



ANNUAL REPORT

2019

For the period 1 Jan 2019 – 31 Dec 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[CHAIRPERSONS REPORT](#)

[GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT](#)

[COMPETITIONS](#)

[DEVELOPMENT](#)

[TOURNAMENTS](#)

[GOLD RUSH](#)

[REPRESENTATIVE & NATIONAL RECOGNITION](#)

[FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)





ANNUAL REPORT 2019

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson's Report

The Board's goal for 2019 was to get back to our conceptualised purpose of governance, something that has been difficult over the past few years, as our focus was on ensuring we had a solid foundation in place after our financial setback in 2014. We started the first 6 months of the year well, however, with the resignation of Justin Ludlow in August 2019, our focal point shifted from a governance role to ensuring the operational and financial function of the organisation was maintained until a replacement for Justin was found.

The Board would like to thank Justin Ludlow for the commitment he has given our organisation since his appointment in 2015. Through his leadership Justin has managed to get our organisation back into a sound financial and operational state. We would also like to thank Greg Brockbank and Natalie Visger for the work they did during the absence of a General Manager. It is a credit to Justin and his team that the organisation was able to run so smoothly during the 5-month transition period before Peter Drew took on the General Manager role in December.

At the end of December we also lost another valuable employee, with Development Officer, Natalie Visger, leaving Basketball Otago to pursue tertiary education. Thank you Natalie for the work you have done in development over the past few years and all the best with your studies.

Despite the changes to our operational staff, we were still able to reach all of our strategic goals for 2019. While it is exciting that the growth of our sport is still continuing, particularly at grass roots level, it brings with it new challenges that must be met to ensure the quality of our product remains high.

While we posted a surplus of just over \$20,000 for 2019, it is important to note that this was mainly due to reduction in wages from not having a General Manager in place for a number of months. The growing numbers in our participants is still not matched by an increase in funding, and it is important that we continue to look at ways to increase our income to ensure that we meet all of our strategic goals.

One of the success stories of 2019 was the emergence of an Otago NBL franchise, which was granted entry into the 2021 NBL Season. It is important to note that the franchise is independent to Basketball Otago, and as such will not have any financial or operational impact on our organisation. That being said, both organisations have agreed that they will work together to ensure a development pathway is offered to our age group players.

Despite the challenges of 2019, it has still been a successful year for basketball in Otago, both on and off the court. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank and



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

congratulate Justin, Greg, Natalie and Joelene for the hard work they have done meeting our strategic goals at an operational level, particularly given the financial limitations they work under. Thank you also to the many volunteers who give up their time to coach, manage, referee or provide administrative support. We could not survive as an organisation without you.

Finally, tonight we farewell Board Member Fraser Jopson. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Fraser for the dedication he has given during his time on the Board. We are very fortunate to have such committed people in our Association. We look forward to welcoming a new Board Member tonight, and will continue through 2020 to ensure we meet our strategic goals, and aspire to being the “sport of choice in Otago”.

Angela Ruske
Chairperson

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

2019 was a year of continued success and growth, as well as a year of significant change for Basketball Otago.

Firstly, I would like to reinforce what our Chair has said regarding the departure of Justin Ludlow and Natalie Visger. Justin had a huge impact on Basketball Otago. He came into the role at an extremely challenging time for Otago basketball and worked tirelessly and successfully to get Basketball Otago back into the positive position it is now. Justin put in a huge amount of time, effort, skill, and commitment to that mission, and on behalf of the Basketball Otago I would like to thank him for that great contribution and achievement. It is also great to see that Justin is still keen to remain an active part of the Basketball Otago scene and to still contribute.



Our Development Officer, Natalie Visger, was also hugely influential in her 4 years with Basketball Otago in developing players, teams, coaches, and referees, and of course as a player when she helped the Otago Gold Rush to win the WBC title in 2018. Congratulations and thank you to Nat.

