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**annual
report**



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from the president

As an organisation, Basketball Australia has seen significant milestones achieved across all programs and activities in 2005.

While the Boomers and Price Attack Opals, our flagship brands, were successful in their respective qualifications for the 2006 World Championships, our National Junior and wheelchair programs have also achieved recognition through their growth and quality.

This would not have been possible without the significant support provided through our key partners and staff across the country. In particular I would like to congratulate Chief Executive, Scott Derwin and the team of dedicated staff at Basketball Australia for providing leadership in driving outcomes from the business plan for sponsors, government agencies, the Price Attack Women's National Basketball League (WNBL), the Philips Championship National Basketball League (NBL), Australian Basketball Association (ABA), and State and Territory Associations who are the driving force of the game nationally.

We have shown these partnerships to be highly effective and efficient in their implementation. In particular, our partnership with the Price Attack WNBL, which saw WNBL Ltd merging into Basketball Australia's operations, and proved to be highly successful in its first year. Consultation with the WNBL clubs and the new Commission continue to be extremely positive with Basketball Australia administering the league and daily operations.

In another first, as part of the ongoing promotion of basketball to the grass roots, Basketball Australia coordinated the first ever Aussie Hoops Month promotion throughout November.

Aussie Hoops is Basketball Australia's learn to play program for 6 to 12-year-olds. Basketball Australia partnered with the clubs of the Philips Championship and the Price Attack WNBL, as well as the State and Local Associations, to promote Aussie Hoops throughout the month of November. Kids were invited to play at half time of Philips Championship and Price Attack WNBL matches, players went out to schools and local associations and conducted clinics and everyone worked together to show kids, parents and teachers that 'Aussie Hoops is where the fun begins!'

While we have shown success across our programs in 2005, it is important to monitor the impact of other sports and draw comparisons and evaluate our position in the market place.

With soccer's resurgence due to the World Cup qualification, and AFL's financial injection into junior development, we as a sport must evaluate our performance, analyse our challenges and identify areas to improve as a sport. It is important that we present a unified approach across all leagues and levels of the sport.

Our strength as a sport lies in our strength of participation nationally and our broad offering to all participants, men and women, masters and juniors, able-bodied and those with a disability.

Our strength as a sport lies in our strength of participation nationally and our broad offering to all participants, men and women, masters and juniors, able-bodied and those with a disability. We are a safe sport that is appealing to juniors and parents and provide a legitimate national and global pathway for athletes, officials and administrators.

We must exploit the assets of our game and utilise these unique traits to our advantage over other sports.

We have some significant opportunities in the sport with the hype around Andrew Bogut's Number 1 draft pick for the NBA, and Lauren Jackson being arguably the best female basketballer in the world and having played her ninth season in the Price Attack WNBL.

The 2006 calendar is promising to keep the momentum going. Basketball's inclusion in the Commonwealth Games, and with very strong medal prospects for both the Boomers and Opals in front of a home crowd, it is time to make sure we take advantage of the interest to push our game to heights not seen in Australia for decades.



The profile of Aussie Hoops is rising among key basketball stakeholders.

Following basketball's debut in the Commonwealth Games,

April will see the Price Attack Opals playing in the Opals World Challenge in Cairns and Canberra, which will include matches against the USA, China and Chinese Taipei. We encourage clubs and associations to get behind this event as we build towards what we hope will be a gold medal at the FIBA Women's World Championships in Brazil from September 12-23.

The FIBA Men's World Championship will take place in Japan from August 19 to September 3, and the Boomers will be at full strength as they take on the might of the world basketball superpowers.

We now have the opportunity to develop and promote our role models and create a fan base of spectators for top-level basketball in Australia providing much needed profile to the Local Associations and clubs.

These events assist to build the sport's profile, attracting media support, corporate partners and a larger spectator and player base.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Board of Basketball Australia for their individual contribution to the vision for basketball and their support of our sport during 2005. I also acknowledge the volunteers in our sport and those that provide support in their capacity as the BA Council, the ABA Board, the Philips Championship NBL Board, NBL owners group, the Price Attack WNBL Commission and the State/Territory Boards and Councils across the country.

John Maddock
President
Basketball Australia

We now have the opportunity to develop and promote our role models and create a fan base of spectators for top-level basketball in Australia providing much needed profile to the Local Associations and clubs.

from the chief executive

2005 was a year of solid growth for basketball in Australia. Following the success of three silver medals in Athens in 2004 at the Olympic and Paralympic

Games, basketball continued to forge ahead in all facets of the sport in Australia.

Basketball Australia had four distinct and defined strategic goals in 2005:

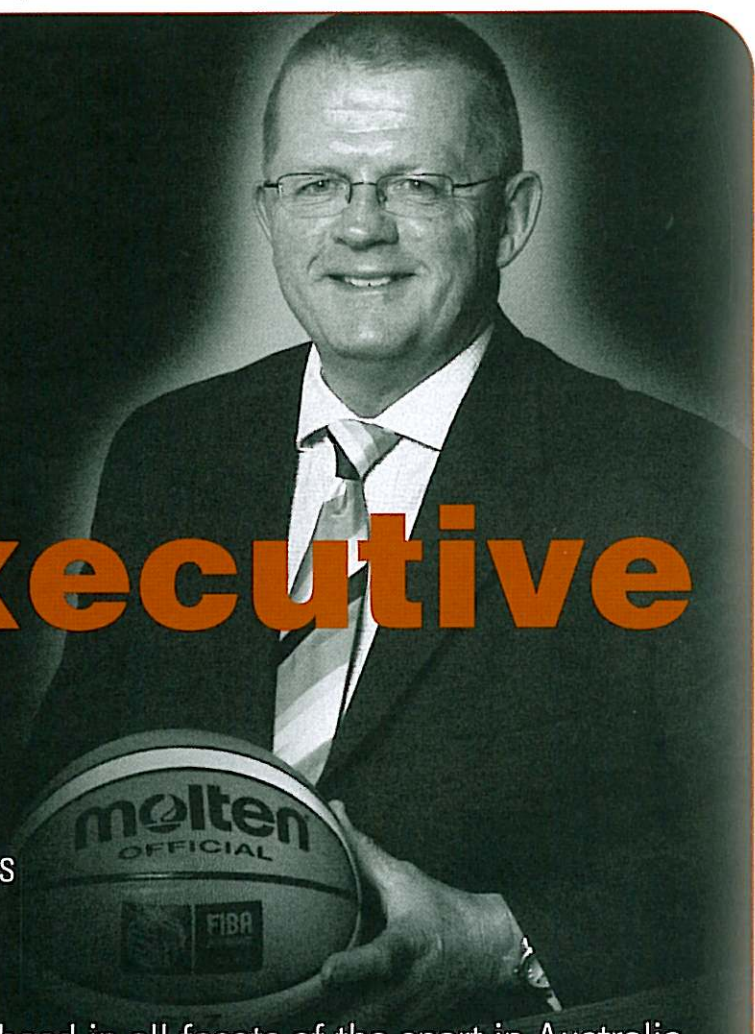
- To strengthen the quality of basketball at community and elite levels.
- To improve basketball's positioning as an attractive option in a competitive sport, entertainment and leisure market.
- To invest in the people and infrastructure necessary to deliver high quality programs and services.
- To improve the management and operation of Basketball Australia.

These goals were all achieved through the implementation of the Business Plan and strategic partnerships between Basketball Australia, the States and Territories, Phillips Championship National Basketball League (NBL), Price Attack Women's National Basketball League (WNBL), Australian Basketball Association (ABA), sponsors, media and government agencies.

At the elite level, both the Boomers and the Price Attack Opals defeated New Zealand in their respective FIBA Oceania Qualifying Series for the 2006 World Championships, with the Boomers securing Oceania's top seeding in the 24-team men's draw, and the Price Attack Opals securing their spot in their 16-team competition.

Basketball Australia also hosted a successful tournament on home soil - the Boomers 4-Nations Tournament - in Perth sponsored by Phillips and Sydney sponsored by resi mortgage in August. The Boomers went through the tournament undefeated, keeping the inaugural Gaze Cup on home soil.

The tournament formed part of the four-year agreement with China to play international events between the men's and women's teams each year, on a home and away rotation between the countries. The agreement will see the Price Attack Opals hosting China in 2006 and the Boomers playing in China in the lead



up to the 2006 World Championships in Japan. This agreement will remain in place until the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing; however, due to its success so far, Basketball Australia hopes to see it continue for many years to come.

The Gems (U19 women) and the Crocs (U21 men) competed at their respective World Championships in July and August, with the Gems finishing seventh after a disastrous run of injuries threw their campaign into disarray and the Crocs finished just outside the medals in fourth.

The Rollers and Gliders (men's and women's wheelchair teams) both had success throughout 2005. Both teams qualified for the 2006 World Championships in Amsterdam by progressing through their respective qualifying tournaments in Korea undefeated.

Australia ranks as the third most successful basketballing nation in the world according to FIBA rankings, putting us only behind the USA and Russia and ahead of powerhouses like Serbia & Montenegro and Argentina. This ranking is a true testament to our internationally acclaimed coaching and development programs.

This world ranking also gives both the men and the women's teams the highest seedings going into the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. We wish all of our athletes and coaching staff success for their debut in the Commonwealth Games.

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) basketball program continues to deliver Australia's senior national teams and the Price Attack WNBL and Phillips Championship NBL competitions outstanding and talented athletes. The latest player to make headlines around the world is Renae Camino (graduating in early 2006) who was named to the tournament All-Star 5 at the FIBA World Championships for Junior Women in 2005 after finishing the tournament as the top scorer.

Our now famous AIS graduate continued to make a huge name for himself on the international stage. Andrew Bogut was the Number 1 NBA draft pick in 2005, securing himself a Rookie contract with the Milwaukee Bucks and making his NBA debut in November.

His profile continues to grow in Australia, and his success at the top professional level of our sport will ensure a higher level of interest in Australian basketball for many years to come. He has confirmed his ongoing commitment to the Boomers and will be a vital part of the Boomers at the 2006 World Championships.

Basketball Australia is continuing to support State and Local Associations, helping to build the profile and professionalism of our sport at the grass roots level.

Basketball is still amongst the top few participation sports in the country. This is likely to strengthen in years to come with basketball playing an integral part of the Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) national Active After School Communities Program, which provides free and structured physical activity to children after school and the ongoing development and expansion of the Aussie Hoops program.

A television Community Service Announcement was produced in 2004 and in 2005 it was sent to television stations across the country and was played in all four corners of Australia, providing a highly visible voice for basketball.

A large variety of marketing and promotional material was sent to basketball's coalface, Local Associations, throughout 2005 and we now have over 300 associations across Australia using The Basketball Network (TBN) websites to promote basketball in their area. That is a one-third increase on 2004's figures.

The sites, powered by Interfuse, are easy to use for the content manager and the end user, and Basketball Australia helps clubs and associations through the set-up process and also provides ongoing support.

Basketball Australia's National Intensive Training Centre Program (NITCP) continues to be one of the best development programs in the world and the envy of many other countries. The program identifies outstanding female and male athletes from 14-17 years of age and also identifies and develops coaches to work with the athletes. The program focuses on maintaining a national approach with an international direction, giving Basketball Australia's elite pathway a strong strategic direction. However, as with all our programs, we are vigilant in constantly reviewing them to ensure continuous improvement in all elements.

In a new move, Basketball Queensland (BQ) introduced the BQ Elite Athlete Training Centre, where local associations conducted the weekly training environment for the NITCP and it's underpinning programs.

Aussie Hoops continued to move forward and become a program more entrenched in schools and Associations across Australia. Currently, 210 Associations (including NBL/WNBL clubs) deliver programs that are branded Aussie Hoops, representing a 30% increase from 2004. Aussie Hoops welcomed a partnership with Cartoon Network to deliver four mega clinics across Australia reaching 2,720 primary school aged children.

Aussie Hoops Month was initiated by Basketball Australia in November, bringing Basketball Australia, the States, and Price Attack WNBL and Philips Championship NBL clubs together to deliver the message that "Aussie Hoops is fun" to the kids of Australia. It was a great success, with Basketball Australia providing Aussie Hoops singlets as an ongoing legacy to each club as part of a sponsorship from Kombat, plus height chart posters as giveaways and of course the support from "Duncan" the Aussie Hoops mascot. The activities included half time Aussie Hoops games, promotions at schools and with support from Fox and ABC TV we saw Aussie Hoops exhibitions televised at Philips Championship and Price Attack WNBL matches and street parties featuring Duncan, our Aussie Hoops mascot. Most importantly, we saw a coming together of Local Associations, States with NBL and WNBL clubs in their area.

There was a real emphasis on growing, building and nurturing partnerships throughout 2005.

The successful integration of Basketball Australia and the WNBL has provided an efficient and professional rationalising of our resources for the betterment of the game. The move was welcomed by the clubs to assist in providing additional

support to grow the profile of the league. With the season showing increased crowd numbers and the continuation of the longest standing sports broadcasting contract of 15 years with the ABC TV, the league is certainly well positioned to continue its expansion. Lauren Jackson was welcomed as the face of the League as one of the World's best female basketball players and helped to promote the league theme of "Feel the Attitude".

Basketball Australia is working closely with the ABA and the NBL under service agreements and provides resources to assist in the operations of these competitions to ensure links are provided for the national pathway in Australia.

The ABA continues to provide an outstanding winter competition for men and women in most parts of Australia. Its success is contributed to by the fact that almost all the teams are association based and thus have strong basketball community support.

The year's most visibly successful partnership occurred with the hosting of the Philips 4 Nations Tournament in Perth and the resi mortgage 4 Nations Tournament in Sydney in August.

Basketball Australia partnered with the Perth Wildcats and the Sydney Kings to host the two legs of the tournament in the respective cities. This allowed the professionals, who host more than a dozen matches at their home stadiums every year, to do what they do best, run a great basketball show, while Basketball Australia could concentrate on bringing the best competition to the cities and promoting Australian basketball around the country.

Basketball Australia continued to work closely with local, state and federal governments, the media, sponsors and organisations such as the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Institute of Sport, FIBA, FIBA Oceania, the Australian Olympic Committee, the Australian Paralympic Committee, Melbourne 2006 Corporation and Australian Commonwealth Games Association.

Our sincere thanks must go to our many sponsors whose ongoing support of basketball in this country has made our sport a success.

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Price Attack, ABC TV, Kombat, Intercontinental Hotels Group, Molten, Champion, Interfuse, Coast to Coast, Skins, Box Hill Institute, Gatorade, Cartoon Network, Paragon Printers, Thermoskin, Philips and resi mortgage.

I must also mention the support of the 450+ Local Associations around Australia who have all played a significant part in nurturing the great pool of talent we have in this country and thus giving all Australians an opportunity to participate in our great sport.

As the ultimate team sport, basketball wouldn't survive on or off the court without the support of a great team playing in a great venue, and after two years at Homebush, the office of Basketball Australia, the NBL, WNBL and ABA moved to Mascot in November 2005, allowing for larger and more modern facilities for the 25 full time staff. Staff amenities are much improved and the premises allow for on-site board meetings close to the airport, giving visitors to the office more time working and less time travelling.

I would like to recognise our President John Maddock and the Basketball Australia Board for their hard work, and excellent vision and guidance. Your input and wisdom has been invaluable. My sincere thanks go to the dedicated team of Basketball Australia staff. Without their hard work and enthusiasm none of our success would be possible. It was a pleasure to work with you all.



Scott Derwin
Chief Executive
Basketball Australia

boomers

After finishing ninth at the Athens Olympics in 2004, Brian Goorjian was reappointed to the role of head coach of the Boomers in February 2005.



The focus of the Boomers campaign in 2005 was to qualify for the World Championships with the top seed for Oceania by defeating New Zealand in the FIBA Oceania Championships in August.

Goorjian and his staff devised a program that included two Australian-based camps and a tour to Japan and China before heading home for their first international tournament on home soil since 2000 - the Boomers 4-Nations Tournament, in Perth and Sydney.

The preparation proved to be a success, with the Boomers going on to sweep New Zealand 3-0 in the FIBA Oceania Qualifying Series and take the top Oceania seeding into the World Championship draw in January 2006.

Matt Nielsen.
Photo: Getty
Images.

THE SQUAD

Brian Goorjian began 2005 with a big squad of largely inexperienced athletes who were ready to take the next step in international basketball.

Athens Captain, Shane Heal, stepped down from the game in late 2004, to "allow the younger guys to step forward."

With the efforts of Andrew Bogut at the Olympic Games (13 points and 9 rebounds average) firmly entrenched in the minds of the Australian fans and media, Australian men's basketball is well and truly on the rise with the help of some very talented young players.

Matthew Nielsen, David Andersen, CJ Bruton, Glen Saville and Jason Smith proved that they are the future of Australian men's basketball, and teamed with the might and power of Andrew Bogut in 2006, Australia will be a tough team for any contender at the World Championships.

Boomers Manager, Simon Roberts, departed Basketball Australia in May 2005, and was replaced by Nic Mercer in June.

THE TRAINING

During an eventful first camp based on Queensland's Gold Coast, a 14-man squad started their preparation for the World Championship qualifying series in New Zealand, which was only 10 weeks away.

Training at the outstanding facility at The Southport School, not only were the mostly young and first time Boomers squad members put through their paces on the court, players and staff had to race through the streets of Southport just to beat a rising flood tide in order to get to training.

With some wet gear and a water-damaged stadium car park, the squad members came away from the camp with a firm idea of what it takes to be a Boomer.

A week later the squad re-convened in Melbourne for their second, and last Australian based camp of the season. The squad was bolstered to 18 as Goorjian welcomed players back from commitments with their international clubs. The Boomers spent equal time on the court as they did on their fitness and strength, spending time with the Essendon Football Club, training with the AFL players and using their state of the art facility at Windy Hill.

At the end of the camp, a touring party was selected to travel to Japan and China just three days later. These seven days were highly demanding for the players, but the opportunity to wear the green and gold ensured their focus stayed its course.

COMPETITION

KIRIN CUP - JAPAN

A 12-man team headed off on their Asian tour and met a disciplined Japanese team who had been in full-time training for this series for over a month. In front of thousands of screaming fans, the Boomers narrowly won their first game on foreign soil in 2005. As the Boomers travelled around Japan over the next four days to play the Japanese national team in another two matches, their cohesiveness improved and the winning margins grew.

BORIS STANKOVIC CUP - CHINA

The first game of the Boris Stankovic Cup in Beijing was against current Olympic Gold Medallists, Argentina. The Boomers struggled to get out of the blocks in the match, and the World Champions won convincingly, 88-57. The Boomers recovered to beat a physical Puerto Rican team 106-78, however nothing could have prepared them for the following nights' events.

With a game against African powerhouse Angola only 10 minutes away, the Boomers were deep in their pre-match preparation when a melee erupted on the show court, moving into the back stage area.

The Boomers match was delayed while organisers mopped up. Unfortunately for the Boomers, the cleaning agents used on the court made it slippery to play on, leading to a serious groin injury to an Angolan player, and the game had to be called off in the third quarter. With Australia behind at the time the game was called off, the Boomers recorded the loss.

In the remaining two matches against Lithuania and China, the Boomers regained momentum and comfortably defeated both teams, finishing third place in the Boris Stankovic Cup.

4-NATIONS TOURNAMENT - AUSTRALIA

The 4-Nations Tournament was hosted in Perth by the Perth Wildcats and was named the Philips 4-Nations Tournament and in Sydney by the Sydney Kings and was called the resi mortgage 4-Nations Tournament.

Matching up against one of the strongest basketball nations in Europe on the first night in Perth, the Boomers used the support of their home crowd to beat a young Lithuanian team, 71-66. As the team got settled in Perth, enjoying the wonderful accommodation at the Rendezvous Hotel at Scarborough Beach, their momentum grew.

They took on China on the second night of the tournament, who were eager to avenge their loss in front of their home crowd a week earlier. However, the Boomers talent, and the home crowd support allowed the team to roll over the Chinese National team 89-50.

The tournament then moved to Sydney for two more nights of matches, including the much-anticipated match up between New Zealand and Australia. In what was a closely contested game, with the support of the vocal Sydney crowd, the Boomers held out to win by 10 points.

All Australia's supporters were hoping that this was a sign the Boomers could beat the Kiwis in the FIBA Oceania Qualifying Series the next week when both teams competed for the top Oceania seeding in the 2006 World Championships.

The Boomers wrapped up the tournament with an 88-58 win over China on Sunday afternoon, taking the trophy and two places in the All-Star 5 (CJ Bruton and Matt Nielsen). While the score line may not have been as impressive as the Perth match, the Boomers walked away confident they were prepared to take on New Zealand.

FIBA OCEANIA QUALIFYING SERIES - NEW ZEALAND

The Boomers arrived in New Zealand two days prior to their first match in Auckland. In front of a parochial Kiwi crowd, the Boomers stood together as the New Zealanders performed the Haka minutes before tip off. The game was tightly contested in the first quarter with both teams trying to find an edge. Early in the second quarter the Boomers found that spark and blew the lead out to 20 points. But a determined Kiwi line up started pegging the lead back and in the third period the Boomers were up by only nine. International veterans Matt Nielsen, CJ Bruton, Jason Smith and Glen Saville held off the Kiwis in the fourth quarter, giving the Boomers a 72-69 win.

The series moved to Manukau where the Kiwis had to get a win to keep their hopes of qualifying with Oceania's number one seeding to the 2006 World Championships alive. The locals gave it everything they had in the game and were rewarded with the lead late in the last quarter. However, the Boomers played tough at the defensive end and put together a great performance to win by 11 points. Athens Olympians Glen Saville, CJ Bruton and Matt Nielsen showed why they were the backbone of the Australian team in 2005, putting on impressive displays to clinch a physical win.

The Boomers had secured their World Championship qualifying spot and could breathe a sigh of relief at regaining their spot after losing this series in 2001.

With the series wrapped up, the team had just one more assignment, to sweep the New Zealanders 3-0 on home soil. They moved onto Dunedin with CJ Bruton, Matthew Nielsen and Glen Saville all pulling up sore from the game the night before and not able to take the court. The task was going to be much harder for the Boomers in the final game without their stars, but Boomers fans

NATIONAL TEAMS & COMPETITIONS

got an opportunity to see the future of Australian basketball with 19-year-old Brad Newley stepping up to deliver 26 points.

The style of this game was considerably changed compared to the two previous, with the players able to play more expressively and freely resulting in many fast breaks and empowering dunks. With the Kiwis playing for pride and leaving nothing to chance, the Boomers found it tough going for the first half, but a 30-point quarter Boomers set up a brilliant win and a clean sweep of the FIBA Oceania Qualifying Series.

2005's mission was accomplished. The Boomers qualifying with the number one seeding for Oceania for the 2006 World Championships in Japan.

INTERNATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR – GAZE MEDAL

CJ BRUTON

After a successful Olympic debut in Athens, CJ Bruton cemented his place as a senior member of the Australian Boomers with some outstanding performances throughout the international season.

His efforts throughout 2005 gained him the prestigious Gaze Medal for Male International Player of the Year.

CJ is the son of Australian representative and noted NBL coach Cal Bruton.

Born in Kansas, USA in 1975, CJ moved to Australia as a child and grew up playing basketball at the Perry Lakes Stadium in Perth when his father was playing for the Wildcats.

He studied and played basketball at Indian Hills Junior College between 1995 and 1997 after rendering himself ineligible to attend a NCAA college by playing for a professional team (Perth Wildcats in 1994). He won a NJCAA National Championship with Indian Hills and was named as an All-American.

He returned to the NBL and the Brisbane Bullets in 1998 before playing for Wollongong and Canberra and then settling in Sydney in 2003 under the guidance of Brian Goorjian, winning two Championships in as many years.

Goorjian brought Bruton into the Boomers team in 2002 when he toured Europe. He was also part of the team in 2003, helping Australia qualify for the Athens Olympic Games in 2004.

He played a vital role in the Olympic team, backing up starting point guard Shane Heal and learning how to guide the national team to victory.

In 2005, with Heal having retired from international basketball, Bruton was thrust into the starting point guard role. It was a position he thrived in, learning the art of becoming a team leader at the international level and becoming a well-known face of the team.

The Boomers played 15 matches in 2005, winning 13 of them. Bruton played in all but the last match, succumbing to an ankle injury sustained in the second game against New Zealand.

Co-captaining the team with Glen Saville in Japan's Kirin Cup, Bruton led the team to three victories in four days (69-65, 77-61 and 66-58). He had the match top score of 16 points as well as two assists in the first hit out and added another 12 points in the second match, sparking a third quarter revival for the team when they looked like dropping their heads.

When the team moved onto Beijing, China for the Boris Stankovic Cup, Bruton and Saville again shared the captaincy. Their confidence was shaken in the opening round when they were soundly beaten by eventual tournament winners, and 2004 Olympics Champions, Argentina, 88-57.

Bruton was an inspiration throughout the match. He left the court in the first

quarter with a groin strain, only to return in the second half to provide a lift to his team and finish with a team-high 21 points and three assists.

The Boomers rebounded in their next match, conquering their Olympic Games defeaters, Puerto Rico, 106-78, in the second round. Bruton was the guiding force in the match, finishing with 15 points.

In their final round match, the Boomers lost to Angola after the match was called off in the final quarter due to a slippery and dangerous court. This loss put the Boomers out of the gold medal race, but Bruton was determined to keep their third place dreams alive. He had 25 points, three assists and a steal in their 109-96 win over Lithuania and then helped the Boomers to defeat home team China, 71-58, in the bronze medal match.

Bruton was named an All-Star for the tournament.

The 4-Nations Tournament in Perth and Sydney in August saw Bruton continue his outstanding form, being among the top performers in all four matches, and being named in the All-Star 5 and as the tournament MVP. With the Boomers needing the psychological edge over New Zealand for the FIBA Oceania Qualifying Series in less than a week, Bruton ensured the clash against their cross-Tasman rivals ended with the Boomers on top. In front of his home crowd, Bruton put on a magnificent display to beat the Kiwi's including a total of 32 points.

The team moved on to take on New Zealand in the FIBA Oceania Qualifying Series and the Boomers continued their devastating form, sweeping the Kiwis 3-0. With news of Bruton's form travelling throughout the basketball community, the Kiwi's targeted Bruton in order to shut him down. However, Bruton elevated his stature by staying above the pressure and managed to provide 25 points in the first game and 16 in the second. Unfortunately he sustained an ankle injury during the second game and wasn't able to suit up for the last match.

Bruton is the tenth player to win the award in its 18-year history.

THE GAZE MEDAL

The Gaze Medal is named after one of Australia's greatest sporting families. The father and son combination of Lindsay and Andrew Gaze attended nine Olympics and eight World Championships between them. The Medal is voted on by all members of the senior national team after each game, with the player who receives the most votes each year being awarded the Gaze Medal.

PREVIOUS GAZE MEDAL WINNERS

1988 Phil Smyth; 1989 Luc Longley; 1990 Andrew Gaze; 1991 Andrew Vlahov; 1992 Mark Bradtke; 1993 Andrew Vlahov; 1994 Andrew Gaze; 1995 Andrew Gaze; 1996 Andrew Gaze; 1997 Shane Heal; 1998 Andrew Gaze; 1999 Mark Bradtke; 2000 Andrew Gaze; 2001 Brett Maher; 2002 Chris Anstey; 2003 Matthew Nielsen; 2004 Shane Heal; 2005 CJ Bruton.

CJ Bruton's career has flourished in 2005. He led the Boomers well as captain and point guard. Photo: Getty Images

SCOREBOARD

KIRIN CUP TOUR – TOKYO, JAPAN

July 21-24

Team: Andrew Rice, Jacob Holmes, Oscar Forman, Alex Loughton, Luke Martin, CJ Bruton (Co-Capt), Peter Crawford, Mark Worthington, Glen Saville (Co-Capt), Pero Vasiljevic, Russell Hinder, Wade Helliwell

Staff: Brian Goorjian (Head Coach), Brendan Joyce (Assistant Coach), Nic Mercer (Operations Manager), Seamus Dalton (Doctor), Steve Evans (Physiotherapist), Nik Popovic (Strength & Conditioning Coach), Diana Glazer (Massage Therapist)

Results:

July 21	Australia 69	def.	Japan 65
July 23	Australia 77	def.	Japan 61
July 24	Australia 66	def.	Japan 58

BORIS STANKOVIC CUP – BEIJING, CHINA

July 26-31

Team: Andrew Rice, Jacob Holmes, Oscar Forman, Alex Loughton, Luke Martin, CJ Bruton (Co-Capt), Peter Crawford, Mark Worthington, Glen Saville (Co-Capt), Pero Vasiljevic, Russell Hinder, Wade Helliwell

Staff: Brian Goorjian (Head Coach), Brendan Joyce (Assistant Coach), Nic Mercer (Operations Manager), Seamus Dalton (Doctor), Steve Evans (Physiotherapist), Nik Popovic (Strength & Conditioning Coach), Diana Glazer (Massage Therapist)

Results:

July 26	Argentina 88	def.	Australia 57
July 27	Australia 106	def.	Puerto Rico 78
July 29	Angola 69	def.	Australia 49
July 30	Australia 109	def.	Lithuania 96
July 31	Australia 71	def.	China 58

Australia 3rd place.

4-NATIONS TOURNAMENT – PERTH & SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

August 9-14

Team: Jacob Holmes, Alex Loughton, CJ Bruton (Co-Capt), Peter Crawford, Mark Worthington, Glen Saville (Co-Capt), Pero Vasiljevic, Wade Helliwell, Brad Davidson, Jason Smith, David Andersen, Matthew Nielsen

Staff: Brian Goorjian (Head Coach), Brendan Joyce (Assistant Coach), Nic Mercer (Operations Manager), Seamus Dalton (Doctor), Steve Evans (Physiotherapist), Nik Popovic & Bohdan Babijczuk (Strength & Conditioning Coach), Diana Glazer (Massage Therapist)

Results:

August 9	Australia 71	def.	Lithuania 66
August 10	Australia 89	def.	China 50
August 12	Australia 84	def.	New Zealand 74
August 14	Australia 88	def.	China 58

Australia 1st place.

