



Chairman's Report

2026 Annual General Meeting



It is my privilege to present my second report as Chairman on behalf of my fellow directors. Over the past year, we have welcomed new board members and continued to work together to further strengthen our club's culture, governance, and financial position. Whilst we have faced some unexpected challenges, our focus has remained on making decisions that benefit our members, improve our facilities, and ensure the long-term success of our club.

Areas of focus have included:

- Maintaining a strong and inclusive club culture (MAGIC PRIDE).
- Strengthening transparent decision-making processes.
- Maintaining financial stability while upgrading our facilities.
- Aligning our efforts with the goals outlined in the *MVDBAI Constitution* and *MVDBAI Strategic Plan*.

Thanks to the dedication of our board, volunteers, and the broader club community, we have made great progress in each of these areas. Below is a summary of our key achievements over the past 12 months.

Key Achievements

- **Volunteer & Governance Improvements**
 - **Updated MVDBAI Strategic Plan 2025-2030** implemented.
 - Independent **bookkeeper and auditors** appointed for increased transparency.
 - New association **website** launched (\$1500 Federal Government grant received).
 - Board use of *OneDrive* for the central storage of important information, allowing an easier transition between existing and future Board members.
 - More volunteers assisting with various club operations, helping to keep costs down.
 - 25% increase to senior & junior referee allowances.
 - **BAS payments submitted correctly in a timely manner**, allowing for a successful submission to ATO for refund of previous BAS fines & interest (\$5400 returned to members).
 - Over **\$5,000 in unpaid staff superannuation** from previous years identified and now rectified.
 - **Fraud** detected on accounts and referred to NSW Police and BNSW Insurer (\$36,000 recovered so far).

- **Facility Improvements & Cost Savings**

- Eastern, Northern & Western walls of **Court 1 cladded, insulated and painted.**
- Outdoor **Half-court built** for members and for community use.
- **Carpark upgraded and extended** with **improved drainage** added (\$22,000 grant from State Government).
- **New water main & pipes**, and repairs to roadway at front of stadium (no cost to members).
- Front entry tiles and internal hand rails repaired.
- Roof gutters cleared on all debris and blockages and trees trimmed.
- Internal lighting replaced on both courts.
- Storage areas cleared and upgraded, with the remaining asbestos removed.
- Continued representation to Council staff, elected Councillors and local parliamentary members regarding the proposed **Southern Highlands Indoor Sports Hub** on land adjoining the existing stadium.

- **Basketball Development & Community Engagement**

- **Marquee player** utilised for Waratah Men & local development programs.
- One junior player selected for **NSW Country U18 girl's team.**
- 4 junior players selected for **ACJBC tournament.**
- 5 junior players and 2 referees selected for '**BNSW Challenge**' tournaments.
- 4 junior players selected for **South Coast CHS Regional team.**
- 1 player selected for **BNSW Talented Athlete Program.**
- 4 players selected for **BNSW U12 Jamboree.**
- 2 coaches selected to attend **BNSW U12 Jamboree.**
- 2 referees selected for **BNSW High Performance Programs.**
- **20 junior & senior representative teams** competing in Waratah League & Barrengarry tournaments.
- 8 teams entered into Barrengarry Tournament, 5 teams in the Finals, **3 championship teams.**
- 9 teams entered into SJL, 5 teams in Finals, **1 Championship team.**
- 10 teams entered in Country Tournament, 6 teams in Finals, **1 Championship team.**
- 6 senior league teams entered in tournaments, including **three Waratah League teams.** Four of those senior teams making finals.
- **Waratah Men division 1 state champions** for the first time in our club's history.
- '**Assist All Hoops**' programs introduced for all locals with neurodiversity. 3x3 team entered in the inaugural State Championships held in Blacktown (Undefeated).
- '**Prep for Rep**' (6-week program for U12-U18, 40 attendees).
- '**Ford Aussie Hoops**' and '**Sporting Schools**' programs reintroduced (\$2,000 in BA grants received).
- Moss Vale McDonalds '**Magic Hoopstars**' skills program continues free of charge for all juniors.
- Partnerships entered with **Oxley College, Frensham School & Gib Gate School** to increase junior participation.

- **Sponsorship & Financial Growth**

- Additional stadium advertisers & sponsors secured, generating more than **\$150K over the next 3 years**.
- \$300K invested with **Bendigo Bank**, producing interest to assist with council debt repayments (currently \$260K).
- Exclusive supplier deal with **ATHLEAD** (\$8800 + 10% of all MAGIC sales returned to members), allowing new **representative team singlets** for all junior and senior rep teams, at no cost to members.
- Agreement entered into with Pickleball as additional income stream when courts not being utilised by the association.

Looking Ahead – Plans and Potential Projects for 2026

- **Backboard and ring upgrades** for Court 3 & Court 4 (\$15,400 grant from Veolia Mulwaree Trust).
- **Roof repairs** to both courts.
- New front entry doors.
- New flooring to concrete walkway between courts 1 & 2.
- Expansion of **Sporting Schools programs** (minimum four per year).
- Continued application for various **community grants and sponsorship** to assist with operational and administrative costs, and to fund ongoing asset improvements.
- **Minimise any increases to membership fees** wherever possible, so as to keep fees lower than other comparable Basketball Associations, and other sports.

The progress we have made again this year is testament to the hard work of our board, volunteers, coaches, players, officials and our supporters. As we continue to grow, we remain focused on building a strong and sustainable club that provides positive opportunities for everyone involved.

Thank you to each of you who contribute to making MVDBAI a fantastic place for basketball in the Southern Highlands.

David Watts

Chairman, MVDBAI