So in a way, 2019 marked the end of a very successful but challenging era where Basketball Otago had to undergo a difficult recovery phase. Much of that hard recovery work has been done now, and in taking over as General Manager at the end of 2019, I am very much looking forward to now building on the successful foundations that have been laid over those last 4 years and working with the Otago basketball community to help steer Otago basketball into further success and increased sustainability over the coming years.



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

There were plenty of successes for Otago basketball in 2019, and also some ongoing challenges. Basketball in Otago continued its very high popularity, especially in schools. Basketball is now the highest participation sport in schools in Otago and in 2019 we had 297 teams competing in the schools competitions. It was another successful club season, and congratulations go to Magic Basketball Club who again won the men's title, and Pacific Magic who won the women's title.

An ongoing challenge with our competitions in 2019 was once again referees unfortunately. Firstly, it is a huge challenge to get enough referees onto the court with so many teams in the various competitions now. We can't thank enough the referees who put themselves forward each week, and without them we simply would not have our sport. A big thank you to Greg Brockbank for somehow getting referees onto the court for every game which is a job of gigantic scale, and also to the Otago Basketball Referees Association for their ongoing support with that. The second big challenge with our referees is unfortunately that some coaches and players are still conducting themselves in an inappropriate manner towards the referees, which is driving more of our referees, particularly our young ones, away from the sport. We must change the culture of the sport in this respect otherwise we will be in serious danger of competitions having to referee themselves. This will be a major focus for Basketball Otago moving forward.

We had some excellent results with our Otago representative teams in 2019, including our Under 23 women's team performing so well to come second at the Nationals and a number of our other age group teams finishing in high positions. A huge thank you to all the coaches, managers, and everyone else who helped to make these teams happen. It is an enormous commitment to take this on and Basketball Otago literally couldn't put our representative teams on the floor without that support. Congratulations to Zoe Richards, Nicole Ruske, and Hannah Matehaere on being selected to represent New Zealand. Congratulations also to Gavin Briggs on being appointed as coach of the Junior Tall Blacks for the World Championships qualifying tournament, and congratulations to Natalie Visger and Brent Matehaere on being appointed as Assistant Coaches for national junior teams.

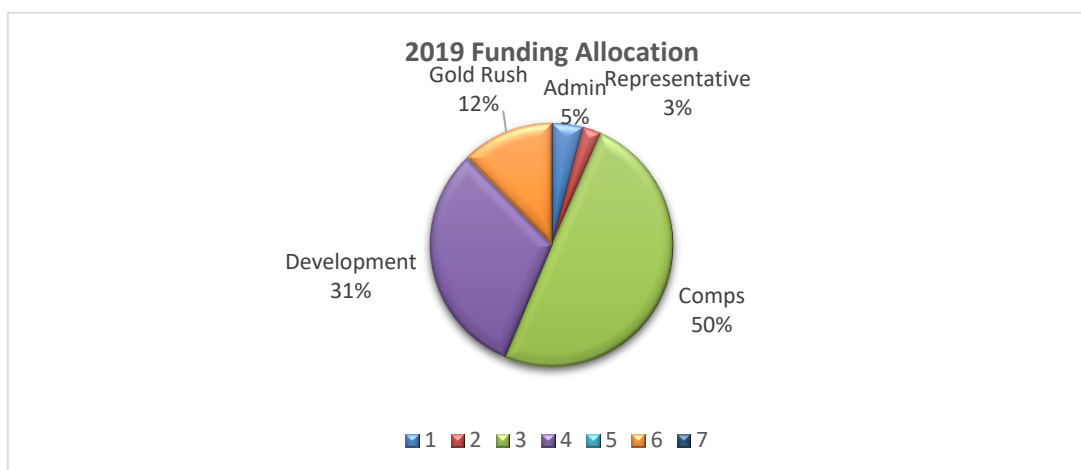
The Otago Gold Rush struggled early on in the 2019 season with a squad that was rebuilding somewhat after winning the title in 2018, but they finished the season strongly to finish 5th. We are now looking forward to the very exciting opportunities that are now developing for the Women's NBL in NZ, and the opportunities that can provide to the Otago Gold Rush and the women's game overall. A big thank you to Greg Brockbank, Jan Schiffer, and everyone else who supported with the Gold Rush campaign in 2019.

