



**Vermont Vultures Basketball Club Inc**

**Est.1953**

**Annual Report 2020-2021**

## Vultures at a Glance



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## Vultures Committee

### Executive

Hamish Blank – **President**  
 Alix Lamb – **Vice President**  
 Natalie Adam – **Secretary**  
 Ashley Brown – **Treasurer**  
 Sally Jephcott – **Club Administrator**  
 Brendan Jackson – **Strategic Partnerships**

### General Committee Members

Francesca Blank – **Uniform Coordinator**  
 Matt Cavell – **Coaching Coordinator**  
 Kerrie Batten – **Venues Manager**  
 Andrea Bates – **Communications**

## President's Report

Hi Vultures,

It has certainly been a different kind of year again in 2021! Once again, we had to face multiple lockdowns, unfortunately meaning that we were unable to complete either the 20/21 Summer season or the 21 Winter season. It has been great to be back on court in the last few weeks, with this made even better with the stadiums filled with spectators. We'll keep everything crossed that we have seen the last of COVID lockdowns and that we can complete the first season since Winter 2019 (that seems so long ago!).

Despite everything, we continue to maintain a strong club presence in the Saturday (GEBC) and Weekday (MEBA) competitions with 95 teams last Winter and 92 teams this Summer, which is nearly 800 players!

I'd like to thank all those who volunteer their time to be a Coach or a Manager. A club our size cannot function without your involvement in this capacity, and it is very much appreciated. A special callout to those who coach or manage multiple teams and do so season after season.

Whilst we may have spent a large part of the year on the metaphorical bench, we haven't sat idly by during this time. Here are some of the highlights from the year:

- We still managed to get a Presentation Day for the Summer season conducted virtually with video messages and live announcements of MVP & Coaches Award winners via our Facebook & Instagram pages. Thanks to all the members who engaged with this format, it was great to see a public recognition of the players. Unfortunately for the Winter season we were unable to play enough competition games to be able to complete a Presentation Day. We are looking forward to getting back to an in-person event for the Summer season.



- Our Coaching Coordinator Matt Cavell again organised several well attended virtual training sessions from Basketball Victoria that were exclusive to our club. We still have over 95% of our coaches holding entry level or higher certification. We have continued to invest in equipment to support Coaches and the coaching kits continue to be popular.
- We continue to be active in targeting grants to help support the club and have been successful in gaining grants from Whitehorse Council to contribute towards the coaching kits and the Victorian Government to contribute towards the cost of COVID compliance.
- We wholeheartedly support all endeavours to increase female participation in basketball and are thrilled to be able to announce a partnership with the Deakin Melbourne Boomers (WNBL). All female Vultures will receive a 4-game membership to the forthcoming season, with additional packages able to be purchased at a discount. We'll also see some of our girls' teams playing at halftime of the WNBL matches! Many thanks to our VP, Alix Lamb who has been instrumental in driving this engagement on behalf of the club.

- We've also spent a lot of time communicating with the club this year, and a special mention must go to our Communications Manager Andrea Bates for churning out updates at a furious pace. It's been good to get increases in followers on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages. Expanding our Coaches Facebook page to our Managers has tripled this audience and enabled a crowd-sourced approach to answering all the many & varied questions that our members have.
- We've also run our first online "Manager's kick-off session" which we'll look to do each season now to welcome new Managers to the Club and run through all the key information. Thanks to Sarah from Teammo for being available to present and answer everyone's questions.
- Lastly, whilst this hasn't been a normal year, it has still required almost all of the normal activities to be completed.
  - Behind the scenes, Age group coordinators have re-done teams several times this year, none of which have been able to be distributed as the plans have changed. Team selection can be a challenging responsibility at the best of times, but not being able to watch players has increased this the last few seasons.
  - Many thanks must go to Sally Jephcott for fielding all the admin queries and sending out urgent comms and Kerrie Batten for managing the constant follow-ups with the schools and confirming what their policies on re-opening for training and games were.
  - Frankie Blank has kept everyone in uniforms and a proactive approach with new families to the club has meant that we've been able to ensure that everyone has the right gear despite not being able to run try-on nights
  - Ash Brown has again ensured that we are on top of all things financial, with

a huge effort to ensure that over 750 refunds were communicated and processed with the shortened Winter season

- Natalie Adam has made sure that our Clubs interests have been represented on the MEBA JDC. There's been plenty of calls with MEBA to work out what is happening, and we must also thank Mark Hallet (Nunawading Basketball CEO) and his team for all their assistance in keeping us informed and being responsive to all our requests.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank the full Committee for all their efforts this year. The Exec team of Alix Lamb (Vice President), Natalie Adam (Secretary), Ash Brown (Treasurer), Sally Jephcott (Admin), and Brendan Jackson (Strategic Partnerships) and general committee members Matt Cavell (Coaching), Andrea Bates (Communications), Kerrie Batten (Venues) and Francesca Blank (Uniforms) have all worked tirelessly to ensure that the best interests of the Club and its members has been forefront of all decisions made.

