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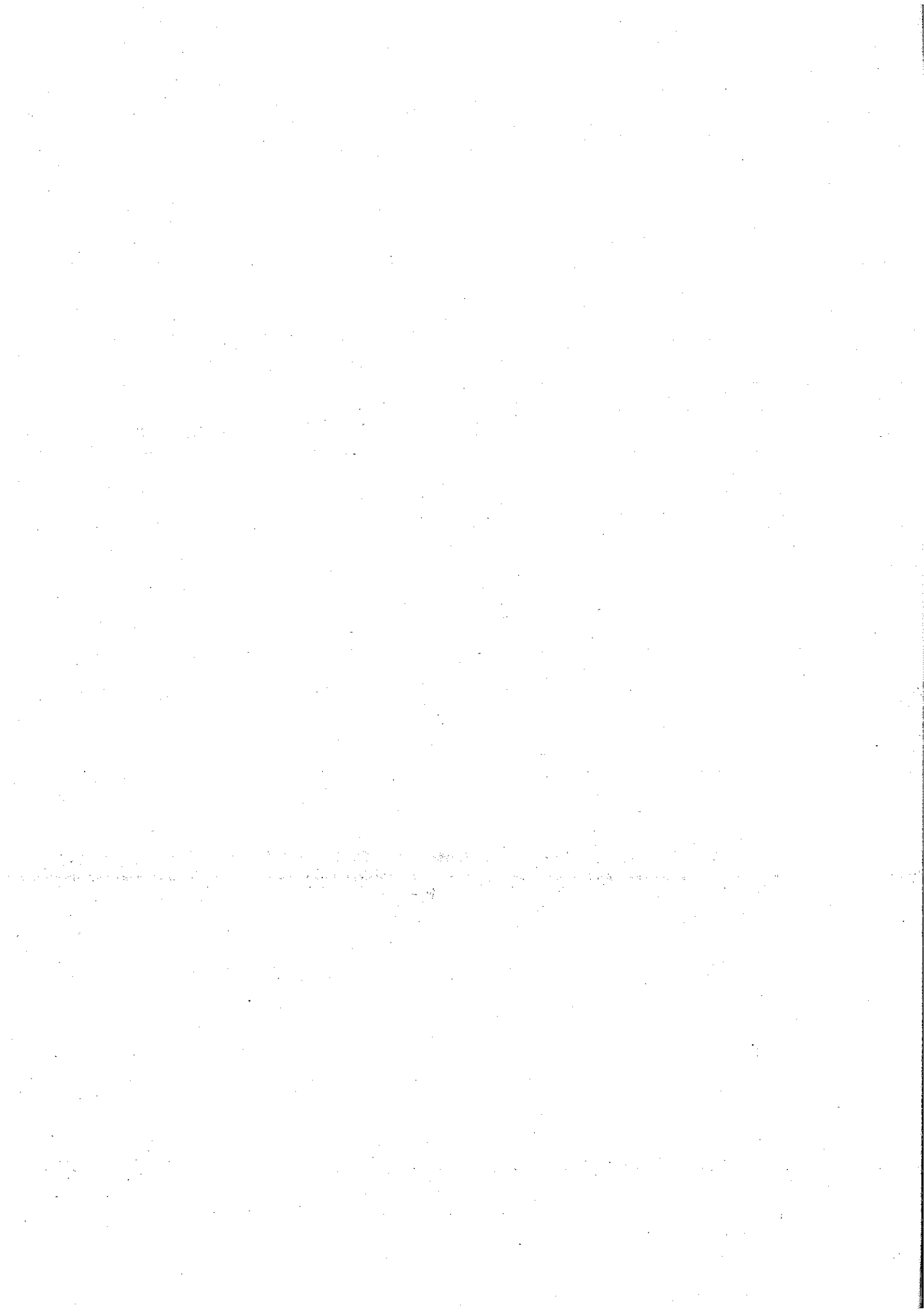






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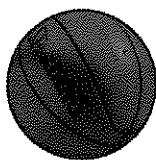




