



2026

ANNUAL REPORT





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Wagga Basketball acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradjuri people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends our respect to all First Nations Peoples in Wagga Wagga and our surrounding areas.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 2025/26 year has been one of continued growth, stronger development pathways and increasingly deliberate planning for the future of basketball in Wagga Wagga. It was also the first full year of implementing the WWBA Strategic Plan 2025–2028, which has helped the Board focus not only on what we deliver each week, but also on the Association we want to become.

Domestic basketball continued to grow, with 261 team entries across the Autumn and Spring competitions—an increase of 5.2% on 2025. Spring reached new participation records, with 88 junior teams and 48 senior teams—the largest competitions WWBA has delivered. This growth is encouraging, but it is also placing increasing pressure on court availability, scheduling and the people who support our competitions.

Our development programs experienced particularly strong demand. The WWBA Academy attracted 102 registrations, while Blazing Hoops grew from 13 registrations in Autumn to 68 in Spring. Aussie Hoops also recorded 108 registrations in Term 3, its highest intake during the reporting period. These programs provide important entry points and development opportunities and will support the establishment of an Under 8 competition.

Our junior representative program fielded nine teams involving 89 players. Four teams qualified for the Southern Junior League finals, with the Under 14 Boys progressing to the Division 2 Grand Final. The Under 12 Boys and Under 16 Boys Blue qualified for the Basketball NSW State Cup, while the Under 16 Girls capped off a year of development in Division 1 by winning the Division 3 championship at the John Martin Country Cup.

At senior level, the Under 20 Women's tournament victory demonstrated the talent available within the Association and provided momentum for rebuilding the women's pathway. While the Youth League Women's team later had to be withdrawn, we remain committed to establishing a sustainable senior women's representative program. The Waratah League Men improved significantly during the season and demonstrated that they could compete with any team on their day. Our ambition for 2027 is to qualify for the finals.

A major focus has been continuing to bring our junior and senior representative programs together as one club. We want our junior players to see a clear pathway into senior representative basketball and to feel connected to the players and teams at the highest level of our Association. The introduction of integrated uniforms across our junior and senior teams will create a stronger and more consistent identity. Regardless of age or competition, our teams will take the court representing the same club, wearing the same colours and sharing the same pride in playing for Wagga Wagga.

Zac Maloney continued developing the Wagga Way across our representative program, with greater consistency now evident from the Under 12 teams through to the Open Men. The appointment of Luke Graham as Referee Coordinator has also provided renewed structure for referee development and accreditation, including transitioning our existing referees into the Basketball Australia framework and system.



Our growth reinforces the need for long-term investment in basketball facilities. We will continue working with PCYC and Wagga Wagga City Council, advocating for three additional courts at the Equex Centre and sufficient city-wide court capacity to host Southern Junior League rounds. Securing appropriate facilities will be critical to the continued growth and sustainability of basketball in Wagga Wagga.

Sponsorship remains essential to keeping basketball affordable. WWBA secured \$64,050 in cash and in-kind support during the year, directly subsidising the cost of competitions, representative programs and development opportunities. I sincerely thank every sponsor and partner, particularly the William Farrer Hotel as our whole-of-club major sponsor and Andersens Flooring for expanding its support to include junior competition and scoreboard sponsorship.

WWBA remains in a strong financial position. The Board is now looking to formalise a reserves framework to protect the Association's long-term financial sustainability and ensure funds are available for future facilities, strategic projects, asset replacement and unexpected financial pressures. This will help ensure that the Association's current strength is translated into lasting benefits for future players and members.

The Board continued improving the Association's governance, including updating the Competition By-Laws and moving to two-monthly meetings with a stronger strategic focus. However, three Director positions remain vacant, and recruiting a Treasurer is an immediate priority. We also intend to establish committees and working groups that allow more members to contribute to the Association without taking on the full responsibilities of becoming a Director.

Finally, thank you to our Board, operational team, coaches, referees, court supervisors, volunteers, players, families and supporters. WWBA's progress is only possible because of the time, effort and commitment contributed by people across the Association. We have much to be proud of, but also significant work ahead as we continue building one club and a stronger, more sustainable future for basketball in Wagga Wagga.

Scott Gray
President





OUR VISION AND MISSION

The Wagga Wagga Basketball Association is the governing body for basketball in Wagga Wagga and surrounding communities. WWBA provides domestic competitions, representative pathways and development programs for players of different ages, abilities and backgrounds.