As always, if you are interested in joining the Committee and being part of MEBA's biggest club, we'd love to have you on board. Please give any of the Committee members a call or send us an email, it would be great to chat. I should formally note that I am stepping down from the Presidents role and the Committee after 6 seasons. I'm proud of the changes we've made in the last couple of years to strengthen the club and I have no doubt that that this will continue under a new President and Committee.

To all our players, we hope that you are loving being back on court and we look forward to seeing plenty of Vultures teams come finals time. All the best for the holiday season, stay safe, and go Vultures!

**Hamish Blank**  
**President**

## ***Treasurers Report***

It's been a busy year from a finance perspective. Due to all the cancelled games, and COVID interrupted seasons, there has been plenty going on. It was pleasing to be able to return almost 63% of registration fees across the Summer 2020/21 and Winter 2021 seasons. This was through the payment of teamsheets, and the \$50 per player refund issued. Hopefully this helped to ease families burdens throughout what has no doubt been a difficult 18 month period.

We were also able to implement some great initiatives in the past 12 months including:

- Coaches kits, which are available for a nominal refundable deposit for all coaches;
- The payment of round 1 team sheets fees to assist Team Managers in preparing for the season, without having to worry about teamsheet fees from Round 1, which for some teams, can be before training has even started!
- Topping up teamsheet fees for those teams that only had 6 players;
- We have also used some of the grant money we received to purchase balls for all our older age group teams (Under 12's and up). These balls will be given to coaches at no cost to them, to be used for the duration of their coaching tenure. For the younger age groups, we are waiting on the association to provide balls for these teams.

All this, whilst keeping registration fees to a modest \$5 rise – our first increase in over 5 years. Even after implementing all these initiatives and issuing multiple refunds the refunds and paying for teamsheets, the club managed to post a modest surplus of \$4,600 – which equates to less than \$5 per season per registered player. The Club's aim is always to get as close to zero as possible, so we are constantly reviewing fees to ensure this. A huge thank you to all the families that donated their refunds back to the club – we are looking

at ways we can use these funds to further benefit all players.

Thanks to Sal, for all her assistance throughout the year, especially liaising with Basketball Victoria when arranging the refunds, to Matt and Brendan for organising the coaches kits and distributing them to our coaches, to Kerrie for liaising with our venue providers and ensuring their invoicing was correct, to Frankie for holding all our deposits and keeping track of who is entitled to what and to Nat for reviewing all the manual refunds ensuring I hadn't made any mistakes in entering the bank details (I think I only made one for the record!).

Lastly – a huge thanks to Hamish, our President, who is stepping down from the role. It's been a pleasure working alongside you, and seeing the changes you've helped implement which has brought the club forward leaps and bounds. Not sure who's going to approve all the payments for me going forward!

Looking forward to a couple of 'normal' seasons (fingers crossed) and the next lot of initiatives the new committee will explore.



***Ashley Brown***  
***Treasurer***



## Coaching Report

Firstly, to all of our coaches, team managers, and players, welcome back to basketball for 2021/22. We all miss getting out on court each week and are looking forward to many more games to come in the next 12 months!

With over 90 teams every season competing in Monday, Friday, and Saturday basketball games, the Vermont Vultures have a large task not only building teams between seasons but finding, training, and assisting our coaches. Thankfully the Vermont Vultures have a great wealth of parents, friends, and junior coaches all wanting to give back into the club, build their communication skills and help shape our youngsters on thriving in a competitive team environment.

One of the main initiatives that the Vermont Vultures have been working on over the past few seasons is building the knowledge of our coaches with club subsidised coach training. These are usually online sessions where a Basketball Victoria senior coach presents a clear and concise guide on how to structure yourself as a coach, a guide on what you should teach, and some information on the way you should present yourself as a coach. At the end of the session you receive your first coaching accreditation, have made a Basketball Victoria coaching contact, and are sent coaching material that will help you through your journey. The Vermont Vultures ended up with 96% of our coaches certified in Summer 20/21 – Coaching courses for Summer 21/22 will be running soon, so stay tuned for session dates and times!

In 2021 we have also branched out with a few new programs to assist coaches who are just starting with the club. These include:

- Building a mentor program linking senior and new coaches for assistance throughout the season. This involves lines of communication and pairing up for game day and training support.
- Developing a junior coaching program to build leadership qualities in our kids



where U14 and U16 kids can get started as an assistant coach working with one of our senior coaches. We currently have 6 juniors enrolled as assistant coaches in Summer 21/22 and would love to increase this number to 10 by the end of the season!

