

MAY 2026



CENTRAL COAST
BASKETBALL

CHAIR REPORT

2025 ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Central Coast Basketball acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country on the Central Coast and their connection to land, sea and community in which we gather, meet and play.

We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Artwork: *Playing on Country* by Jenni McEwen from Bundjalung country

2025 A YEAR IN REVIEW

THE GAME

2025 CCB
MEMBERS

6000+



5,000+

DOMESTIC
GAMES PLAYED

REPRESENTATIVE



19 200+
TEAMS ATHLETES



6 72
TEAMS ATHLETES

50+

REPRESENTATIVE
COACHES



120+

OFFICIALS



DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

800+ SCHOOL
HOLIDAY CAMP
PARTICIPANTS



298

AUSSIE HOOPS
PARTICIPANTS



70+

MINI HOOPERS
PARTICIPANTS

SOCIAL MEDIA



164,319

ACCOUNTS
REACHED VIA
SOCIAL MEDIA
IN 2025*

*ACROSS CCB, REBELS &
CRUSADERS INSTAGRAM
PAGES

INSTAGRAM REACH
GROWTH



173.3%



30.8%



WELCOME

It is my privilege to present my Chair's Report for Central Coast Basketball for the year ending December 31, 2025.

I was appointed by the Board as Chair midway through 2024, and this report reflects my first full period in the role. It has been a challenging year for the Association, but also one that has demonstrated the resilience, commitment and passion of the Central Coast basketball community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a Board, our role is clear — to provide governance, hold management accountable and ensure the organisation is solvent.

However, as a community association, it is important that the Board reflects both strong governance capability and a connection to the day-to-day basketball community. An effective Board benefits from a balance of members who are connected, as well as members who can provide broader strategic, governance, financial and risk oversight. Both perspectives are valuable, and together they help ensure decisions are practical, informed and aligned with the long-term interests of the Association.

We have made effort to strengthen the Board's composition by increasing diversity of skills, experience, and basketball knowledge. This includes the addition of new members from within the basketball community, as well as re-engaging experienced individuals who provide valuable historical context and connection to the Association's past.

Over the past year, the board has been required to make many difficult decisions, addressing structural issues, and ensuring the organisation remains focused on long-term viability.

Importantly, the Board has remained committed, stable, and present throughout a challenging period and leading into this AGM. That consistency had been essential in allowing the organisation to navigate uncertainty and continue moving forward.

In saying that, Kellie Hassab retired from the board during the 2025 year and I would like to acknowledge her many years of service to the Association, including her time as Chair/President prior to my appointment.

To the 2025 Board - Damien Sims, Mark Holton, Lana King, Michelle Maier, Shayne Orbell, and Kushlan Aluwihare — thank you for your dedication and resilience. commitment and willingness to step forward when it mattered most.

We now have somewhat of a new look to the board to take us into 2026/27. Myself, Kushlan Aluwihare, and Michelle Maier will be joined by Anthony Benedetto, Tom Howard and Darren Crumpler bringing a wealth of knowledge from many different angles. We hope to continue to recruit board members throughout the year to fill specific areas of need including expertise in basketball, accounting, law and marketing.

GENERAL MANAGER

Mark Ramsdale served as General Manager during a particularly challenging period for the Association. We acknowledge his contribution to financial recovery planning and external funding opportunities, including support for the stadium scoreboard grant and advocacy and lobbying which resulted in the \$1 million federal funding commitment for upcoming stadium maintenance and improvements.

While not all aspects of the role were successfully delivered, Mark's contribution particularly in organisational restructuring and grant funding should be acknowledged as exceeding expectations.

Following continued financial pressure, the Board made the difficult decision to make the General Manager role redundant in July.

At this point, Kushlan Aluwihare stepped into the operational leadership void, taking on the day-to-day running of the organisation in a volunteer capacity.

Kushlan's contribution cannot be overstated. He has provided stability, leadership, and accountability at a time when the organisation required immediate action. His willingness to take on this responsibility has not only ensured continuity of operations but has also delivered significant financial relief, including the saving of substantial staffing costs. His efforts have been central to the organisation maintaining key programs, including NBL1 participation, during a period where this would otherwise have been at risk. He has also overseen the launch of our "One Crusaders" program, bringing together our club as one brand.