FIBA OCEANIA QUALIFYING SERIES – AUCKLAND & DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND

August 17-22

Team: Jacob Holmes, Alex Loughton, CJ Bruton (Co-Capt), Mark Worthington, Glen Saville (Co-Capt), Pero Vasiljevic, Wade Helliwell, Brad Davidson, Jason Smith, David Andersen, Matthew Nielsen, Brad Newley

Staff: Brian Goorjian (Head Coach), Brendan Joyce (Assistant Coach), Nic Mercer (Operations Manager), Seamus Dalton (Doctor), Steve Evans (Physiotherapist), Nik Popovic (Strength & Conditioning Coach), Diana Glazer (Massage Therapist)

Results:

August 17	Australia 72	def.	New Zealand 69
August 20	Australia 82	def.	New Zealand 71
August 22	Australia 91	def.	New Zealand 80

Australia win series (3-0) and retain the Al Ramsay Shield. Australia qualify for the 2006 World Championships as top Oceania seed.

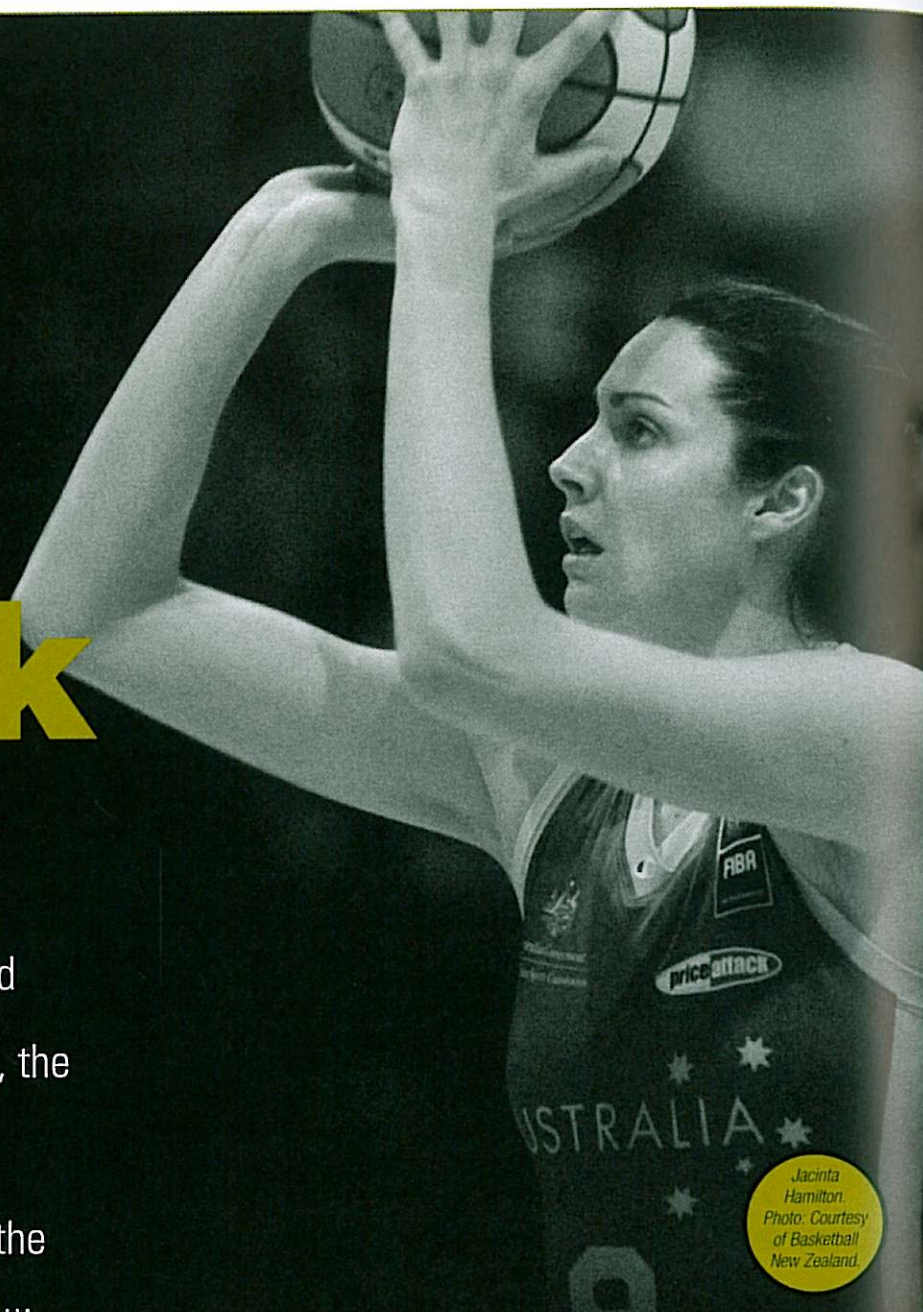


The victorious Boomers celebrate their win at the 4-nations tournament in Sydney. Photo: Getty Images.

price attack opals

After finishing with their second Olympic silver medal at Athens, the Price Attack Opals returned to Australia triumphant, enjoying the success of being Olympic medallists in Australia.

Jan Stirling was reappointed to the role of head coach in February 2005.



Jacinta
Hamilton.
Photo: Courtesy
of Basketball
New Zealand.

After finishing with their second Olympic silver medal at Athens, the Price Attack Opals returned to Australia triumphant, enjoying the success of being Olympic medallists in Australia. Jan Stirling was reappointed to the role of head coach in February 2005, and will lead the team through until the end of the World Championships campaign in September 2006.

The focus of 2005's campaign was to qualify for the 2006 World Championships, with only one place available for Oceania teams in the women's competition. With New Zealand coming off their most successful year of women's basketball, having competed at the Olympic Games and finishing 8th, the Opals were not going to take their mission lightly.

Stirling and her staff devised a program that included two Australian-based camps, an extensive tour through China and a short training camp in New Zealand. The preparation helped the team sweep New Zealand 3-0 in the FIBA Oceania Qualifying Series and qualify for their 12th World Championship campaign.

THE SQUAD

After another successful Olympic campaign in 2004, Jan Stirling lost only two players from her silver-medal winning team – Sandy Brondello and Rachael Sporn retiring from playing the game at any level. Both women have remained in touch with the game however, Brondello being appointed assistant coach of Miami in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), and Rachael Sporn helping commentate the Price Attack WNBL on ABC-TV.

With a strong and experienced base remaining, and a crop of very talented athletes waiting in the wings, Stirling was in the enviable position of naming a large (29) and very talented squad at the beginning of 2005.

With some senior players unavailable for most of the year with commitments to their European or WNBA teams, younger players were given an outstanding opportunity to represent Australia in international competition and also get some expert coaching from Opals staff and special guests.

Some notable exclusions from the team throughout the year were Lauren Jackson, Suzy Batkovic, Penny Taylor and Kristi Harrower. The team was also missing Athens Olympians Belinda Snell and Laura Summerton who were playing their first seasons in the WNBA.

However, this allowed fringe players like Hollie Grima and Carly Wilson to make their mark, and also allowed youngsters Renae Camino and Erin Phillips to try their hand at the senior international level.

THE TRAINING

The Price Attack Opals knew they had a tough 10 months ahead of them with the Oceania qualifiers and then the debut of basketball at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. They had to train well to ensure they could achieve their goal of winning two gold medals in 2006.

The Opals' first camp took place at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra in May. Specialist shooting coach, and former Australian Boomer, Eddie Palubinskas worked with the team on their shooting styles in an attempt to improve accuracy.

The camp was designed to give Australia that extra firepower needed to stay at the top of the international game. Palubinskas was flown in from his base in the US to work with the Opals as well as the junior teams based at the AIS.

The squad spent nearly six hours a day working just on shot technique. From finger strengthening exercise with fingertip push ups, to holding their arms up in the air for extended periods. The drills were different and interesting for the athletes and also provided plenty of pain in muscles the girls didn't even know they had.

At the end of the shooting camp, the squad took on the Gems team who were deep in preparations for their campaign for the 2005 World Championships for Junior Women.

Following Canberra's camp, the squad had a little time off and then headed to Brisbane for a camp and scrimmage games from June 8-13.

The players were kept busy throughout their six-day stay in Brisbane - training, playing, coaching local kids and attending functions and the National Women Winning in Sport Conference.

On Saturday night, the squad was split in two, and four local junior Queensland girls played the game of their life, joining their idols on court for a Green v Gold game at Auchenflower Stadium.

Cassie Dover (Gold Coast Association), Carly Currie (Southern Districts Basketball), Jess Wallis (Bundaberg Basketball) and Alena Voronina (Brisbane Basketball) were chosen to join the Opals teams from a strong field of talent. All four girls were in Queensland state teams that played in the national titles in Perth in 2005 and were all scholarship holders with the National Intensive Training Centre Program.

A team of 12 was chosen following the Brisbane camp and headed to China in July for an international tournament as well as some friendlies against the Chinese national team, now coached by Australian Tom Maher.

COMPETITION

The team of 12 chosen to tour China was internationally inexperienced at the senior level, with only Alicia Poto surviving from the Athens Olympic campaign.

Polo took on the role as captain, and led the young team well through eight matches in 10 days.

With six Olympians in the WNBA, Brondello and Sporn retiring, an injury to Allison Tranquilli, surgery for Natalie Porter and the unavailability of Trish Fallon, Stirling called on 2002 World Championship player Jae Kingi (now married and known as Cross, has two children and is living in the US) to travel with the team.

There were plenty of first-time Opals on the team, with Carly Wilson, Deanne Butler, Katrina Hibbert, Erin Phillips, Emma Randall and Jenni Screen all feeling like an Opal for the first time, while athletes such as Hollie Grima, Jacinta Hamilton and Emily McInerny were trying to establish themselves as full-time players.

The first half of the Chinese tour was split into two 4-Nations Tournaments, the first played in Harbin against China, Russia and Cuba.

The first match against Cuba was a good test for the young team, and they stood up to win a close match 65-62.

Jae Cross proved a good call from Stirling, top scoring with 16 points and pulling in seven rebounds, while Jacinta Hamilton was solid with 13 points and six rebounds.

In their second match of the tournament against Olympic bronze medallists Russia, the Opals forced the game to overtime, before succumbing to their opponents 84-77.

Jae Cross was again the star for the Aussies with 24 points including four from five from the three-point line, three rebounds and five assists. Hamilton was again there in great support with 20 points and 6 rebounds.

In the final night of action in Harbin, the Opals came up against the host nation in the match that would decide the Jihu International Cup. They ground out an 85-77 win in overtime in front of a sold-out crowd of 6000 fanatical Chinese fans and viewed by an audience around China live on Chinese national television.

Hollie Grima and Carly Wilson shared the top scoring honours with 22 points each.

The team moved on to Shanghai, attending banquets and undertaking promotional activities including school visits along the way.

In Shanghai, the Price Attack Opals played Cuba, Russia and China again, this time losing to each and finishing that tournament in last place.

They came up against Russia on the opening night in Shanghai, and the Olympic bronze medallists had tightened up their game following their close tussle in Harbin only days before. This time they asserted their dominance and won 71-59 in regulation time.

Hollie Grima was again the best for Australia with 18 points and nine rebounds. Emma Randall had 12 points and 6 rebounds.

The team played China the next night, the home team more prepared for the Aussies this time, defeating them 60-55.

There were no official statistics recorded for the match, but the Opals were well served offensively by Hollie Grima, Jacinta Hamilton, Alicia Poto and Carly Wilson.

The final night of the tournament saw the Opals go down to Cuba by six points, 63-57.

"This was the most disappointing game of tour so far," Coach Jan Stirling said after the match. "Having played ourselves into a winning position, our ability to make appropriate decisions and finish the game, failed. Whilst we can argue that some of these players are experiencing international competition at a senior level for the first time, their ability to mentally focus and execute efficiently is not to a satisfactory level which clearly gives us a number of elements to work on for improvement."

A big statement for a team working toward qualifying for the World Championships. Hollie Grima was again the top scorer with 14 points and five rebounds, while captain Alicia Poto showed her versatility by leading the team, scoring 13 points, pulling in nine rebounds, grabbing three steals and dishing one assist.

The Price Attack Opals farewelled Cuba and Russia and continued their tour of China, moving onto Wuxhi for two friendlies against the host nation.

The first match saw the Opals a little rusty, going down 75-67. With Jacinta Hamilton being used sparingly due to a foot injury, Hollie Grima again showed maturity in stepping up to the challenge.

They turned that result around the next night when they thrashed out a 69-60 win in overtime. The Opals had regrouped and came out with some aggressive pressure defence, forcing the Chinese to commit 18 turnovers. Turning the ball over only three times themselves, the Opals transformed their tough defence into offensive conversions.

It was a strong way to end the ten-day tour, the team needing to feel like they had finished on a high after four straight losses.

The team travelled on to Hong Kong where they celebrated head coach Jan Stirling's 50th birthday before travelling home.

The tour had given the team plenty of good preparation for the FIBA Oceania Qualifying Series against New Zealand in August and after a one-month break, the team was back on a plane and heading to the land of the long white cloud for the three-match series.

With only one team from Oceania to qualify for the FIBA World Championships for Women in Brazil in September 2006, the Opals knew they had a serious job to do in New Zealand.

The team flew into Wellington for four days before the start of the series to acclimatise and train together after a month apart and off the court. Renae Camino was brought into the team in place of Jenni Screen, and Jenny Whittle also joined the team for the important series. 197cm Whittle gave the Opals some much needed experience and size in the paint.

On day two of the training camp, and days before she was about to make her Price Attack Opals debut, young prodigy, Renae Camino, who had just returned from a very successful World Championship campaign with the Gems, tore her Anterior Cruciate Ligament and was flown home for urgent and immediate medical attention.

It was a devastating blow for Camino, and also for the team, who were looking forward to what the young star could bring to the program. The team continued with only 11 athletes and prepared for their first match of the series against the Kiwis.

It was almost all one-way traffic in the opening match in Palmerston North, the Opals opened up a good lead in the first quarter and went on with it throughout the match, winning 77-51.

The team were led well by Whittle and Cross, with Whittle top scoring with 22 points and Katrina Hibbert finishing with 12.

In the second match three days later, the Kiwis were determined to keep their hopes of their first World Championship berth alive and threw everything they had at the Aussies in Napier. It wasn't enough however, the Opals pulling away in the final quarter and qualifying for the World Championships with a 75-67 win.

Cross was again dominant for the Aussie with 18 points, while Alicia Poto had 14.

It was a quick trip to Hamilton for the final match and the travel had obviously taken its toll on the locals. It was a rough match and the Kiwis managed just 38 points to the Aussies' 67 with Jacinta Hamilton-top scoring with 13 points and Hollie Grima and Carly Wilson each contributing 12 points each.

The Opals were dealt another devastating blow in that final match, Alicia Poto tearing her Anterior Cruciate Ligament when she drove through two New Zealand defenders who sandwiched her. Both Poto and Camino required surgery on their return to Australia and sat out for the entire Price Attack WNBL season.

After a good international season and their mission of qualifying for the World Championships accomplished, the bulk of this group of athletes will be rewarded with a place on the team for the Commonwealth Games.

INTERNATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR – MAHER MEDAL

HOLLIE GRIMA

The 2005 Maher Medal for International Player of the Year was awarded to Hollie Grima after the 22-year-old had a breakthrough year in the senior women's team.

Grima's year started with her helping her Price Attack WNBL team, the Bulleen Melbourne Boomers to their first finals campaign in five years. Grima used the success of the season to build a strong foundation on which to continue the year with the Price Attack Opals.

A 190cm centre, Grima was first named to the Price Attack Opals team in 2002, when as an 18-year-old, she helped the team to a bronze medal at the 2002 FIBA World Championships in China. She went on to assist the Opals qualify for the 2004 Olympic Games by defeating New Zealand in the 2003 FIBA Oceania Qualifying Series, but was disappointed to miss the team for Athens by one place in 2004.

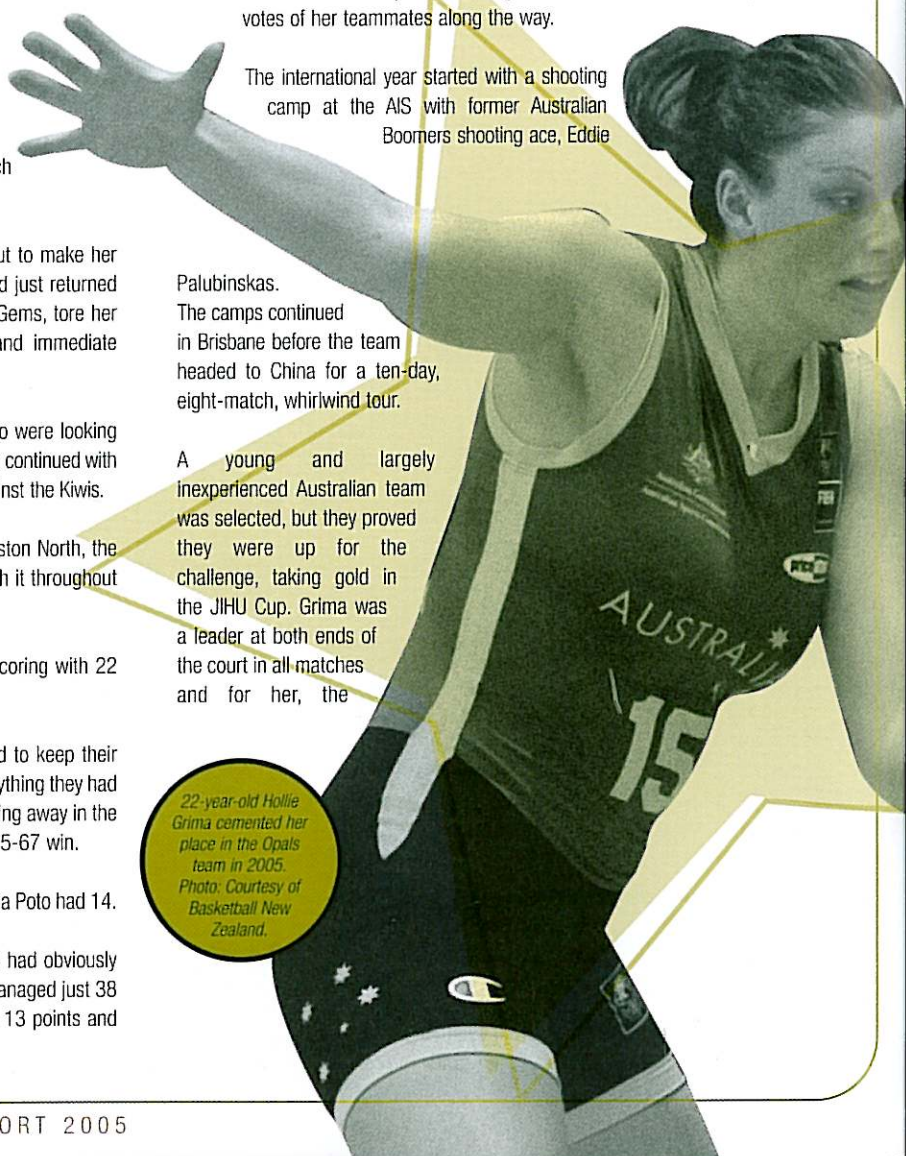
Determined to claw her way into the team for the next major international tournaments (Commonwealth Games and 2006 World Championships) Grima worked hard to cement her position throughout 2005 and earned the respect and votes of her teammates along the way.

The international year started with a shooting camp at the AIS with former Australian Boomers shooting ace, Eddie

Palubinskas. The camps continued in Brisbane before the team headed to China for a ten-day, eight-match, whirlwind tour.

A young and largely inexperienced Australian team was selected, but they proved they were up for the challenge, taking gold in the JIHU Cup. Grima was a leader at both ends of the court in all matches and for her, the

22-year-old Hollie Grima cemented her place in the Opals team in 2005. Photo: Courtesy of Basketball New Zealand.



tournament culminated in 22 points and six rebounds in their win against the home team and included nine points, 10 rebounds and three assists in their win against Cuba and seven points and nine rebounds in the team's overtime loss against Russia.

The next three matches in China were not so successful for the team, with three losses in a row. Individually, Grima picked up where she left off and in the opening match she had 18 points at 75% shooting, and nine rebounds. She played well in the remaining two matches, scoring a game-high 14 points and five rebounds against Cuba.

The final two matches of the tour were friendlies against the host country, and after losing the first match-up the Opals finished the tour on a strong note with an encouraging win. Again, Grima was the standout player, showing the maturity of a player ready to step up into a leadership role within the senior women's team.

In late August the final battle had arrived and the Price Attack Opals were off to New Zealand for the FIBA Oceania Qualifying Series against New Zealand to determine who would represent the region in the 2006 World Championships.

The Australians dominated in the first match, thrashing the Kiwis by 26 points. Grima had nine points, seven rebounds and three assists in that match and

followed it up with another 10 points in their second win of the series. The Price Attack Opals swept the series 3-0 with another convincing win and Grima finished off her international year with another double figure effort (12 points).

Hollie Grima is the 11th player to win the Maher Medal in its 18-year history. Lauren Jackson has won the award a record four times, and Robyn Maher has won it three times.

THE MAHER MEDAL

The Maher Medal is named after one of Australia's greatest sporting families. The husband and wife team of Tom and Robyn Maher have been involved in 566 games for Australia as player and coach and were instrumental in Australia's rise to world prominence in women's basketball. All members of the women's senior national team vote after each game, with the player who receives the most votes each year being awarded the Maher Medal.

PREVIOUS MAHER MEDAL WINNERS

1988 Robyn Maher; 1989 Samantha Thornton; 1990 Robyn Maher; 1991 Robyn Maher; 1992 Sandy Brondello; 1993 Rachael Sporn; 1994 Michele Timms; 1995 Michelle Brogan; 1996 Michele Timms; 1997 Michelle Brogan; 1998 Carla Porter; 1999 Lauren Jackson; 2000 Lauren Jackson; 2001 Suzy Batkovic; 2002 Lauren Jackson; 2003 Trish Fallon; 2004 Lauren Jackson; 2005 Hollie Grima.

SCOREBOARD

JIHU CUP – HARBIN, CHINA

July 8–10

Team: Deanne Butler, Jae Cross, Hollie Grima, Jacinta Hamilton, Katrina Hibbert, Emily McInerney (Co-Capt), Alicia Poto (Co-Capt), Erin Phillips, Emma Randall, Jennifer Screen, Carly Wilson

Staff: Jan Stirling (Head Coach), Gary Fox (Assistant Coach), Lisa Rollo (Physiotherapist), Scott Burne (Doctor), Donna O'Connor (Physiologist), Marian Stewart (Manager)

Results:

July 8	Australia 65	def.	Cuba 62
July 9	Russia 84	def.	Australia 77
July 10	Australia 85	def.	China 77 (O/T)

SHANGHAI TOURNAMENT, CHINA

July 13-15

Team: Deanne Butler, Jae Cross, Hollie Grima, Jacinta Hamilton, Katrina Hibbert, Emily McInerney (Co-Capt), Alicia Poto (Co-Capt), Erin Phillips, Emma Randall, Jennifer Screen, Carly Wilson

Staff: Jan Stirling (Head Coach), Gary Fox (Assistant Coach), Lisa Rollo (Physiotherapist), Scott Burne (Dr.), Donna O'Connor (Physiologist), Marian Stewart (Manager)

Results:

July 13	Russia 71	def.	Australia 59
July 14	China 60	def.	Australia 55
July 15	Cuba 63	def.	Australia 57 (O/T)

WUXHI INVITATION TOURNAMENT – WUXHI, CHINA

July 17-18

Team: Deanne Butler, Jae Cross, Hollie Grima, Jacinta Hamilton, Katrina Hibbert, Emily McInerney (Co-Capt), Alicia Poto (Co-Capt), Erin Phillips, Emma Randall, Jennifer Screen, Carly Wilson

Staff: Jan Stirling (Head Coach), Gary Fox (Assistant Coach), Lisa Rollo (Physiotherapist), Scott Burne (Doctor), Donna O'Connor (Physiologist), Marian Stewart (Manager)

Results:

July 17	China 75	def.	Australia 67
July 18	Australia 69	def.	China 60 (O/T)

FIBA OCEANIA QUALIFYING SERIES – PALMERSTON NORTH, NAPIER & TE AWAMUTU, NEW ZEALAND

August 24-28

Team: Deanne Butler, Jae Cross, Hollie Grima, Jacinta Hamilton, Katrina Hibbert, Emily McInerney (Co-Capt), Alicia Poto (Co-Capt), Erin Phillips, Emma Randall, Carly Wilson, Jenny Whittle, Renae Camino (injured before first game)

Staff: Jan Stirling (Head Coach), Gary Fox (Assistant Coach), Cheryl Chambers (Assistant Coach), Amanda Berntsen (Physiotherapist), Scott Burne (Doctor), Marian Stewart (Manager), Carolyn Tsakalos (Referee)

Results:

August 24	Australia 77	def.	New Zealand 51
August 27	Australia 75	def.	New Zealand 67
August 28	Australia 67	def.	New Zealand 38

Australia win series (3-0) and qualify for the World Championships.

the crocs

In a World Championship year the Crocs were always going to be under pressure to perform well. Most of the group were part of the 2003 World Championship winning Emus team, and expectations were high.

The year started with the resignation of assistant coach Andrej Lemanis after his appointment to the position of Head Coach of Phillips Championship NBL team the New Zealand Breakers. This led to the appointment of Queensland's Bruce Palmer after his success with the Queensland U20s men's team at the 2005 National Championships.

The Crocs' first five-day selection camp was held at the AIS in early June and Brian Goorjian and Brendan Joyce attended the camp to give direction and guidance to these 18 young players who would one day be vying for spots in Boomers squads.

The second camp was held in late June and was a tough workout for the athletes, knowing that at the end of the five days a final team of 12 would be selected for the World Championships in Argentina in August.

Team leader, and 2003 Emus Captain Damian Martin, snapped his Achilles tendon the day before the announcement of final team, ruling him out of selection.

Eight players from the 2003 Gold medal team were selected, with four athletes who were to attend their first ever World Championships - Brad Hill, Nathan Jawai, Ben Allen and Adam Gibson.

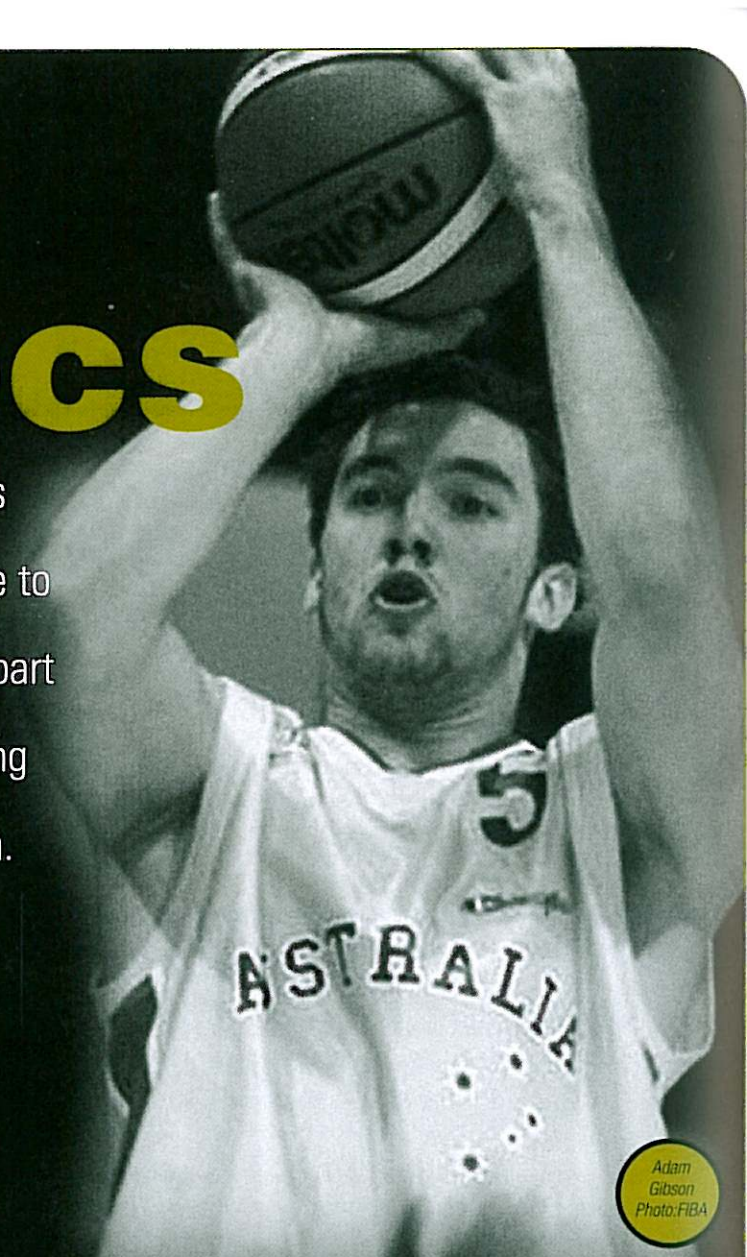
Horsham's Aaron Bruce was named as captain of the team.

In July the team embarked on an 11-game preparation tour to Greece, Slovenia and Canada.

The team played four matches in Athens, the first against the home team Greece where the group overcame jetlag to record their first win. This was the first time these 12 athletes had played together in an international match and had only six players from 2004 preparation tour to Europe and the Oceania Series against New Zealand.

The team then went down to the European Championship runners up Israel before coming up against Qatar's senior men's team who were preparing for the Asian Championships. They played Greece again the final match of the tournament, taking a one-point win in an absorbing struggle between two fierce but friendly teams.

The tournament proved to be excellent preparation against two teams in the same Group at the Worlds.



Adam
Gibson
Photo:FIBA

The team then travelled to Slovenia, playing in the same town as the 2004 European tour, Mozarje.

The team was not able to fly into Mozarje until the morning of the first match due to mechanical problems with the plane. Despite this, the team put up an excellent effort but unfortunately tired in the closing stages, with Slovenia taking the win by five points.

The Croatian team were senior players preparing for the European Men's Championships and the match was a great opportunity to play against a team of this calibre. The experience of playing such a talented team helped the Crocs take an excellent win over the Slovenians the next day, with a fine offensive display from the team.