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LOAN

Annual Report

'98



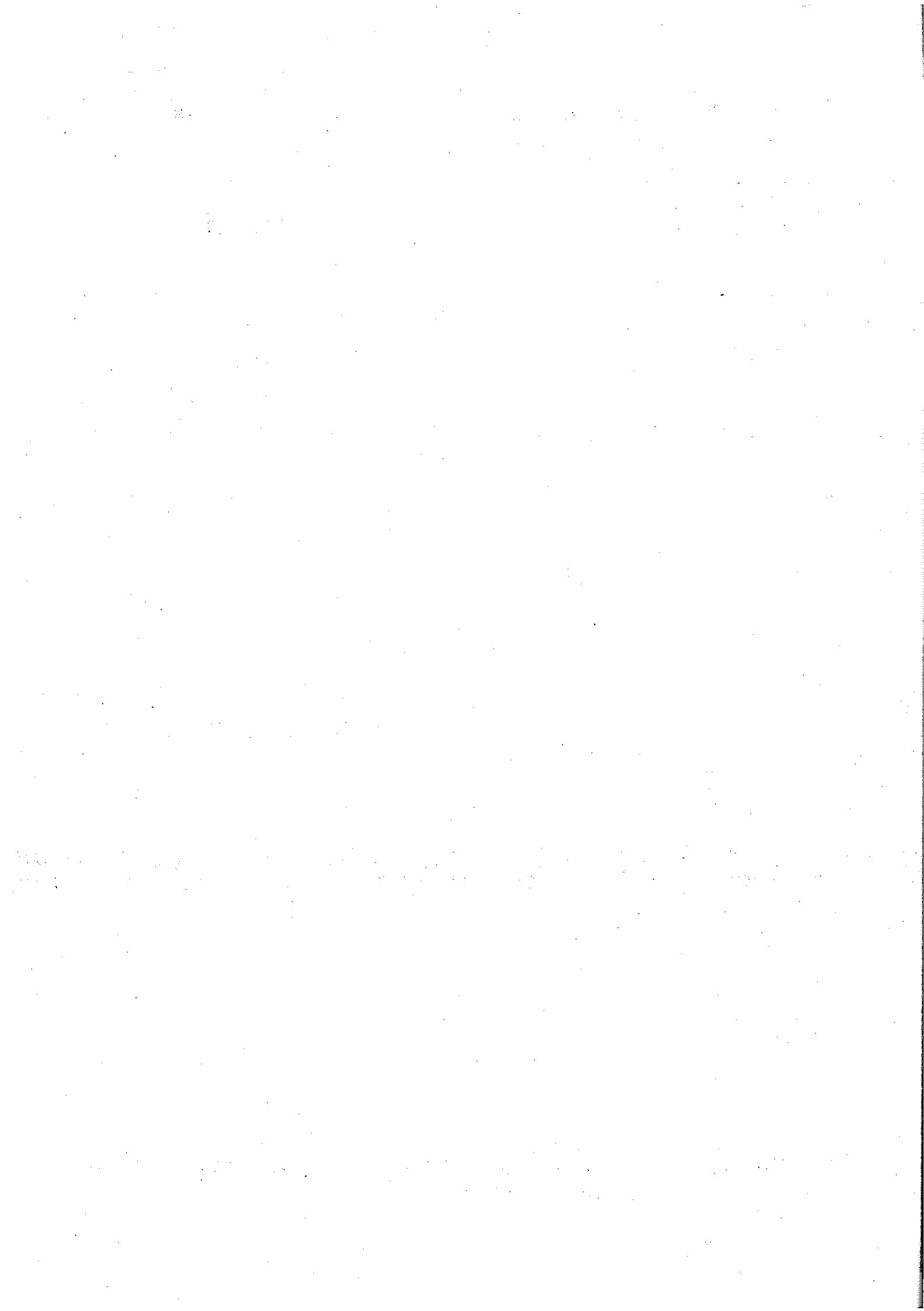
NATIONAL SPORT INFORMATION CENTRE
AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION
LEVERHAMER STREET
BRUCE A.C.T. 2617
AUSTRALIA