In addition to all these initiatives, the Vermont Vultures encourage parent participation as a coach or team manager bringing together families through sport – so if you like what you see above, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us via email at: [coachingcoordinator@vermontvultures.org.au](mailto:coachingcoordinator@vermontvultures.org.au) to see how you can take the first step in your coaching career!

Some of the other activities we undertake and resources we provide to our coaches include:

- Increased content in the 'Coaches Corner' on the website to help structure our club and our leadership development - [Coach's Corner | Vermont Vultures Basketball Club](#)
- Insta, WhatsApp & Facebook posts to keep our coaches informed and engaged

- In Summer 21/22 we are committed to supplying a game day basketball to each coach which can be used for training, warm-ups, and games where required
- A free coaches polo with Vultures colours and logo
- A Coaches Kit including some of the basic equipment such as a bag, medical kit, ball, training cones, ball, pump, and whistle.
- Best of all for our coaches under 18, we offer a \$200 season payment to help with any costs incurred getting to the game with hopefully enough left over to buy something nice! \*As per the Vultures coaching policy.

### *What to expect in 2022?*

Well now that we are hoping to have a normal length season without any lockdowns, we are looking to get back into some on-court coaching sessions. We have partnered with Basketball Victoria in the past for these and will also be drawing on the expertise of some of our ex-players for hands-on presentations to all coaches, assistants, and prospective coaches. Stay tuned for session times planned for term 1 2022.

We will be looking to increase junior coach participation whether this is as an assistant or head coach. It is a great way to transfer your basketball knowledge onto others, at the same time as learning responsibility and communication.

More fun, more games, and more teamwork!!!  
– Good luck to all coaches and teams and we look forward to hearing about your success!

**Matt Cavell**  
*Coaching Coordinator*



### *Strategic Partnerships*

This year has seen exciting developments with regards to strengthening our strategic partnership with Vermont Secondary College. We are in on-going discussions to secure exclusive access to the two brand new basketball courts being built as part of the school's redevelopment. The Vultures will utilise these new facilities as its major training base, and it will also help establish a local, centralised home that the club has been seeking for a long time. The new building will provide a venue for club functions such as presentation day, committee meetings, our AGM, and fundraisers, along with storage facilities for club equipment and a place to proudly display our honour boards. We are hoping to brand the venue on game day so that we can make it our home court fortress, with a Vermont Vultures team allocated to play in every time slot available. Stay tuned for more updates as the build kicks off in 2022.

The Vermont Vultures Basketball Club would like to thank the following businesses/organisation for their support throughout the year:

- Leisure Brands Agencies – coaches kits supplies, game day basketballs
- Whitehorse City Council – grant funding (COVID supplies, game day basketballs)
- Impact Sports – coaches kit bags and club uniform and merchandise
- Nunawading Basketball – free girl's registration, training venue

- Vermont Secondary College – training venue
- Forest Hill Secondary College – training venue
- Mullauna College – training venue
- Eva Burrows College – training venue
- Rangeview Primary School– training venue
- Sportlink – training venue

**Brendan Jackson**  
*Strategic Partnerships*

## Communications

Communications became increasingly important during COVID-19 in 2020/21. Less court time certainly did not mean any less messaging to deliver – infact it was the opposite with so many updates, season restarts, and safety announcements required throughout the year!

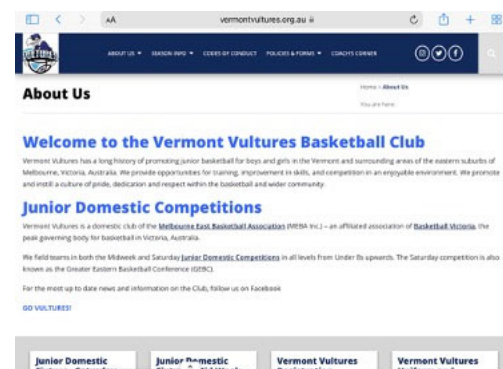
The club has focussed on delivering timely and informative communications across multiple channels. We have been actively developing an environment to educate, support and engage our members. We trust that this has been evident in the quality of communication released throughout the year.

Social media has been a crucial element to our need to produce well-timed & effective messages. Our Club Facebook page, and the Coaches & Team Managers group have been fundamental in allowing us to stay in contact with our members and encourage interaction amongst our volunteer-based community. We have also invested significant time on ensuring the Club website remains up to date, and a central source of information for new and existing members alike. We are mindful that not everyone uses social media, and always try

to ensure that messages & updates are presented via the website in a timely manner. The website is designed to provide season-specific information, as well as details regarding team managing & coaching, and the Club policies.