OUR VISION

For basketball to become a sport of choice in Wagga Wagga and for the Association to be recognised as a powerhouse across the state.

OUR MISSION

To operate a professional and progressive Association that represents the interests of basketball, engages its members and is inclusive of the wider community, while providing a safe and supportive environment that creates opportunities for everyone to be the best they can be.

OUR CULTURE - THE WAGGA WAY

- We put people first
- We strive for excellence
- We lead by example
- We develop the whole person
- We are inclusive and supportive
- We build community
- We celebrate success—big and small



OUR PEOPLE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WWBA was governed by a six-member Board during 2025/26, with three Director positions remaining vacant. Recruiting additional Directors remains an important priority, with the appointment of a Treasurer the immediate focus.



Scott Gray
President



Kate Hardy
Secretary



Bec Salmon
Communications Director



Mel Pankhurst
Junior Rep Director



Mel Risby
Junior Comp Director



Ben Colenso
Senior Rep Director



OPERATIONAL TEAM

The Board was supported by WWBA's operational team, court supervisors, coaches, referees and volunteers. Their contribution was essential to delivering competitions, development programs and representative basketball throughout the year.

Position	Name
Player and Coach Development Manager	Zac Maloney
Association Administrator	Cathy Edwards
Finance Officer	Carol Pevere
Aussie Hoops Coordinator	Isabel Forbes
Referee Coordinator	Luke Graham
Referee and Court Supervisor	Raeleen Honeysett
Court Supervisor	Mick Small
Court Supervisor	Leah Sandral



OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

The WWBA Strategic Plan 2025–2028 provides the framework for the continued growth and development of basketball in Wagga Wagga and across the Riverina. It sets out the Association’s priorities and provides a clear link between our vision, the Wagga Way and the programs, competitions and pathways we deliver.

The plan recognises that continued participation growth must be supported by stronger facilities, sustainable finances, capable people and clear development pathways. It balances opportunities for people to begin and enjoy basketball with WWBA’s ambition to achieve success at regional and state levels.

Our Strategic Plan is built around six pillars:



The Strategic Plan is implemented through annual priorities overseen by the WWBA Board and supported by staff, committees and volunteers. Progress is reviewed during the year and reported to members through the Annual Report and Annual General Meeting.

The following assessment outlines the progress made during 2025/26 and the areas that will require further attention over the coming year.



STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

Strategic priority	Status	2025/26 progress	2026/27 focus
Competitions		261 team entries, including record Spring junior and senior competitions.	Manage capacity, review competition structures and strengthen female participation and retention.
High Performance		Four SJL finalists, one grand finalist, a Country Cup championship and two State Cup qualifiers.	Win a Division 1 SJL championship, qualify for the Waratah League Men's finals and strengthen participation in Basketball NSW high-performance pathways.
Facilities		Existing court access was maintained, but participation growth continues to increase pressure on available facilities.	Advocate for the Equex expansion, explore opportunities with PCYC and advocate for sufficient city-wide court capacity.
Programs		Strong participation across Aussie Hoops, Blazing Hoops and the Academy.	Look to expand entry level programs, establish the Under 8 competition and continue planning for All Abilities Hoops.
Officials		A Referee Coordinator was appointed, accreditation work progressed and representative referee requirements were met.	Continue referee recruitment, accreditation, mentoring and development.
Governance, People and Engagement		Competition By-Laws were updated and Board meetings moved to a two-monthly cycle with a stronger strategic focus.	Recruit a Treasurer and two additional Directors, establish committees and formalise financial reserves.



COMPETITIONS

Domestic basketball continued to grow during 2026, with 261 team entries across the Autumn and Spring competitions—an increase of 13 teams, or 5.2%, compared with 2025. Junior entries increased from 162 to 168, while senior entries increased from 86 to 93.

Spring 2026 recorded the Association's largest junior and senior competitions to date, with 88 junior teams and 48 senior teams. The Under 20 Z League, introduced during the Autumn season, provided an additional competition and development opportunity for older junior and emerging senior players. Women's Division 1 was also incorporated into the broader Women's Competition to create a more sustainable structure.

This growth is a positive sign for basketball in Wagga Wagga, but it is also placing increasing pressure on available court space, scheduling, referee coverage and game-night operations. The number of games required on Monday and Tuesday nights has resulted in some competitions finishing later than is desirable on school nights, affecting players, families, referees and volunteers.

