"*, she said, *"the refs hardly ever call that and besides I normally have hold of the singlet."* And all the time, I thought my daughter was a sweet little kid.

The girls got into Friday night basketball and my knowledge of Melbourne was based around navigating between basketball stadiums. I found the Western Ring Road can be a long lonely place when you are coming back from being destroyed by Altona.

I started scoring games – not really understanding what I was doing but it was something that you did – there was the roster.

At some stage I became a team manager – again I had no idea what I was supposed to do. *"Just put out a list of the names of the kids and parents, put the scoring roster together"* said a helpful person.

Tony Oliver – 2007 (continued)

I started to put out a little newsletter for the Saturday team that one of my kids was playing in. I did the roster and put in a couple of words about the last game the kids had played. One of the parents said something like – *“I really enjoyed that little match report.”* So, I started doing that regularly. Just a double sided thing – no great dramas. However, I was ‘noticed’. The Club at that stage put out a formal newsletter four times a year, and the Club needed a new editor. So that became me. Again, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. *“You also just need to put in some dot points for the Warrandyte Diary”*, someone said in passing.

Soon I was writing stories and producing photographs for the Diary 11 times a year, doing the Warrandyte Basketball Newsletter and starting to know almost everyone in the Club. I started to know the various siblings, who was in which team. Grand final day I spent my time chasing after teams so I could write something first hand.

A large time commitment but very enjoyable. One of my clear memories was driving out of a stadium – Slaters I think – at about 6 pm after a long day chasing Warrandyte Grand Final teams– do I turn right and go home, or do I turn left and watch this Under 15 D grade boys game at Banyule or Collingwood or somewhere.

So I turned left and saw one of the loveliest games – a close match, well played by both teams, with parents and players and coaches all doing what is so great about kids’ sport – having a go and enjoying themselves. I was so glad I turned left.

My wife at that stage was not well and I had to give up my time as a Reporter – I cannot remember but I must have done it for about five or six years. Unfortunately, there was no one to hand over to and the Newsletter was no more. I think I kept doing the Diary articles for a few more years but passed that on a couple of years ago.

I also did a stint on the Committee, got into referring, scoretable, etc.

But in all that time, I have met some very impressive people, both parents, and players. Sometimes people will put in a lot of effort and I do have some limited idea about how much time is put into running the Association. Sometimes it is just the little bit. But it is all just supporting kids and sport and activities.

Nick Peters - 2007

General Committee Member and Friday Night coordinator

Vice President

VJBL Delegate

Vice President Eltham Warrandyte Branch of VBRA

Inaugural President of the Warrandyte Park Orchards Branch of VBRA

Life Member of WBA

Life Member of Warrandyte Park Orchards Ref Branch (made me the first life member of both WBA and the Ref branch)

A grade Ref

Coach of Countless teams.

There were numerous highlights for me, but these are some of the main ones:

1. U20 A grade Girls premiership win;
2. U16 Girls Friday Night Premiers (North West);
3. Helping and watching kids develop their skills and become proficient basketball players;
4. At the forefront of the expansion of the Friday Night program; and
5. Being on the Committee who presented to Basketball Victoria to be granted entry into the Big V competition.



Mandy Ratcliffe - 2008

I can hardly forget my first year at WBA. Wendy Hawley approached me at Serpell PS during a Hoop Time tournament for schools in 1997 and said, *“Where is Jake playing basketball?”* *“Bulleen”* said I. *“OH no”* she said, *“come down to Warrandyte, Mitch and all the grade 3 and 4 Hoop Time team can be together in a team on Saturdays.”* I then met Mr Gavin Whitmore, what a character! He always had a yarn or a ball in his hand and provided a great grounding for my eldest son. Next was Damian Arsenis, he had his eye on no. 2 son and it was then we learnt all about Friday night basketball!! Kevin never recovered from years of travelling all over Melbourne Friday nights! Damian’s reffing ability was outstanding and I modelled my own reffing standard on him. He also was a young, passionate President and lured me onto the Committee as Boys Rep in 2000 (I think). The journey really began then!

Most memorable, beating Eltham Under 14A double overtime by 1 pt with 0.8 seconds left. Most pleasurable, watching the first BIG V women play at WSC in front of a packed-out stadium in Division 1 final 2007.

Greatest achievement was being one of the Executive team in 2005 that took WBA from a small domestic basketball Club with some rep. teams to what we have today with the introduction of Venom and Big V that gives ALL our players a true pathway.

During my time I have held the following roles: Team Manager, Secretary, Referee, Club Administrator, Coach, Court Announcer and any other job that there is, I know I have done it!



Stephen Bendle - 2008

Stephen's first link with WBA was when his son Tim, started as an 8yo in about 2000. He still recalls the fateful conversation with Committee member Mandy Ratcliffe when he admitted that he had previously been on the Ferntree Gully Falcons Basketball Club Committee and was even President.

So, it didn't take long to get on the WBA Committee in 2001 and succeeded Damien Arsenis as President in 2002. Stephen, Nick, Mandy and others set about building a Business Plan which sees the Mission Statement and Values still current on the website.

Stephen continued as President until 2007. At various times during this time he ran the Aussie Hoops Program, coached his sons, played in the Greyburn Cup and took up refereeing and ref coaching.

Two significant issues during Stephen's tenure as President was the merging with the group that formed the Venom program and the awarding of the Big V license.

Stephen was awarded Life Membership in 2008.



Jenni O'Brien - 2009

I first became involved at WBA as an 11-year-old and played in the Club's first junior girls side in 1975.

After a couple of seasons, I was invited to Bulleen to play rep. After moving to Bulleen to play VC, I remained involved with Warrandyte playing with the senior Women's A Grade team from the age of 15 on a Sunday, at the time being coached by another fellow life member, John McCartin!