12 APR 1998

Australian Basketball Federation Incorporated

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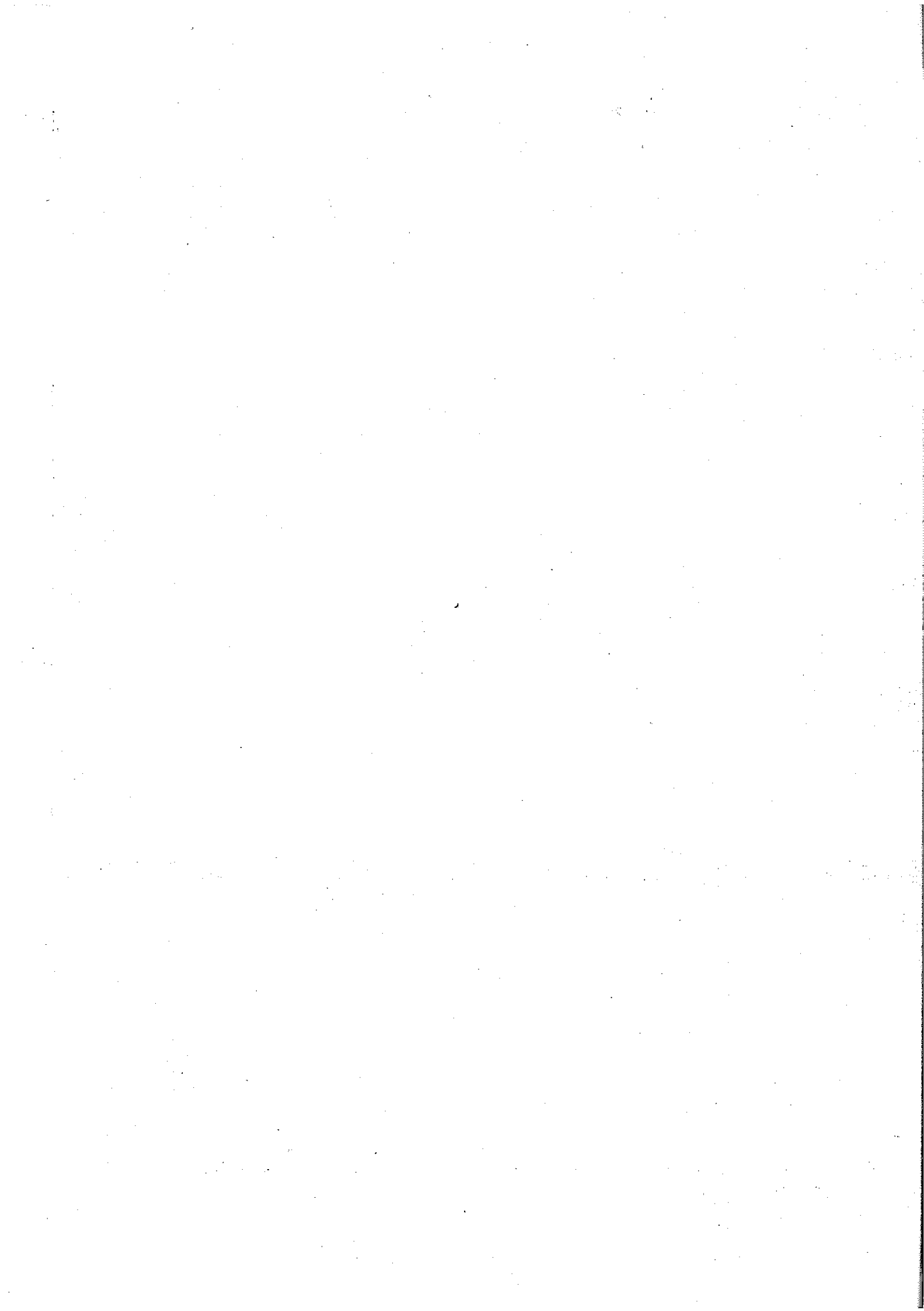
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Formed in 1939
Constituted in 1946
Membership of FIBA in 1947
Incorporated in 1982

Membership

International Basketball Federation
Oceania Basketball Confederation
Commonwealth Basketball Federation
Australian Olympic Committee
Confederation of Australian Sport

President

Mr John Maddock

Chief Executive

Mr Richard Butler

Directors

Leeanne Grantham
Damian Keogh
Geoff Kirk (to March)
Ken Madsen (from March)
Daniel Martinez
Damien Stenmark

State and Territory Associations

Australian Capital Territory
Northern Territory
South Australia
Victoria

New South Wales
Queensland
Tasmania
Western Australia

League Associations

National Basketball League
Women's National Basketball
League
Continental Basketball
Association

Team Coaches

Men
Women
Junior Men

Barry Barnes
Tom Maher
Gordon McLeod (to Feb)
Frank Arsego (from Feb)

Life Members

Mr F Angove, OAM (dec)
Mr R Butler
Mr R Kidner
Mr K Madsen, MBE
Dr J Raschke, OAM (dec)
Mr J Small, OAM (dec)
Mr S Taylor, AM
Mr K Watson, BEM

Dr I Burge, MBE
Mr W Feltham
Mr A McRobbie, OAM (dec)
Mr A M Ramsay, MBE
Mr G Russell, OAM
Mr R Staunton, OAM (dec)
Mrs B Watson, OAM

Front Cover photo of Lauren Jackson courtesy of David Callow

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Council of Basketball Australia, in December 1997, adopted its strategic objective for the next five years as follows:

To position basketball as a highly respected, financially healthy sport that:

- is well managed and resourced
- provides high quality service
- provides accessibility
- provides affordability, and
- provides the opportunity to excel