WWBA must ensure continued competition growth does not come at the expense of the participant experience. Regular late games, uneven grading, forfeits and limited referee coverage can discourage players and families from registering or continuing with basketball. These issues are interconnected and must be considered alongside court capacity and the number of teams within each division when future competition structures are reviewed.

Participation and retention among girls aged 14 years and older remain particular areas of concern. WWBA will continue exploring competition structures and development pathways that strengthen female participation and provide a clearer transition from junior into senior basketball.

Following the Spring season, WWBA will undertake a broader review of its domestic competition structure. The review will consider competition nights, age groups, divisions, grading arrangements, game times and available court capacity, with the aim of developing a structure that can support continued growth while remaining accessible and sustainable for players, families, referees and volunteers.

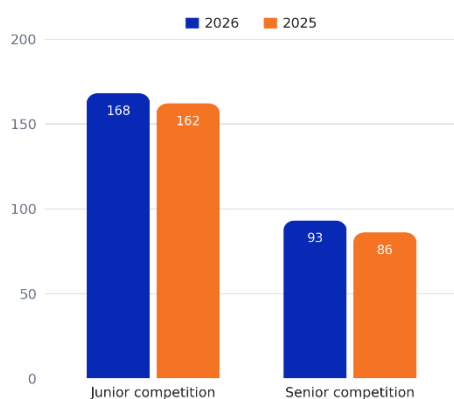
As part of this work, WWBA may investigate moving towards a club-based competition model. A club structure could provide greater consistency and accountability around team formation, coaching, training and administration while creating a stronger organised and social competition environment.

If a club-based model is pursued, it would likely begin within junior competitions and be introduced progressively following consultation with players, families, coaches and other stakeholders. No decision has been made, but the continued growth of basketball means the Association must consider whether its existing competition model remains the most appropriate structure for the future.

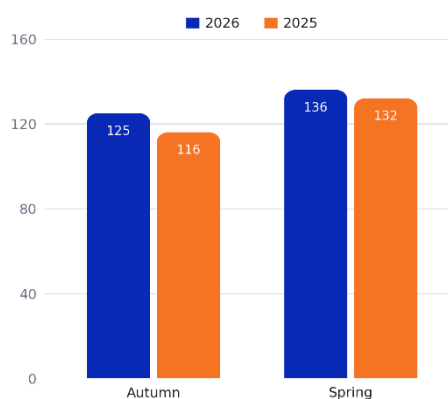
WWBA also plans to establish an Under 8 competition, providing younger players with a clearer transition from introductory programs such as Blazing Hoops into regular domestic basketball.