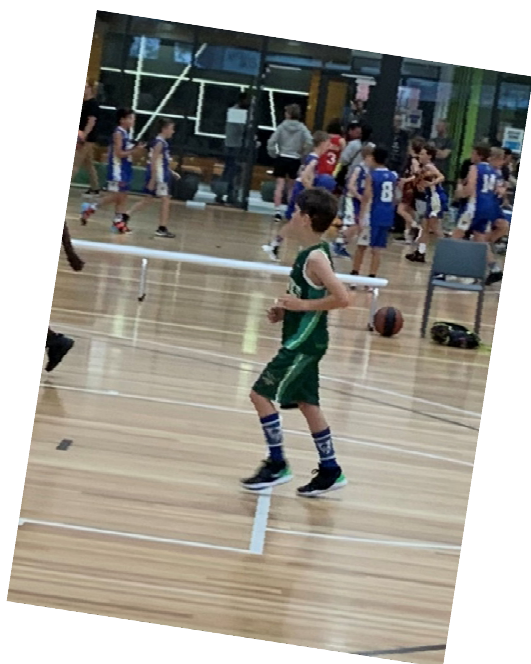
Whilst face-to-face contact was not possible throughout much of the year, we have tried to remain accessible to our members, through online coaching clinics, online TEAMMO training and conducting our first ever Team Manager information session. We hope to continue to provide opportunities for knowledge sharing, and welcome feedback and suggestions going forward.



**Andrea Bates**  
*Communications*



## Victorian Junior Basketball League - VJBL



The Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL) is a representative program that helps to

develop talented players of all levels across Victoria.

Vermont Vultures is a destination club for VJBL, we currently have 92 players who play representative basketball, 69 males and 33 females. This represents approximately 20% of our GEBC players.

This year Nunawading Spectres (VJBL representative club)) under 14 boys and girls both qualified for the National Club Championships where we had 8 players from Vermont Vultures qualify in their respective teams. The Club Championships is a huge achievement for both the club and players where they get to play against the best teams in Australia. Congratulations to James Watt, Jackson Blank, Jeth Wong, Tom Dammers, Charlie Wilson, Cailee Martin, Madi Kamphausen and Mackenzie Dieckmann. Unfortunately, this year these Championships were cancelled because of COVID.

*Natalie Adam*  
*Secretary/JDC Committee Member*



## ***Commitment to Growing the Girls Game***

As a club we are committed to growing girls basketball and as such have introduced a number of initiatives over the past 12 months. This includes offering free registration

for all new U8 girls for the Winter 2021 season and reducing registration fees to \$40 for the current Summer 2021/22 season. We were able to achieve this is part thanks to a \$1200 Telstra grant.

Another exciting initiative is our soon to be formed strategic alliance with Deakin Melbourne Boomers WNBL team. This will see all registered U8 to U14 girls receive a 2 hour training clinic with Melbourne Boomers players, discounts to Boomers Academy camps, clinics and merchandise, Vultures presentation day special guest appearances from players, 4 game memberships including supporter packs, half price tickets for adults and priority access to finals tickets at the State Basketball Centre. The alliance is the first of its kind for both Vermont Vultures and Deakin Melbourne Boomers.



***Alix Lamb***  
***Vice President***

## ***Awards & Recognition***

### ***Award Winners***

*Andrew Halsall Coaching Award – Matt Cavell*



### ***Service Recognition***

*JDC Representative – Natalie Adam*

*JDC Representative – Alix Lamb*

*MEBA Board Member – Gavin Catto*

*Ringwood Hawks Assistant/Acting Coach – Brendan Jackson*

*Association Grading Rep – Natalie Adam*

*Association Grading Rep – Ashley Brown*

*Association Grading Rep – Matt Cavell*

*Head Age Group Coordinator – Hamish Blank*

*Age Group Coordinator – Sally Jephcott*

*Age Group Coordinator – Hamish Blank*

*Age Group Coordinator – Kerrie Batten*

*Age Group Coordinator – Ashley Brown*

*Age Group Coordinator – Alix Lamb*

*Age Group Coordinator – Natalie Adam*

*Age Group Coordinator – Brendan Jackson*

*Age Group Coordinator – Gavin Catto*

*Age Group Coordinator – Matt Cavell*

## Thank you to our Partners

### LEISURE BRANDS AGENCIES



FOREST HILL  
COLLEGE

**Mullauna College.**



*Eva Burrows*  
College

**iMPACT**  
SPORTS PROMOTIONS