The Crocs had made excellent strides in their preparation for the World Championships and the coaching staff were pleased with the teams commitment and attitude.

The team then travelled back across the time zones to Toronto, Canada for the final stage of their preparation phase and to play the Jack Donoghue International Classic.

The Crocs took convincing wins over Greece and China, but had problems against the host country, losing twice to Canada, including by 20 points in the final.

FIBA U21 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

After a couple of days rest in Canada, including a trip to Niagara Falls, the team arrived in Cordoba, Argentina three days before start of the tournament to prepare and acclimatise to local conditions.

The late withdrawal of Iran meant a slight adjustment to the draw and resulted in one less game for the Crocs.

The group started their campaign with a convincing win over Greece, which was a pleasing start to the tournament with great contributions from all team members. They continued their success with an outstanding win over Canada in Round 2, making amends for their performances against the same team in Toronto.

In a great game of international basketball, the Crocs won their Round 3 match against Israel by one point, showing incredible fighting spirit and preparing them for what would be the toughest match of the Preliminary Round – the home team, Argentina.

In front of a very vocal crowd of over 2000, the Crocs had an excellent first half and were up by 24 points. In the second half, the game became very physical and the Aussies had trouble adapting, playing into the hands of the Argentineans who were bolstered by the crowd. The Aussies were able to hold on for a gutsy win and secured first place in their pool.

The team had only six hours sleep that night before having to board a chartered flight to Mar del Plata for the final rounds of the Championships.

After less than a day's rest in the new host city the Crocs took on Slovenia in the quarter final and seemed a little flat. The team still managed to pull off a win in overtime, putting together a perfect team performance to overcome the European Champions, relegating them to a minor placing and moving themselves into the tournament's final four.

In the semi final against Lithuania the Crocs were outplayed in the first quarter and never recovered. They did hold their own in the final three quarters, but they couldn't find the spark to get back on level ground. This was a disappointing end for a group of highly motivated and focused athletes who had their sights set on making the final. However, the bronze medal was still up for grabs and the Crocs wanted to take it home.

Their opponents Canada played with the desire of their country as they strove for the first ever medal at the junior men's level and proved too good for the Aussies on the day, taking the bronze and relegating the Crocs to fourth position.

While the team were obviously disappointed to finish out of the medals after winning gold with the Emus in 2003, fourth at the World Championships is still an outstanding achievement and one that they, and the Australian basketball community are proud of.

SCOREBOARD

GREEK TOURNAMENT – ATHENS, GREECE

July 13-16

Team: Ben Allen, Aaron Bruce, Rhys Carter, Adam Gibson, Sam Harris, Brad Hill, Blagoj Javev, Nathan Jawai, Matthew Knight, Aleksandar Maric, Steven Markovic, Brad Newley

Staff: Guy Molloy (Head Coach), Tim Mallon (Assistant Coach), Bruce Palmer (Assistant Coach), Bob McGugan (Manager), Kylie Sellwood (Doctor), Craig Sedgman (Physiotherapist), Damian Thiesz (Referee)

Results:

July 13	Australia 82	def.	Greece 75
July 14	Israel 94	def.	Australia 88
July 15	Australia 95	def.	Qatar 70
July 16	Australia 88	def.	Greece 87

SLOVENIAN TOURNAMENT - MOZARJE, SLOVENIA

July 20-22

Team: Ben Allen, Aaron Bruce, Rhys Carter, Adam Gibson, Sam Harris, Brad Hill, Blagoj Javev, Nathan Jawai, Matthew Knight, Aleksandar Maric, Steven Markovic, Brad Newley

Staff: Guy Molloy (Head Coach), Tim Mallon (Assistant Coach), Bruce Palmer (Assistant Coach), Bob McGugan (Manager), Kylie Sellwood (Doctor), Craig Sedgman (Physiotherapist), Damian Thiesz (Referee)

Results:

July 20	Slovenia 72	def.	Australia 72
July 21	Croatia 93	def.	Australia 93
July 22	Australia 104	def.	Slovenia 93

JACK DONOHUE CLASSIC –TORONTO, CANADA

July 25-29

Team: Ben Allen, Aaron Bruce, Rhys Carter, Adam Gibson, Sam Harris, Brad Hill, Blagoj Javev, Nathan Jawai, Matthew Knight, Aleksandar Maric, Steven Markovic, Brad Newley

Staff: Guy Molloy (Head Coach), Tim Mallon (Assistant Coach), Bruce Palmer (Assistant Coach), Bob McGugan (Manager), Kylie Sellwood (Doctor), Craig Sedgman (Physiotherapist), Damian Thiesz (Referee)

Results:

July 25	Canada 88	def.	Australia 81
July 26	Australia 92	def.	China 72
July 27	Australia 96	def.	Greece 80
July 29	Canada 100	def.	Australia 80

Australia 2nd place

4TH FIBA U21 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – CORDOBA AND MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA

August 5-14

Team: Ben Allen, Aaron Bruce, Rhys Carter, Adam Gibson, Sam Harris, Brad Hill, Blagoj Javev, Nathan Jawai, Matthew Knight, Aleksandar Maric, Steven Markovic, Brad Newley

Staff: Guy Molloy (Head Coach), Tim Mallon (Assistant Coach), Bruce Palmer (Assistant Coach), Bob McGugan (Manager), Kylie Sellwood (Doctor), Craig Sedgman (Physiotherapist), Damian Thiesz (Referee)

Results:

August 5	Australia 94	def.	Greece 81
August 6	Australia 88	def.	Canada 71
August 9	Australia 105	def.	Israel 104
August 10	Australia 82	def.	Argentina 76
August 12	Australia 89	def.	Slovenia 80 (quarterfinal)
August 13	Lithuania 96	def.	Australia 73 (semi final)
August 14	Canada 79	def.	Australia 74

Australia 4th place

the gems

With a big year ahead of them, the Gems' year started early with their first training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport in February prior to the National U20 Championships in Newcastle, NSW.

The camp was used as selection for the upcoming tour of Spain, which would see the young teenagers up against senior professional teams from March 5-20. This tour was a critical component of our preparation leading up to Tunisia for the World Championships. The experience gained from this tour was immeasurable and gave the Gems 10 weeks after the tour to make final adjustments to their playing system, focus on specific skill areas with each athlete, refine and digest the experience of playing against European teams and confirm probable selection of the final twelve athletes to represent Australia in Tunisia.

Just prior to a camp in late May, starting guard, Jenna O'Hea, dislocated a bone in her right foot, fracturing her navicular bone and ruling her out of selection for the World Championship team. As leading scorer (15 ppg) and the most experienced player in the Gems program, O'Hea gave the team much needed versatility, playing anywhere from point guard to power forward. The team now had three months to adjust to 'life without Jenna' and remained optimistic about their chances as the tournament approached.

June's international tournament in San Diego provided a gauge of where the team was positioned against teams of the same age and level. The team defeated China twice, and narrowly lost to Russia and the USA. Following this tournament the Gems felt confident that they were a top four team for Tunisia.

On return to Australia, the team had a three-day break before playing the visiting Japanese National junior team. The Gems won both matches before travelling to


Sydney for a three-game series against Texas Tech University and UCLA.

During the second match against Texas Tech, starting point guard Kathleen Macleod suffered a Grade 2 medial co-lateral ligament tear in her right knee. A major injury only 20 days out from the Championships, Gems medical personnel were confident that, after seeing x-rays and MRI results, Macleod was a strong chance to play at the Worlds. An injury such as this would normally take four or more weeks to recover from, but staff believed Macleod would be ready towards the middle of the tournament in just 21 days.

The team now had less than one week of training together at the AIS to prepare to play without Macleod (the team's Captain, best perimeter defender, second leading scorer and their 'heart and soul'). The team responded positively as Christina Fox stepped into the starting point guard position, ably backed up by Lisa Scaglia. Rebecca Duke, Reae Camino, Mikalea Dombkins and Rebecca Schatz took on greater responsibility and the three games against ABA teams in Melbourne in July became critical to adjust to the loss of a key player.

FIBA U19 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Gems plan going into the World Championships tournament was to finish the preliminary rounds at the top of Group B, giving the team the best chance in the final rounds. Good wins against Spain and Tunisia, a four-point loss against Hungary, followed by a hard fought win against Canada and an outstanding performance against China led to the team achieving that first objective.



Renae Camino.
Photo: Ian Knight
Photography.

Serbia & Montenegro) proved to be an extremely challenging sudden death quarterfinal. Macleod re-injured her knee in the six-point loss, limiting her throughout that match, and the remainder of the tournament.

An 11-point loss to Spain and a six-point win over Hungary completed the Gems tournament with a 5:3 record and seventh position.

Despite the loss of two impact players in O'Hea and Macleod, the Gems displayed great grit and determination, togetherness and competitiveness throughout the World Championship tournament. The team were highly respected by their competitors for their ability on the court and class off the court.

SCOREBOARD

SPANISH TOUR

March 7-17

Team: Abby Bishop, Renae Camino, Caitlin Cunningham, Mikaela Dombkins, Rebecca Duke, Christina Fox, Rachael Herrick, Kathleen Macleod (Captain), Ellie Manou, Jenna O'Hea, Rebecca Schatz, Melissa Smith, Louella Tomlinson

Staff: Phil Brown (Head Coach), Dean Kinsman (Assistant Coach), Michele Menso (Manager), Amanda Berntsen (Physiotherapist)

Results:

March 7	Australia 81	def.	Alvargomes 67
March 8	Adecco Estudiantes 87	def.	Australia 73
March 9	Acis-Sufi Leon 66	def.	Australia 64
March 10	Extrugasa 65	def.	Australia 64
March 14	Universitaria Ferrol 73	def.	Australia 62
March 15	Acis-Sufi Leon 79	def.	Australia 57
March 16	Australia 92	def.	Perfumerias 89
March 17	Rivas Futura 98	def.	Australia 84

GEMS V UTAH STATE – SYDNEY, NSW

May 23-24

Team: Abby Bishop, Renae Camino, Caitlin Cunningham, Mikaela Dombkins, Rebecca Duke, Christina Fox, Kathleen Macleod (Captain), Rebecca Schatz, Jamie-Lee Samuels, Lisa Scaglia, Melissa Smith, Louella Tomlinson

Staff: Phil Brown (Head Coach), Dean Kinsman (Assistant Coach), Cheryl Chambers (Assistant Coach), Michele Menso (Manager), Amanda Berntsen (Physiotherapist)

Results:

May 23	Australia 102	def.	Utah State, USA 37
May 24	Australia 70	def.	Utah State, USA 69

USOC PACIFIC RIM TOURNAMENT – SAN DIEGO, USA

June 8-11

Team: Abby Bishop, Renae Camino, Caitlin Cunningham, Mikaela Dombkins, Rebecca Duke, Christina Fox, Kathleen Macleod (Captain), Jamie-Lee Samuels, Lisa Scaglia, Rebecca Schatz, Melissa Smith, Louella Tomlinson

Staff: Phil Brown (Head Coach), Dean Kinsman (Assistant Coach), Cheryl Chambers (Assistant Coach) Michele Menso (Manager), Amanda Berntsen (Physiotherapist)

Results:

June 8	Australia 83	def.	China 70
June 9	USA 82	def.	Australia 74
June 10	Russia 93	def.	Australia 81
June 11	Australia 83	def.	China 61

GEMS V JAPAN ALL STAR WJB – CANBERRA, ACT

June 19-20

Team: Abby Bishop, Renae Camino (Co-Captain), Caitlin Cunningham, Mikaela Dombkins, Rebecca Duke, Christina Fox, Kathleen Macleod (Co-Captain), Jamie-Lee Samuels, Lisa Scaglia, Rebecca Schatz, Melissa Smith, Louella Tomlinson

Staff: Phil Brown (Head Coach), Dean Kinsman (Assistant Coach), Cheryl Chambers (Assistant Coach) Michele Menso (Manager), Amanda Berntsen (Physiotherapist)

Results:

June 19	Australia 86	def.	Japan 81
June 20	Australia 89	def.	Japan 83

GEMS V TEXAS TECH– SYDNEY, NSW

June 25-26

Team: Abby Bishop, Renae Camino (Co-Captain), Caitlin Cunningham, Mikaela Dombkins, Rebecca Duke, Christina Fox, Kathleen Macleod (Captain), Jamie-Lee Samuels, Lisa Scaglia, Rebecca Schatz, Melissa Smith, Louella Tomlinson

Staff: Phil Brown (Head Coach), Dean Kinsman (Assistant Coach), Michele Menso (Manager), Amanda Berntsen (Physiotherapist)

Results:

June 25	Texas Tech 81	def.	Australia 73
June 26	Texas Tech 66	def.	Australia 58

6TH U21 FIBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WOMEN – TUNIS, TUNISIA

July 15-24

Team: Abby Bishop, Renae Camino, Caitlin Cunningham, Mikaela Dombkins, Rebecca Duke, Christina Fox, Kathleen Macleod (Captain), Jamie-Lee Samuels, Lisa Scaglia, Rebecca Schatz, Melissa Smith, Louella Tomlinson

Staff: Phil Brown (Head Coach), Dean Kinsman (Assistant Coach), Cheryl Chambers (Assistant Coach), Michele Menso (Manager), Amanda Berntsen (Physiotherapist), Dr. Keiran Fallon (Doctor), Megan Thompson (Referee), Lorraine Landon (Head of Delegation).

Results:

July 15	Australia 53	def.	Spain 50
July 16	Australia 68	def.	Tunisia 47
July 17	Hungary 61	def.	Australia 57
July 19	Australia 82	def.	Canada 73
July 20	Australia 77	def.	China 66
July 22	Serbia Montenegro 76	def.	Australia 70 (Q/F)
July 23	Spain 79	def.	Australia 68
July 24	Australia 68	def.	Hungary 62

Australia 7th place

the gliders

The Gliders were riding high after their silver medal success at the Athens Olympics in 2004, which put them up amongst the best wheelchair basketball teams in the world.

2005's campaign would be polarised by the qualification tournament in South Korea in October for the 2006 World Championships in Amsterdam.

Head coach Gerry Hewson named a huge squad in March, allowing him to 'blood' plenty of new young players in the lead up to the July 2006 World Championships.

Hewson took a team of 14 athletes to Toronto's Spitfire Tournament in July 2005, which was the first time Australia had been invited to compete in the tournament. The large squad was chosen to allow athletes to be split into two teams to give players the maximum amount of court time throughout the tournament. Germany and Canada also divided their teams.

There were five rookies on the tour - Melanie Hall, Naomi Schouten, Tina McKenzie, Jenny Nicholls and Clare Burzynski - with Burzynski giving a great performance over the entire tournament. Veterans Melanie Domaschenz, Melissa Collins, Alison Mosely, Liesl Tesch and Jane Sachs also played very well throughout the tournament.

Athens Paralympian Kylie Gauci missed the tournament as she was competing in the 3rd World Junior Championships in Birmingham (mixed event).

The Gliders full team took good wins over Canada and Germany, with strong defence and containment of ball handlers.

The Gliders returned to Australia in August and undertook individual training and some smaller camps before a 12-woman team was named for the Asia Oceania Championships in Daejeon, South Korea in October.

Two teams would qualify for the World Championships from the qualification event and Australia had three tough games against a rapidly improving Japanese team who will also be heading to Amsterdam for the World Championships in July 2006.

Hewson was able to experiment with different starting line ups throughout the tournament, and offensively, the team worked on ball reversal and working away from the ball. There was also opportunity to do more individuals with the athletes to help them improve further.

2005 was a good starting point for a new and large group of athletes, which will put Australian women's wheelchair basketball in a strong position for the future.

Kylie Gauci.
Photo:
Matt Walls.



Veteran Alison Mosely helped the team through the qualification tournament in South Korea in 2005. Photo: Getty Images.

SCOREBOARD

SPITFIRE TOURNAMENT – TORONTO, CANADA

July 24 – August 4

Team: Melanie Domaschenz, Melissa Collins, Alison Mosely, Jane Sachs, Tina McKenzie, Sarah Stewart, Shelley Chaplin, Kathleen O’Kelly-Kennedy, Liesl Tesch, Melanie Hall, Clare Burzysnki, Naomi Schouten, Janne Errington-Smith, Jennifer Nicholls

Staff: Gerry Hewson (Head Coach), Sonia Healy (Manager/Assistant Coach), Mick Dowling (Mechanic/Assistant Manager), David Spurrier (Physiotherapist)

Results:

July 28	Canada Red 56	def.	Australia A 34
	Germany B 50	def.	Australia B 34
July 29	Australia A 54	def.	Germany A 39
	Canada Red 49	def.	Australia B 31
	Canada 44	def.	Australia 23
	Australia 71	def.	Germany 58
30 July	Canada White 46	def.	Australia A 17
	Australia B 50	def.	Germany B 45
	Australia 62	def.	Canada 38

ASIA OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS – DAEJEON, SOUTH KOREA

October 5 - 13

Team: Melanie Domaschenz, Alison Mosely, Jane Sachs, Tina McKenzie, Sarah Stewart, Liesl Tesch, Melanie Hall, Clare Burzysnki, Naomi Schouten, Jennifer Nicholls, Katie Hill, Kylie Gauci

Staff: Gerry Hewson (Head Coach), Ben Ettridge (Assistant Coach), Sonia Healy (Manager), Kym Evers (Physiotherapist)

Results:

October 8	Australia 56	def.	Japan 43
October 8	Australia 75	def.	China 15
October 9	Australia 39	def.	Japan 37
October 10	Australia 80	def.	China 20
October 11	Australia 51	def.	Japan 45 (final)

the rollers

After a successful 2004, which included a silver medal at the Athens Paralympics, the Rollers re-grouped in the early stages of 2005 to begin their preparations for the year, which would include the qualification tournament for the 2006 World Championships in Amsterdam.

The team's preparations were slightly hampered by the cancellation of the popular Roosevelt Cup tournament, but the introduction of the Paralympic World Cup, played in Manchester, was a good initiative for international wheelchair basketball.

The Paralympic World Cup was the first tournament of the year for the Rollers and was a Grand Prix style multi sport event providing the biggest international elite level disability competition outside the Paralympic Games.

There were only four sports included in the inaugural event: athletics, swimming, track cycling and basketball.

Australia's most experienced players, Troy Sachs and Brad Ness, were not available for this tournament due to European competitions, but even without these two powerhouse athletes, the Rollers won through to the final, going down to the hosts, Great Britain in the gold medal game.

The Rollers long-time physiotherapist, John Camens, retired from his position following the World Cup and was replaced by Ian Lowther.

Shaun Norris
Photo:
Getty Images

The Rollers continued to contend with the unavailability of its Athens Paralympians at camps throughout the year, but the National Wheelchair Basketball League continued to provide a high quality of domestic competition for those who remained in Australia.

Our best young athletes gained valuable experience playing in the 3rd Junior World Championships in Birmingham, with Rollers squad members Tristan Knowles, Shaun Norris, Darren Skuse, Jace Clare and Bill Latham all making the team.

The annual Kitakyushu Cup in Japan was excellent preparation for the AOZ Qualification series in South Korea. Played the week before the qualification tournament, coach Murray Treseder was able to blood some new players as well as breaking in new team captain Brad Ness.

The tournament was a pleasure for the group on and off the court and the teams were able to visit some schools in their time off. The Rollers played two intense and tough matches against the USA, including the final, winning both encounters.

In their final tournament of the year, the Rollers continued their good form from the Kitakyushu Cup, qualifying for the 2006 World Championships by moving through the Asia Oceania Zone Qualification Tournament undefeated.

Team leaders Troy Sachs, Justin Eveson and Brad Ness helped the team immensely throughout the tournament with some wonderfully accurate shooting, including in the final against Japan, which was an excellent game of wheelchair basketball.

The Rollers will head into the 2006 World Championships in Amsterdam in July with the highest seeding from the Asia Oceania Zone, with Japan also qualifying for the tournament.



Big guns Troy Sachs (background) and Brad Ness (foreground) helped the team qualify for the World Championships. Photo: Matt Wells

SCOREBOARD

PARALYMPIC WORLD CUP – MANCHESTER, UK May 12 – 15

Team: Jeremy Van Asperen, Tristan Knowles, Tige Simmons, Daryl Taylor, Shaun Norris, Brett Nicholson, Jace Clare, Adrian King, Michael Harnett, Darren Skuse, Andrew Flavell and Shaun Groenewegen

Staff: Murray Treseder (Head Coach), Alan Cox (Assistant Coach), Kelvin Browner (Manager), John Camens (Physiotherapist), Barry Spicer (Referee)

Results:

May 12	Australia 88	def.	Netherlands 51
May 13	Australia 61	def.	Germany 54
May 14	Australia 69	def.	Great Britain 58
May 15	Great Britain 58	def.	Australia 57 (final)

KITAKYUSHU CUP – KITAKYUSHU, JAPAN 30 September – 2 October

Team: Justin Eveson, Shaun Norris, Troy Sachs, Andrew Flavell, Shaun Groenewegen, Daryl Taylor, Adrian King, Jace Clare, Darren Belling, Tige Simmons, Brendan Stroud, Brad Ness

Staff: Murray Treseder (Head Coach), Mal Keene (Technical Assistant Coach), Kelvin Browner (Manager), Ian Lowther (Physiotherapist)

Results:

September 30	Australia 53	def.	USA 44
October 1	Australia 84	def.	Germany 35
October 1	Australia 74	def.	Japan 53
October 2	Australia 71	def.	USA 66 (final)

ASIA OCEANIA ZONE QUALIFICATION – DAEJEON, SOUTH KOREA

October 9 – 11

Team: Justin Eveson, Shaun Norris, Troy Sachs, Andrew Flavell, Shaun Groenewegen, Daryl Taylor, Adrian King, Jace Clare, Darren Belling, Tige Simmons, Brendan Stroud, Brad Ness

Staff: Murray Treseder (Head Coach), Mal Keene (Technical Assistant Coach), Kelvin Browner (Manager), Ian Lowther (Physiotherapist)

Results:

October 9	Australia 66	def.	Korea 38
October 10	Australia 84	def.	Chinese Taipei 29
October 10	Australia 91	def.	China 22
October 11	Australia 54	def.	Japan 46 (final)

price attack wnbl 2004/05

The 25th anniversary season of the Price Attack WNBL was packed with history, nostalgia, and of course, many exciting games of women's basketball.



Continuing its reputation for being one of the best league's in the world, the Price Attack WNBL boasts some of the best female basketball players on the planet. After winning an Olympic silver medal in Athens in 2004, five players returned to take part in the 2004/05 season (Trisha Fallon – Sydney Uni, Lauren Jackson – Canberra, Natalie Porter – Townsville, Belinda Snell – Sydney Uni and Laura Summerton – Adelaide).

Canberra fans were excited to have Jackson back for her sixth season with the Caps, but were as disappointed as she was when bone spurs on her right ankle, and subsequent surgery, kept her out of the game for the entire season.

Trish Fallon brought some glamour to Sydney Uni, and teamed up with Belinda Snell to provide the Flames with a top-class combination.

Townsville's Natalie Porter also succumbed to ankle problems throughout 2004, sitting out the second half of the season, while Laura Summerton shone for the Adelaide Lightning, giving fans a new favourite daughter after the retirement of Rachael Sporn.

Celebrating its second season with naming rights sponsor Price Attack, the league was granted wings, welcoming Virgin Blue on board as a partner, and formed a number of new strategic alliances that helped to raise the profile of women's basketball in the wider community.

ABC-TV continued its 15-year partnership with the league, and throughout the season, over three million Australians tuned in to watch the action and drama unfold.

The 25th season was celebrated with the naming of the best 10 players of all time, along with the best coach and referee.

Lauren Jackson was named as the best player of all time. Jackson was the overwhelming choice of an elite group of panel members as the Most Valuable Player of the WNBL's first 25 seasons, receiving the majority of votes from the panel of long-time basketball observers.

The full team was: Lauren Jackson (AIS, Canberra), Robyn Maher (Melbourne, Melbourne East, Tasmania, Perth & Sydney), Michele Timms (Bulleen Melbourne, Melbourne East, Perth & Sydney), Rachael Sporn (West Adelaide, North Adelaide, Adelaide), Shelley Sandie/Gorman (Melbourne East, AIS, Dandenong, Sydney, Canberra), Penny Taylor (AIS, Dandenong), Julie Nykiel (Noarlunga), Jenny Cheesman (Noarlunga, AIS, Canberra), Karen Maar (CYMS, Coburg, Bulleen Melbourne), Trisha Fallon (AIS, Melbourne, Sydney), Tom Maher (Coach - Melbourne, Nunawading, Tasmania, Perth, Sydney, Canberra), Sharon Arnold (Referee).

The team were presented with plaques at the Grand Final between Dandenong and Sydney Uni on February 19, and were honoured at a luncheon.

A hard fought finals series in February topped off a great season, culminating in a final showdown between reigning Champions, the Dandenong Jayco Rangers, and perennial bridesmaids, the Sydney Uni Flames. The Grand Final was a defensive battle to the end, with Dandenong coming away with a 52-47 win in front of a capacity Dandenong Basketball Stadium that was literally packed to the rafters.

ABC-TV broadcast the Grand Final, Preliminary Final and Major Semi Final live as well as showing extended highlights of the Minor Semi Final.

Bulleen Melbourne and Adelaide were the other two teams to make the finals playoffs, with Bulleen Melbourne unable to win a game against Dandenong in the Major Semi (59-63) and Sydney Uni in the Preliminary Final (71-79).

Adelaide put up a gallant fight against Sydney Uni in the Minor Semi Final, providing the packed house at Sydney University Sports and Aquatic Centre with one of the most thrilling games of basketball all season. The game was delayed more than 20 minutes after one of Adelaide's Tarago's was involved in a minor traffic accident on the way to the stadium. No one was seriously injured, but coach Chris Lucas and forward Cherie Smith carried slight injuries away.

At the end of regulation time, the scores were locked at 73-73. The overtime period was basket for basket, until Sydney Uni were able to hold onto a one-point advantage to take the match 94-93.

Jacinta Hamilton
Photo: Kangaroo
Photos



NATIONAL TEAMS & COMPETITIONS

Sydney Uni went on to defeat Bulleen Melbourne the next weekend and were brimming with confidence after their two finals wins. They went into the Grand Final hoping to break their run of three Grand Final losses, but it wasn't to be for the Sydney-siders, and Dandenong were crowned back-to-back Champions.

Three months later, the Rangers headed to Korea for the FIBA Women's World League, after accepting an invitation to play in the prestigious tournament of the world's best club teams. Dandenong took on teams from Russia, Japan and Korea in the Preliminary Round, going through the tournament undefeated. They were subsequently invited to attend the Final Round in Samara, Russia in October.

The Rangers arrived in Russia after playing two rounds of Price Attack WNBL basketball in the 2005/06 season. They faced the Chinese All-Stars, Unimed de Ourinhos (Brazil) and the home team Samara in their pool, winning only one match and being knocked out of contention for a medal finish.

They crossed pools to take on UMMC Ekaterinburg in the playoffs, winning the match and taking on Korea in the 5th/6th playoff. They won that match, finishing the tournament in 5th position. Full results can be found in SCORECARD (page 62).

As a testament to the high quality of players being developed in Australia, our Price Attack WNBL players and coaches continued to impress on the international stage in 2005. Lauren Jackson went very close to winning her second WNBA MVP award, while playing in her fifth season with the Seattle Storm. She also became the youngest player to reach 2000 WNBA points during the 2005 season. Her 2004 Championship teammate, Tully Bevilaqua tried her luck with a new team, the Indiana Fever, while Penny Taylor (Phoenix Mercury), Laura Summerton (Connecticut Sun), Suzy Batkovic (Seattle Storm), Kristi Harrower (Minnesota Lynx) and Belinda Snell (Phoenix Mercury) all made great contributions for their teams.

Adelaide Lightning rising star, Erin Phillips, was picked by the Connecticut Sun in the second round of the 2005 Draft, but chose to defer her move to the US to concentrate on establishing herself in the Price Attack WNBL and with the Price Attack Opals. Hollie Grima and Carly Wilson attended tryouts with the Sacramento Monarchs, but were waived before the season began.

Carrie Graf continued as the head coach for the Phoenix Mercury, and fellow Aussie, Michele Timms, was named as one of her assistant coaches. Athens Olympian, and former WNBA player, Sandy Brondello, crossed the line to take a position as assistant coach for the Sacramento Monarchs.

Back home, and off the court, the league launched a new-look website (wnbl.com.au) in the lead up to the 2004/05 season, ensuring that fans of the game, and the league, could keep in touch with breaking news of the league and women's basketball in Australia and around the world.

A strong marketing focus was implemented to help connect the Price Attack WNBL clubs, players and heroes with their local community and build the fan base for each of the clubs, standing each club in good stead for the future.

PRICE ATTACK WNBL AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

The Price Attack WNBL Ambassadors Program was again implemented to help to raise the profile of the league's up and coming young stars. The program, initiated in 2003, is aimed at increasing role models in women's sport, fine-tuning communication between the league and its players, and raising the profile of up-and-coming athletes in the local community. Facilitated by the WNBL, the program enlists the support of eight Price Attack WNBL Ambassadors (one per team) over the course of the season.

2004/05 Ambassadors: Laura Summerton (Adelaide), Christina Fox (AIS), Hollie Grima (Bulleen), Kellie Abrams (Canberra), Carly Wilson (Dandenong), Shelley Hammonds (Perth), Belinda Snell (Sydney Uni) & Natalie Porter (Townsville).



2004/05 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- Historic double-header weekend held in both Melbourne and Canberra in Round 10. A women's basketball bonanza (The Women Can Jump Weekend) in Melbourne was made possible by a grant from the Victorian State Government, Department for Victorian Communities.
- The AIS and Canberra played in Albury, NSW before a full house at the National Schools Basketball Tournament in December.
- A huge SMS competition implemented for the finals.
- The League implements Player of the Week and Month Awards.
- Phil Brown retires as the AIS Head Coach (a position he has held since 1991) with a win loss record of 100/213 32%.
- Tom Maher accepts the position of Head Coach for the Chinese National Senior Women's team. Carrie Graf announced as his replacement for the Canberra Capitals.
- 2004/05 was the last season of the high performance suits (bodsuits).
- Belinda Snell (Sydney Uni) broke an all-time individual single game record, which has stood since 1982 when she scored 54 points in Sydney Uni's game against Perth, in Perth, on January 21 2005.
- Emily McInerney wins her record sixth Robyn Maher Best Defensive Player award.
- Jan Stirling retires as head coach of the Adelaide Lightning after 12 years at the helm. Her assistant coach Chris Lucas takes her place and continues the tradition of making the finals.