While the Otago Nuggets were still not officially operational in 2019, Otago did put a men's team out against the Southland Sharks and the Canterbury Knights in friendly games where they acquitted themselves very strongly and demonstrated that even without having a team in the NBL, we were still producing and developing strong local

talent here in Otago. It's fantastic to now see that talent showing just what it can do with the Otago Nuggets coming back onto the NZ basketball map and back into the limelight where our basketball fans want them.

In our development programmes, Natalie Visger launched our early morning sessions of the Basketball Otago Academy Programme to help develop our talented 15-17 year olds. We continued with our Diggers and Miners programmes to help get new youngsters introduced to the game, and in partnership with Basketball NZ, we launched our new 'Girls Got Game' programme to get more young girls hooked on basketball.

As always, finances are a critical part of our annual operations. In 2019 we were well supported by our funding partners, in particular our support from the Otago Community Trust, Bendigo Valley Sport & Charity Foundation, and the Lion Foundation. We also received valuable funding support from CERT, The Southern Trust, Air Rescue, the NZ Racing Board, and Basketball NZ via the NZ Community Trust. Overall this brought us approximately \$170,000 in grant funding. Thank you so much to all those partners for helping us to make basketball happen in Otago.



Support from our sponsors was crucial in being able to keep the Otago Gold Rush competing in the WBC. So a big thank you to the Gold Rush lead sponsor 'Am I Fit', as well as Target Accounting, Viridian, and Stirling Sports.

The net result of this was that Basketball Otago was able to achieve an end of year surplus of just over \$20,000. This being partly due to not having a General Manager in post for a number of months. This is a very positive result and helps the organisation to re-establish itself financially. Moving forward it is the objective of Basketball Otago to achieve a moderate year on year surplus and develop a more robust level of financial reserves to create greater business security and sustainability. With basketball now the highest participation sport in Otago, and the fastest growing sport in NZ, we need to strongly leverage the huge potential and the growing market strength of basketball in the sporting landscape of Otago and New Zealand.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who helped to make basketball happen successfully in 2019. I have mentioned many here already, but a big thank you also to all of our volunteer helpers, without which we would not have our sport. Thank you also to our other sporting partners, Basketball NZ, Sport Otago, Otago Secondary Schools Sports Association, and the Edgar Centre. Big thanks also to the Basketball Otago board who continue to give their time and expertise to supporting basketball in Otago.

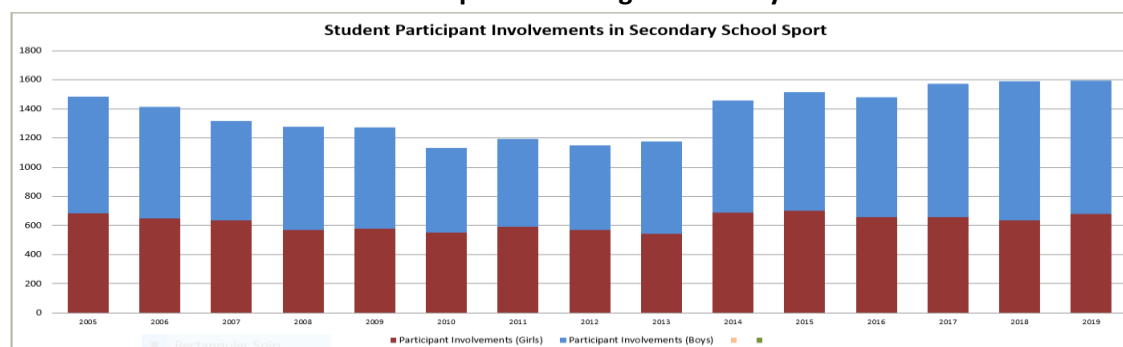
In my brief time in this role so far it has been really great to see how positively and cooperatively the Otago basketball community works together to help make it all happen successfully, and I very much look forward to working positively with all people and partners through 2020 and beyond.