While we are extremely grateful, this model is not sustainable long-term, and securing a permanent General Manager remains a priority moving forward.

We have been lucky enough to be able to secure a very experienced General Manager in James Heddo for 26/27. James is a local with many connections and is regarded as one of the best sporting administrators in the country. James will join us on a 12 month contract commencing mid-July.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Ed Forcidilla and Valerie Govind

At last years AGM, the members endorsed Ed Forcidilla and Valerie Govind as Life members of the association.

Ed and Valerie have made outstanding and sustained contributions to Central Coast Basketball over many years. Their dedication, leadership, and service to players, programs, and the broader community have left a lasting impact on the Association. We thank them for their commitment and are proud to recognise them as Life Members. I would also like to thank the greater group of life members who continue to work behind the scenes and support the organisation, most importantly in this critical time of need.

VOLUNTEERS

Central Coast Basketball is, at its heart, a community association.

In addition to our volunteer Board, I would like to sincerely thank all those who give their time to support the organisation — coaches, team managers, officials, café workers, and parents who ensure players are at early morning/late evening trainings and travelling to games.

We recognise the significant commitment this requires and are incredibly grateful for your ongoing contribution to the Association.



STAFF

Supporting our volunteers is a dedicated and passionate staff group who ensure the day-to-day operation of the Association.

At its busiest, the stadium operates from 6am to 10pm on weekdays, in addition to representative, NBL1, and other competitions on weekends. Supporting the amount of people who pass through our doors each week is no small task.

During the year, the organisation was required to make significant reductions to staffing. I thank all staff for their patience, resilience, and willingness to step up during this challenging period.

In particular, I acknowledge Julia Cassidy who has stepped into the role of Operations Manager during the re-structuring. I also thank Kaz Irwin, Amanda Pennington, Kristen Russell and Ella Conroy for their outstanding efforts in ensuring the centre remained operational and that programs and members continued to be supported.

I also wanted to thank Mikko von-Lueders in his current role as Head of Basketball for his leadership in this core pillar and Troy Bosden for his efforts in the sponsorship space. I would also like to thank Maxine Babinski, and Jo Lewis for their years of service and contribution to the Association and wish them well for the future outside of Central Coast Basketball.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

I extend my thanks to all partners who supported Central Coast Basketball throughout the year.

Whether as player sponsors or our stadium naming rights partner, every contribution plays a vital role. All funds received are reinvested directly into the Association and its programs, and we are sincerely grateful for your ongoing support.

2025 Community Partners:

Guzman y Gomez - Stadium Naming Rights Partner
Bendigo Bank - Referee Program
Fluid Plumbing - Senior Premier League
Coast Sport - Performance Health Partner
Gee Recovery - Recovery Partner
Central Coast Sports College - Junior League Partner
National Storage - Coastal Classic Major Partner
New Balance & Belgravia Apparel - Official Apparel Partner
Courtside Hoops
The Agency
Tile & Stone
Central Coast Adventist
Green Point Christian College
Chery
Life Medical Imaging
Deall Dental
Spring Emergency Centre
Highgrove Bathrooms

2025 Player Partners:

Dynamic Taxation
Central Coast Granite
Coast Anaesthetics
AFT
Family Chips
Henty Farm
Super Dry Waterproofing
Lookpro Photography
Hoyts
Galaxy Finance
Adam Crouch
Inspired Brands
Big Safety



ACHIEVEMENTS

I would like to thank all teams, players, officials, statisticians, and scorebench personnel for their efforts throughout the year.

We acknowledge and celebrate the achievements across our programs:

CRUSADERS PROGRAM

Youth League

	Women 1	Women 2	Men 1	Men 2
Defensive Player of the Year	Sophie Prior	Ella Morgan	Hudson Bush	Jesse Maier
Player's Player	Holly Handly	Mia Smyth	Lachie Gunderson	Neo Thompsons
Most Valuable Player	Leila Heffernan	Zali Sims	Isaac Wooller	Cruz McMahon

NBL1

	Women	Men
Defensive Player of the Year	Muffi Loader	Lino Manhom
Player's Player	Leila Heffernan	Luke Cassidy
Most Valuable Player	Jaz Forcadilla & Leilani Mitchell	Garric Young

