



# Ben Halsall

## 2023 REPORT



Hello & welcome to the 2023 Exies-Acmy Annual General Meeting.

I would like to formally welcome our Life Members, Executive & General Committee Members, Sponsors, Coaches, Members, Families & Guests.

We look back fondly at the achievements of our members & volunteers over the last 12 months.

Participation numbers continue to rise year on year which is fantastic. For the 2023 Championship Season we had 320 Junior Players across 44 Teams, increasing to 355 Junior Players across 47 Teams for the 2023-2024 Summer Season. In our senior grades we had 6 senior teams in the 2023 Championship Season, increasing to 9 teams for the 2023-2024 Summer Season.

We had 39 Exies-Acmy junior players selected in the local representative JET program (up from 33 in the previous year) which is a terrific achievement. It has also been exciting to follow both Georgia Amooore & Will Hynes on the College basketball journey in the USA, and we look forward to watching Jemma Amooore taking her College opportunity with Sacramento State later this year. Congratulations to all Exies members who were selected for further representative programs.

Georgia was also kind enough to run a skills session for the U16A & U14A girls in June, which the girls loved and remember fondly. A true inspiration to the girls.

The Ballarat Junior Tournament was held in June 2023 and we had 6 Exies-Acmy teams enter & compete over the long weekend. This was a terrific opportunity for kids who mostly haven't previously had a 'tournament experience' to come together and play against different clubs & associations. The energy over the weekend was fantastic from the kids & families, and we look forward to offering the kids another opportunity in the 2024 event.

Our committee of volunteers continues to evolve and we have had Lincoln Martin, Jason Grace & Jeremy Daniel step down from their respective roles in 2023.

Lincoln has been involved with the club since Fletcher (now nearly 21yo!) commenced his basketball journey with the club. Lincoln has been a champion of the game & spent countless hours on the sidelines coaching kids which continues today. Lincoln was on the committee from 2017-2023, and Boy's Coordinator since 2018, taking over from Sharyn Canny. A massive thank you to Lincoln for the countless hours invested in our club & people.

Jason was onboard and assisted us with our marketing profile, while Jeremy was on the Match Committee. Both have assisted the club in their respective roles immensely and remain

connected to the club with their children still playing. Thank you to both Jason & Jeremy for your efforts.

A priority for the club is for us to come together to celebrate the end of year. As we have done in previous years, we had our Christmas party at Lake Wendouree Football Club in December, 2023. This year we had close to 300 members attend, spread across all age groups which was terrific. Thank you to our committee for pulling it all together & for the third year running a massive thank you to Jane Miller & the Eclectic Tastes team for co-ordinating the food for us to enjoy & helping Santa arrive!

Our partnership with the Ballarat Basketball remains strong. Participation across the game is increasing which does pose challenges on resources, availability of courts, managing expectations, etc. We enjoy our role within the association and are active contributors to discussions on the development of the game locally. On behalf of our club, a big thank you to Neville, Ben, Connor, Joel, Shian & team for the support you give Exies-Acmy & to the commitment of the game.

While not in the 2023 year, I do want to make note of the passing of two significant members of our club, Ken Mann & Leon (Joe) Stevens.

- Ken was a highly regarded coach, administrator, life member and co-founding member. Our condolences to Pam, Andrew, Ross & families on Ken's passing.
- Joe was a former treasurer, administrator & passionate volunteer who provided leadership, vision & was a mentor to many. Our condolences to Dot, Dayle, Mike & families on Joe's passing.

All members of our committee are energetic & passionate about giving kids the opportunity to shine. A huge thank you to every single one of you for the contribution you make.

To our coaches & team managers, we thank you for your energy, time and commitment. With participation numbers increasing year on year, families being involved & supporting our program is more critical than ever. Thank you for the positive influence you continue to have on the kids & club.

We will continue to support our members noting our role in the basketball pathway is central around participation, enjoyment and learning. We look forward to supporting all families on this journey, helping the kids develop their skills while making sure they have a smile on their face.