Peter Drew
General Manager

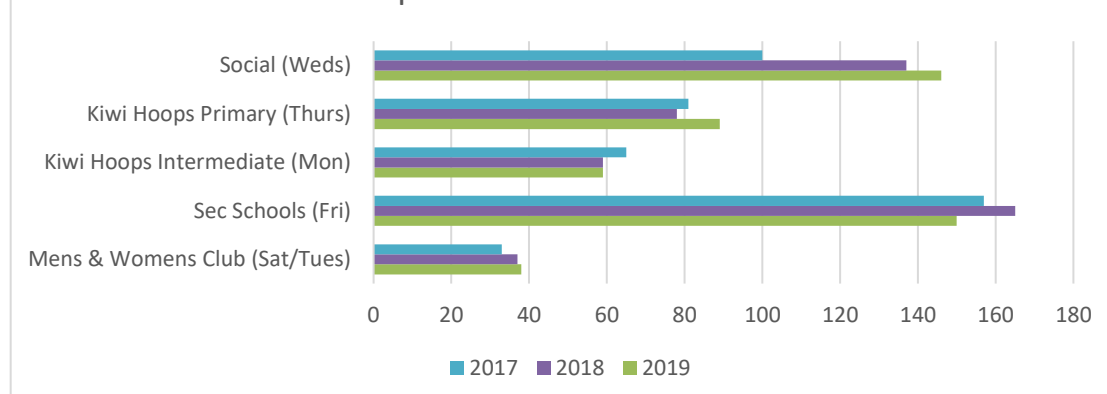
COMPETITIONS

2019 showed continued very high team numbers for our schools competitions. While we got a slight decrease in our Secondary School numbers due to some specific factors, we had an increase in our number of Kiwi Hoops teams (Primary School and Intermediate), and we had a total of 297 schools teams. Our numbers of teams playing Club Basketball held steady.

Basketball Participation in Otago Secondary Schools



Competition Team Entries 2019



Overall the total number of teams in Otago basketball in 2019 increased from 476 to 482.

	2019	2018	2017	2016
Club League	38	37	33	43
Adult Social	146	137	100	106
Secondary	150	165	157	145
Intermediate	59	59	65	63
Primary School	89	78	81	78
Total	482	476	436	435

2019 CLUB TROPHY WINNERS

Men's

A Grade	Mid City Magic
A Reserve	OBHS Elite
B Grade	South Pac Kings

Women's

A Grade	South Pac Magic A
B Grade	South Pac Coasters

DEVELOPMENT

In 2019 we continued to provide a variety of development programmes designed to bring youngsters into the game and also to support our most talented players. These were again delivered by our Development Officer Natalie Visger along with a number of our best coaches in Otago.

Our schools programme was delivered to schools in Dunedin and across the wider Otago area, including North Otago and Central Otago. We continued our weekly Diggers and Miners programmes every term at the Edgar Centre to introduce 5-10 year olds to basketball, and also conducted Holiday Camps every term for both beginner level players and advanced players. These camps continued to be popular and well attended.





ANNUAL REPORT 2019

In Term 4, with the support of the Bendigo Valley Sport & Charity Foundation, Basketball Otago launched our Academy Programme to provide early morning skills and development sessions for our best 15-17 year old players. We again finished the year with the Development League (D-League) which proved popular again in term four.