Score Bench Official of the Year: Paul Fawcett

Crusaders of the Year: Youth Women 2 Team

Club Person of the Year: Kellie Hassab

Volunteer of the Year: Liam Loader

BNSW Awards

YLW2 All Star 5: Zali Sims

YLW2 All Star 5: Ella Morgan

YLW2 MVP: Zali Sims

YLW2 Coach of the Year: Wade Smith



REBELS PROGRAM

	Women	Men
Junior Player of the Year	Giselle Geurs	Brooklyn Tupaea
Senior Player of the Year	Grace Garwood	Caleb Dunstan

	Division 1	Division 2
Coach of the Year	Chris Ohlback	Glenn Tillot

Club Persons of the Year: Fiona Kennedy

STATE & NATIONAL

	U16s	U18s
NSW State Teams	Owen Howes	Caleb Dunstan
	Grace Garwood (reserve)	
	Lara Tillot (reserve)	

OFFICIALS

Domestic Referee of the Year: Chloe Petley

Domestic Most Improved of the Year: Archie Leary

Junior Representative of the Year: Cara Eades

Senior Representative Referees of the Year: Isabella Naylor

U14s Club Nationals: Belinda Dalton

U16s Footlocker Nationals: Isabella Naylor - Bronze Medal Game

TEAMS

U12 State Champions: Rebels U12 Men Division 1

Waratah Youth League Women 2 Champions: Crusaders YLW2 Team

U12 MEN DIVISION 1



FINANCIAL RESULTS

Further detail is provided in the Treasurer's and Auditor's Reports.

The financial challenges facing Central Coast Basketball are not the result of a single year, but rather a culmination of decisions and structural issues over time. Following leadership and staffing changes in previous years, the organisation entered a period of instability that placed increasing pressure on revenue generation and cost control.

At one point, the organisation was operating without both a General Manager and a dedicated business development manager— roles that are critical to financial growth and sustainability. This significantly impacted revenue generation and contributed to a deterioration in the organisation's financial position.

In addition to this, our highest level of competition, NBL1, isn't self sustainable and requires subsidy from the other areas of our business. Costs in this area have increased substantially eating into any reserves the organisation had.

By mid-2025, the organisation was carrying significant legacy debt. In response, the Board implemented a structured recovery plan under Safe Harbour provisions, focused on debt reduction, cost control, and operational restructuring.

This required difficult but necessary decisions, including staffing reductions, program cutbacks, and tighter financial management.

I am pleased to report that meaningful progress has been made. The Board has remained disciplined in its approach, and we are now in a position where legacy debts are being actively reduced, current obligations are being met, and the organisation has returned to a position of solvency.

However, challenges remain. We currently operate with minimal financial reserves, leaving the organisation vulnerable to any unforeseen disruptions. Additionally, key roles — including a permanent General Manager and a Development Pathway Officer to grow participation still need to be funded.

External pressures, including cost-of-living impacts, are also affecting sponsorship and revenue streams moving forward.

Our focus remains on:

- Maintaining strict financial discipline
- Rebuilding reserves (targeting \$250,000 over time)
- Strengthening operational leadership and long-term planning
- Growing participation numbers to drive sustainable revenue
- Reinvesting strategically into programs, particularly at junior levels

While the reporting period reflects ongoing recovery, I am confident that the plan in place is working. We are moving in the right direction, but we must continue to be disciplined, transparent and focused on building a more sustainable future for Central Coast Basketball. This is the opportunity to set the organisation for long term sustainability and viability.

IN CLOSING

This past year has reinforced a simple truth — the strength of an organisation is not defined in easy times, but in how it responds under pressure and this has been a year that has tested the resolve of the Association at every level.

While there will always be differing views, what matters is a willingness to stand behind decisions, remain accountable, and contribute constructively to the path forward.

No sporting organisation succeeds without the people behind it. To our staff, committee members, sponsors, volunteers, coaches, and players — thank you. Your commitment is the foundation of this Association, and the reason we will continue to move forward, stronger and more resilient than ever before.

Kind regards,

Michael Griffiths

Chair of Central Coast Basketball

(Written for the AGM report to be held on 25 May 2026)