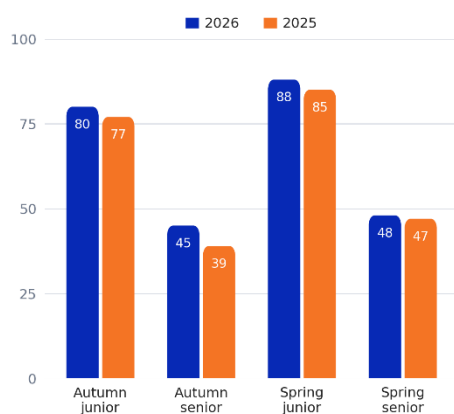
Team Entries by Competition



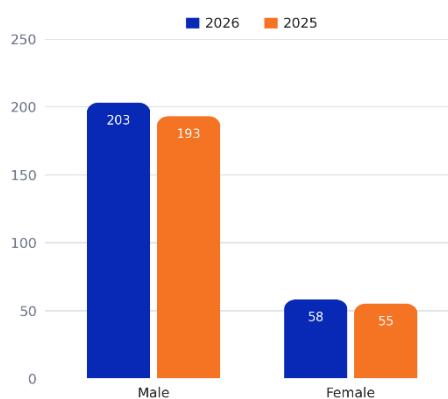
Team Entries by Season



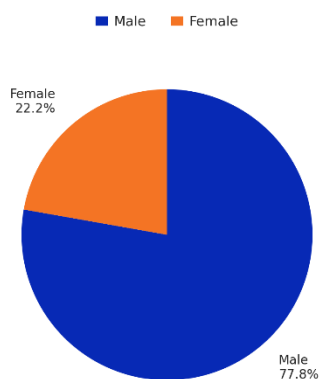
Team Entries by Season and Competition



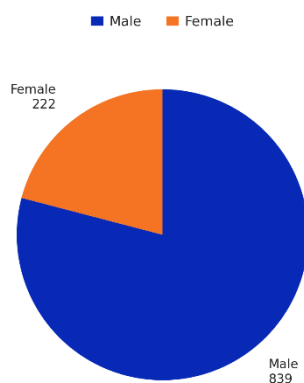
Team Entries by Gender



Team Percentage by Gender



Active Players by Gender



KEY TRENDS

Measure	2025	2026	Change
Junior team entries	162	168	+ 6 / 3.7%
Senior team entries	86	93	+ 7 / 8.1%
Total team entries	248	261	+ 13 / 5.2%
Autumn competition	116	125	+ 9 / 7.8%
Spring competition	132	136	+ 4 / 3.0%
Female team entries	55	58	+ 3 / 5.5%







JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM

WWBA fielded nine junior representative teams involving 89 players in the 2026 Southern Junior League, compared with 11 teams and 110 players in 2025. The program continued to provide young players with opportunities to represent Wagga Wagga, compete against leading regional associations and progress through higher-performance pathways.

Four WWBA teams qualified for the Southern Junior League finals, with the Under 14 Boys progressing to the Division 2 Grand Final. The Under 12 Boys and Under 16 Boys Blue also qualified for the Basketball NSW State Cup. Qualification represented an important achievement and provided both players and coaches with valuable experience at the next level of competition.

The Under 16 Girls capped off a year of development in Southern Junior League Division 1 by winning the Division 3 championship at the John Martin Country Cup.

Seven WWBA players were selected to participate in the 2026 John Davidson Country Jamboree in Griffith: Myah Kelly, Bailey Anning, Tyson Dunstan-Radnedge, Patrick Glazier, Thomas Schneider, Jace Wade and Oscar Warden. Their selections represent an important early step in the Basketball NSW development pathway and provided valuable experience alongside players and coaches from across regional NSW.

WWBA players also continued to gain recognition through higher-performance pathways. Rosie Pankhurst progressed through the Basketball NSW Under 14 Country Performance Pathway and was selected for the 2026 D-League Under 14 Girls Country program. She was subsequently selected to compete at the 2027 Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup. Lachie Byrne was selected for the 2026 D-League Under 16 Boys Country program and was subsequently named for the 2027 Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup, while Samuel Edmonds was selected to attend the BNSW Under 17 Heroes Challenge. Cooper Lloyd, Anneliese Azer and Emily Hardy were selected for Southern Sports Academy programs, while Haven Patu, Rosie Pankhurst and Hamish Winter were selected for the Basketball NSW Heroes Challenge.

WWBA coaches also contributed beyond the Association. Zac Maloney served with the NSW Kookaburras Under 14 Boys team that won the Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup, Ben Colenso was appointed assistant coach of the NSW Waratahs Under 14 Girls, and Jack Hutchison contributed at the Southern Cross Challenge. These appointments demonstrate the quality of coaches developing within WWBA and provide experience that can be brought back into the local representative program. The reduction in teams and player numbers from 2025 reinforces the need to continue strengthening recruitment and retention, particularly among female players. WWBA will also focus on increasing participation in Basketball NSW higher-performance pathways, developing greater coaching depth and supporting teams to progress into higher divisions. The Association's headline performance ambition for 2027 remains winning a Division 1 Southern Junior League championship.





KYLE THOMAS
CONSTRUCTIONS

IMAGING
ASSOCIATES



U16 HEAT



U18 HEAT BLUE



U18 HEAT ORANGE



SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM

The Waratah League Men improved significantly throughout the 2026 season. Although the team did not qualify for the finals, it demonstrated that it could compete with any team in the conference on its day.

The conference provided a strong and competitive standard of basketball and created an attractive senior pathway for players in Wagga Wagga and across the region. Continuing to build the program will help WWBA attract and retain talented players while giving our juniors a visible opportunity to progress into senior representative basketball without having to leave the Association.

The return of former WWBA juniors Wani Gwada and Ethan Drum, bringing valuable NBL1 experience back to their home association, was critical to the team's progress. Their return demonstrated the importance of maintaining strong connections with former players and building a program that people want to come back and represent.

Home crowds during the season were encouraging. WWBA will look to build on that support next season by improving the atmosphere and overall game-day experience and creating a stronger connection between our senior teams, junior players, members and supporters.

WWBA's performance ambition for 2027 is for the Waratah League Men to qualify for the finals while continuing to develop the playing depth, standards and culture required for sustained success.