TOURNAMENTS

2019 saw Basketball Otago host various local and national tournaments during the year, including the following events:

- Zone 6 pre-season tournament
- Junior Secondary Schools Premier Event
- Junior Secondary School 3x3 tournament
- NZ Under 19 Nationals
- Women's Basketball Championship (WBC)

It is an important part of our operations to deliver high quality tournaments and events for our local players and our visiting players as it establishes our professional credibility and helps us to secure significant events and partners in the future. We rely hugely on our volunteer workforce to help organise and deliver these events, so a huge thank you to everyone who helped us to run these events.

Thank you for the continued positive support from the Edgar Centre who are a vital partner in securing and helping to host our tournaments, so a big thank you to Blair Crawford and the rest of the Edgar Centre team.



GOLD RUSH

Backing up from winning the WBC title in 2018 was always going to be a tough task. The level of resources that were able to be put into this campaign in 2019 were not at the level that Basketball Otago would have ideally wanted, which made it a challenging task for coach Greg Brockbank and Team Manager Jan Schiffer who did an excellent job.

After a slow start to the season, the Gold Rush came through and played strongly in the second half of the season to finish in 5th position. It is a huge and challenging task in all respects to put a team on the floor for this type of competition, and very big thanks go to Greg and Jan for doing a great job with the team. Also big thanks to the Gold Rush main sponsors Am I Fit, as well as our other supporting sponsors Viridian, Target Accounting, and Stirling Sports.



REPRESENTATIVE

During 2019 Basketball Otago again provided representative team opportunities for many players and sent teams to national championships across all of the age groups held across NZ.

There were some outstanding performances with a number of our teams achieving top 6 finishes. Our Under 23 Women's team played brilliantly to reach the national final where they were eventually beaten by Waikato. In other age groups, our Under 17 girls team performed outstandingly to finish 4th, and our Under 19 men and Under

15 girls both did well to finish 5th. In addition to this, our Under 13 girls team won the South Island tournament which is a great sign for the future.

Congratulations to all the players who achieved selection for an Otago representative team in 2019, and once again a massive thank you to the coaches, managers, and all the other volunteers who helped make this happen.



NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Basketball Otago congratulates the achievements of our local players, coaches, & managers on their national recognition in 2019:

- Zoe Richards: NZ Tall Ferns
- Nicole Ruske: NZ Women's 3x3 Team
- Hannah Matehaere: NZ Under 19 Team
- Gavin Briggs: NZ Junior Tall Blacks Head Coach
- Natalie Visger: NZ Under 16 Girls Assistant Coach
- Brent Matehaere: NZ Under 17 Boys Assistant Coach
- Glenda Kaan: NZ Junior Tall Blacks Team Manager

Congratulations also to our local referees who were appointed to referee at national events:

- Nathan Buchanan: Under 19 Nationals & National Secondary Schools
- Dylan Mead: Under 17 Nationals
- Britt Young: Under 15 Nationals
- Angus Henderson: Under 15 Nationals



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

2019 REPRESENTATIVE RESULTS - NATIONALS

Under 23: Men - 11th Women – 2nd

Under 19: Men - 6th Women – 8th

Under 17: Boys – 12th Girls – 4th

Under 15: Boys – 6th Girls – 5th

Under 13 Boys: (Regionals)

Otago Gold 4th A-Grade

Otago Blue 6th B-Grade

Under 13 Girls: (Regionals)

Otago Gold 1st A-Grade

Otago Blue 2nd B-Grade

2019 REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

Under 13 Boys A, B & Development teams

Finn Apai, Harrison, Bezett, Jake Hill, Jeremiah Vaitupu, Joseph Devereux-Kilpa, Kevin Acero, Noah Everiss, Oak Chisholm, Tate Cameron, Tom Wilson, Angus Burns, Benjamin Casey, Brooklyn Zampach, Ethan Hudson, Jayden Torro, Josh Vink, Rayyed Rahman, Rian Gillon, Tyla McIntosh, Daniel Hudson, Harry Townsend, Jack Burton, Jack Morrison, Jackson Hamilton, Levi Simpson, Luke Tili, Nico Harvey, Ruben Karawana, Thomas Oliver