2004/05 LADDER

Pos	Team	P	W	L	W/L%	Points%
1	DANDENONG	21	19	2	90	117.61
2	BULEEN MEL	21	16	5	76	117.44
3	SYDNEY UNI	21	16	5	76	121.04
4	ADELAIDE	21	13	8	62	113.54
5	CANBERRA	21	9	12	43	96.12
6	TOWNSVILLE	21	7	14	33	95.21
7	AIS	21	3	18	14	84.16
8	PERTH	21	1	20	5	69.94

2004/05

Ambassadors

From front to back –
Christina Fox (AIS), Kellie Abrams
(Canberra), Belinda Snell (Sydney
Uni), Carly Wilson (Dandenong),
Natalie Porter (Townsville), Shelley
Hammonds (Perth), Laura
Summerton (Adelaide) and Hollie
Grima (Bulleen Melbourne).
Photo: Lisa Saad.



AWARD WINNERS

Most Valuable Player

Katrina Hibbert (Bulleen Melbourne)

Betty Watson Rookie of the Year

Renae Camino (AIS)

Robyn Maher Defensive Player of the Year

Emily McInerney (Dandenong)

Top Shooter

Belinda Snell (Sydney Uni) 20.3 ppg

All-Star Five

Katrina Hibbert (Bulleen Melbourne),
Jenny Whittle (Canberra), Belinda
Snell (Sydney Uni), Trisha Fallon
(Sydney Uni), & Erin Phillips
(Adelaide).

Coach of the Year

Cheryl Chambers (Bulleen
Melbourne)

Full list of award winners in
SCORECARD (page 62)

Katrina Hibbert broke through in 2004/05 to take her first MVP award. Photo: Kangaroo Photos.



www.wnbl.com.au

national basketball league

The end of the 2004/05 regular season saw some more good news for the Philips Championship, with attendances improving by close to 10 percent.



2005 was a year of continued growth for the National Basketball League, as the Philips Championship NBL finished its first full season as the Philips Championship and focused on incremental improvements in a number of key areas as well as developing a series of exciting new initiatives.

In mid-January, the NBL held the second All-Star Game since the event's re-introduction in 2004. Hosted by the Townsville Crocodiles at the Townsville Entertainment Centre, the match saw the Aussie All-Stars defeat the World All-Stars 156-140 before a near sell-out crowd. Townsville Crocodiles young superstar Brad Newley was outstanding for the Aussies and became the first rookie player ever to win the game Most Valuable Player (MVP) award, while teammate Rob Brown was a clear winner in the Townsville Bulletin Slam Dunk Competition.

On 28 January, the NBL held its first-ever regular season Philips Championship game in Asia when the Perth Wildcats hosted the Sydney Kings in the Harvey Norman Singapore Spectacular at the Singapore Indoor Stadium. The event, which also incorporated numerous community initiatives such as clinics and public appearances, was a stunning success with more than 7,000 fans attending. The game was also televised live into 57 million households in almost 20 countries on the ESPN STAR network as well as being shown on both Fox Sports in Australia and Sky TV in New Zealand. The Wildcats returned to Singapore later in the year to play another

Teenager
Brad Newley
(Townsville) caused a
sensation in the 2004/05
Philips Championship
season.
Photo: Sport the
Library.

regular season game against Brisbane and increased their crowd by 10%, indicating that they have sown the seeds of future success in Asia.

The end of the 2004/05 regular season saw some more good news for the Philips Championship, with attendances improving by close to 10 percent.

In all, 644,976 people attended NBL games during the 2004/05 regular season, representing an average of 3,665 spectators per match. That marked a 9.9% increase on the average of 3,335 per game achieved during the 2003/04 season.

The 2005 Philips Championship Grand Finals were held in February and March, with the defending champion Sydney Kings sweeping the second-ranked Wollongong Hawks 3-0 in the best-of-five Grand Final series to capture an unprecedented third consecutive title. Kings captain Jason Smith took out the Larry Sengstock Medal as the MVP of the Grand Final series.

Following the conclusion of the 2004/05 season, the NBL continued its move to strengthen ties with Asia by participating in the inaugural 2005 Singapore Cup. Held at the Singapore Indoor Stadium from May 6-8, the Sydney Kings represented the NBL against some of the best teams from Asia and eventually took out the crown by downing Jordanian champions Fastlink 92-84 in the tournament final.

Sadly, the off-season in 2005 also saw a number of legends of the NBL retire. Melbourne Tigers father and son duo Lindsay and Andrew Gaze joined fellow greats Pat Reidy (Townsville), Ricky Grace (Perth) and Simon Kerle (Brisbane) in retiring from the game they had given so much to.

The 2005/06 season tipped off with the 2005 Blitz pre-season tournament being hosted by the Cairns Taipans from August 26-27. The Melbourne Tigers won the Grand Final with a 66-38 win over pre-season title favourites Brisbane.

The Tigers title hopes for 2005/06 were bolstered by the return of Boomers star centre and former NBA player Chris Anstey. The seven-footer headed a rush of talented Australians returning to the NBL from pro commitments in Europe and college careers in the US that included Martin Cattalini (Cairns), James Harvey (West Sydney), Paul Rogers (Perth), Mark Worthington (Sydney) and Ian Crosswhite (Sydney).

October saw one of the most significant announcements in many years for the NBL with the introduction of a 12th team, the South Dragons. Based in Melbourne, the Dragons are set to start play from the 2006/07 season in Vodafone Arena and have sound financial backing from Mark Cowan of the successful Cowan Design company and Raphael Geminder, the Chairman of Visy Industrial Packaging.

2005 closed with another successful All-Star Game being held at the Sydney Entertainment Centre on December 27. Sponsored by Virgin Blue Velocity, the event saw the Aussie All-Stars continue their dominance with a 151-116 victory as Melbourne's Darryl McDonald took out MVP honours. Young New Zealand Breakers development player Everard Bartlett wowed the crowd with his performance in winning the Philips Dunk Competition.

Off the court, 2005 continued the NBL's recent trend of success in attracting influential corporate partners. Philips, who came on board as naming rights partners for the NBL in 2004, agreed to significantly increase their support of the League over the next two years. ABC Learning Centres became the official On-Ball sponsors and AXA became official sponsors of the 2006 Finals.

"2005 undoubtedly saw us continue to make great strides towards our goal of expanding our role in the Australian, Oceania and international sports marketplace," Commissioner Rick Burton noted. "We enjoyed increases in attendance, TV viewership, internet traffic on our website and corporate support. Those are good indicators of a league on the rise."

AWARD WINNERS

Most Valuable Player

Brian Wethers (Hunter Pirates)

All-NBL First Team

Jason Smith (Sydney Kings)
Mark Bradtke (Melbourne Tigers)
Darnell Mee (Wollongong Hawks)
Brian Wethers (Hunter Pirates)
Chris Burgess (Cairns Taipans)

Coach of the Year

Adrian Hurley (Hunter Pirates)

Rookie of the Year

Brad Newley (Townsville Crocodiles)

Best Defensive Player

Darnell Mee (Wollongong Hawks)

Referee of the Year

Scott Butler

Full list of award winners in
SCORECARD (page 62)

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Hunter Pirates import Brian Wethers capped off a sensational debut in the National Basketball League by being named the Most Valuable Player of the 2004/05 Philips Championship season.

Wethers won the NBL's scoring title, averaging 24.3 points per game and led the Pirates to their first-ever Finals berth. The 195cm swingman also averaged 6.5 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game.

The Hunter star polled 126 votes to take out the NBL's most prestigious individual award from Adelaide 36ers star Willie Farley (111) and Cairns Taipans big man Chris Burgess (110). Fourth in voting was Adelaide's Dusty Rychart (107) and fifth was Glen Saville of Wollongong (105).

The consistency of the silky smooth Wethers proved to be the key factor in his MVP win, as the former University of California (Berkeley) standout recorded votes in every round of the season bar two.

He topped 30 points on nine separate occasions this season, including a 37-point outburst against the Townsville Crocodiles on 13 November.

The MVP Award is the most prestigious individual honour in the game and is designed to recognise the most outstanding player throughout the season.

At the conclusion of each regular season game, both coaches award votes to the best players from that contest. The player who accumulates the most votes over the course of the season is named as the NBL's MVP.

NBL Most Valuable Player - Previous Winners

- 1979 Ken Richardson (West Adelaide Bearcats)
- 1980 Rocky Smith (St. Kilda Saints)
- 1981 Mike Jones (Illawarra Hawks)
- 1982 Al Green (West Adelaide Bearcats)
- 1983 Owen Wells (Sydney Superonics)
- 1984 Leroy Loggins (Brisbane Bullets)
- 1985 Ray Bomer (Coburg Giants)
- 1986 Leroy Loggins (Brisbane Bullets)
- 1987 Mark Davis (Adelaide 36ers) & Leroy Loggins (Brisbane Bullets)
- 1988 Joe Hurst (Hobart Tassie Devils)
- 1989 Scott Fisher (North Melbourne Giants)
- 1990 Derek Rucker (Brisbane Bullets)
- 1991 Andrew Gaze (Melbourne Tigers)
- 1992 Scott Fisher (North Melbourne Giants) & Andrew Gaze (Melbourne Tigers)
- 1993 Robert Rose (South East Melbourne Magic)
- 1994 Andrew Gaze (Melbourne Tigers)
- 1995 Andrew Gaze (Melbourne Tigers)
- 1996 Andrew Gaze (Melbourne Tigers)
- 1997 Andrew Gaze (Melbourne Tigers)
- 1998 Andrew Gaze (Melbourne Tigers)
- 1999 Steve Woodberry (Brisbane Bullets)
- 2000 Paul Rogers (Perth Wildcats)
- 2001 Robert Rose (Townsville Crocodiles)
- 2002 Mark Bradtke (Melbourne Tigers)
- 2003 Chris Williams (Sydney Kings)
- 2004 Matthew Nielsen (Sydney Kings)
- 2005 Brian Wethers (Hunter Pirates)

Sydney celebrate their third consecutive Championship. Photo: Sport the Library.



australian basketball association

Australia's largest basketball competition, the Australian Basketball Association (ABA), played host to 124 teams (and over 1500 players) across six states and territories (Victoria, NSW, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and ACT) in 2005.



The ABA, as the official Australian development league, aims to provide high-standard competition in a local environment, whilst serving as a vital connection between the grass roots of basketball and the elite. ABA teams, their players and staff are important members of their local communities and help basketball remain relevant to a multitude of Australians.

The ABA showcases some of Australia's most established basketball stars as well as the new breed of players who will go on to form the basis of Australia's elite basketball scene.



The 2005 season commenced in early March across the five participating League's (Bank South Australia, Big V, Queensland Australian Basketball League (QABL), South East Australian Basketball League (SEABL), and Waratah). It culminated in Geelong with the ABA National Finals from August 19-21.

The host venue, Geelong, conducted two spectacular finals series' in 2004 and 2005, and are to be congratulated for their professional organisation of the event.

The 2006 and 2007 finals will be hosted by Newcastle in NSW.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2005:

- Introduction of the Skins™ Dunk Comp and 3-Point Shootout at the Finals
- Announcement that Champion would be the Naming Rights sponsor for the ABA Finals from 2006-2008 and as the Official Uniform Supplier to the ABA. Clubs will enjoy the benefits of Champion uniforms
- Renewal of Molten as a League sponsor, providing the Official Ball of the ABA
- Thermoskin's involvement in the Finals – providing product to the winning teams
- Development of the ABA Business Plan for 2006-2010
- A Big V All-Star Team competed in the NBL Preseason Blitz in September
- The resolution of ABA debts incurred from the collapse of Ansett
- Successful introduction of the awards breakfast at the Finals weekend. 2005 saw special guest Trish Fallon attend
- 2005 crowds at the Finals weekend were an increase on previous years
- Introduction of pre-game entertainment at the Finals with Ladi-Tash singing her single Famous and the National Anthem.

THE FINALS

The top eight men's and women's ABA teams from around the country, including the champions of the five ABA leagues, met at the Geelong Arena from August 19-21 2005 to battle it out in a thrilling sudden-death format for the coveted national crowns.

After a highly successful weekend of top-class basketball, topped off by two thrilling championship games, the Bendigo 'Hume and Iser' Braves and the Ballarat Lady Miners emerged victorious in the men's and women's finals.

The Braves' 102-98 triumph over the highly favoured Sydney City Comets sent the players and their supporters into a pandemonium, which contrasted sharply with the devastated scenes on the Comets bench.

Comets swing guard Graeme Dann put on one of the most white-hot shooting displays any ABA venue has seen through the season, connecting on three early triples to send the Comets clear by ten (34-24) at the first interval. When he cranked three more down from the same distance in the second stanza the lead had ballooned to eighteen and the Braves were resorting to every defensive changeup they could muster to try and stem the flow.

The half time score was 58-41 in favour of the Sydneysiders with only Shawn Redhage's 23 points keeping Bendigo within hailing distance.

The start of the second half signalled a change in tactics from the Braves as they set about increasing the physical component of the contest. Suddenly the game began to swing as the Comets slipped out of their comfort zone.

After a highly successful weekend of top-class basketball, topped off by two thrilling championship games, the Bendigo 'Hume and Iser' Braves and the Ballarat Lady Miners emerged victorious in the men's and women's finals.

A Sam Fotu triple sent the Braves into the final quarter with the slimmest of leads (75-74) and in the final quarter both teams started to creak under the tension. Redhage was superb though and ultimately it was his 47 points, 13 rebounds and 7 assists, which gave the Braves the edge, and the four-point win. The Ballarat Lady Miners defeated the Knox Raiders by 24 points, 77-53, in the women's Final after Grand Final MVP Andrea McMahon blew the game out in the second quarter and continued to pound out the win.

McMahon's sensational performance included 26 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals.

Ballarat Captain Desiree Glaubitz also led her team well with 14 points and 6 assist while shooting and distributing the ball superbly, and Andrea Collins (13 pts & 14reb) was fantastic down low.

For the Raiders, star centre Chelsea Laing stepped up to the big occasion with 18 points and five rebounds, and Julia Tan had 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Finals Referees

Men: Sharon Arnold and Scott Beker

Women: Robyn Manhire and Todd Spain

Finals Line-Up

Men: Winner Big V Sandringham, Winner Bank SA Woodville, Winner QABL Southern Districts, Winner SEABL South Bendigo, Winner SEABL East Geelong, Winner Waratah Sydney City, No. 2 QABL Cairns, No. 2 Big V Dandenong.

Women: Winner Big V Eltham, Winner Bank SA Forestville, Winner QABL Southern Districts, Winner SEABL Ballarat, Winner Waratah Bankstown, No. 2 Bank SA North Adelaide, No. 2 QABL Townsville, No. 2 SEABL Knox.

FINALS AWARDS

Most Valuable Players

Women: Andrea McMahon (Ballarat Lady Miners)

Men: Jason Cameron (Bendigo Braves)

All-Star Five - Men

Shawn Redhage (Bendigo Braves), David Barlow (Sydney Comets), Ben Thompson (Southern Districts Spartans), Lester Strong (Dandenong Rangers), Bobby Cunningham (Sandringham Sabres).

All-Star Five - Women

Narelle Lindsay (Forestville Eagles), Lil Keane (North Adelaide Rockets), Karen Ashby (Ballarat Lady Miners), Jodie Datson (Eltham Wildcats), Katrina Hibbert (Knox Raiders).

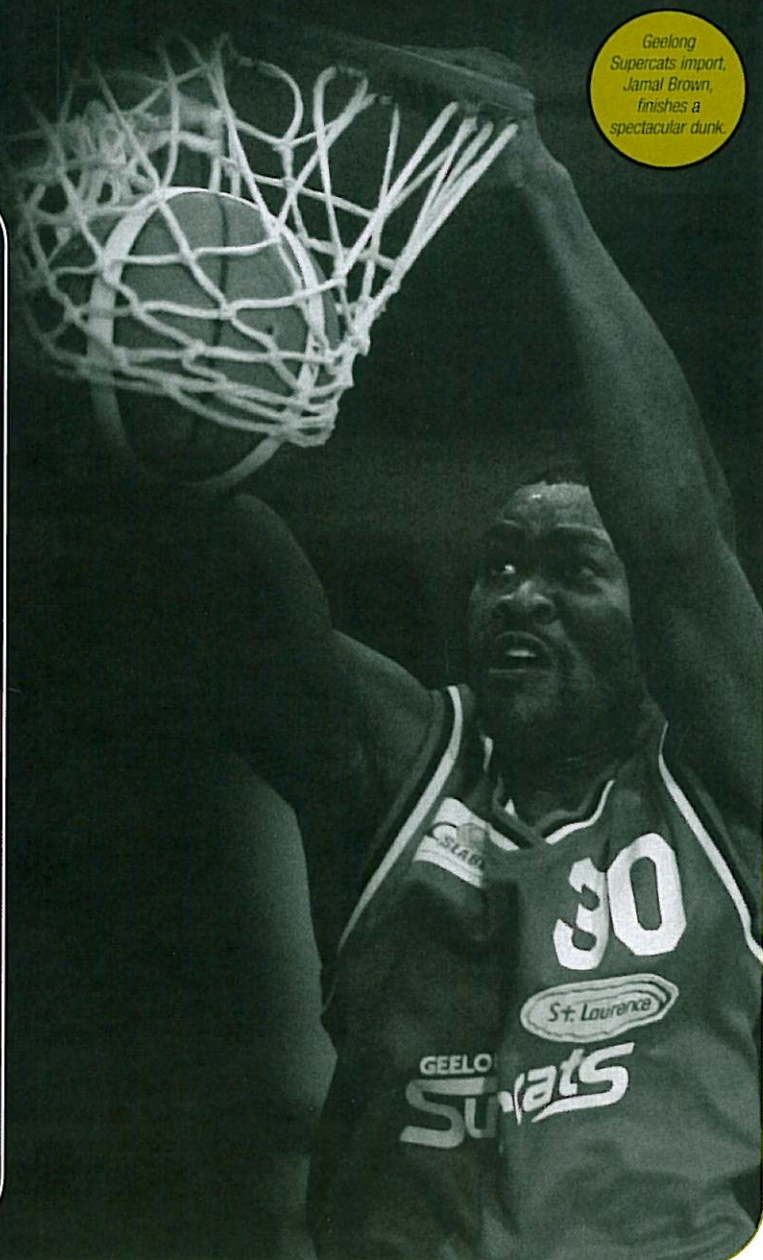
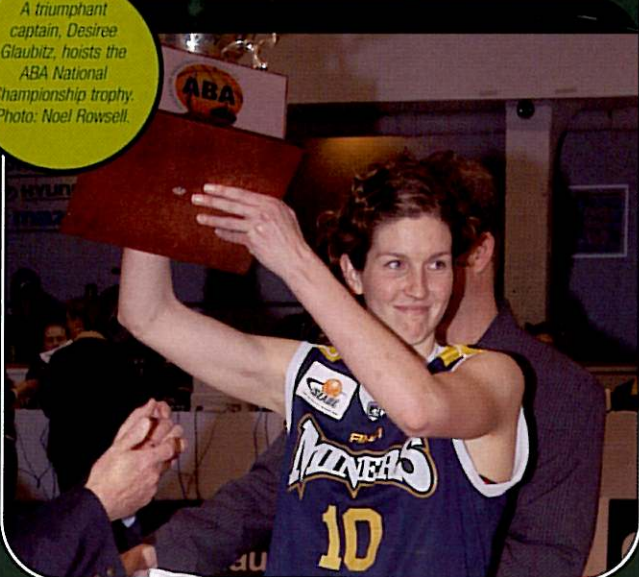
SKINS™ Dunk Comp

Winner - Lester Strong (Dandenong Rangers)

SKINS™ 3-Point Comp

Winner - Jodie Datson (Eltham Wildcats)

A triumphant captain, Desiree Glaubitz, hoists the ABA National Championship trophy. Photo: Noel Rowse.



Geelong Supercats import, Jamal Brown, finishes a spectacular dunk.

national junior championships

The National Junior Championships are the breeding ground for talented basketball players in our country. The Championships are part of Basketball Australia's elite pathway from the grass roots of our sport to our senior national teams. They also provide opportunities for coaches, officials, administrators and volunteers.

R.E. STAUNTON MEDAL

The R.E. Staunton Medal, commemorating the work done by Bob Staunton for junior basketball around the world was presented to two U20 players: **Women** – Kathleen MacLeod (VIC), **Men** – Stephen Weigh (QLD)

The R.E. Staunton Medal is named after the late legendary basketball figure Bob Staunton. Staunton was well known throughout Australia for the tremendous work he did for junior basketball in this country in all areas of the sport including coaching and administration. Staunton represented NSW as a player and was involved in the first-ever televised basketball game in Australia. He was the manager of the Australian Senior Men's team from 1975 to 1980 and served for many years as the head of the Australian Basketball Federation. During his tenure Staunton played a big part in helping to establish the National Junior Championships, the National Youth Teams and the Australian Institute of Sport program.

Basketball Australia, in our efforts to have Bob's outstanding contribution to the development of our sport remembered, has presented FIBA with the perpetual Bob Staunton Trophy for the World Junior Men's Champions. BA also awards the Bob Staunton Scholarships annually to outstanding male and female scholarship holders in the AIS basketball programs and in addition BA has had struck two medallions for the most outstanding male and female player at the annual Under 20 National Junior Championships.

Rising stars Stephen Weigh (QLD) and Kathleen Macleod (VIC) took out the R.E. Staunton Medals as the outstanding male and female players at the 2005 Under 20 National Junior Championships in Newcastle.



The National Junior Championships entertained basketball fans all over Australia in 2005, with Newcastle, Perth, Tuggeranong, Gawler, Darwin and Albury playing host to thousands of aspiring young basketballers, from U14s to U20s, during the week-long events.

Traditionally, the championships have nurtured great Australian talents like Andrew Bogut, Trish Fallon and Brad Newley, and 2005 was no different.

Traditionally, the championships have nurtured great Australian talents like Andrew Bogut, Trish Fallon and Brad Newley, and 2005 was no different.

Rising young Victorian star Kathleen Macleod (from the 2005 Gems team) and Queenslander Stephen Weigh took out the hotly contested RE Staunton Medal (U20s). They were also awarded male and female Player of the Year at the Australian Junior Awards during the U18 National Championships.

As was the case in 2004, Victorian teams proved forces to be reckoned with in most age categories, featuring in nine of twelve finals, and winning seven Championships. The Victorians proved too tough at the U16 Championships, fielding three of the four teams in the boys and girls finals, eventually taking out both titles.

Basketball Australia staff continued to work with individual host associations, and other strategic partners (sponsors, media, local council, NBL/WNBL, teams and coaching staff) to ensure the sustained growth of the championships both on and off the court. Individual hosts also enlisted the dedicated support of hundreds of volunteers, whose ongoing commitment guaranteed each event's outstanding success.

Sportsmanship was also high on the agenda at this year's championships, with captains from all teams taking the athletes' oath of participation on behalf of all participants, swearing to play fair and participate in the true spirit of sportsmanship. The Basketball Australia Fair Play Award, which recognises the club or association that conducts itself in a respectful manner over the course of the championship, went to Brisbane Capitals (U14 Boys), Townsville Fire (U14 Girls), Queensland North (U16), Queensland South (U18).

2005 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- 10th Annual National Schools Basketball Tournament held in Albury, NSW, with over 1400 participants.
- The launch of the new-look Nationals website. Basketball Australia staff and technology partner Interfuse worked tirelessly to improve and maintain the site, which featured draws, daily results and news.
- The introduction of the size 6 Molten panel ball to women's competition.

The 2005 Australian Junior Basketball Award winners.



AWARDS

The Annual Australian Junior Basketball Awards form part of the celebrations of the U18's Championship week. The awards recognise the endeavours and achievements of the numerous people involved in the development of junior basketball in Australia – coaches, referees, volunteer, administrators and players.

The male and female player of the year awards are highly prestigious and sought after, with many previous winners going on to represent Australia at the senior level. 2002 winners Jacob Holmes and Hollie Grima were both chosen in the 2005 Boomers and Price Attack Opals teams. Australia's biggest rising star and 2005 number 1 NBA draft pick Andrew Bogut took out the 2003 honours.

The awards are based on achievements from June 1, 2004 to May 31, 2005. The volunteer of the Year award is an exception to this timeframe as length of service is a criterion for selection.

Male Player of the Year

The Male Player of the Year was awarded to Queensland's Stephen Weigh who is a current AIS scholarship holder and was a member of the Gold Medal winning U18 Queensland North team in 2004. He was subsequently named Basketball Queensland's Player of the Year for 2004. He went on to be a part of the Gold Medal winning U20 Queensland team in 2005 and won the Bob Staunton Award for the Most Outstanding Male Player at that tournament.

Female Player of the Year

The Female Player of the Year award went to Victoria's Kathleen Macleod. After winning the 2003/04 WNBL Rookie of the Year award on her first year of scholarship, Macleod was elevated to captain of the Australian U19 Gems team, which headed to Tunisia in 2005. Macleod helped her Victorian U20s team to the Gold Medal in 2005 with consistent and outstanding performances throughout the tournament in Newcastle, which also won her the Bob Staunton Award for the Most Outstanding Female Player.

Male Coach of the Year

Victorian coach Peter Lonergan was named Male Coach of the Year after winning the 2005 women's gold medal with his Victorian U20 team. He is also a Level One Course Presenter and conducts coach education presentations and clinics. He was a National Intensive Training Centre Program (NITCP) Network Coach and the Assistant Coach of Frankston's SEABL Men's Team before taking up a position at Basketball NT.

Female Coach of the Year

The Female Coach of the Year was awarded to Annette Winton (QLD) who is the Head Co-ordinator of Townsville Basketball's Coach Development Program. She was the gold medal winning head coach of the 2004 U18 Queensland North Men's Team and coaches U16 men's and women's teams for Townsville in State Championships. She is also a regional coach for U17 girls as well as being a NITCP Network Coach.

Full list of winners see SCORECARD on page 61

NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

U14 Boys	Sturt 61	def.	Dandenong 57
U14 Girls	Melbourne 69	def.	Sturt 60
U16 Boys	Victoria Country 65	def.	Victoria Metro 60
U16 Girls	Victoria Metro 49	def.	NSW Country 46
U18 Boys	Victoria Metro 72	def.	NSW Country 55
U18 Girls	NSW Country 58	def.	SA Metro 56
U20 Boys	Queensland 78	def.	NSW 65
U20 Girls	Victoria 64	def.	NSW 40
Ivor Burge Men	Victoria Metro 1 50	def.	NSW Metro 49
Ivor Burge Women	NSW 64	def.	Victoria Metro 45
NSBT Boys	John Paul College 80	def.	Lake Ginninderra 73
NSBT Girls	Caulfield Grammar 85	def.	John Paul College 63

spinners

WORLD U23 CHAMPIONSHIPS – BIRMINGHAM, UK

August 6 – 13

Team: Tristan Knowles, Darren Skuse, Bill Latham, Katie Hill, Kylie Gauci, Anthea Castelli, Shaun Norris, Brant Garvey, Brett Nicholson, Andrew Jamieson, Jason Brant, Jace Clare

Staff: Alan Cox (Head coach), Ben Etteridge (Assistant Coach), Jen Hird (Manager), Matt Wells (Referee)

Results:

Australia 64	def.	France
Australia 70	def.	Canada 34
Australia 63	def.	Netherlands 19
Australia 81	def.	Turkey 32
Australia 71	def.	Brazil 54 (quarter final)
Japan 59	def.	Australia 49 (semi final)
Australia 61	def.	Great Britain 38 (bronze medal match)

Three Athens Paralympians were selected for the U23 Australian team for the World Championships, with Tristan Knowles and Shaun Norris from the Rollers, and Kylie Gauci from the Gliders. Gauci was a standout during the tournament, and started in all matches.

After going through the preliminary rounds undefeated, the Spinners were surprise losers to an in-form Japanese team in the semi final, relegating them to the bronze medal playoff.

The team went on to win the bronze over Great Britain with a convincing 61-38 win.

australian youth olympic festival

January 19 – 23

Men's Team: Patrick Mills (ACT), Scott Pendlebury (VIC), Jared Heuir (QLD), Daniel Bass (VIC), Ryan Bathie (VIC), David Vanderjagt (QLD), Steven Broom (QLD), Marko Djeric (WA), Andrew Ogilvy (NSW), Ross Allsop (NSW).



Staff: David Mowbray (Head Coach), Annette Winton (Assistant Coach), Trudy Pearce (Manager), Peter Suffolk (Physiotherapist)

Results:

Australia 91	def.	NZ 70
Australia 104	def.	Oceania 62
Australia 101	def.	China 48
Australia 90	def.	NZ 59 (final)

Women's Team: Cara Angel (VIC), Lauren Angel, (NSW), Abby Bishop (SA), Jaimee Kennedy (NSW), Leah Mencil (SA), Heather Oliver (VIC), Hannan Pickford (QLD), Lisa Scaglia (SA), Rebecca Schatz (QLD), Louella Tomlinson (VIC)

Staff: Damien Weeks (Head Coach), David Munns (Assistant Coach), Trudy Pearce (Manager), Peter Suffolk (Physiotherapist)

Results:

Australia 100	def.	NZ 41
Australia 93	def.	Oceania 41
Australia 83	def.	China 56
Australia 72	def.	China 65 OT (final)



Shaun Norris
Photo: Getty
Images.

world university games

Amen's and women's team of University students were selected in 2005 to represent Australia at the World University Games in Izmir, Turkey in August.

The talented teams included Price Attack WNBL players Jenni Screen, Cherie Smith, Rachael Flanagan and Lauren King, while the men's team included 2005 Boomers squad members Daniel Dillon and Ian Crosswhite.