The Under 20 Women won their tournament in November 2025, demonstrating the talent available within the Association. While the Youth League Women's team later had to be withdrawn due to injuries, relocations and player availability, WWBA remains committed to rebuilding sustainable senior representative opportunities.

WWBA is investigating options for Youth League and Under 20 teams for the coming season. These opportunities will depend on player availability, coaching capacity and the ability to establish teams that are competitive and sustainable. Further decisions will be made over the coming months as these factors become clearer.





DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

WWBA continued to expand its introductory and player-development programs during 2026, creating clearer pathways for children to begin basketball and progress into domestic and representative competitions.

Aussie Hoops remained a strong entry point, recording 92 registrations in Term 1, 79 in Term 2 and 108 in Term 3. The Term 3 result was the program's highest intake during the reporting period and demonstrates continuing demand from younger participants and families.

Blazing Hoops also grew significantly, with 68 registrations for Spring 2026 compared with 13 participants in Autumn. The Spring intake comprised 35 Under 8 and 33 Under 10 participants and exceeded the program's target of 56 registrations. The program provides introductory training before players transition into competition and is particularly important in attracting new participants.

The Academy attracted 102 registrations across its domestic and representative streams. The eight-week program provides structured skill development appropriate to each participant's experience and playing level, strengthening the connection between domestic basketball and higher-performance pathways.

We also delivered Sporting Schools programs at a number of local schools, including Sacred Heart, Willans Hill, Mater Dei, Lake Albert Public School and Ladysmith Public School. These programs provide an important opportunity to take basketball directly into schools, introduce children to the sport and build relationships with students, teachers and families. The next step is to strengthen the pathway from school-based participation into WWBA programs.

WWBA has also commenced planning for an All Abilities Hoops program. Delivering this program will broaden opportunities for people with disability to participate in basketball in a safe and supportive environment.

Continued growth across these programs is encouraging, but WWBA will need to ensure that coaching capacity, court availability and administrative support keep pace with demand.







REFEREES AND OFFICIALS

WWBA appointed Luke Graham as Referee Coordinator during 2026, providing renewed leadership and structure across referee recruitment, development, accreditation and retention.

WWBA has a promising group of referees progressing through its development pathway. Luke has been working to transition existing referees into the Basketball Australia accreditation framework while identifying outstanding accreditation and development requirements. The Association successfully met its referee commitments for both the Southern Junior League and Waratah League during 2026, with no significant coverage issues.

Stephen Chapman continued to make an outstanding contribution to the growth and development of WWBA's referee community. A quiet achiever with exceptional rules knowledge and refereeing ability, Stephen generously devoted countless hours to supporting and mentoring junior and senior referees. He also officiated numerous State League games to help WWBA meet its referee commitments and was appointed to the Senior Men's Division 1 Grand Final. His performances across several NBL1 games culminated in an appointment to an NBL1 Men's Elimination Final—an outstanding achievement and fitting recognition of his commitment and ability.

Harrison Gray was WWBA's sole referee selected for the 2026 Southern Junior League Finals. He was appointed to referee the Under 14 Girls Division 1 Grand Final, representing an important individual achievement and demonstrating the opportunities available through WWBA's referee-development pathway.

While good progress was made during 2026, continued growth in basketball participation will require a corresponding increase in both the number and capability of our referees. Our current referee pool can generally support up to four games operating concurrently. Any expansion beyond four courts will require additional referees, together with greater depth among experienced and appropriately accredited officials, to ensure the standard of officiating is maintained. WWBA will continue to explore strategies to recruit, develop and retain referees at all levels.

WWBA must also strengthen its pool of accredited scorebench officials for Waratah League games. Any expansion of the senior representative program—including the possible addition of Youth League or Waratah League Women's teams—would require WWBA to nominate additional referees and officials capable of operating at that standard. Building this capacity will be essential to ensuring that any future expansion is sustainable and does not place unreasonable pressure on the Association's existing referees and officials.



COACHING

Coach development continued to be a major focus for WWBA during 2026, led by Player and Coach Development Manager Zac Maloney. Zac worked closely with junior and senior representative coaches to improve their technical knowledge, planning and confidence, while building greater consistency across the Association's representative programs.

A key part of this work is the continued development of the Wagga Way—a consistent style of play, coaching approach and set of expectations across teams from Under 12 through to the Open Men's program. Zac is developing a coaching handbook supported by a series of instructional videos, training tools, session templates and other practical resources. These materials will provide coaches with clearer guidance while still allowing them to adapt their approach to the age, ability and needs of their players.