Coaches: Farrell Cameron, Phil Hudson, Gareth Harvey, Mike Simpson

Managers: Jan McNight, Janine McIntosh, Nicky Burns, Bevan Townsend

Under 13 Girls A, B, & Development teams

Caitlin Shaw-Ryan, Equator Taumaloto, Holly Lightfoot, Tayla Twemlow, Sarah Gallacher, Georgia Wilson, Isabella Wairangi, Charli Sinclair, Kiana Brown, Lucy Morrison, Meg Cameron, Milla Cashmore, Ryleigh Makiiti, Teuila Tasi-Cordtz, Shanti Kara, Bree Robinson, Charlotte Aburn, Holly Rowcroft, Jannah Hooper, Jessica Tupai, Millie MacKenzie, Sophie Tizard, Tilly Ruthven

Head Coaches: Gary Smyth, Markham Brown, Paul Morrison, Paul Twemlow

Managers: Jodine MacKenzie, Kylie Cashmore, Jen Kara, Abbie Lyons



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Under 15 Boys

Bronson Monga, Dylan Pledger, George Grant, Jacob Waide, Max Napier, Moka Elone, Noah McDowall, Ollie Cashmore, Ocar Cameron, Max O'Connor, Will Coggan

Head Coach: Darcy Knox

Manager: Craig McDowell

Under 15 Girls

Asha Robinson, Danni Thomson, Elise Southby, Laura Ring, Neve Beattie, Ryan Elizabeth Dailey, Shyah Beattie, Sophia Tutty, Te Atawhai Campbell, Tessa Milton, Zoe Melville

Head Coach: Steve Robinson

Assistant Coach: Brett Dailey

Manager: Lee-Ann Carline

Under 17 Boys

Angus Cameron, Anton Stoddard, Benji Freeman, Cam Forde, Eric Peita, Gabe Gallager, Joshua Reeves, Lachie Cameron, Ollie Sinclair, Rikki Kerr, Sam Hope, Duran Cooper, Danyon Ashcroft, Hamish Faulks, Siua Fonua

Head Coach: Hamish Robertson

Manager: Stacy Peita

Under 17 Girls

Anabelle Ring, Anita Samasoni, Xanthe Herbert, Brooke Callon, Grace Southby, Ella Gomez, Ella MacKenzie, Maddie Loudon, Oceana Campbell, Isabella Henderson, Libby Briggs, Abby Harris

Head Coach: Bronwyn Kjestrup

Manager: Kathleen Ring

Under 19 Men

Michael Ruske, Dallas Hartman, Clarke Aiono, Tom Clayton, Shaquille Berwick, Matt Pyper, Alex Byars, Angus Henderson, Mitchell Hugan, Tyler Summers, Will Edwards

Head Coach: Dean Ruske

Co-Managers: Liane Topham-Kindley

U19 Women

Alex Bennett, Annalise Wilson, Dana Ballantyne, Dre Whaanga, Hannah Matehaere, Kendra Robinson, Kyra Mcentyre, Libby Renwick, Madi Sutherland, Olivia Gain, Phoebe Aburn, Talei Pelasio

Head Coach: Gerard Mullin



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Assistant Coaches: Maine Johnson

Manager: Keri Ballantine

U23 Men

Michael Ruske, Aaron Roydhouse, Ben Reeves, Harry Thorpe, Jamie MacDonald, Mitchell Hughan, Nathan Hanna, Tai Flavell, Connor Coll, Tom Cowie, Logan Dicker, Joe Ahie

Head Coach: Greg Brockbank

Managers: Angela Ruske

U23 Women

Alana Wouters, Aleisha Ruske, Alex Bennett, Annabelle Ring, Brittany Richards, Jennifer O'Connell, Kate Edwards, Kaylee Bezett, Libby Van Harselaar, Nicole Ruske, Olivia O'Neill, Zoe Richards

Head Coach: Dean Ruske

Managers: Kath Richards