The women moved through the tournament undefeated until the semi final, finishing the tournament with a win over Russia and a bronze medal. The men went down in their quarter final, finishing in seventh position after a loss to the home team Turkey and then a win over Canada.

Results:

WOMEN

August 10	Australia 80	def.	Slovenia 78
August 11	Australia 80	def.	Thailand 50
August 12	Australia 70	def.	Turkey 48
August 15	Australia 69	def.	Sweden 54
August 16	Australia 59	def.	Germany 47 (Quarter final)
August 17	Serbia & Montenegro 70	def.	Australia 57 (Semi final)
August 19	Australia 81	def.	Russia 72 (Bronze Medal Game)

Australia finished 3rd

Women's Team: Kia Dowell (Texas at El Paso: Home = NT), Rachel Warren (Portland: Home = QLD), Lauren King (James Cook University), Rachael Flanagan (James Cook University), Jennifer Screen (Uni SA), Cherie Smith (Uni SA), Chelsea Burns (Deakin University), Belinda Battistel (Uni Western Sydney), Alexandra Hudson (Uni Western Sydney), Marita Payne (Auburn University: Home = VIC)

Staff: Deborah Cook (Head Coach), Michael Haynes (Assistant Coach/Manager)

MEN

Results:

August 12	Australia 99	def.	Lebanon 69
August 13	Australia 80	def.	Great Britain 72
August 14	Lithuania 68	def.	Australia 65
August 16	Ukraine 85	def.	Australia 69
August 17	Australia 94	def.	Greece 87
August 18	USA 88	def.	Australia 68 (Quarter final)
August 19	Turkey 82	def.	Australia 72
August 20	Australia 81	def.	Canada 75

Australia finished 7th

Men's Team: Kevin Brophy (Georgia: Home = VIC), Ben Hunt (Texas Wesleyan: Home = VIC), Daniel Dillon (Arizona: Home = VIC), Drew Williamson (Metro State: Home = NSW), John Phillip (Wollongong Uni), Mitch Brennan (Mercyhurst: Home = NSW), Brent Hobba (Colorado Christian: Home = WA), Kye Patrick (Loyola Chicago: Home = VIC), Simon Conn (Gardner-Webb: Home = VIC), Chris Cameron (Louisiana Lafayette: Home = VIC), Ian Crosswhite (Oregon: Home = NSW)

Staff: Brett Coxsedg (Head Coach), Ollie Dudfield (Assistant Coach), Greg Warnecke (Manager)

sapphires



The World Championships for Australia's U21 women's team, the Sapphires, are conducted every four years. The next Championships will be held in Guatemala in 2007 and the development program for this campaign will commence in May 2006.

The team will be selected and train towards the 2006 FIBA Oceania Championship to be played in Australia in August. The winner of the 2006 Oceania Championship will qualify for the 2007 FIBA World Championships in Guatemala.

emus

Following the World Championship win in 2003, the Emus program was on hold in 2004 and 2005.

Following a 2005 FIBA decision, Championships for the U19 age category will now be held every two years with the next U19 men's World Championship to be held in Malaysia in July 2007.

Preparation for this team began in early 2006 with the Australian Junior Camp. Talent identification commenced in 2005 with Head Coach Rob Beveridge and Assistant coach Marty Clarke keeping a close eye on all junior competitions across Australia.

australian pearls & boomerangs



Following the 2004 Global Games in Sweden, international activity for both men's and women's intellectual disability programs were limited in 2005. Domestic competitions continued in a number of states and the annual Ivor Burge Championships in February in Newcastle provided a high quality of competition in Australia.

The Pearls and Boomerangs will compete in the 2006 World Championships in Japan and their programs included a one-game series against Japan in February during the 2006 Ivor Burge Championships.



The focus of Basketball
Australia's Community
Basketball department is to
grow and sustain the areas of
playing, coaching, officiating
and managing basketball.

community basketball

aussie hoops



Basketball Australia's Aussie Hoops program continued to gain momentum in 2005, with approximately 210 Associations (including NBL/WNBL clubs) currently running programs that are branded 'Aussie Hoops'. This is an increase of about 30% from 2004.

Aussie Hoops welcomed a significant partner in Cartoon Network in 2005, helping Basketball Australia deliver four Cartoon Network Aussie Hoops Mega Clinics across Australia to 2,630 primary school aged children.

Through this partnership, clinics were held in Bankstown (Feb – 400 kids), Cairns (May – 610 kids), Adelaide (Sep – 620 kids) and Melbourne (Dec – 1,000 kids). The clinics featured basketball stars such as Natalie Porter, Carly Wilson, Dave Thomas, Rashaad Tucker as well as appearances by Scooby Doo and, of course, Duncan the mascot for Aussie Hoops. Cartoon Network provided prize packs with merchandise featuring their characters as well as basketball videos through Time Warner (a sister company of Cartoon Network).

A new initiative was launched by Basketball Australia in November 2005. In a first for the Aussie Hoops program, we saw Basketball Australia, the NBL, the WNBL, states and Local Associations working together to promote our introductory basketball program. The program was launched on both Fox Sports and ABC-TV, coinciding with televised games of the Trendwest Sydney Kings and Canberra TransACT Capitals. Aussie Hoops month involved national league clubs featuring Aussie Hoops activities as pre-game or half time entertainment. Clubs also attended school clinics distributing information about Aussie Hoops, where to join a local basketball association and where to watch their favourite national league stars. Aussie Hoops was featured three times on Fox Sports with Steve Carfino joining in with a session in Sydney.

Aussie Hoops was also featured in the first edition of Fit Kidz, a new series of DVDs aimed at helping kids be active. The DVD, produced by Aimee Atkins, features Belinda Snell (G.E.T. Sydney Uni Flames and Price Attack Opals), Jason Smith (Trendwest Sydney Kings and Boomers) and Jeremy Van Asperan (Rollers) demonstrating basketball skills, and also gives kids tips on nutrition and looking after themselves. The DVD was marketed to schools by Atkins, and Basketball Australia offered one major prize - an Aussie Hoops clinic, which was won by Blacktown North Public School and a runners up prize of 20 Aussie Hoops basketballs.

The Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) funding through the Targeted Sports Participation and Growth Program (TSPGP) finished on 30 June 2005, however Basketball Australia and each state/territory remain committed to the growth of the Aussie Hoops program, with Basketball Australia continuing to provide funding to State/Territories/Associations for the program.

At the conclusion of the TSPGP, the ASC commissioned Ernst & Young to review the overall program and to also comment upon the programs of the initial sports. Their comments in regards to Aussie Hoops were extremely positive, concluding:

"The program is well resourced and benefits from cooperation across a national, state and local level."

Following this report, the ASC has approved funding to assist with the development of the Aussie Hoops national website, which is being developed with Basketball Australia's technology partner Interfuse. The national website will be launched in 2006, providing kids, coaches, parents and teachers with a range of fun basketball activities and games (both online and ones they can do in the classroom or their backyard!).

Kids enjoy some Aussie Hoops action at the 4-nations tournament. Photo: John Dewberry.



In September 2005, a workshop was held for state Aussie Hoops coordinators in Sydney, which discussed the requirements of the website, a national merchandise kit and the delivery of the program with ASC funding having ceased. The outcome of the meeting has led to a planned and coordinated direction forward for the Aussie Hoops program in 2006.

players

NATIONAL INTENSIVE TRAINING CENTRE PROGRAM (NITCP)

The NITCP is a national program conducted by Basketball Australia in partnership with State and Territory Associations in each State and Territory. The program was introduced in 1990 and is widely regarded as one of the best development programs in the world.

Nine coaches are employed on a full time basis to conduct the program, one in each State and Territory and two in Victoria (one in Melbourne and the other working in Victoria Country).

The program identifies outstanding female and male athletes from 14-17 years of age and identifies and develops coaches to work with the athletes. Patrick Hunt is the National Head Coach of the program and is a key link between the national teams, the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the NITCP programs.

Patrick visited each of the programs on two or more occasions, conducting 40 network coach evaluation/feedback sessions, 32 coaching clinics for associations, club and NITCP network coaches, 41 practice session evaluations and completed written reports providing technical player evaluations, technical content and coaches evaluations.

Approximately 1,050 coaches attended the coaching clinics and coaching forums conducted on Patrick Hunt's visits throughout the year. AIS head and assistant coaches also visited each program.

In a new move, Basketball Queensland introduced the BQ Elite Athlete Training Centre, where local associations conduct the weekly training environment for the NITCP and Basketball Queensland's underpinning programs.



The program develops all aspects of the athlete. Here, Tasmanian athletes go food shopping under the watchful eye of the TIS nutritionist.

AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR CAMP

The 25th Australian Junior Camp was conducted at the AIS, Canberra in January 2005, with 56 athletes (28 female and 28 male), eight coaches and two managers attending. One coach was selected from each State and Territory NITC Program (nine coaches in total) to attend the camp. Boomers coach Brian Goorjian attended the camp which is an important part of the coach development program, working with coaches and athletes in a session that was taped and then distributed as a valuable coaching resource to coaches throughout Australia.

The players participated in a week of intensive training and also attended a range of sports science presentations on nutrition, recovery, sports psychology, drugs in sport, injury management and prevention and sports massage.

Patrick Hunt was Director of the camp while Debbie Cook was the women's coach.

The players participated in a week of intensive training and also attended a range of sports science presentations on nutrition, recovery, sports psychology, drugs in sport, injury management and prevention and sports massage. Physical testing of all athletes was completed and players received a written evaluation of their performance at the conclusion of the camp.

In a new addition to the Camp program, athletes attended a presentation from the National Athlete Career and Education department on the importance of balancing sporting commitments, education and career aspirations, which is a part of Basketball Australia's commitment to the developing not only skilled basketballers but successful people.

HEAD COACH WORKSHOP

Two NITCP meetings/workshops were held throughout 2005, prior to the Australian Junior Camp, and at the Under 16 National Championships in Canberra.

At the meetings presentations were made by Dr. David Pyne, AIS Physiology Department and Phil Brown, AIS Women's Head Coach.

Rob Beveridge, Boomers assistant coach, gave a presentation on men's playing styles at the 2004 Athens Olympics. Marty Clarke, AIS Men's Head Coach, gave an on court presentation and Eleanor Sharp, former AIS scholarship holder and Price Attack Opal and captain of the Canberra TransACT Capitals WNBL team, gave a presentation on 'counselling the young athlete'.

HEAD COACH APPOINTMENTS

Peter Lonergan commenced in the Northern Territory, whilst in Queensland, Murry Aldred replaced Ollie Dudfield who left to take up an opportunity in



Scotland. Shane Froling was announced as the replacement for Mick Downer (who moved to Cairns Basketball), and will commence in early January 2006.

EASTERN NITCP REGIONAL CAMP

In 2005, the annual eastern NITCP regional camp was conducted over three days at the AIS in Canberra. The camp was attended by 90 U16 NITCP athletes and 25 coaches from NSW, ACT, Victoria and Tasmania.

The camp is a most worthwhile educational experience, exposing younger NITCP athletes and coaches to standards required of the NITCP and the AIS.

Patrick Hunt led the practice sessions along with NITCP State/Territory Head Coaches, and was assisted by the network coaches. The AIS coaches also attended the camp, with Marty Clarke (AIS Men's Head Coach) and Patrick Hunt presenting a clinic on international trends in ball screens, which has been distributed as a resource to coaches throughout Australia.

At the conclusion of each session, coach evaluation/feedback and organisational sessions were facilitated by Patrick Hunt to enhance the coaches' expertise and development.

South Australia, NT and Western Australia also received regional camp assistance through Basketball Australia to assist them to bring together athletes from around the state/territory.

LEARNING CULTURE

Basketball Australia has been working closely with the ASC's Athlete Career and Education (ACE) program, developing a range of materials for athletes to identify opportunities to pursue educational and sporting opportunities. As part of this program Shane Heal and Rachael Sporn have attended Boomers and Opals camps respectively to speak with squad members about the importance of developing career interests outside of basketball.

In South Australia, an innovative program has been introduced where members of the South Australian Sports Institute basketball program can include ITC as a year 12 subject, which helps both manage their time commitments and provides an opportunity for athletes to study more closely some of the holistic development aspects of becoming a better athlete and basketballer.

coaches

The development of the quality and quantity of coaches in Australia continues to be a primary focus for Basketball Australia, and in 2005 Basketball Australia worked closely with the State and Territory associations with the aim of increasing the number of Level 1 and Level 2 coaches by two percent in each state.

In 2005, 1,143 new coaches were registered with the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS), bringing the total accredited basketball coaches to 4,970.

In 2005, membership of the Australian Basketball Coaches Association (ABCA) increased by approximately 20% and over 1,000 coaches attended Patrick Hunt clinics throughout Australia. ABCA was established to provide coaches with valuable information, resources and networking opportunities for professional development.

The Level 1 Coaches Manual was substantially revised throughout the year, and is now available in five separate modules. This is part of Basketball Australia's revamp of the coaching structure, and Level 2 manual will be revised in 2006.

FIBA Hoops Coach – a CD-ROM developed by FIBA for teaching fundamentals, is now available and has been distributed to coaches across Australia.

DR. ADRIAN HURLEY COACHING SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 2002 as part of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) 21st birthday celebrations, the Dr. Adrian Hurley coaching scholarship provides an opportunity for one coach from the NITCP with outstanding potential to attend the AIS Men's and Women's Basketball programs for one week to work with AIS coaches and Patrick Hunt.

In 2005, 1,143 new coaches were registered with NCAS, bringing the total accredited basketball coaches to 4,970.

Phil Brown.
Photo:
Lorisse Dart.

In 2005, Victoria Metro NITCP coach, Paul Jones, was awarded this coaching scholarship. He attended the AIS in October working closely with both the Men's and Women's programs as well as the sport science division at the AIS.

"I learnt a tremendous amount during my time in Canberra with everyone very willing to share information," Jones said of his experience. "I look forward to sharing this information with my fellow coaches in Victoria."

INTERSTATE COACH EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (ICE)

In August 2005, eight coaches from State and Territory NITCPs travelled to the AIS in Canberra to participate in the four-day ICE program.

Conducted once a year, the aim of the program is to provide NITCP network coaches with exposure to coaching methods and techniques at a higher level which they will then use in their home NITC program as well as at Local Associations.

Coaches observed team practice sessions and athlete's individual sessions, and also had discussions with coaches from the AIS men's women's programs, the Canberra Capitals and the AIS strength and conditioning coaches. Coaches also attended presentations from the National Sports Information Centre, former National Coach Barry Barnes, the Director of the AIS, Professor Peter Fricker, and Patrick Hunt on the NITCP and player and coach development pathways.

Renowned for being an outstanding communicator and teacher of the game, especially of bigs, Coach Wojciechowski conducted clinics in Queensland, Victoria, WA, SA and NSW. Over 450 coaches attended the clinics, which were considered to be outstanding.

VISITING COACH – STEVE WOJCIECHOWSKI

Following the success of the John O'Connor coaching clinics conducted in 2004, Basketball Australia organised for US coach Steve Wojciechowski from Duke University to visit Australia and conduct 10 coaching clinics.

Renowned for being an outstanding communicator and teacher of the game, especially of bigs, Coach Wojciechowski conducted clinics in Queensland, Victoria, WA, SA and NSW. Over 450 coaches attended the clinics, which were considered to be outstanding.

OVERSEAS COACHES STUDY TOUR

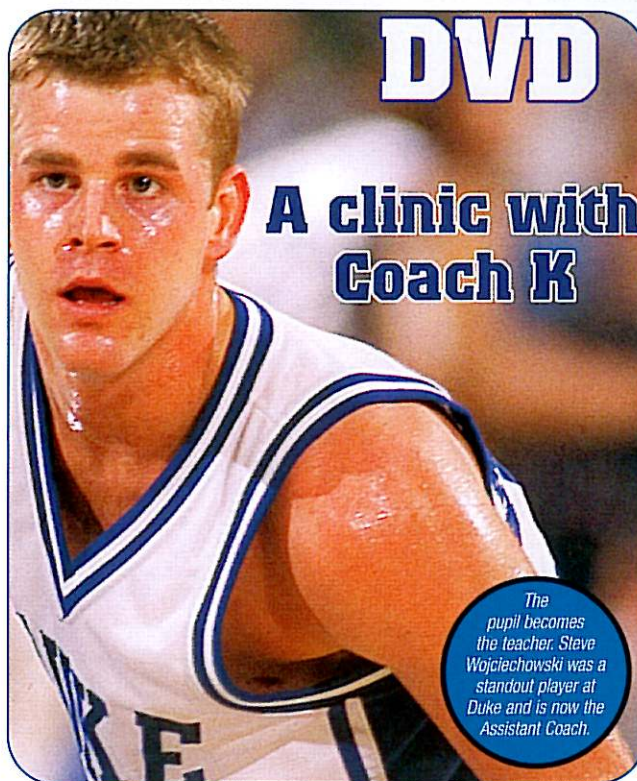
Fourteen coaches from Basketball Australia's NITCP and the AIS participated in a four-week Coaches International Study Tour to USA, Turkey and China in October and November.

The objectives of the tour were to experience coaching concepts, methods and techniques; evaluate the technical content, sports science and medicine support services; explore coach education, national talent identification programs, national talent development programs, national team programs and club structure as well as local and national competition organisation and structure.

In the USA, coaches visited men's and women's programs at Lafayette College, Villanova University, St Joseph's University, Drexel University, the University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, Wake Forest University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In Turkey, the coaches visited junior and senior women's and men's programs in Istanbul, and in China the coaches visited junior and senior women's and men's programs in Beijing and met with officials from the Chinese Basketball Association.

In a very demanding and hectic 26-day program, coaches attended 41 practice sessions, 31 technical/coaches presentations, attended six games, participated in seven study/workshop sessions and attended six meetings with basketball administrators. A total of 91 activities were undertaken.



Most practice sessions were videotaped, and a set of instructional DVDs and coaching notes from the tour will be available in 2006 to coaches throughout Australia. These will also be placed in the National Sports Information Centre at the ASC in Canberra for loan.

This year the group was accompanied by the Western Australia Institute of Sport (WAIS) netball coach, which provided for much debate and discussion between the coaches.

PARTNERSHIP WITH HUMAN KINETICS

Basketball Australia entered a non-exclusive partnership with Human Kinetics one of the leading sport publishers in the world. A wide range of Human Kinetics titles (books and DVDs) are available for purchase through Basketball Australia's online store (www.basketball.net.au) and there have been consistently strong sales since the titles were included in the store in September.

NATIONAL TEAMS COACHING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In September, Scott Derwin (CEO Basketball Australia), Patrick Hunt (NITCP Head Coach), Brian Goorjian (National Men's Coach) and Marty Clarke (AIS Men's Head Coach) met with NBL Coaches at the NBL 'Blitz' in Cairns to discuss the National Men's Team Program, with all NBL coaches reaffirming their support for the National Men's Team Program.

A Men's National Team Workshop was conducted at the AIS between the National Boomers Head Coach, the Crocs Head Coach, the AIS Men's Head Coach and the National ITCP Head Coach. A similar workshop was conducted for the National Opals Head Coach, Gems Head Coach, AIS Head Coach and National ITCP Head Coach.

Facilitated by Patrick Hunt, the issues covered during these workshops included, identifying emerging international trends, strategies for addressing these trends, preparation program challenges, identifying future national team players, professional development opportunities for National and AIS Coaches and relationships with national leagues coaches.

Information on the emerging international trends was prepared and distributed through the National ITC Program as well as being included as an article in Xs and Os.

Throughout the year, the program facilitated both National Senior Coaches visiting the Australian Institute of Sport to work with AIS coaches and athletes, providing support and feedback for those important development programs.

officials

With the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games looming large in people's minds in 2005, Basketball Australia used the time and funding available to ensure Australia's officials were highly trained and highly skilled.

In 2005, the following Australians were selected to officiate at the 2006 Commonwealth Games:

REFEREES

Carolyn Tsakalos (SA)
Vaughan Mayberry (QLD)
Brad Giersch (NSW)
Michael Aylen (VIC)
Damian Theisz (VIC)

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS – SCORETABLE

Carol Flint (VIC)
Trevor Baker (SA)

TECHNICAL COMMISSIONERS

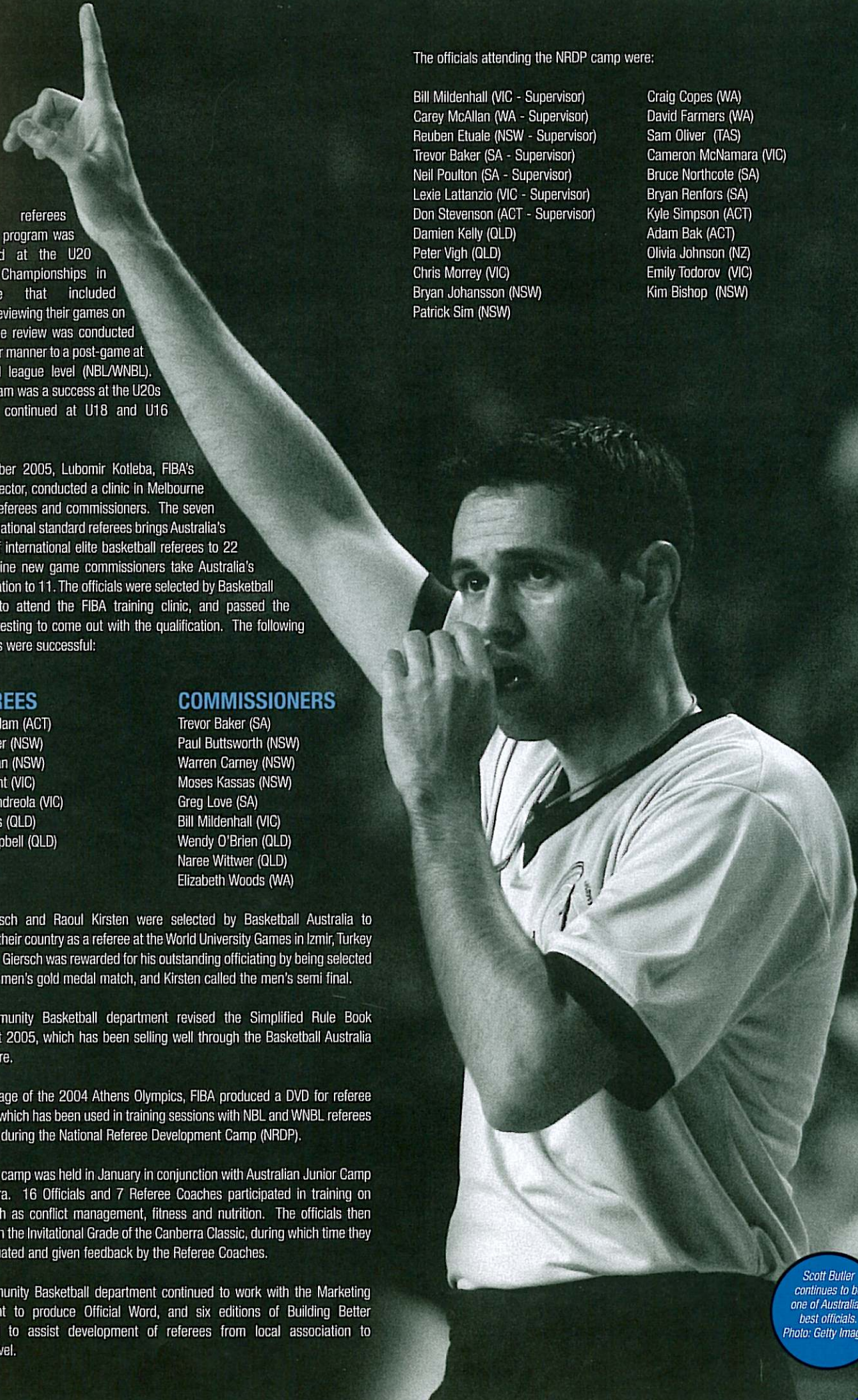
Greg Love (SA)
Bill Mildenhall (VIC)
John Martin (NSW)
Steve Smith (NSW)
Lorraine Landen (NSW) -
Deputy Technical delegate

STATISTICIANS

Adam Patterson (NSW)
Alicia Lawson (VIC)
Carina Crockford (QLD)
Gilma Rigo (VIC)
Hazel Masters (VIC)
Joy Richardson (VIC)
Jake Spruhan (VIC)
Jonathan Ball (VIC)
Lauren Crutchfield (VIC)
Lesley Brooks (NSW)
Mandy Horsborough (VIC)
Pam Atkin (VIC)
Rachel Knight (VIC)
Rick Pell (VIC)
Sabrina Pell (VIC)
Sean Gallagher (VIC)
Jamie Schultz (VIC)
Jason Crosbie (VIC)
Melissa Giles (NSW)
Mark Quinn (VIC)
Rebecca Mingon (VIC)
Robyn Knight (VIC)
Shaun Hughes (SA)
Lauretta Claus (NSW - Supervisor)
Tracey Teunissen (nee Quinn)
(Supervisor)

SCORETABLE

Lee Basford (QLD)
Helen Burger (QLD)
Naree Wittwer (QLD)
Andrew Lea (SA)
David McKenzie (SA)
Trudi Chesterton (ACT)
Elizabeth Woods (WA)
Pat Collings (VIC)
Ian Collings (VIC)
Leah Collings (VIC)
Melanie Connell (VIC)
Karen Crick (VIC)
Melissa Duguid (VIC)
Narelle Ingham (VIC)
Gretta Jamieson (VIC)
Jan Knox (VIC)
Greg Liebelt (VIC)
Grant Lynch (VIC)
Johanne Maxwell (VIC)
Alan Maxwell (VIC)
Paul Moller (VIC)
Trevor Nanscawen (VIC)
Jim Oliver (VIC)
Karen Thomson (VIC)
Trevor Baker (SA - Supervisor)
Carol Flint (VIC - Supervisor)



A new referees education program was introduced at the U20 National Championships in Newcastle that included referees reviewing their games on video. The review was conducted in a similar manner to a post-game at a national league level (NBL/WNBL). The program was a success at the U20s and was continued at U18 and U16 nationals.

In November 2005, Lubomir Kotleba, FIBA's Sports Director, conducted a clinic in Melbourne for FIBA referees and commissioners. The seven new international standard referees brings Australia's number of international elite basketball referees to 22 and the nine new game commissioners take Australia's representation to 11. The officials were selected by Basketball Australia to attend the FIBA training clinic, and passed the intensive testing to come out with the qualification. The following candidates were successful:

REFEREES

Travis Haslam (ACT)
Scott Beker (NSW)
Brett Hogan (NSW)
Kelly Knight (VIC)
Melissa Andreola (VIC)
Tom Jones (QLD)
Brett Campbell (QLD)

COMMISSIONERS

Trevor Baker (SA)
Paul Buttsworth (NSW)
Warren Carney (NSW)
Moses Kassas (NSW)
Greg Love (SA)
Bill Mildenhall (VIC)
Wendy O'Brien (QLD)
Naree Wittwer (QLD)
Elizabeth Woods (WA)

Brad Giersch and Raoul Kirsten were selected by Basketball Australia to represent their country as a referee at the World University Games in Izmir, Turkey in August. Giersch was rewarded for his outstanding officiating by being selected to call the men's gold medal match, and Kirsten called the men's semi final.

The Community Basketball department revised the Simplified Rule Book throughout 2005, which has been selling well through the Basketball Australia Online Store.

Using footage of the 2004 Athens Olympics, FIBA produced a DVD for referee coaching, which has been used in training sessions with NBL and WNBL referees as well as during the National Referee Development Camp (NRDP).

The NRDP camp was held in January in conjunction with Australian Junior Camp in Canberra. 16 Officials and 7 Referee Coaches participated in training on topics such as conflict management, fitness and nutrition. The officials then officiated in the Invitational Grade of the Canberra Classic, during which time they were evaluated and given feedback by the Referee Coaches.

The Community Basketball department continued to work with the Marketing Department to produce Official Word, and six editions of Building Better Basketball to assist development of referees from local association to national level.

The officials attending the NRDP camp were:

Bill Mildenhall (VIC - Supervisor)
Carey McAllan (WA - Supervisor)
Reuben Etuale (NSW - Supervisor)
Trevor Baker (SA - Supervisor)
Neil Poulton (SA - Supervisor)
Lexie Lattanzio (VIC - Supervisor)
Don Stevenson (ACT - Supervisor)
Damien Kelly (QLD)
Peter Vigh (QLD)
Chris Morrey (VIC)
Bryan Johansson (NSW)
Patrick Sim (NSW)

Craig Copes (WA)
David Farmers (WA)
Sam Oliver (TAS)
Cameron McNamara (VIC)
Bruce Northcote (SA)
Bryan Renfors (SA)
Kyle Simpson (ACT)
Adam Bak (ACT)
Olivia Johnson (NZ)
Emily Todorov (VIC)
Kim Bishop (NSW)

Scott Butler continues to be one of Australia's best officials.
Photo: Getty Images.

Indigenous sport program

Basketball programs continue to reach indigenous communities in regional and remote Australia.

In 2005, the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) conducted an extensive review of the structure and delivery of indigenous services, which has created significant changes to the funding programs nationally.

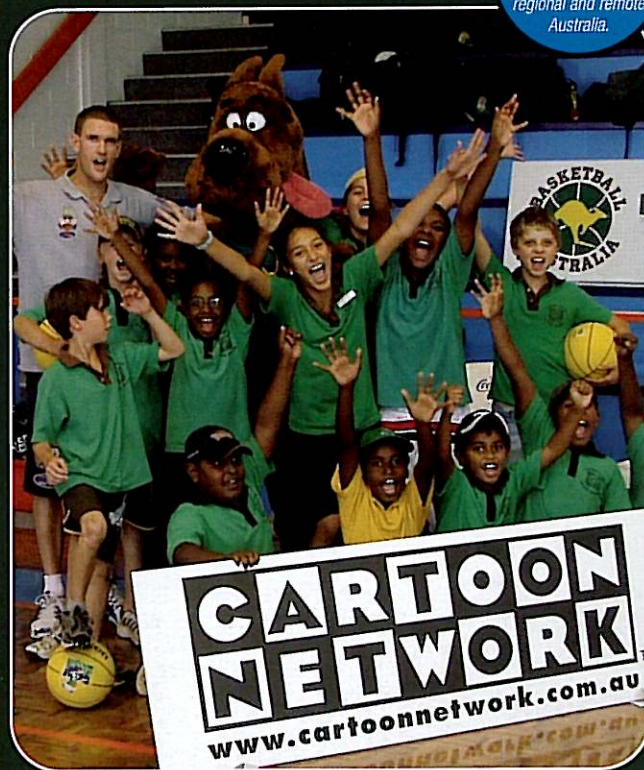
In 2006, this will result in Basketball Australia and the State and Territory Associations liaising with newly established Indigenous Coordination Centres as part of the Indigenous Sport and Recreation Program whilst continuing to work closely with the ASC's Indigenous Sports Unit.