Zac has also supported coaches individually throughout the season, helping them plan training sessions, address areas for improvement and develop their overall coaching capability. This work is particularly important as WWBA continues to attract new coaches and seeks to build greater depth among experienced coaches who can mentor others and support the long-term growth of the program.

WWBA coaches also continued to gain experience through Basketball NSW programs during 2026. Zac was involved with the NSW Under 14 Boys Kookaburras, who won the Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup. Ben Colenso was appointed assistant coach of the NSW Under 14 Girls Waratahs, while Jack Hutchison contributed to the NSW program at the Southern Cross Challenge. Ben also served as head coach of the Southern Sports Academy Under 16 Girls team.

A number of other WWBA coaches participated in Basketball NSW coaching clinics during the year. These opportunities allow coaches to learn from experienced presenters, strengthen their technical knowledge and bring new ideas back into the Wagga program.

The progress made during 2026 reflects both the commitment of our coaches and the structured development work being led by Zac. Continuing to improve coach education, resources, mentoring and succession planning will remain essential to lifting standards across WWBA and ensuring the growth of the Association is supported by capable and confident coaches.







FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WWBA continued to maintain strong working relationships with PCYC Wagga Wagga and Wagga Wagga City Council during 2025–26. While changes to court access at PCYC were discussed earlier in the year, the Association’s existing access arrangements have remained in place.

Maintaining access to sufficient courts remains critical to the financial and operational sustainability of the Association. WWBA requires at least four courts to operate its competitions effectively and continued growth is placing increasing pressure on court availability, scheduling and supporting infrastructure. This challenge will become more significant if participation continues to increase or the Association expands its competitions and representative programs.

WWBA will continue working with PCYC to explore opportunities to strengthen the partnership and improve the facilities and equipment supporting basketball. This includes pursuing the longer-term objective identified in the Strategic Plan of establishing a Basketball Centre of Excellence in Wagga Wagga. The concept could incorporate improved scorebenches, scoreboards and playing equipment, together with technology and specialised training resources to support player, coach and official development.

During 2026, the Board also endorsed progressing with Pixellot as part of Basketball Australia’s national automated video platform. WWBA is working with Pixellot and PCYC Wagga Wagga on the installation and operating arrangements, with the aim of having the system available for the Autumn 2027 competition.

Pixellot will allow scheduled games to be automatically recorded and made available through the emerging Hoops TV platform. The system has the potential to provide livestreaming, video-on-demand and automated highlights while also supporting coaching, player development, game analysis and the review of incidents. It will provide families and supporters with greater access to games and represents an important improvement in the technology supporting basketball in Wagga Wagga.

Council’s development of the Equex Centre masterplan also presents an important opportunity to address Wagga Wagga’s longer-term indoor court needs. WWBA has advocated for three additional indoor courts at Equex, expanding the venue from three courts to six. This would provide greater capacity for local competitions and representative programs and strengthen Wagga Wagga’s ability to host Southern Junior League rounds, tournaments and other major basketball events.

Bolton Park Stadium remains identified for future demolition. WWBA will continue to advocate for any courts lost through redevelopment to be replaced and for Wagga Wagga to ultimately have access to at least 12 suitable indoor courts across the city. This level of capacity is required to support the continued growth of basketball and allow Wagga Wagga to host complete Southern Junior League rounds and larger regional events.

Court capacity remains one of the most significant risks to WWBA’s future growth.





PARTNERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship plays a critical role in keeping basketball affordable and accessible in Wagga Wagga. WWBA secured \$64,050 in cash and in-kind support during 2026. This support directly subsidises the cost of delivering competitions, representative programs, uniforms, equipment, facilities and player development. Without it, a much greater share of these costs would need to be recovered from players and families through higher registration and participation fees.

A major achievement was securing the William Farrer Hotel as WWBA's whole-of-club major sponsor. This partnership brought the junior and senior representative programs together under one principal sponsor, providing greater consistency across the Association and supporting WWBA's goal of operating as one club.

WWBA also expanded its partnership with Andersens Flooring during 2026. In addition to becoming a major junior competition sponsor, Andersens became WWBA's scoreboard sponsor, providing the business with a prominent whole-of-Association presence while delivering important financial support for competitions and operations.

Strong support was also received from McDonald's, Elite Cabinets, Regional Australia Bank, PCYC Wagga and the many local businesses that sponsored junior representative teams and individual senior representative players.