I continued my involvement by playing and at 15 I coached my first under 12 girls side. I continued to coach for a number of seasons whilst my father, Frank Harper was also involved as a Coach, President and Vice President and who is also one of the inaugural life members of the Club.

At the conclusion of my 'junior' playing days, I continued playing mid-week comps with fellow Warrandyte team mates. I became more actively involved again when my daughter Ashlee began playing in under 8's in 1997. I have continued my involvement since then with a number of different roles including Redbacks domestic and rep coach, Venom rep coach and team manager and Committee member. Over the last 9 years I have been actively involved with the Senior Women's program, starting as team manager and most recently assistant coach of the state champ women's team.

All in all, it's hard to summarise what the Club has meant to not only me but my family over the past 43 years. The Club has continued to grow, when I first started the Club had only \$2 in the bank and the Committee managed to get sponsorship for



each of the junior sides. So, thanks to those people in the past who have built a legacy for the Warrandyte community to continue to enjoy.

Ann Cousens - 2009



Lisa Saunders 2010

I have been involved with Warrandyte Basketball Club for 20 years, in that time I have watched my children play basketball and have been Team Manager for a number of years.

I was there when Croydon Liberty joined Warrandyte, which enabled us to run more teams in our Girls Friday Night Competition, in which Lorraine Parfitt, Debbie Templeton, and I started the first girls rep side.

I then joined the Committee, as a General Committee member, and ran the Canteen for a number of years. While running the Canteen I was also involved in the Fundraising side, organizing functions for Presentation days, Trivia Nights, Auction nights. Then my job changed on the Committee and I started focussing on giving our children a pathway to a better competition of Senior Woman's (Big V), which was all introduced by Justin Nelson. Then it did not take long, we had a Men's (Big V) side and now two Youth league teams. I did sponsorship, door attendant and canteen the first year of senior woman's, with help from a number of Committee members at the time. One person I will never forget is our Mr. Grumpy (Peter Anderson). Thank you, Peter. A few more years down the track, Justin Nelson became President of the Club and asked me to be Vice President, but we were both still heavily involved in the Senior Program. I retired from the Committee in 2014.

Justin Nelson - 2011



Clinton Grybas (deceased) - 2012

Clinton was involved at the Warrandyte Basketball Club in a number of areas. He started playing when he was about 7 or 8 years of age and his first coach was Doug Hilton (who is also a Life Member). He continued playing for the next 10 years until he could go no further with the Club. (No Friday night team back then.) When he turned 14 in 1989 he became a referee which he continued with until December 2007 (doing the Wednesday night men's games). He also coached a number of teams during his teenage years. Clinton also produced the Club's newsletter for several years and was Vice-President of the Club at the age of 19. He loved basketball and enjoyed very much being a part of the Warrandyte Basketball Club.



**FROM
THE
EDITOR**

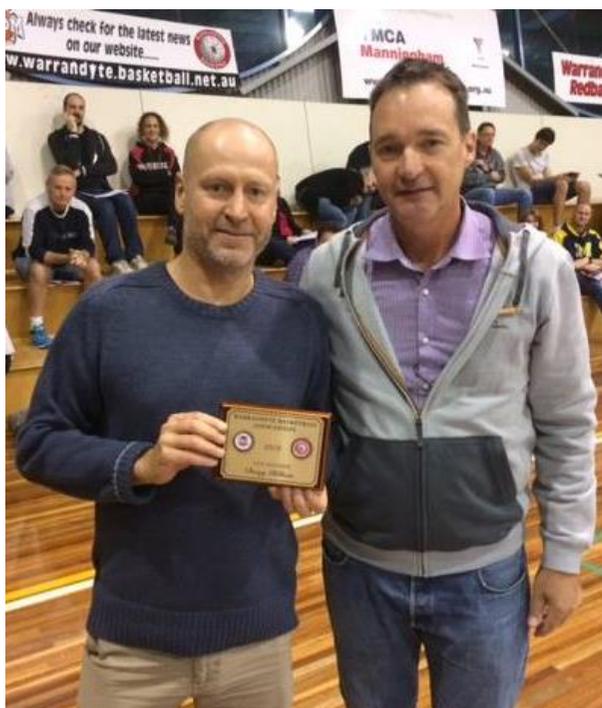


Doug Hilton - 2018

My involvement with the Club goes back to the late 1970s and early 1980s as a junior player and coach. I think I began playing in U16s and coached an U10s boys team in 1979 and then several boys and girls teams between then and 1986. The highlights were coaching a lovely kid called Corey Nightingall who lived up the road and the Grybas boys and then winning an U18A Reserves girls' Grand Final against Bulleen 1.

I dropped out of the Club between starting my PhD, working in Boston and starting my own family, but then got involved again as a coach in the early 2000s when my kids started playing sport. Because of my occasional poor behaviour as a coach, I was pushed by Mandy and Stephen Bendle to start reffing to “*walk a mile*” in the other shoes. I ended up enjoying reffing more than playing or coaching. I also served as President for a couple of years.

Community sport was so important to me growing up – the people who I met and looked out for me when things were tough have made a lasting impact on my life – I would count you in that group Woody. Being involved in the basketball Club has been a way of repaying that in a small way.





Top left – U14 girls Fiji trip - Con Arsenis and coach Gavin Whitmore



Top right – Con Arsenis



Right and bottom left – Mandy Ratcliffe giving some advice to our juniors





Warrandyte Basketball Association would like to thank Nellie Tamburro from "Food By Nellie" for sponsoring our Life Member Day and providing the delicious food. We encourage all our members to contact Nellie for any catering needs.