In August 2005, Basketball Australia conducted a workshop for indigenous coordinators in Canberra, which discussed the new program and the implications of the new funding arrangements.

Basketball WA has established very good relations with Garnduwa, in the Kimberleys for the delivery of regular basketball clinics. A number of local coaches in Garnduwa have been accredited for the delivery of programs and two of those coaches visited NITCP camps in Perth.

Indigenous athletes and Australian Price Attack Opal, Michelle Musselwhite, visited Tasmania in April to conduct a series of regional clinics for indigenous children. She also attended a NITCP camp to work with up and coming athletes.

Nationally, there are programs delivered to 500 indigenous schools and 450 indigenous communities. There were 100 coaching courses and 30 officiating courses conducted in indigenous communities across Australia during 2005.





players with a disability

Basketball is a fun and safe sport that can be enjoyed by persons of every ability.

Basketball Australia's mission is to provide all Australians with the opportunity to enjoy basketball in a fun and contemporary environment to the level of their choice and ability.

In 2005, Basketball Australia received its final year of ASC funding, for Project CONNECT (Creating Opportunities Nationally through Networks in Education, Classification and Training). Through this program Basketball Australia develops resources to assist in the delivery of programs for people with disabilities (not just athletes) and for the involvement of people with disabilities in associations. An important strategy is developing links between associations and disability groups.

A series of workshops were conducted throughout Australia to raise awareness of disability sport. These were attended by local and state basketball associations as well as disability organisations such as Special Olympics, AUSRAPID and Wheelchair Sports.

These workshops were attended as follows:

Victoria	20, 10 (two workshops)
New South Wales	10, 10 (two workshops)
Australian Capital Territory	15
Western Australia	10
South Australia	20
Tasmania	15

Queensland and the Northern Territory will conduct workshops in 2006.

The Community Basketball Department is currently working on a series of coaching resources, which will be available in early 2006 and will form part of the Level 1 course material.

ADVISORS

BA's Michael Haynes was invited to be the NSO representative on the Australian Sports Commission's Project Connect Advisory Committee, and Jarrod Greedy was included on a NSW advisory committee for disability sport.

Michael Haynes also facilitated a strategic planning workshop for Deaf Basketball Australia, helping to forge stronger links between that organisation and Basketball Australia.

PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATION AROUND THE STATES

As part of the Queensland government's Friendship Program, Basketball Queensland ran a series of sessions for Intellectually Disabled athletes at Southern Districts Basketball Association. These sessions were used to help close the gap between moving to a mainstream competition.

South Australia continued its excellent program with players with an intellectual disability, increasing to two divisions in their weekly competition, and Basketball Victoria continued their excellent work with special schools through their Aussie Hoops program.

australian institute of sport



AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF SPORT

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) men's and women's basketball programs continued their tradition of excellence in 2005, preparing Australia's best young basketballers for the transition to the professional ranks and to Australia's senior national teams.

The AIS basketball program is recognised around the world as one of the best of its kind, and over the first three months of the year, the 24 new scholarship holders found out why.

Coaches in the program are dedicated to the ideal of ensuring players' daily improvement in their basketball development, academic progress, employment, welfare and personal growth. To this end, an orientation process in January covered areas like education and careers, medical and musculoskeletal screenings, nutrition interviews, physical testing and injury prevention, personal health and hygiene and time management.

Both squads attended January's Australian Junior Camp at the Institute, where a typical day included weight sessions, individual sessions, team training and video feedback sessions.

Second year AIS players Renae Camino (NSW) and Adam Gibson (TAS) accepted the 2005 Bob Staunton Scholarships. These prestigious scholarships are awarded annually to second year AIS players based on the ability and potential of the athlete to play for Australia, as well as their character, commitment, work ethic, achievements and educational and vocational commitment.

AIS MEN 2005

After January's Australian Junior Camp at the AIS, scholarship holders returned to their roots and represented their state at the U20 Championships in Newcastle, NSW.

Stephen Weigh was named as the tournament's best male player and was awarded the Bob Staunton Medal, a prestigious honour for a young Australian basketballer.

Stephen Weigh was named as the tournament's best male player and was awarded the Bob Staunton Medal, a prestigious honour for a young Australian basketballer.

After starting their Australian Basketball Association's South East Australian Basketball League (SEABL) season with a handful of close losses, the AIS men's team gelled well and ended the year in the SEABL playoffs with a 13:13 win:loss ratio. AIS Coach Marty Clarke was named East Conference, Coach of the Year.

Young scholarship holders, Nathan Jawai and Adam Gibson were given the opportunity to join the Boomers in camp on the Gold Coast in July, which was a fantastic opportunity for the young athletes to see what they need to add to their game in order to reach the heights of senior international basketball.

In July, the Crocs (Australia's U21 team) finished fourth at the 2005 U21 World Championships in Argentina. All team members were current or former AIS athletes, with Adam Gibson, Brad Hill, Ben Allen and Nathan Jawai being selected from the 2005 group.

Without the four Crocs representatives, the AIS team travelled to Chinese Taipei to compete in the William Jones Cup. Cameron Witt (TAS), Zachary Natoli (VIC), Chris Molitor (SA) and Ben Dowdell (NSW) were invited to join the team for the tour.

The tournament was being used as preparation for the Asian Qualifying Tournament for the 2006 World Championships for Men and consequently, the opposition was of a very high standard. The team came away with plenty of experience and two wins.

Four US colleges toured Australia in August and the AIS men had five good hit outs against the strong teams. They put that match practice to good use when they travelled to California to play nine College teams in November. They finished that tour with a 4:5 win:loss record.

September and October were dedicated to building strength and all athletes made significant individual progress, putting them in a good position to start 2006.

TEAM

Ben Allen	Greensborough, Victoria
Aron Baynes	Cairns, Queensland
Marko Deric	Warnbro, Western Australia
Jeffrey Dowdell	North Nowra, New South Wales
Adam Gibson	Westbury, Tasmania
Brad Hill	Hahndorf, South Australia
Joseph Ingles	Happy Valley, South Australia
Nathan Jawai	Cairns, Queensland
Ryan Kersten	Modbury Heights, South Australia
Patrick Mills	Monash, Australian Capital Territory
Andrew Ogilvy	Castle Hill, New South Wales
Stephen Weigh	Rockhampton, Queensland

GRADUATING ATHLETES

Marko Deric	– Loyola Marymount
Adam Gibson	– Brisbane Bullets, NBL
Brad Hill	– Adelaide 36ers – NBL
Aron Baynes	– Washington State University
Ryan Kersten	– University of New Mexico
Ben Allen	– Indiana University

WILLIAM JONES CUP – CHINESE TAIPEI

July 2005

Results:

USA-Passing Lanes 85	def.	Australia-AIS 64 (38-28)
Qatar 80	def.	Australia-AIS 70 (40-35)
Russia-Samara 93	def.	Australia-AIS 64 (49-35)
Taiwan 95	def.	Australia-AIS 82 (48-38)
Australia-AIS 80	def.	Philippines 76 (38-39)
Korea 84	def.	Australia-AIS 76 (42-37)
Australia-AIS 112	def.	India 74 (67-38)
Japan 71	def.	Australia-AIS 70 (35-29)
Kazakhstan 88	def.	Australia-AIS 77 (37-42)

US COLLEGE'S AUSTRALIAN TOUR – CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

August 2005

Results:

St Rose 90	def.	AIS 79
George Washington 106	def.	AIS 87
AIS 82	def.	Saint Anselm 81
Saint Anselm 89	def.	AIS 83
St. Mary's College 100	def.	AIS 76

EXHIBITION MATCH – CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

August 2005

Results:

AIS 47	tied	Philippines Talk n Text 47
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CALIFORNIA COLLEGES TOUR – CALIFORNIA, USA

November 2005

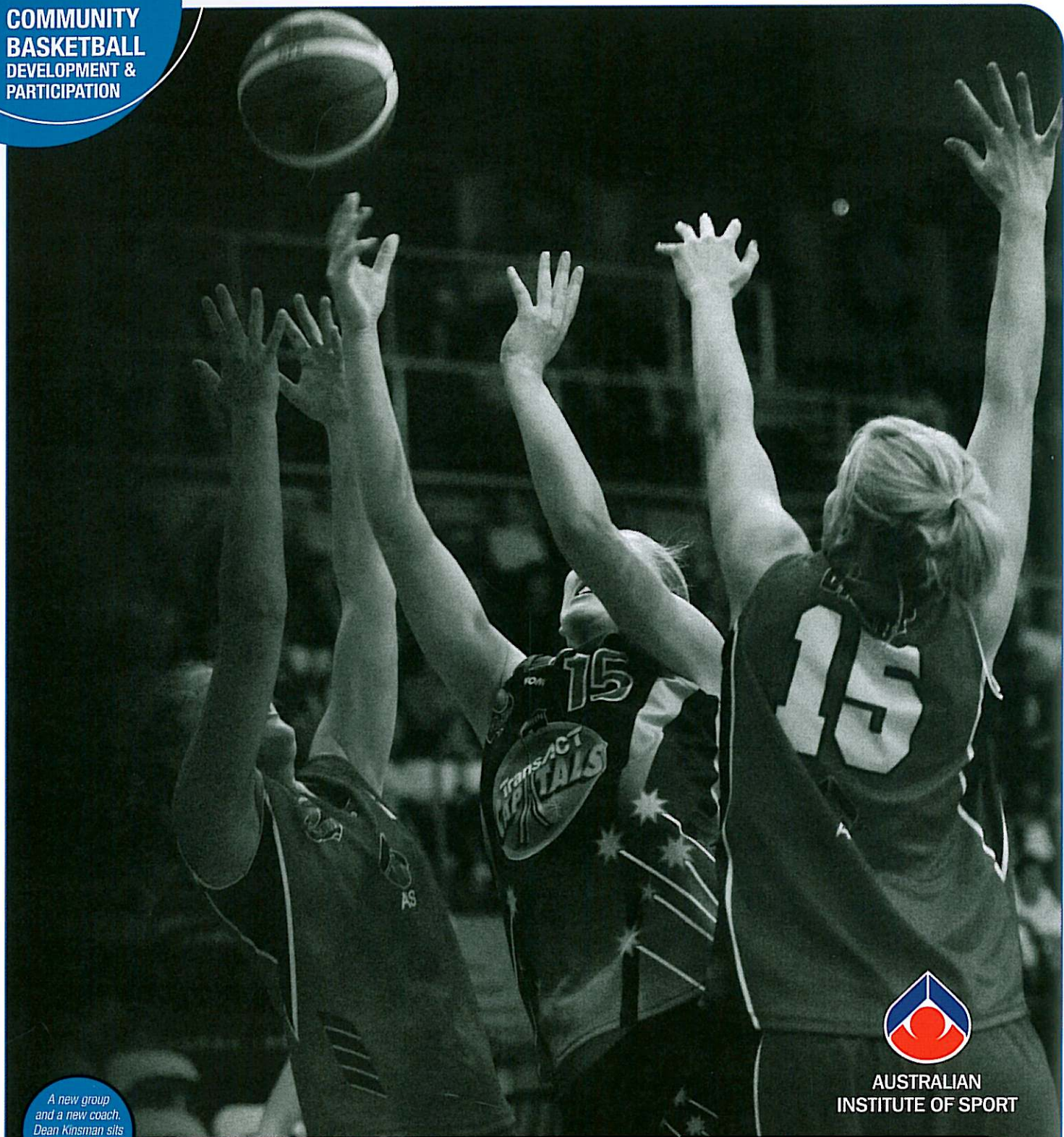
Results:

AIS 68	def.	Fullerton 59
Westmont College 69	def.	AIS 61
CSU Monterey Bay 73	def.	AIS 60
AIS 106	def.	East Bay 83
AIS 80	def.	Dominican 68
CSU Bakersfield 67	def.	AIS 61
Chapman University 67	def.	AIS 56
AIS 74	def.	Whittier College 65
Occidental College 114	def.	AIS 106

Nathan Jawai burst on the scene in 2005.
Photo: AIS.



**COMMUNITY
BASKETBALL
DEVELOPMENT &
PARTICIPATION**



**AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF SPORT**

*A new group
and a new coach.
Dean Kinsman sits
among his team.
Photo: AIS.*



AIS WOMEN 2005

The women's program welcomed six new athletes in January to join five returning athletes for the 2005/06 scholarship year.

The program also welcomed new AIS women's scholarship coach Nikki Bairstow to its ranks. Made possible by the Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) National Coaching Scholarship Program, the scholarship provided Bairstow with experience in elite coaching, sport science, video and performance analysis.

It was a hectic start to the year for the athletes and coaches with the Australian Junior Camp in January and then the U20 National Championships in Newcastle in February.

Playing for
Victoria, Kathleen
Macleod was
awarded the Bob
Staunton Medal
for most
outstanding player
at the
Championships.

Playing for Victoria, Kathleen Macleod was awarded the Bob Staunton Medal for most outstanding player at the Championships.

The AIS team finished the 2004/05 Price Attack WNBL season in seventh place, defeating Perth three times throughout the season. Explosive guard, Renae Camino took out the Betty Watson Rookie of the Year Award, posting the best stats of any first year player in the history of the League. Renae was sixth in the league in scoring with an average of 17.2 ppg and second in rebounds with 9.5 rpg. Her teammate and 2003/04 Rookie of the Year Kathleen Macleod was fifth in assists with 3.9 apg.

In May the team travelled to Sydney to play two games against visiting USA College team Loyola Marymount, winning both games convincingly.

Twelve scholarship holders were selected in the Gems team to represent Australia at the 2005 World Championships for Junior Women in Tunisia in July (see Gems Report on page 16).

Renae Camino was the tournament's top scorer with 21.6 points per game and was selected in the All-Star Five.

Camino went on to be selected in the Price Attack Opals team for the FIBA Oceania Qualification Series in New Zealand but injured her knee during training two days before tip off. She was rushed back to Australia for reconstructive surgery and missed the rest of the year and the entire 2005/06 Price Attack WNBL season.

The AIS women's program lost a great contributor in August, when, after 20 years, Phil Brown announced that he would be leaving Canberra and Australia to take up a position as an Assistant Coach with Oregon University. Brown's contribution to the success of women's basketball in Australia over the past decade can be measured with two silver medals and two bronze medals for the Price Attack Opals at the Olympic and World Championship level. 11 of the 12 Opals athletes at the 2004 Athens Olympics had played at the AIS.

On June 17 Dean Kinsman was announced as Brown's replacement as Head Coach of AIS women's basketball and he commenced on August 1.

Kinsman's first assignment was a tough two-match series against the JOMO Sunflowers from Japan at the end of August. Kinsman got off to a good start with a 74-68 win, but then crashed to a 49-91 defeat in the second match.

The program also lost long-serving assistant coach Debbie Cook during the year. Cook resigned on September 30, taking up a position with the ASC's Active After School Communities Program in the Shoalhaven district.

2005 AIS scholarship coach Nikki Bairstow from Queensland was announced as Cook's replacement and commenced on October 3.

On September 3 the team travelled to Sydney to play a preseason practice match against Sydney Uni, which was a good hitout for the team without 2004/05 stars Camino, Macleod and O'Hea.

Sydney defeated the AIS 89-67 with second year students, Christina Fox (19pts), Mikaela Dombkins (14 pts) and Melissa Smith (12pts) all stamping their authority on the match.

The team then travelled to Sale for the annual Price Attack WNBL preseason tournament, winning their match against the New Zealand Tall Ferns on the opening day, but then losing to Perth, Dandenong and Adelaide in their remaining matches.

Kinsman entered his debut season as head coach of a WNBL team with a young, developmental team and went to work moulding the 12 young women into the stars of tomorrow.

TEAM

Abby Bishop	Adelaide, South Australia
Renae Camino	Wollongong, New South Wales
Mikaela Dombkins	Newcastle, New South Wales
Katie Rae Ebzery	Newcastle, New South Wales
Christina Fox	Melbourne, Victoria
Cayla Francis	Wayville, South Australia
Rachel Herrick	Sydney, New South Wales
Molly Lewis	Terrigal, New South Wales
Ellie Manou	Sydney, New South Wales
Hayley Munro	Melbourne, Victoria
Lisa Scaglia	Adelaide, South Australia
Rebecca Schatz	Brisbane, Queensland
Melissa Smith	Bathurst, New South Wales
Louella Tomlinson	Melbourne, Victoria

GRADUATING ATHLETES

Kathleen Macleod – Dandenong Jayco Rangers
Rebecca Duke – Adelaide Fellas
Caitlin Cunningham – Bulleen Melbourne Boomers

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT TOUR OF AUSTRALIA – SYDNEY, NSW May 2005

Results:

11 May	AIS 80	def.	Loyola Marymount 56
12 May	AIS 96	def.	Loyola Marymount 61

JOMO SUNFLOWERS TOUR OF AUSTRALIA – SYDNEY, NSW 20-30 August 2005

Results:

29 August	AIS 74	def.	JOMO Sunflowers 68
30 August	JOMO Sunflowers 91	def.	AIS 49

PRICE ATTACK WNBL PRESEASON HITOUT – SYDNEY, NSW 3 September

Results:

3 September	Sydney Uni 89	def.	AIS 67
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PRICE ATTACK WNBL PRESEASON TOURNAMENT – SALE, VICTORIA 16-17 September 2005

Results:

16 September	AIS 68	def.	New Zealand Tall Ferns 65
16 September	Perth 65	def.	AIS 54
17 September	Dandenong 68	def.	AIS 48
17 September	Adelaide 85	def.	AIS 47

Lauren Jackson helps Toyota launch their sponsorship of the Melbourne Games.

media & communications

With the countdown on to the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, the Boomers and Price Attack Opals were in high demand by the Australian media in 2005.

MEDIA

With the countdown on to the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, the Boomers and Price Attack Opals were in high demand by the Australian media in 2005.

Added to that was the mainstream media interest surrounding Andrew Bogut's stellar 2004/05 college season and subsequent awards and his inclusion in the NBA Draft, as well as the rise of Lauren Jackson as a full blown sporting celebrity.

Both Bogut and Jackson were featured on Channel Nine's Today Show throughout the year. Boomers forward Matthew Nielsen was also a special guest on the ABC panel show, the Glasshouse, in the lead up to the Boomers 4-Nations Tournament in August.

The 4-Nations Tournament in Perth and Sydney was well supported by the media and also attracted the interest of Sports Tonight who came behind the scenes at the tournament to film a special team dinner prepared and served by captain CJ Bruton's mother in her hometown of Perth.

The Price Attack Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) enjoyed a successful year with the media. The 2004/05 Grand Final between reigning champions the Dandenong Jayco Rangers and the Sydney Uni Flames sold out quickly and the match was well attended by local and national media.

The coverage of the match, and the season, was once again well managed by ABC-TV who, in August 2005, re-signed with the Price Attack WNBL to broadcast the entire season for the 14th consecutive year. The WNBL and the ABC began their relationship in 1989 when the finals series was first broadcast, and in 1992, with the interest in women's basketball booming, the entire season was put to air.

With the months, weeks and days ticking down to the Commonwealth Games, Melbourne 2006 Corporation were keen to use our athletes to highlight the newest and most exciting sporting addition to the Commonwealth Games family – basketball. Jason Smith and former Boomer Andrew Gaze attended the AFL Grand Final, taking part in a half-time lap of honour for hopeful Games athletes. Lauren Jackson was on hand to help launch the partnership between the Games



CJ struts his stuff at the Caulfield Cup.

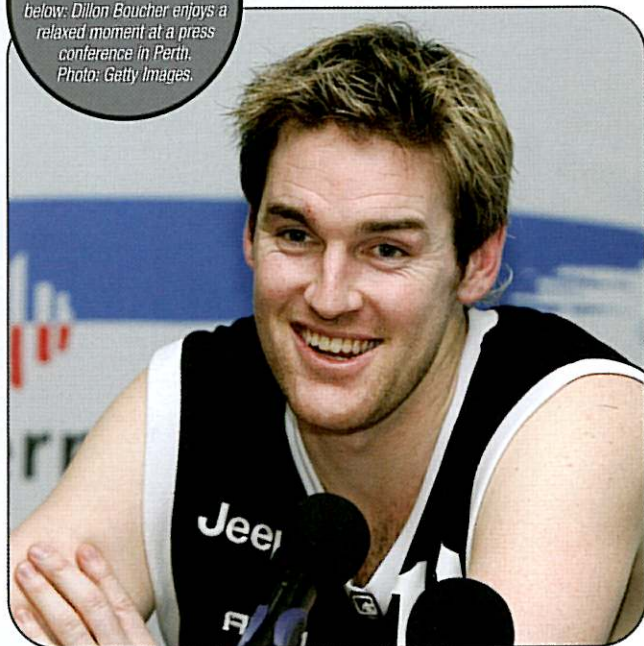
and Toyota and CJ Bruton attended the Caulfield Cup during Melbourne's Spring Racing Carnival to model some race-day fashion.

In addition to the thousands of regular newspaper articles, basketball also featured in magazines and specialist publications throughout the year. Lauren Jackson was featured in (H) MAG, Price Attack's consumer magazine, as well as an eight-page feature and photographic spread with handle magazine. Andrew Bogut was the toast of the town following his NBA Draft Pick and was featured in handle, Who Magazine as well as News Limited's new men's sport magazine, Alpha.



above: CJ Bruton and Mark Worthington enjoy Mrs Bogut's home cooking.

below: Dillon Boucher enjoys a relaxed moment at a press conference in Perth. Photo: Getty Images.



COMMUNICATIONS

Basketball Australia's on-line newsletters continued to flourish with WNBL Update subscriptions growing thanks to a higher quality of technology provided by Interfuse as well as fresher news, a cleaner format and fortnightly competitions.

Nothin' But News got a face-lift during 2005 and was relaunched as Tip-Off in October with more news, more pictures and great competitions.

handle magazine, an Australian basketball magazine, was launched in

September 2005 by FKP Universal Exports. It gives Australian basketball fans a high quality magazine with news, features and pictures from Australia and around the world. Basketball Australia has built a strong relationship with handle magazine and our events and athletes have been featured in each issue.

Xs and Os continued to grow in popularity with the Marketing and Community Basketball Departments working closely to provide an informative and useful tool for Australian Basketball Coaches Association (ABCA) members. Official Word and Starting 5 newsletters continued throughout 2005 and are always well-received by their various stakeholders. Thanks to those volunteers who gave up their time to provide articles for the publications.

The website is an important tool for our national teams when they are travelling; giving fans scores and highlights from matches on the other side of the world within minutes of those games finishing.

WEBSITES

With more people engaging with more technology more often, it is imperative that Basketball Australia continues to develop and maintain its presence on the internet.

www.basketball.net.au is growing in popularity each year, and with new features such as the Association Locator, automatic sign up button for Tip-Off and the Basketball Australia Online Store, the way basketball is communicating and engaging with our stakeholders is improving.

The website is an important tool for our national teams when they are travelling; giving fans scores and highlights from matches on the other side of the world within minutes of those games finishing. It also helps fans get to know their heroes through profiles and features on particular athletes. The Boomers discovered a new talent in journalism graduate winning many hearts with his amusing stories from the Boomers travels in Japan.



The Price Attack WNBL website, www.wnbl.com.au also enjoyed success in 2005, with fans from across the globe learning that it is the place to go for news on women's basketball in Australia. The newly developed feature buttons provided a high level of functionality to the site, allowing competitions and special features to receive the exposure they need and deserve.

Professional writers and photographers were engaged throughout the 2004/05 season to allow for a higher level of game reporting and action images. This lifted the professionalism of the site and made it more appealing to hard-core sports fans while still engaging those casual fans by giving a real insight into game night.



marketing & promotions

In 2005, Basketball Australia continued to build on the profile and success achieved during the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Mikaela
Dombkins.
Photo:
Gatty Images.

The rise in popularity of basketball saw the Boomers hosting a successful four-nations tournament in Perth and Sydney and the attraction of new partners and supporters.

Basketball Australia saw a resurgence in sponsorship and marketing during 2005 due to an increasing profile in Australia

Basketball Australia saw a resurgence in sponsorship and marketing during 2005 due to an increasing profile in Australia and the appointment of Nicole Pensko as General Manager, Sales and Marketing. Nicole's primary role is to ensure the acquisition and development of new sponsor relationships for Basketball Australia's properties.

Several new sponsors and new initiatives were introduced during 2005.

Skins™ came on board in August as the Official Supplier of Compression and Therapeutic Wear, providing body moulded compression garments, scientifically engineered to provide support and muscle alignment and to help recovery and performance for the Boomers and Price Attack Opals. The ABA National Finals in Geelong saw the inaugural Skins™ dunk comp and Skins™ 3-Point shootout which were a huge hit.

In November 2005, Gatorade became the Official Sports drink of the Australian Boomers, launching their sponsorship with a television commercial featuring Jason Smith, CJ Bruton, Glen Saville, Brad Davidson and Mark Worthington, and ensuring the Boomers are never thirsty or dehydrated during training, tournaments and when they are on the road. The Price Attack Opals are now also on board with Gatorade.

Alpha Sports Medicine were signed in late 2005 to supply Elastoplast products to all National Teams.

Kombat Sportswear Australia came on board in mid 2005 to help develop a new look for the Price Attack WNBL club uniforms. After a decade of wearing the now-famous bodysuit, the players have moved to a fitted and feminine singlet and shorts set designed with the athlete in mind.

resi mortgage corporation and Philips came on board for the Boomers 4-Nations Tournament in Sydney (resi) and Perth (Philips), helping support the tournaments and provide a superior level of international basketball for the athletes and the fans.

These new sponsors joined current sponsors:

- Price Attack – Naming rights sponsor of the Price Attack Opals and Price Attack WNBL.
- ABC TV – Official TV partner of the WNBL.
- Molten – Official Ball for Price Attack WNBL, NBL, ABA & National Teams.
- Interfuse – Official technology partner of Basketball Australia.
- Thermoskin - Official supplier of injury prevention products to the Price Attack WNBL, NBL and National Teams.
- Coast 2 Coast – Official supplier of referee's apparel to the Price Attack WNBL, NBL & ABA.
- Virgin Blue – Official airline of the Price Attack WNBL and NBL.

We also thank Cartoon Network for their involvement with Aussie Hoops throughout 2005.

Basketball Australia's sponsorship with Holiday Inn through the Intercontinental Hotels Group ceased in October 2005, and Champion's contract with the Australian National Teams also came to an end in December 2005. We thank these two organisations for their support of basketball over many years.

Positive Government relationships were also on the rise in 2005 with the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation providing assistance for the resi mortgage 4-Nations Tournament in August in addition to the continued funding from the Australian Sports Commission. New partnerships with Sport and Recreation Queensland and the ACT Government were announced to financially support the Opals World Challenge in Cairns and Canberra in April 2006. This government support continues to provide opportunities for hosting events and bringing international basketball to the community.

With the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games on the horizon, the Boomers and Price Attack Opals were in high demand by organisations wanting to use high profile sporting teams depict their advertising message.

While the Boomers got their 15 minutes of fame recording a television commercial for new sponsor Gatorade, Trish Fallon and her Opals teammates Jacinta Hamilton and Shelley Hammonds were the focus for an ANZ television advertisement. The advertisement shows Fallon chatting breathlessly to a commentator after a hard fought game of basketball.

Lauren Jackson was profiled in (H) MAG, Price Attack's quarterly hair care magazine. (H) MAG has a national circulation, distributed both to shoppers throughout Price Attacks 120 stores across Australia as well as Price Attack's large database. The article features not only Lauren's love of and success in basketball but how she manages to inject glamour and style into the game.

handle magazine burst onto the scene in September, providing Australian basketball fans with a home-grown hoops mag with features and stories on local and international players as well as some backyard heroes. Basketball Australia has secured a deal with handle that will see Basketball Australia programs appear in every edition. We have already seen Andrew Bogut and Lauren Jackson grace the cover of two editions. This magazine should help lift the profile of Australian basketball in years to come.

These initiatives will assist in capitalising on the momentum and hype surrounding the Commonwealth Games and raising the profile of our national teams outside the basketball community.

Basketball Australia continued its partnerships with official charities the Heart Foundation and the Cancer Council. The Price Attack Opals lent their support to Heart Week, appearing at Heart Foundation RTA cycle launch. Ex-Boomer Shane Heal was the guest speaker at the Heart Foundations Corporate Golf Day and the girls from the Price Attack WNBL supported the Cancer Council Breast Cancer Awareness Month by hosting 'Girls Night In' parties in October.

In an effort to capitalise on the increasing popularity of our sport and of sport-related merchandise, the BA Online Store was launched in October 2005 to provide the basketball community with a most valued and sought after service.

The new store, hosted on Basketball Australia's website basketball.net.au, sells basketball related clothing, equipment, injury products and coaching resources from a variety of suppliers. Items include Boomers replica singlets, basketballs, coaching manuals, subscriptions to basketball magazines and special one-off items such as memorabilia signed by high profile players.

The store is located on the front page of the Basketball Australia website and is simple and easy to use.

In the first three months of operation, the online store processed over 100 orders. Basketball Australia hopes to build on its initial success by adding new suppliers and product lines and giving the basketball community a high quality and efficient service. The long-term objective for the BA Online Store is to be 'the one stop shop for all your basketball needs'.

Marketing materials developed for Basketball Australia during 2005 were predominantly event specific.

'The Boomers are Back' was the theme used for the Boomers 4-Nations tournament, held in Perth and Sydney in August.