Every sponsorship contributes to reducing the financial burden on members while allowing WWBA to improve the quality and reach of its programs. WWBA sincerely thanks all sponsors and partners for investing in basketball and helping create opportunities for players, coaches, referees and families across the community.







COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING AND ENGAGEMENT

WWBA continued strengthening its communications, marketing and member engagement during 2026. The WWBA website provides a central source of truth where players, families, officials and the wider community can find current information about competitions, programs, representative basketball and the Association.

Social media remains critical to promoting WWBA's activities, celebrating achievements and reaching existing and potential participants. It also provides an important way to direct people back to the website for complete and authoritative information.

Between 1 October 2025 and September 2026, WWBA content generated approximately 1.29 million views and 20,400 interactions across Facebook and Instagram. Facebook recorded 735,900 views, 9,500 content interactions and 373 new follows. Facebook views increased by 5.7% compared with the preceding period.

Instagram experienced particularly strong growth, recording 555,500 views, 10,900 content interactions, 410 new follows and a reach of 23,100 people. Instagram views increased by 1,023%, content interactions by approximately 1,758% and reach by 123%, demonstrating the increasing value of the platform in connecting with WWBA's audience.

WWBA also communicates directly with members through email and Basketball Connect. Basketball Connect enables the Association to automatically email relevant groups of registered participants and provide notifications through the Basketball Connect app. This supports more targeted and timely communication about competitions, programs, schedule changes and other important information.

During 2026, WWBA trialled paid social-media promotion for Blazing Hoops. The post generated 8,971 views, reached 4,626 people and resulted in 222 link clicks. Blazing Hoops subsequently attracted 68 Spring registrations, exceeding its target of 56. While the registrations cannot be attributed solely to the campaign, the results demonstrate the potential value of targeted paid promotion for introductory programs and other participation initiatives.

Work also continued towards presenting WWBA as one integrated club. This included bringing the junior and senior representative programs together under a more consistent identity and commencing a review of uniforms, apparel and merchandise. The aim is to provide members with a stronger and more coordinated range while ensuring players at every level are clearly connected to the broader Association.

The next step is to continue developing a more coordinated approach to communications and marketing, including clearer content planning, keeping website information current, using member communication channels consistently and improving the merchandise offering to strengthen the WWBA brand and sense of belonging across the Association.

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The composition of the WWBA Board remained unchanged during 2026. The Board continued strengthening the Association's governance arrangements, including adopting revised Competition By-Laws to clarify competition structures, requirements and areas previously open to interpretation.

From April 2026, the Board moved from monthly to two-monthly meetings. This change was designed to reduce the administrative burden on volunteer Directors and allow Board meetings to focus more clearly on governance, strategic direction and significant decisions. Written portfolio reports and operational work between meetings support the new structure, with extraordinary or electronic meetings available when urgent decisions are required.

WWBA is also looking to establish additional committees and working groups. These will provide members with opportunities to contribute their experience and ideas without taking on the full responsibilities of becoming a Director, while allowing more operational work to progress outside Board meetings.

WWBA's operational team was strengthened by the appointment of Luke Graham as Referee Coordinator and the recruitment of additional court supervisors, creating a broader pool of people available to support competition nights.

WWBA remains in a strong financial position. The Board is developing a formal reserves framework to protect the Association's long-term financial sustainability and ensure funds are available for future facilities, strategic projects, asset replacement and unexpected financial pressures.

Board recruitment remains a significant priority, with three Director positions vacant. The appointment of a Treasurer is particularly urgent and will strengthen financial oversight, cash-flow monitoring, Board reporting, compliance and coordination of the annual audit.





FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

WWBA remains in a strong financial position. The audited financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2026 record total income of \$519,052 and a net surplus of \$17,347.

At year end, the Association held total assets of \$247,739 and liabilities of \$12,217, resulting in net assets of \$235,522, providing WWBA with a sound financial base from which to meet its commitments and invest in the future of basketball in Wagga Wagga.

The Board is considering the establishment of formal financial reserves to ensure funds are deliberately set aside for working capital, asset and equipment replacement, strategic initiatives and unexpected costs or disruptions. Establishing clear reserve purposes and target balances will strengthen longer-term financial planning and help ensure the Association's accumulated funds are used responsibly and transparently.

Maintaining a strong financial position remains important as WWBA manages continued participation growth, rising program and facility costs, and the need to invest in competitions, development pathways, officials and future infrastructure.

Measure	2025/26 result
Total income	\$519,052
Total expenditure	\$501,705
Net surplus	\$17,347
Total assets	\$247,739
Total liabilities	\$12,217
Net assets	\$235,522



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE TEAM AWARDS

Team	Most Valuable Player	Defensive Player of the Year	Commitment Award
Under 12 Boys	Jace Wade	Tyson Dunstan-Radnedge	Noah Halliburton
Under 14 Boys	Jesse Markopoulos	Isaac Sandral	Mason Baker
Under 14 Girls Orange	Ivy Grintell	Harriet Donaldson	Evelyn Symons
Under 14 Girls Blue	Andie Lawrence	Rosie Pankhurst	Mia Haining
Under 16 Boys Orange	Charlie Rowe	Lycan Wickliffe	Asher Barklem
Under 16 Boys Blue	Cooper Lloyd	Samuel Edmonds	Charlie Hutton
Under 16 Girls	Macey Haining	Evelyn Gray	Anneliese Azer
Under 18 Boys Orange	Drew Hamilton	Joel Azer	Rocky Watson
Under 18 Boys Blue	Angus Rosewarne	Xavier Wade	Matthew Seghabi

SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE AWARDS

Award	Recipient
Most Valuable Player	Zac Maloney
Defensive Player of the Year	Wani Gwada
ICARE Award	Ethan Drum
Commitment Award	Tre Koga

JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE MILESTONES

Milestone	Player
50 junior representative games	Anneliese Azer
50 junior representative games	Cerys Collins
50 junior representative games	Elle Driscoll
50 junior representative games	Evelyn Gray
50 junior representative games	Macey Haining
50 junior representative games	Rocky Watson
50 junior representative games	Lucy Kramer



50 junior representative games	Maggie Thomas
50 junior representative games	Emily Hardy
50 junior representative games	Harry Byrne
50 junior representative games	Xavier Wade
50 junior representative games	Ivy Ritchie
50 junior representative games	Leo Pankhurst
50 junior representative games	Joel Azer
50 junior representative games	Jasper Kiley

SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE MILESTONES

Milestone	Player
50 senior representative games	Brad Hiscock
100 games as senior representative coach	Zac Maloney
200 senior representative games	Scott Hare
250 senior representative games	Zac Maloney

ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Award	Recipient
Club Person of the Year	Kassie Hiscock
Coach of the Year	Brad Hiscock
Junior Referee of the Year	Harrison Gray
Senior Referee of the Year	Stephen Chapman
Outstanding Service Award	Cathy Edwards
Outstanding Service Award	Loren Roy



2026 CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR



2026 COACH OF THE YEAR



2026 JUNIOR REFEREE OF THE YEAR



2026 CLUB REFEREE OF THE YEAR



2026 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD



2026 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD



PRIORITIES FOR 2027

WWBA's key priorities for 2027 are to:

- Implement the Pixellot automated video platform.
- Win a Division 1 Southern Junior League championship.
- Qualify for the Waratah League Men's finals.
- Strengthen engagement with Basketball NSW high-performance pathways and increase opportunities for WWBA players and coaches to participate.
- Strengthen female participation and retention.
- Build the atmosphere and overall experience at senior representative home games.
- Investigate sustainable Youth League and Under 20 representative opportunities.
- Continue developing the Wagga Way across all representative teams, with an increased focus on culture, behaviour and standards.
- Strengthen referee and coach recruitment, accreditation and development.
- Establish an Under 8 domestic competition and continue reviewing competition structures.
- Explore alternative representative opportunities, including the proposed Riverina Murray Basketball League.
- Manage participation growth and increasing pressure on court capacity.
- Advocate for additional courts at the Equex Centre.
- Establish committees and working groups to broaden member participation.
- Recruit three additional Directors, with the appointment of a Treasurer the immediate priority.
- Establish a formal financial reserves framework.
- Maintain strong sponsorship support to help keep basketball affordable.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WWBA acknowledges the significant contribution made by our Board members, staff, coaches, team managers, referees, referee supervisors, court supervisors and volunteers throughout the year.

We also thank our players, families, supporters, sponsors and community partners for their continued commitment to basketball in Wagga Wagga. The Association's competitions, development programs and representative pathways could not be delivered without their support.

WWBA particularly acknowledges PCYC Wagga and Wagga Wagga City Council for their ongoing partnership and support in providing access to the facilities required to deliver basketball across the community.