A range of marketing collateral including posters, flyers, email banners and display advertisements were developed to promote the event, which also featured China, Lithuania and New Zealand.

2005 was all about 'Attitude' for the Price Attack Women's National Basketball League, who produced a suite of new marketing collateral featuring the 'Face of the League', Canberra Capitals centre Lauren Jackson, and the eight Price Attack WNBL Ambassadors.

The sultry new collateral, which included posters, fixture cards and bookmarks, embraced the league's new tagline 'Feel the Attitude'. The tagline was adopted to communicate the strength, spirit and quality of the country's top female athletes.

The 50,000 fixture cards and 4,000 A2 posters were sent to basketball associations across the country for display in stadiums and distribution to members. The bookmarks, a new initiative for 2005/06 were developed for circulation to schools and ABC Shops, exposing a broader section of the community to the league and its Ambassadors.

To assist in the production of our new-look marketing collateral, the Price Attack WNBL season launch kicked off with a photo shoot introducing the league's new uniforms and our 2005/06 Ambassadors. The Ambassadors program, in its third season, is aimed at increasing role models in women's sport and raising the profile of up and coming athletes. It involves one player from each Price Attack WNBL club to act as a spokesperson and to assist in the promotion of the league.

The Ambassadors for 2005/06 were:

- Erin Phillips: Adelaide Fellas
- Michaela Dombkins: Australian Institute of Sport
- Hollie Grima: Bulleen Melbourne Boomers
- Eleanor Sharp: Canberra TransACT Capitals
- Carly Wilson: Dandenong Jayco Rangers
- Eva Afeaki: G.E.T. Sydney Uni Flames
- Tania Heritage: Sea FM Townsville Fire
- Melissa McClure: Drug Free Perth Lynx

To complement the 'Feel the Attitude' theme, the season launch photo shoot was held in an abandoned warehouse in Melbourne's Docklands. The Ambassadors enjoyed strutting their stuff and entertaining select media in their new uniforms, supplied by new uniform sponsor Kombat.

The Price Attack WNBL joined forces with the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Association in conducting the Women's Basketball Bonanza Promotion towards the end of 2005.

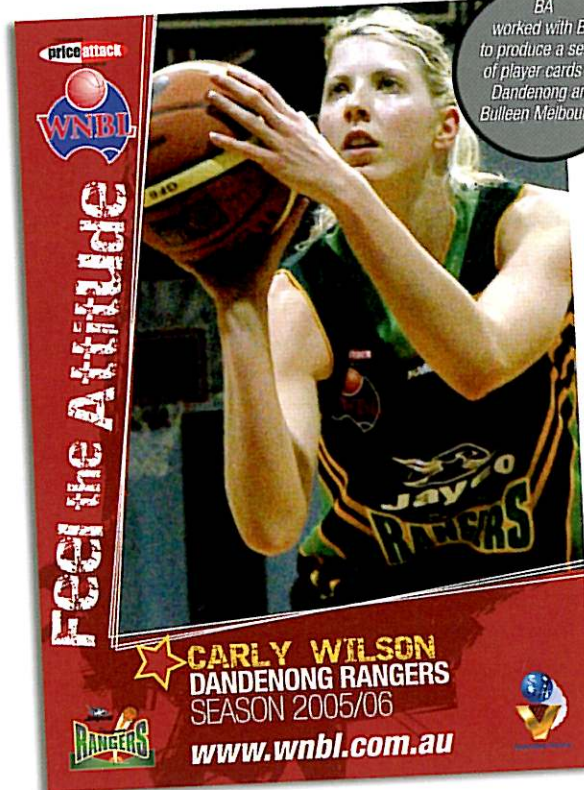
The major prize was a trip for two, to the Price Attack Women's National Basketball League Grand Final in February 2006 including airfares and accommodation, tickets to the Women's Semi Final at the Commonwealth Games, a basketball signed by Lauren Jackson and a replica basketball singlet from the winner's favourite team.

Seven runners-up also won a double pass to the Commonwealth Games basketball Semi Finals.

The promotion involved participants collecting a weekly codeword from the ABC TV coverage of the Price Attack WNBL and sending it in to Basketball Australia.

Congratulations to Jessica Ferriday of QLD, who was the major prize winner.

The Ambassadors program, in its third season, is aimed at increasing role models in women's sport and raising the profile of up and coming athletes.



BA worked with BV to produce a series of player cards for Dandenong and Bulleen Melbourne.

November 2005 marked the inaugural National Aussie Hoops Month - an initiative of Basketball Australia designed to lift the profile of Aussie Hoops within the community and encourage schools and communities to embrace and implement the program.

Throughout November, stars from Price Attack WNBL and Phillips Championships NBL teams conducted school-based clinics and hosted Aussie Hoops exhibition games at regular season matches.

Aussie Hoops mascot Duncan was also available to lend a hand, entertaining crowds and assisting in getting the Aussie Hoops message out by handing out Aussie Hoops marketing collateral and merchandise.

Aussie Hoops month was officially launched during the Sydney Kings v Perth Wildcats game on Fox Sports on Wednesday November 2 and at the Price Attack WNBL, ABC TV Game of the Week, Canberra TransACT Capitals v Dandenong Jayco Rangers on Friday November 4 2005.

Sports uniform and apparel manufacturer, Kombat, supplied every Phillips Championship and Price Attack WNBL club with a set of official Aussie Hoops Month singlets for children participating in half-time entertainment.

After a successful introduction, Aussie Hoops Month is set to continue and become bigger and better in years to come. It provides a direct link between elite basketball and the grass roots, helping ensure the popularity of basketball as a participation sport.

In an endeavour to enhance the experience of playing sports in a fun, 'toony' way, Basketball Australia's Aussie Hoops program joined forces with Cartoon Network during 2005. Cartoon Network's sponsorship involved the funding of four 'Cartoon Network Aussie Hoops Mega Clinics', introducing 2,720 school-aged children at Bankstown, Cairns, Adelaide and Dandenong to basic and fun basketball skills.

To support the Mega Clinics the Cartoon Network created a series of unique on-air sports to ensure that the fun message of basketball reaches hundreds of thousands potential 'Aussie Hoopers', to assist in generating interest in the game.



A range of marketing materials produced during 2005.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Basketball Australia continually strives to improve the quality of, and access to, an integrated knowledge and information base about all aspects of basketball's performance and development.

After being awarded the prestigious Sport Information Technology Award at the 24th Australian Sport Awards in 2004, the winning online management solution 'The Basketball Network' (TBN) went from strength to strength in 2005.

In October, FIBA Information Technology Manager, Wolfram Klug, visited BA to review TBN and was very complimentary of the system and status.

An integrated IT solution, TBN gives associations, clubs, state bodies and leagues the tools to create and manage their own web site, manage their competitions online and better manage their member lists.

South Australia came online in 2005, and has implemented a TBN database for their membership.

At the end of 2005, more than 300 Associations were using TBN.

After introducing a 'Help Desk' customer service representative for the system and training state basketball associations to facilitate training and information sessions,

an award for outstanding efforts in this area was developed in 2005. Tina Briggs from Basketball Queensland was named the inaugural TBN Administrator of the Year.

The highlight for 2005 was the successful launch of the Basketball Australia Online Store in October. After developing the technology in 2004, the site went live with official Basketball Australia merchandise, rule books, manuals, basketball publications and much more. The first few months were very successful and planned marketing in 2006 should see the online store as the premier basketball e-commerce store.



The IT Department continued to work closely with the Competitions Department to ensure the expansion and improvement of the results delivery for the National Junior Championships (www.nationals.basketball.net.au) throughout 2005. Family, friends and fans now have almost immediate access to full results and statistics from U14, U16, U18, U20, Ivor Burge and National Schools tournaments.

Live stats continue to be used on our websites and are well received by fans.

With an increased workload for the IT Department, Ryan Benson was appointed in 2005 as IT Coordinator to support office technology and The Basketball Network. Ryan reports to IT Manager, Ashley Cole.



PHILIPS

events

The Boomers are Back... was the theme that launched the Boomers 4-Nations Tournament in Perth and Sydney in August 2005.

The tournament, held over four days from 9-14 August, served as an important strategic opportunity for Basketball Australia to raise the profile of basketball in Australia, and particularly the Boomers, leading into an important two years of international competition. The tournament was an opportunity to introduce a number of new Australian players to the public, and keep the Boomers 'top of mind' as they prepared for the Commonwealth Games and the World Championships in 2006, and the Holy Grail – Beijing 2008.

The tournament was the first conducted on Australian soil after the successful signing of a four-year agreement between China and Australia. The agreement will see a home and away tournament for the men and women on alternate years in the lead up to Beijing Olympics in 2008.

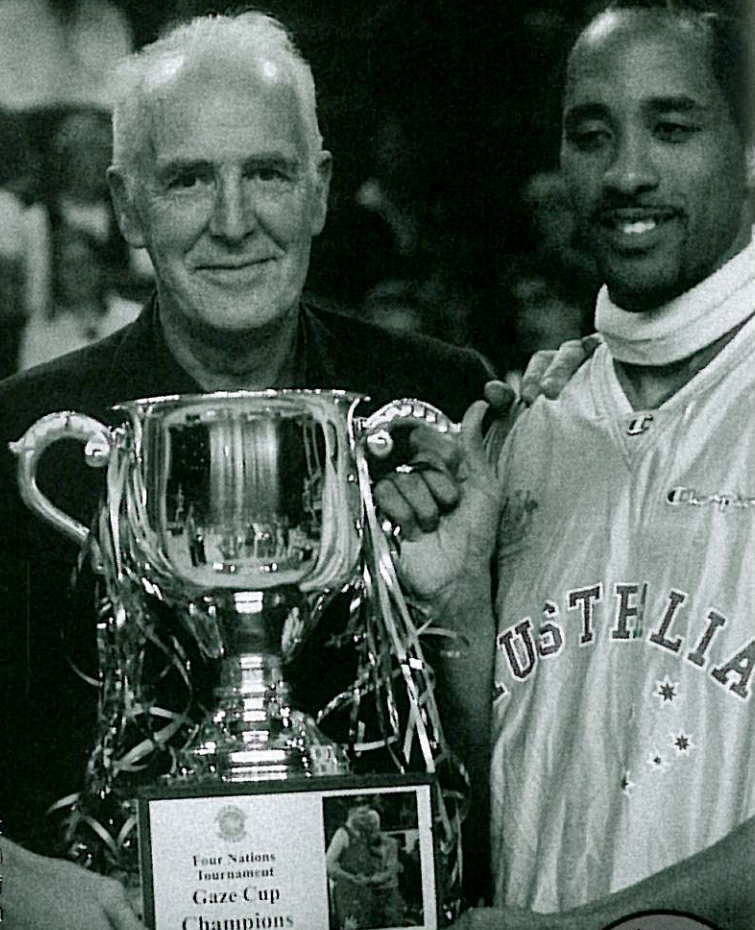
In another first, Basketball Australia partnered the Perth Wildcats and the Sydney Kings in presenting the tournament in the respective cities. This collaboration was highly successful and maximised resources, enabling the organising committee to present high quality games in a professional and efficient manner. This allowed the spectators and general community to reap the benefits of the spectacular display of basketball and entertainment during the tournament.

Philips 4-Nations Tournament - Perth, August 9-10

The tournament commenced in Perth, Western Australia, where the Philips 4-Nations Tournament was met with excitement and excellent crowds. The Boomers first match against Lithuania saw crowds in excess of 4,000, and the match against China on the August 10 was a sell-out.

Games were telecast locally on Channel 7 and were covered by ESPN and CCTV back into China, expanding the potential viewership to close to one billion on the world stage.

Closer to home, Sports Tonight featured a team dinner at CJ Bruton's mother's house, where Mrs Bruton invited the full squad and staff back to her place for a home cooked meal and some warm hospitality. This was broadcast nationally.



Boomers Co-Captains Glen Saville and CJ Bruton receive the Gaze Cup from Lindsay Gaze. Photo: Getty Images.

resi mortgage 4-Nations Tournament - Sydney, August 12-14

The resi mortgage 4-Nations Tournament continued at the Sydney Entertainment Centre on Friday, August 12 after a long flight back from Perth. The tournament culminated on Sunday afternoon, August 14 with the final showdown between Australia and China. A successful marketing campaign saw the Sydney public get behind the event, with crowd numbers exceeding 10,000 over the two sessions. In particular, Sydney's Chinese community came out in droves to see their national heroes perform on the court.

Entertainment throughout the Sydney leg of the tournament included Diesel, Jenny Morris and, of course, our own local talent in the kids from Bankstown, Hornsby and Penrith participating in the Philips Aussie Hoops Half-Time.

The colourful Aussie Hoops singlets were provided by Coast 2 Coast.

Games from Sydney were telecast by CCTV in China and Sky TV in New Zealand.

4-NATIONS TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE PERTH (SPONSORED BY PHILIPS)

Challenge Stadium

August 9

6:15pm	NZ	def.	China 90-70
8:30pm	Australia	def.	Lithuania 71-66

August 10

6:15pm	NZ	def.	Lithuania 79-62
8:30pm	Australia	def.	China 89-50

SYDNEY (SPONSORED BY RESI MORTGAGE)

Sydney Entertainment Centre

August 12

6:15pm	Lithuania	def.	China 78-69
8:30pm	Australia	def.	NZ 84-74

August 14

2:30pm	NZ	def.	Lithuania 86-77
4:45pm	Australia	def.	China 88-58

THE GAZE CUP

In a tribute to Australian basketball legends Lindsay and Andrew Gaze, the perpetual tournament trophy was named the Gaze Cup and will be presented to the winner of the series in Australia over the next four years.

The Australian Boomers swept the tournament, winning all four matches in convincing fashion, and keeping the trophy on home soil.

TOURNAMENT AWARDS

Australia's CJ Bruton was named as the tournament MVP and was also named in the All-Star 5 along with teammate Matthew Nielsen, Pero Cameron (New Zealand), Pavelas Cukinas (Lithuania) and Liu Wei (China).

Crowds were entertained by Jenny Morris.
Photo: Getty Images.



Chinese dancers perform a traditional piece.
Photo: Getty Images.





financial management

Financially, 2005 was another solid year for Basketball Australia. In relation to ongoing operations, Basketball Australia was able to exceed its budgetary expectations for 2005 by 34 per cent (\$69,732 surplus against a budgeted surplus of \$52,077).

A one-off transfer of \$56,175 from Women's National Basketball League Limited boosted the total surplus to \$125,907. This transfer was made following the decision to integrate the WNBL into Basketball Australia's operations from July 1, 2005.

This integration of the WNBL into Basketball Australia resulted in WNBL sponsorship income and club levies flowing through to Basketball Australia. This also meant that Basketball Australia incurred all the costs associated with the administration of the WNBL. Through to December 31, the net result of these transactions was practically break-even (i.e. revenues were matched by expenditures).

Leaving aside transactions connected with the WNBL, Basketball Australia's revenue and expenses were both less in 2005 than 2004. Overall, revenues of \$5.459million were down by 5 per cent, and expenditures of \$5.333 million were down by 6.4 per cent.

Significant factors behind these reductions are as follows:

- Reduced grant income in 2005. Much of this reduction relates to grant monies received from the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC). These grant funds are taken to income when they can be matched against the expenditures that they are intended to compensate for. Hence reduced expenditures with the wheelchair programs in 2005 (as against 2004) have meant reduced income recognition of APC grant funds. This matching of grant income with relevant expenditures is in line with the treatment prescribed as part of Basketball Australia's adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards.
- The initial funding arrangement with the Australian Sports Commission for the Aussie Hoops program concluded at June 30 2005. This in turn led to a significant reduction in the expenditure by Basketball Australia for this program in the second half of 2005.
- Reduced expenditure in both the Boomers and Opals programs in 2005 compared to Olympic year expenditures in 2004.
- Revised service fee arrangements between Basketball Australia and the National Basketball League. Changes in services provided by Basketball Australia has resulted in both reduced expenditures within the marketing area of Basketball Australia, and reduced service fee income.

The surplus generated during 2005 meant that Basketball Australia was able to continue with its strategy of gradually building its reserves. Basketball Australia's balance sheet remains solid with reserves of over \$978,000 at December 31, 2005. Basketball Australia will continue to build its reserves to maintain financial stability and be well positioned to deal with any unexpected situations.

Basketball Australia continued to provide financial management services as part of the service agreements in place with the WNBL (to June 30), ABA and NBL through 2005. These have worked well and these services will continue to be provided in 2006.

Basketball Australia will also continue to assist the States and Territories to achieve their goals and objectives via provision of economies of scale for various goods and services such as the national insurance scheme.

2006 highlights

Here's what you can look forward to in 2006

THE XVIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The Commonwealth Games return to Australia and Melbourne are set to host a spectacular event. Basketball is making its debut at the Games and Australia is hopeful for two gold medals.

OPALS WORLD CHALLENGE

Are you up for the Challenge? The Price Attack Opals will take on the USA, China and Chinese Taipei in Cairns and Canberra from April 7-12. Lauren Jackson and her team are set to take on the might of a full-strength US team and both countries prepare to fight it out in the World Championships in September.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Australian basketball is set to compete in no less than six World Championship events in 2006. The Senior Men are off to Japan from August 19 to September 3, the Senior Women are in Brazil from September 12-23, the men's and women's wheelchair teams are in Amsterdam from July 6-15 and the men's and women's intellectually disabled teams are in Japan from September 29 to October 7. Go Australia!

AL RAMSAY SHIELD

The Boomers and the New Zealand Tall Blacks will fight it out for the Al Ramsay Shield with two matches in New Zealand and two matches in Australia in the lead up to the World Championships.

OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

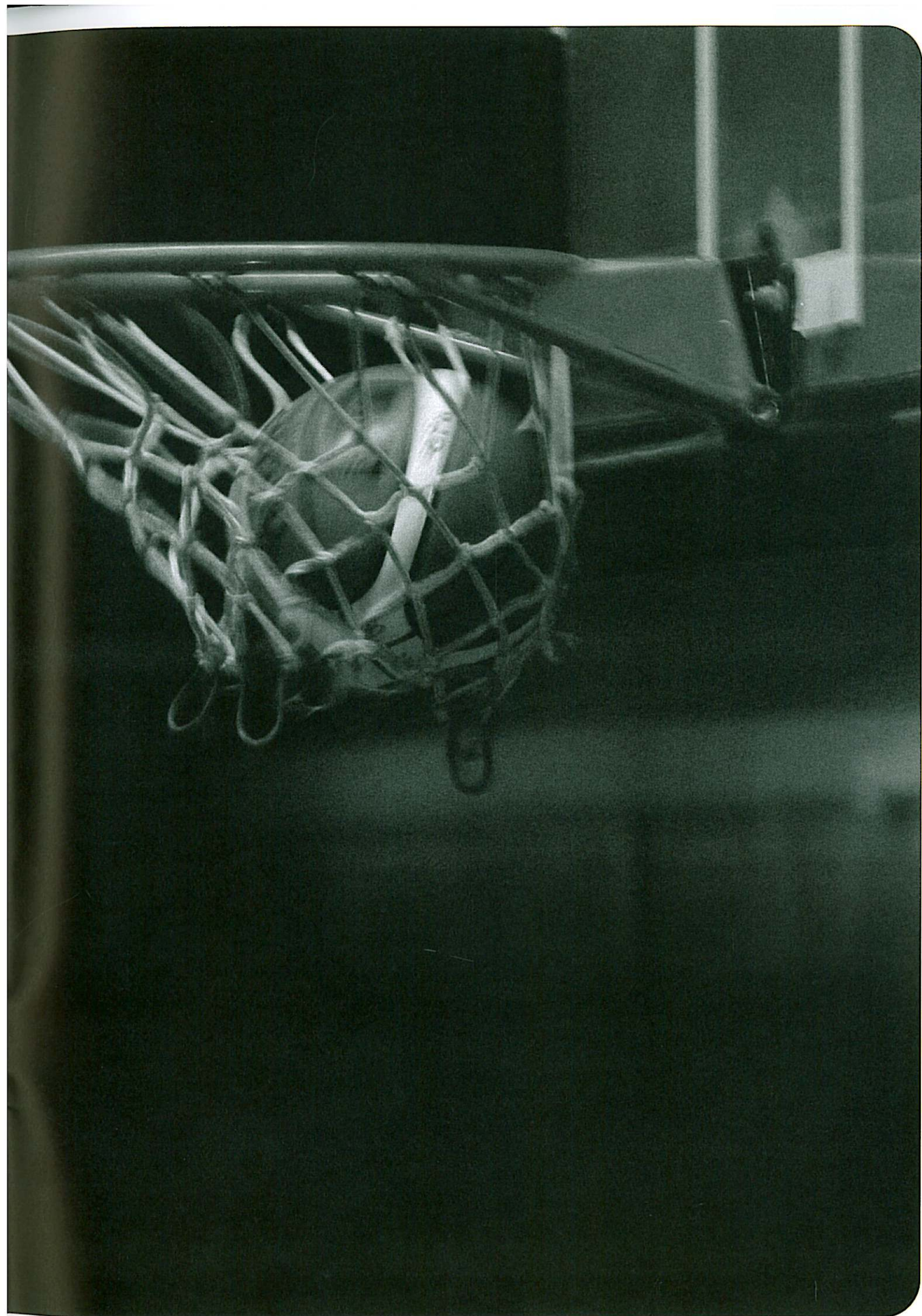
The Gems, Emus and Sapphires will all take on New Zealand in 2006 to determine who will represent Australia at each of their respective World Championships in 2007. This marks the first year of World Championships every two years for the Gems and the Emus (U19).

HALL OF FAME DINNER

The next instalment of Australian basketball legends will be honoured at the second Basketball Australia Hall of Fame dinner in 2006. Watch the website for further details about the event.

AUSSIE HOOPS MONTH

November will see the second annual Aussie Hoops Month celebrated across Australia with kids involved in clinics, school visits and demonstrations by Philips Championship NBL and Price Attack WNBL players and teams.



scorecard

BASKETBALL AUSTRALIA

MEMBERSHIPS

International Basketball Federation (FIBA)
FIBA Oceania
Australian Olympic Committee
Australian Paralympic Committee
Australian Commonwealth Games Association

PATRON

Hon. John Howard, MP, Prime Minister

PRESIDENT

John Maddock

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Scott Derwin

DIRECTORS

John Maddock (Chairman)
Cheryl Bart (until March)
Don Horsell
John Davidson (from March)
Ken Madsen, MBE
Lois Appleby
Dan Kirtley
Don Pollock
Scott Derwin

COUNCIL

Wayne Bird (VIC)
Max Brisbane (VIC)
David Hickman (VIC)
Bruce McKay (NSW)
Daniel Martinez (NSW)
Don Pollock - until October (NSW)
Tony Guihot - from October (NSW)
Allan Ladewig (QLD)
Nicole Pensko - until October (QLD)
Graham Burns - from October (QLD)
Di Campbell (SA)
Phillip Saunders - until October (SA)
Ron Green - from October (SA)
Ron Wright (WA)
Libby Woods (WA)
David Scott - until May (TAS)
Tim Leedham - from May (TAS)
Shelley Lambert (NT)
Geoff Wells - until October (ACT)
Stephen Fox - from October (ACT)
Rick Burton - until October (NBL)
Mal Hemmerling - from October (NBL)
John Davidson (WNBL)
Hugh McMenemy (ABA)

STAFF

Scott Derwin	Chief Executive
Lorraine Landon	General Manager, National Teams and Competitions
David Morris	General Manager, Finance and Administration

Michael Haynes	General Manager, Community Basketball
Nicole Pensko	General Manager, Sales and Marketing
Marie Byrne	Manager, Executive Support Services
Patrick Hunt	Manager, National Player and Coach Development
Bill Mildenhall	Manager, National Referee Development
Marian Stewart	Manager, National Women's Operations
Nic Mercer	Manager, National Men's Operations
Geoff Tripp	Manager, Competitions
Jodie Smith	Manager, International and Events
Ashley Cole	Manager, Information Technology
Rachel Wolters	Manager, Communications
Amanda Judge	Marketing Executive
Jarrod Greedy	Community Programs Coordinator
Ryan Benson	IT Coordinator
Ruth Sabado	Accounts Clerk
Lisa Kennedy	Administration/Reception

BA LIFE MEMBERS

Mr Frank Angrove, OAM (dec)
Dr Ivor Burge, MBE (dec)
Mr Richard Butler
Mr Bob Elphinston, OAM
Mr William Feltham (dec)
Mr Lindsay Gaze, OAM
Mr Ron Harvey, CVO AM
Dr Adrian Hurley
Mr Robert Kidner
Mrs Lorraine Landon
Mr John Martin
Mr Alistair M Ramsay, MBE, OAM
Dr John Raschke, OAM (dec)
Mr George Russell, OAM
Mr John Small, OAM (dec)
Mr Malcolm Speed
Mr Robert Staunton, OAM (dec)
Mr Sid Taylor, AM
Mrs Betty Watson, OAM
Mr Ken Watson, BEM

HALL OF FAME

Jenny Cheesman, Andrew Gaze, Robyn Maher, Phil Smyth, Lindsay Gaze, Dr. Adrian Hurley, Dr. Ivor Burge, Alistair Ramsay, Dr. John Raschke, Sid Taylor and Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Ken Watson.

MERIT AWARDS *bold denotes 2005

Barry Barnes, Ray Borner, Carla Boyd, Mark Bradtke, Sandra Brondello, Phil Brown, Richard Butler, Robbie Cadee, Jeff Carey, Wayne Carroll, Jenny Cheesman, Jill Cook, Norma Connolly, Eve Craddock, Perry Crosswhite, Eddie Crouch (Referee), Mel Dalgleish, Brad Dalton, Karen Dalton, Ian Davies, Alan Dawe, Frank Drmic, Simon Dwight, Steve Evans, Trisha

Fallon, Karin Fields, Dr Peter Fricker, Andrew Gaze, Lindsay Gaze, Shelley Gorman, Michelle Griffiths, Hollie Grima, Jill Hammond, Dr Peter Harcourt, Sue Marcus, Elaine Hardwick, Kristi Harrower, Shane Heal, John Holden, Patrick Hunt, Ray Hunt (Ref), Adrian Hurley, Lauren Jackson, Damian Keogh, Brian Kerle, Annie La Fleur, Lorraine Landon, Luc Longley, Sam Mackinnon, Brett Maher, Robyn Maher, Tom Maher, John Martin, Robert McGugan, Gordie McLeod, Pat Mickan, Bill Mildenhall, Keith Miller, **Guy Molloy**, Mrs Pat Moore, Julie Nykiel, Eddie Palubinskas, Henry Perazzo (Referee), Craig Purdam, Paul Rogers, Tony Ronaldson, Larry Sengstock, Roger Shiels (Referee), Phil Smyth, Rachael Sporn, Marian Stewart, Jan Stirling, Laura Summerton, Tattersalls (Trustees of the Estate of the late George Adams), Samantha Thornton, Michele Timms, Ray Tomlinson, Allison Tranquilli, John Trivellion Scott, Andrew Vlahov, Jenny Whittle, Bill Wyatt.

LEAGUE ASSOCIATIONS

Australian Basketball Association
National Basketball League
Women's National Basketball League (until June 30 2005)

NBL BOARD

Mal Hemmerling (Chairman)
David Carmichael
Paul Robertson
Eddy Groves
Seamus McPeake
Scott Derwin
Andrew Vlahov (resigned 29/6/05)

WNBL BOARD (until June 30 2005)

John Davidson (President)
Bernard Trevanion
Libby Woods
Scott Derwin
Charles Ryan

WNBL COMMISSION (from July 1 2005)

John Davidson (Chairman)
Bernard Trevanion
Libby Woods
Michelle Nancarrow
Scott Derwin
Charles Ryan

ABA BOARD

Adrian Davies (Chairman)
Paul Beale
Hugh McMenemy
Rick Petrie
Darryl Neal
Warren Berginey
Ian Thornton
Scott Derwin

STATE/TERRITORY REPRESENTATIVES

Australian Capital Territory

Geoff Wells, President (to October)
Stephen Fox, President (from October)
Doug Read, Chief Executive Officer (to July)
Mark Cartwright, Chief Executive Officer (from October)

New South Wales

Don Pollock, President (to April)
Tony Guihot, President (from April)
Daniel Martinez, Chief Executive

Northern Territory

Shelley Lambert, President

Queensland

Allan Ladewig, President
Nicole Pensko, Chief Executive (to June)
Graham Burns, General Manager (from July)

South Australia

Di Campbell, Chairperson
Phillip Sanders, Chief Executive Officer (to September)

Mike Daws, Chief Executive Officer (from November)

Tasmania

Tim Leedham, President
David Scott, General Manager

Victoria

Max Brisbane, President
Wayne Bird, Chief Executive

Western Australia

Libby Woods, President
Ron Wright, Chief Executive

NITCP HEAD COACHES

Stuart Jones, Australian Capital Territory
Patrick Hunt, Basketball Australia
Oliver Dudfield, Queensland (to September)
Murry Alred, Queensland (from October)
Mick Downer, Queensland (to November)
Ross Wignall, Victoria Metro
Marty Handson, Victoria Country
Brett Coxsedg, New South Wales
Neil Gliddon, South Australia
David Munns, Tasmania
Murray Treseder, Western Australia
Peter Lonergan, Northern Territory

SENIOR MEN'S TEAM STAFF

Brian Goorjian	Head Coach
Brendan Joyce	Assistant Coach
Rob Beveridge	Assistant Coach
Dr Seamus Dalton	Medical Coordinator
Steve Evans	Physiotherapy Coordinator
Simon Roberts	Operations Manager (to May)
Nic Mercer	Operations Manager (from June)

SENIOR WOMEN'S TEAM STAFF

Jan Stirling	Head Coach
Gary Fox	Assistant Coach
Cheryl Chambers	Assistant Coach
Dr Scott Burne	Medical Coordinator
Amanda Berntsen	Physiotherapy Coordinator
Marian Stewart	Operations Manager

JUNIOR WOMEN'S TEAM STAFF

Phil Brown	Head Coach (to August)
Dean Kinsman	Head Coach (from August)
Dean Kinsman	Assistant Coach (to August)
Cheryl Chambers	Assistant Coach (to August)
Sonia Knight	Assistant Coach (from August)
Dr Kieran Fallon	Doctor
Amanda Berntsen	Physiotherapist (to August)
Rachel McAlister	Physiotherapist (from August)
Michele Menso	Manager

YOUNG MEN'S TEAM STAFF

Guy Molloy	Head Coach
Tim Mallon	Assistant Coach
Andrej Lemanis	Assistant Coach (to Feb)
Bruce Palmer	Assistant Coach (from March)
Bob McGugan	Manager
Craig Sedgman	Physiotherapist
Dr Kylie Sellwood	Doctor

WHEELCHAIR MEN'S TEAM STAFF

Murray Treseder	Head Coach
Alan Cox	Assistant Coach
Craig Friday	Technical Assistant Coach
Kelvin Browner	Manager
John Camens	Physiotherapist (to May)
Ian Lowther	(from June)

WHEELCHAIR WOMEN'S TEAM STAFF

Gerry Hewson	Head Coach
Sonia Healey	Manager
David Spurrier	Physiotherapist
Michael Dowling	Team Mechanic

MEN'S INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY TEAM STAFF

Peter Corr	Head Coach
George Havakis	Assistant Coach
Kevin Smith	Manager

WOMEN'S INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY TEAM STAFF

Larry Davidson	Head Coach
Jo Salafia	Assistant Coach
Sally Duncan	Manager

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT PROGRAMS

Administration

Dale Barnes	Administrator
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Women

Phil Brown	Head Coach (to August)
Dean Kinsman	Head Coach (from August)
Debbie Cook	Assistant Coach (to October)
Nikki Bairstow	Assistant Coach (from October, scholarship coach Jan-Oct)

Men

Martin Clarke	Head Coach
Paul Goriss	Assistant Coach

AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

GAZE MEDAL	CJ BRUTON
MAHER MEDAL	HOLLIE GRIMA

AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR BASKETBALL AWARDS

Male Player of the Year	Stephen Weigh (QLD)
Female Player of the Year	Kathleen Macleod (VIC)
Male Coach of the Year	Peter Lonergan (VIC)
Female Coach of the Year	Annette Winton (QLD)
Male Volunteer of the Year	Ivan King (TAS)
Female Volunteer of the Year	Leianne Palmer (NSW)
Statistician of the Year	Janice Gibson (NSW)
Scoretable Official of the Year	Eleanor Clarke (WA)
Male Administrator of the Year	Andrew Horstman (WA)
Female Administrator of the Year	Helen Jamieson (ACT)
Male Referee of the Year	Daniel Fisher (VIC)
Female Referee of the Year	Jenny Froling (QLD)
Male Contribution to Basketball for People with an Intellectual Disability	Rod Hislop (WA)
Female Contribution to Basketball for People with an Intellectual Disability	Kathy Henricks (TAS)
Best Media Coverage	The Bendigo Advertiser (VIC)

Special Recognition

Tina Briggs (QLD) for her work with the TBN website and Database in Queensland.

NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

U14 Boys Sturt 61 d Dandenong 57
U14 Girls Melbourne 69 d Sturt 60
U16 Boys Victoria Country 65 d Victoria Metro 60
U16 Girls Victoria Metro 49 d NSW Country 46
U18 Boys Victoria Metro 72 d NSW Country 55
U18 Girls NSW Country 58 d SA Metro 56
U20 Boys Queensland 78 d NSW 65
U20 Girls Victoria 64 d NSW 40
Ivor Burge Men Victoria Metro 1 50 d NSW Metro 49
Ivor Burge Women NSW 64 d Victoria Metro 45
National Schools Men John Paul College 80 d Lake Ginninderra 73
National Schools Women Caulfield Grammar 85 d John Paul College 63

NSBT OTHER DIVISION WINNERS

Senior Men 1 Townsville SHS
Senior Men 2 Ballarat High School
Senior Men 3 Craigieburn Secondary College
Senior Men 4 St Joseph's College
Senior Men 5 Wodonga Catholic College
Junior Men 1 Whitefriars College
Junior Men 2 Westfield Sports HS
Junior Men 3 Flora Hill Secondary College
Junior Men 4 Reynella East HS
Junior Men 5 Plenty Valley Christian School
Senior Women 1 Illawarra Sports HS
Senior Women 2 Craigieburn Secondary College
Senior Women 3 Unley HS
Senior Women 4 Penola Christian College
Senior Women 5 Clonard College
Junior Women 1 Xavier HS
Junior Women 3 Monivae College
Junior Women 4 Sebastopol College
Junior Women 5 Mowbray College



R.E. STAUNTON MEDALLISTS

1991	Tony Ronaldson	Trish Fallon
1992	Bretl Maher	Jenny Whittle
1993	Chris Blakemore	Michele Chandler
1994	Phil Doherty	Kristi Harrower
1995	Sam MacKinnon	Jae Kingi
1996	Frank Drmic	Melissa McClure
1997	Frank Drmic	Eleanor Sharp
1998	Stephen Black	Narelle Lindsay
1999	Stephen Black	Lauren Jackson
2000	Oscar Forman	Alison O'Dwyer
2001	Matthew Burston	Shelley Hammonds
2002	Larry Davidson	Laura Summerton
2003	Damian Martin	Kelly Wilson
2004	Brad Newley	Erin Phillips
2005	Stephen Weigh	Kathleen Macleod

R.E. STAUNTON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

1992	Chris Blakemore	Laura Howlett
1993	Brad Williams	Kristi Harrower
1994	Craig McAndrew	Jae Kingi
1995	Scott McGregor	Melissa McClure
1996	David Pennisi	Alicia Poto
1997	Jared Wilson	Rohanee Cox
1998	David Andersen	Penny Taylor
1999	Andrew Rice	Belinda Snell
2000	Neil Mottram	Jessica Mahoney
2001	Luke Schenschler	Laura Summerton
2002	Nicolas Campbell	Hollie Grima
2003	Gregory Vanderjagt	Erin Seward
2004	Brad Newley	Jenna O'Hea
2005	Adam Gibson	Renae Camino

FAIR PLAY AWARD

U14 Boys (Andrew Gaze Award) Brisbane Capitals
 U14 Girls (Jenny Cheesman Award) Townsville Fire
 U16 Queensland North
 U18 Queensland South

SCHOLARSHIPS

Adrian Hurley Scholarship

Paul Jones (VIC Metro)

AIS Coaching Scholarship

Nicky Bairstow (OLD)
 Officiating Scholarship
 Damian Lyons (WA)

PHILIPS CHAMPIONSHIP (NBL)

Adelaide 36ers, Brisbane Bullets, Cairns Taipans, Hunter Pirates, Melbourne Tigers, New Zealand Breakers, Perth Wildcats, Sydney Kings, Townsville Crocodiles, West Sydney Razorbacks, Wollongong Hawks.

2004/05 FINALS SERIES RESULTS

Quarter Finals (single game elimination)

Brisbane Bullets d. Hunter Pirates 113-99
 Melbourne Tigers d. Perth Wildcats 108-88
 Brisbane Bullets d. Adelaide 36ers 125-110
 Townsville Crocodiles d. Melbourne Tigers 112-110

Semi Finals (best-of-three)

Sydney Kings d. Brisbane Bullets 113-79
 Sydney Kings d. Brisbane Bullets 111-105
 Sydney Kings won series 2-0

Wollongong Hawks d. Townsville Crocodiles 100-84
 Wollongong Hawks d. Townsville Crocodiles 109-105
 Wollongong Hawks won series 2-0

Grand Final (best-of-five)

Sydney Kings d. Wollongong Hawks 96-73
 Sydney Kings d. Wollongong Hawks 105-80
 Sydney Kings d. Wollongong Hawks 112-85
 Sydney Kings won series 3-0

SEASON AWARDS

Most Valuable Player

Brian Wethers (Hunter Pirates)

All Star Five

Jason Smith (Sydney Kings)
 Mark Bradtke (Melbourne Tigers)
 Darnell Mee (Wollongong Hawks)
 Brian Wethers (Hunter Pirates)
 Chris Burgess (Cairns Taipans)

Coach of the Year

Adrian Hurley (Hunter Pirates)

Rookie of the Year

Brad Newley (Townsville Crocodiles)

Best Defensive Player

Darnell Mee (Wollongong Hawks)

Top Scorer

Brian Wethers (Hunter Pirates) 24.3 ppg

Top Rebounder

Chris Burgess (Cairns Taipans) 13.6 rpg

Top Assists

Darnell Mee (Wollongong Hawks) 7.6 apg

Top Blocked Shots

Simon Dwight (West Sydney Razorbacks) 3.2 bpg

Field Goal %

Jason Eversteyn (Brisbane Bullets) 64.0%

Foul Shot %

Ricky Grace (Perth Wildcats) 91.7%

3 point %

Oscar Forman (Adelaide 36ers) 47.2%

Referee of the Year

Scott Butler

MEDIA AWARDS

Basketball Writer of the Year

Boti Nagy (Adelaide Advertiser)

Best Feature Article

Antony Stewart (Townsville Bulletin)

Best Television Feature Story

Lachlan Reid (Network Ten)

Best Television News Story

Tim Wharton (Fox Sports)

Best Radio Presentation Package

SEN 1116

Best Radio News Package

Peter Walsh (ABC Radio SA)

Best Photograph

Game Action: Ken Robertson (Illawarra Mercury)

Non Game Action: Mal Fairclough (The West Australian)

NBL HALL OF FAME

Barry Barnes, Cal Bruton, Herb McEachin, John Raschke, Bill Palmer, Wayne Carroll, Al Green, Damian Keogh, Phil Smyth, Mal Speed, Bob Turner, Larry Sengstock, Ian Davies, Danny Morseu, Darryl Pearce, Steve Carfino, Michael Johnson

PRICE ATTACK WNBL - 04/05

Adelaide QUIT Lightning, Australian Institute of Sport, Rockmans Bulleen Melbourne Boomers, Canberra TransACT Capitals, Dandenong Jayco Rangers, Drug Free Perth Lynx, Sydney Uni Flames, SeaFM Townsville Fire.

2004/05 FINALS SERIES RESULTS

Semi Finals

Dandenong Rangers 63 d. Bulleen Melbourne Boomers 59
 Sydney Uni Flames 94 d. Adelaide Lightning 93

Preliminary Final

Sydney Uni Flames 79 d. Bulleen Melbourne Boomers 71

Grand Final

Dandenong Rangers 52 d. Sydney Uni Flames 47



Dandenong celebrate their 2004/05 Price Attack WNBL Championship. Photo: Kangaroo Photos.

SEASON AWARDS

Most Valuable Player

Katrina Hibbert (Bulleen Melbourne Boomers)

All Star Five

Katrina Hibbert (Bulleen Melbourne Boomers)

Belinda Snell (Sydney Uni Flames)

Jenny Whittle (Canberra Capitals)

Trish Fallon (Sydney Uni Flames)

Erin Phillips (Adelaide Lightning)

Coach of the Year

Cheryl Chambers (Bulleen Melbourne Boomers)

Betty Watson Rookie of the Year

Renae Camino (AIS)

Robyn Maher Defensive Player of the Year

Emily McInerney (Dandenong Rangers)

Molten Top Shooter

Belinda Snell (Sydney Uni Flames) 20.3 ppg

Molten Field Goal %

Laura Summerton (Adelaide Lightning) 53.8%

Molten Foul Shot %

Katrina Hibbert (Bulleen Melbourne Boomers) 90.9%

Molten 3-point %

Tully Bevilacqua (Canberra Capitals) 45.0%

Molten Top Rebounder

Donna Loffhagen (Canberra Capitals) 10.0 rpg

Molten Blocked Shots

Jenny Whittle (Canberra Capitals) 2.3 bpg

Top Assists

Jenni Screen (Adelaide Lightning)

Molten Good Hands (assists + steals – turn overs)

Jenni Screen (Adelaide Lightning)

MEDIA AWARDS

Best Feature Article

Howard Kotton (Sunday Herald Sun)

Best Radio Coverage

SEN 1116 (Melbourne)

Best Daily Newspaper Coverage

Adelaide Advertiser (Boti Nagy)

Best Photo

Ned Kelly (Townsville Bulletin)

Best Local Newspaper Coverage

Dandenong Journal (Victoria)

Best News Story - Television

Paul Cochrane (Seven Local News - Townsville)

WNBL 25TH ANNIVERSARY TEAM

MVP- Lauren Jackson (AIS, Canberra), Robyn Maher (Melbourne, Melbourne East, Hobart, Perth & Sydney), Michele Timms (Bulleen Melbourne, Melbourne East, Perth & Sydney), Rachael Sporn (West Adelaide, North Adelaide, Adelaide), Shelley Sandie (Melbourne East, AIS, Dandenong, Sydney, Canberra), Penny Taylor (AIS, Dandenong), Julie Nykiel (Noarlunga), Jenny Cheesman (Noarlunga, AIS, Canberra), Karen Maar (CYMS, Coburg, Bulleen Melbourne), Trisha Fallon (AIS, Melbourne, Sydney), Tom Maher (**Coach** - Melbourne, Nunawading, Tasmania, Perth, Sydney, Canberra), Sharon Arnold (**Referee**).

About the Selection Committee

A panel of long-time basketball observers, which includes a number of leading basketball journalists, were asked to choose the top 10 players of the WNBL's first 25 seasons and the greatest coach and referee in league history.

The 25th Anniversary team selection committee was chaired by Jan Morris and fellow members are: Peter

Baskett, Grantley Bernard, Phil Brown, Norma Connolly, John Davidson, Bob Elphinston, Leeanne Grantham, Sue Marcus, Stephen Howell, Patrick Hunt, Adrian Hurley, Peter Kogoy, Joan Lloyd, John Maddock, Ken Madsen, Pat Mickan, Boti Nagy, Charles Ryan, Marian Stewart, Fred Van Dongen and Peter Walsh.

Eligibility

To be eligible for selection, players and coaches must have played or coached in at least 100 WNBL games. Referees must have officiated 50 WNBL matches. Selection Committee members were asked to vote regardless of position.

FIBA WOMEN'S WORLD LEAGUE

Preliminary Round – Seoul, Korea

May 2005

18/05 Dandenong def Dynamo Moscow 65-63

19/05 Dandenong def Team Japan 87-81

20/05 Dandenong def WKBL Korean All-Stars 77-72

Final Round – Samara, Russia

October 2005

11/10 Dandenong def Chinese All-Stars 66-60

12/10 Unimed de Ourinhos (Brazil) def Dandenong 75-66

13/10 Samara (Russia) def Dandenong 82-72

15/10 Dandenong def UMMC Ekaterinburg 82-72

16/10 Dandenong def WKBL Korean All-Stars 52-50
Dandenong finished 5th

WNBL LIFE MEMBERS

NB: No new members inducted in 2004/05 season
Peter Baskett, Tracey Browning, Michele Timms, Cheryl Chambers, Jan Morris, Gaylene McKay, Marina Wood (Moffa), Gail Henderson, Rachael Sporn, Karen Dalton, Robyn Maher, Vicki Daidy, Ray Tomlinson, Lucille Hamilton (Baillie), Lorraine Landon, Shelley Gorman (Sandie), Jo Metcalfe (Moyle), Eddie Crouch, Linda Brandt, Ted Powell, Narelle Fletcher, Kerry Henderson, Jan Collison, Julie Nykiel, Jan Stirling, Karen Smith, Kate Cohen, Phil Brown, Tom Maher.

NATIONAL ABA FINALS RESULTS

W Forestville Eagles 78 d. Townsville Flames 51

M Sandringham Sabres 110 d. Woodville Warriors 78

W Eltham Wildcats 92 d. Southern Districts Spartans 72

W Knox Raiders 80 d. Bankstown Bruins 56

M Southern Districts Spartans 108 d. Dandenong Rangers 95

M Bendigo Braves 114 d. Cairns Marlins 110

M Sydney Comets 119 d. Geelong Supercats 115

W Ballarat Lady Miners 81 d. Nth Adelaide Rockets 76

M Cairns Marlins 121 d. Woodville Warriors 106

W Southern Districts Spartans 67 d. Nth Adelaide Rockets 51

W Bankstown Bruins 76 d. Townsville Flames 73

M Dandenong Rangers 126 d. Geelong Supercats 99

Semi Final

W Knox Raiders 86 d. Forestville Eagles 74

W Ballarat Lady Miners 83 d. Eltham Wildcats 79

M Sydney Comets 101 d. Southern Districts Spartans 86

M Bendigo Braves 104 d. Sandringham Sabres 103

Grand Final

W Ballarat Lady Miners 77 d. Knox Raiders 53

M Bendigo Braves 102 d. Sydney Comets 98

FINALS AWARDS

Most Valuable Players

Andrea McMahon (Ballarat Lady Miners)

Jason Cameron (Bendigo Braves)

All-Star Five Men

Shawn Redhage (Bendigo Braves), David Barlow (Sydney Comets), Ben Thompson (Southern Districts Spartans), Lester Strong (Dandenong Rangers), Bobby Cunningham (Sandringham Sabres).

All Star Five Women

Narelle Lindsay (Forestville Eagles), Lil Keane (North Adelaide Rockets), Karen Ashby (Ballarat Lady Miners), Jodie Datson (Eltham Wildcats), Katrina Hibbert (Knox Raiders).

Skins™ Dunk Comp

Lester Strong (Dandenong Rangers)

Skins™ 3-Point Comp

Jodie Datson (Eltham Wildcats)

STATISTICAL WINNERS

MEN

Leading Scorer Mick Hill (Sherbrooke Suns) 35.1 ppg

Leading Fld Goal % Julian Khazzouh (Parramatta Wildcats) 63.3 %

Leading FT % Ben Thompson (Southern Districts Spartans) 88.7%

Leading 3 Pt % Matthew O'Hea (Nunawading Spectres) 48.5%

Leading Off Reb Don Carlisle (NW Tasmania Thunder) 6.5 orgp

Leading Def Reb Oscar Forman (Sturt Sabres) 12.12 drpg

Leading Rebounder Jason Eversteyn (Sherbrooke Suns) 16.7 rpg

Assists Leader Greg Smith (Hume City Broncos) 8.7 apg

Steals Leader Todd Gower (Sturt Sabres) 3.45 spg

Leading Shot Blocker Jason Eversteyn (Sherbrooke Suns) 3.5 bpg**

Leading Shot Blocker Brett Foster (Bankstown Bruins) 3.5 bpg**

Golden Hands Greg Smith (Hume City Broncos) 7.1 pg*

*(assists + steals – turnovers) per game

** joint award winners

WOMEN

Leading Scorer Tami Willey (Mackay Meteorettes) 25.5 ppg

Leading Fld Goal % Alyce Shearing (Canberra Nationals) 55.4 %

Leading FT % Kelly Wilson (Bendigo Lady Braves) 89.5%

Leading 3 Pt % Kate McMeeken-Rusco (Cairns Dolphins) 43.6%

Leading Off Reb Melissa Tronc (Gold Coast Gliders) 6.0 orgp

Leading Def Reb Jennifer Crouse (Launceston Tornadoes) 11.8 drpg

Leading Rebounder Jennifer Crouse (Launceston Tornadoes) 16.2 rpg

Assists Leader Sharin Milner (Hume City Broncos) 7.9 apg

Steals Leader Kellie Abrams (Canberra Nationals) 4.3 spg

Leading Shot Blocker Jennifer Crouse (Launceston Tornadoes) 3.8 bpg

Golden Hands Sharin Milner (Hume City Broncos) 7.4 pg*

*(assists + steals – turnovers) per game

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENTS OF FIBA

SENIOR MEN

1956	Olympic Games	Melbourne	12th
1964	Olympic Games	Tokyo	9th
1970	World Championships	Yugoslavia	12th
1971	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner
1972	Olympic Games	Munich	9th
1974	World Championships	Puerto Rico	12th
1975	Oceania Championships	Australia	Winner
1976	Olympic Games	Montreal	8th
1978	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner
1978	World Championships	Philippines	7th
1979	Oceania Championships	Australia	Winner
1980	Olympic Games	Moscow	8th
1981	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner
1982	World Championships	Colombia	5th
1983	Commonwealth Championships	New Zealand	3rd
1983	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner
1984	Olympic Games	Los Angeles	7th
1985	Oceania Championships	Australia	Winner
1986	World Championships	Spain	13th
1987	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner
1988	Olympic Games	Seoul	4th
1989	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner
1990	World Championships	Argentina	7th
1991	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner
1992	Olympic Games	Spain	6th
1993	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner
1994	World Championships	Canada	5th
1995	Oceania Championships	Australia	Winner
1996	Olympic Games	Atlanta	4th
1997	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner
1998	World Championships	Greece	9th
2000	Olympic Games	Sydney	4th
2001	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Loss
2002	World Championships	Indianapolis	DNQ
2003	Oceania Championships	Australia	Winner
2004	Olympic Games	Athens	9th
2005	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner

SENIOR WOMEN

1957	World Championship	Brazil	10th
1967	World Championship	Czechoslovakia	10th
1971	World Championship	Brazil	9th
1974	Oceania Championship	Australia	Winner
1975	World Championship	Colombia	10th
1978	Oceania Championship	New Zealand	Winner
1979	World Championship	Korea	4th
1982	Oceania Championship	Australia	Winner
1983	World Championship	Brazil	11th
1983	Commonwealth Championship	New Zealand	Winner
1984	Olympic Games	Los Angeles	5th
1985	Oceania Championship	Australia	Winner
1986	World Championship	Soviet Union	9th
1988	Olympic Games	Seoul	4th
1989	Oceania Championship	New Zealand	Winner
1990	World Championship	Malaysia	6th
1993	Oceania Championship	(automatic Qualification - Host)	
1994	World Championship	Australia	4th
1995	Oceania Olympic Qualification	Australia	Winner
1996	Olympic Games	Atlanta	3rd - Bronze
1997	Oceania Championship	New Zealand	Winner
1998	World Championship	Germany	3rd - Bronze
2000	Olympic Games	Sydney	2nd - Silver
2001	Oceania World Qualifiers	New Zealand	Winner
2002	World Championship	China	3rd - Bronze

2003	Oceania Championships	Australia	Winner
2004	Olympic Games Athens	2nd	Silver
2005	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner

U19 MEN

1979	World Championships	Brazil	9th
1982	Oceania Championships	Australia	Winner
1983	World Championships	Spain	10th
1986	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner
1987	World Championships	Italy	5th
1990	Oceania Championships	Australia	Winner
1991	World Championships	Canada	11th
1994	Oceania Championships	Australia	Winner
1995	World Championships	Greece	2nd - Silver
1998	Oceania Championships	Australia	Winner
1999	World Championships	Portugal	5th
2002	Oceania Championships	Australia	Winner
2003	World Championships	Greece	Winner

U19 WOMEN

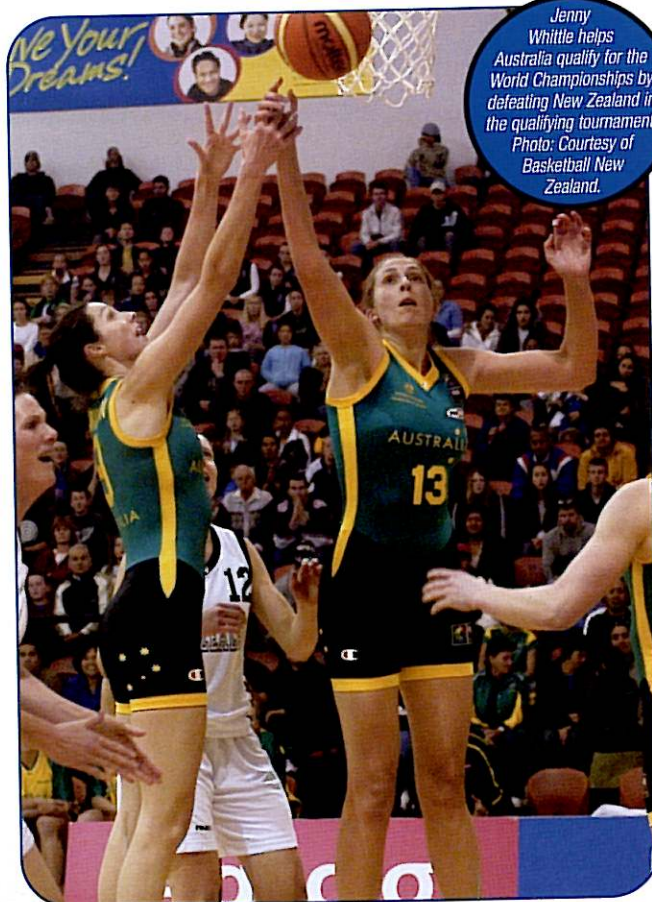
1995	World Championship	USA	6th
1989	World Championship	Spain	3rd - Bronze
1992	Oceania Championship	Australia	Winner
1993	World Championship	Korea	1st - Gold
1997	World Championship	Brazil	2nd - Silver
2000	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner
2001	World Championship	Czech Republic	4th
2004	Oceania Championships	Australia	Winner
2005	World Championship	Tunisia	7th

U21 MEN

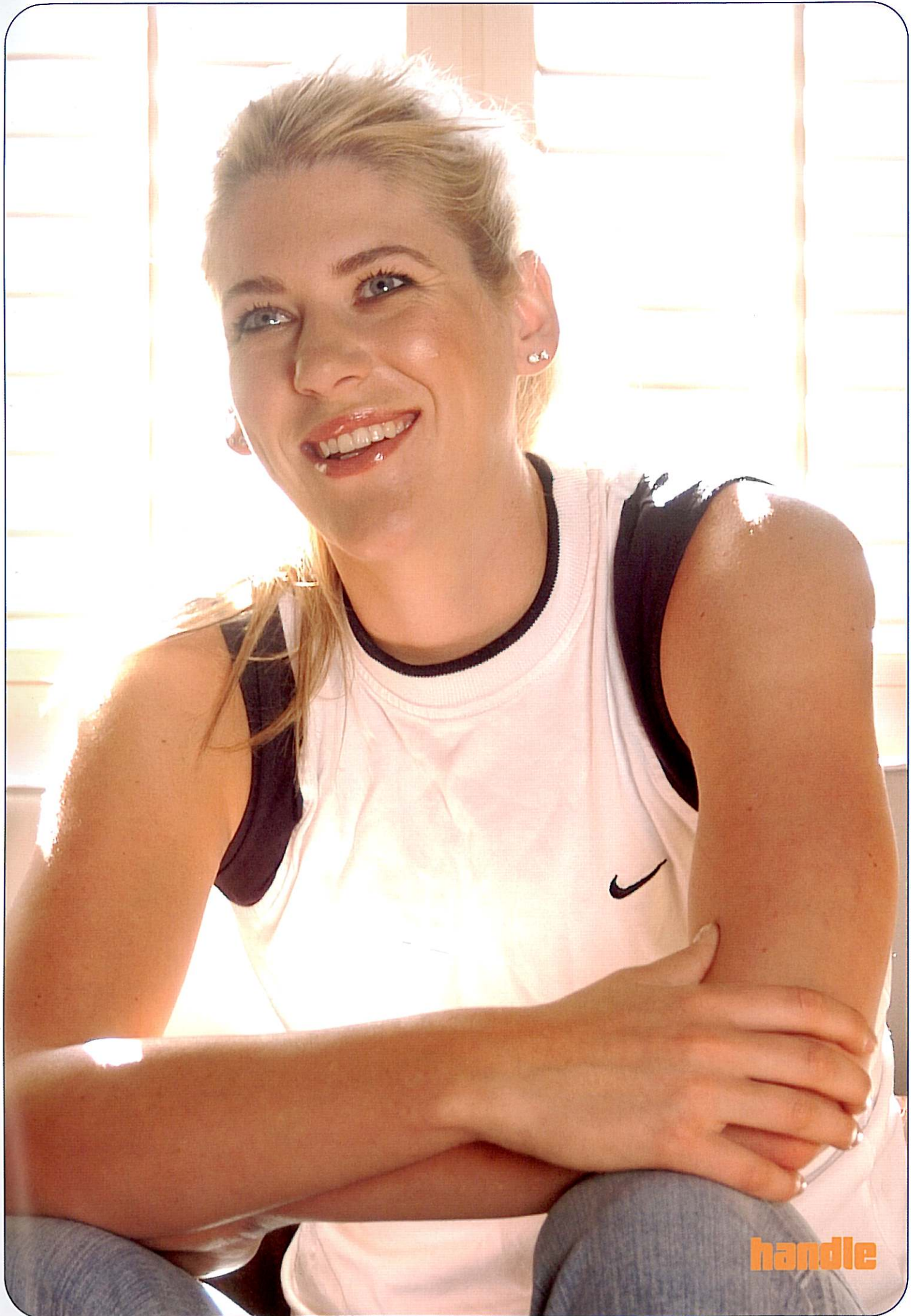
1993	U23 World Championships	Spain	8th
1997	U23 World Championships	Australia	1st - Gold
2000	Oceania Championships	New Zealand	Winner
2001	U22 World Championships	Japan	8th
2004	Oceania Championships	Australia	Winner
2005	World Championship	Argentina	4th

U21 WOMEN

2002	Oceania Championship	Australia	Winner
2003	World Championships	Croatia	5th



Jenny Whittle helps Australia qualify for the World Championships by defeating New Zealand in the qualifying tournament. Photo: Courtesy of Basketball New Zealand.



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contacts

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(Includes Basketball Australia, Australian Basketball Association, National Basketball League and Women's National Basketball League)

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National Basketball League / Philips Championship > www.nbl.com.au
Price Attack Women's National Basketball League > www.wnbl.com.au
Australian Basketball Association > www.ababasketball.net.au
Aussie Hoops > www.aussiehoops.com.au

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www.act.basketball.net.au

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PO Box 198, Sydney Markets NSW 2129
Ph: 02 9746 2969 Fax: 02 9746 1457
www.nswbasketball.net.au

Basketball NT

PO Box 42240, Casuarina NT 0810
Ph: 08 8945 3761 Fax: 08 8945 3862
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Basketball Queensland

PO Box 1281, Milton QLD 4064
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Basketball SA

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www.basketballsa.net.au

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