In order to achieve this objective, Basketball Australia shall aim to:

- Expand Access to Quality Participation
- Provide Accessible & Affordable Basketball
- Develop Competition so that Associations & Schools can become Australian Champions
- Continue the Success of National Teams
- Be recognised as a Top Ranking Australian Sport
- Increase the Number of Basketball Facilities
- Provide Quality, Service Oriented Administration
- Be a Financially Healthy Sport

The Council endorsed eight key directions for Basketball Australia to pursue in support of these aims. They related to:

1. Association Communication Network (ACN)
2. National Membership Program
3. National Purchasing Plan
4. Winter of World Basketball
5. National Administrators' Development Plan
6. Australian Basketball Championships
7. National Facilities Plan
8. Merchandising

In evaluating performance in 1998, assessment is both positive and optimistic with the progress achieved thus far.

Commitment by constituents in promoting the ACN to all member associations has been embraced by State Associations and is spreading to local associations.

Regular communication has been established through weekly production of Nothin' But News newsletter and feedback from the "Grassroots" has been extremely positive about this initiative.

Furthermore all states and territories were "on-line" April/May 1998 and significant communication now occurs with states and territories via E-mail.

BA management and staff also finalised the suite of IT products/solutions midway through the year and also assisted local associations, when requested, to develop their own website.

Contact details of all member associations, as supplied by State and Territory Associations, have been included on the Basketball Australia database. Several local associations in New South Wales and Victoria trialed the membership cards in 1998.

New South Wales, Tasmania, A.C.T., South Australia Country, South Australia Metro, several local Victorian associations and the Victorian Country Referees have committed to the Membership Plan in 1999. A database of members has been established and the computer program developed for the transfer of membership data. Several business partners have been secured for the membership card rollout and an agreement reached with API for increased membership benefits in 1999.

Lengthy consideration was given during the year to the development of the Winter of World Basketball concept and the opportunity that must now be taken to showcase the national teams within Australia. The aim is to enhance the profile of players and to create a greater awareness of the international accomplishments already achieved by our national teams.

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Basketball Australia was able to organise and attract quality international games for the 1998 Winter of World Basketball program with world ranking teams.

Great support was received from State/Territory Associations and local associations for the Winter of World Basketball program, with games being held in Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia, A.C.T. and New South Wales.

Basketball Australia, State/Territory and local associations jointly assisted in promoting, conducting and providing technical and administrative support for games involving the Boomers, Opals and Rollers.

The program for 1999 for the Opals and the Boomers in the lead up to the Olympics has followed this course with games planned against Cuba, Brazil, Russia and Canada.

Whilst on the international scene, I wish to commend the Goldmark Opals who completed their 1998 World Championship campaign in Germany by winning the Bronze Medal to become the first Australian Senior Basketball Team to win a medal at a World Championship Tournament. Congratulations go to Coach Maher, players and officials for this tremendous achievement.

The Boomers' had a tremendous Silver Medal performance at the prestigious Goodwill Games. However, the team's final placing of 9th at the World Championships in Greece is an obvious disappointment.

Two review committees were established to undertake the mid-term assessment of the Opals' and the Boomers' performance at their respective

World Championships.

The importance of each team's focus over the next two years, to achieve the objective of winning a medal at Sydney 2000, was re-affirmed.

Some of the points emphasised in the reviews related to increasing coaching panels, increasing technology support for the Boomers, establishing scouting teams, the need to find additional resources to support preparation programs, establishment of two steering committees to assist programs over next 22 months and the need to increase the level of communication between the Board, management, coaches and players in the lead up to the 2000 Olympics.

I would also like to acknowledge the accomplishments of the National Junior Men's Team in winning the Silver Medal at the Albert Schweitzer Tournament and extend congratulations to players and officials. Of particular note was the performance by David Anderson (Vic/AIS) who was named MVP for the Tournament.

Meetings have been held with the Australian Coaching Council (ACC) to discuss ways of establishing a more user-friendly system for coaches to update their coaching accreditation.

In addition, meetings have been held with Sport and Recreation Australia to begin the process of establishing a National Development Program for Sport Administrators. It is a long-term plan aimed at establishing a program to develop and educate basketball administrators in similar fashion to coach, referee and player development. The plan received endorsement by an overwhelming majority of state constituents.

There was general acceptance by State General Managers at the October meeting to participate in the National Purchasing Plan. States/Territories have been surveyed to determine services/products

to target and they were also requested to supply details of suppliers. This initiative is progressing steadily.

The review of the Australian Junior Basketball Championships was completed with a report being presented to the Board of Basketball Australia.

Further, at the Council Meeting of Basketball Australia in December it was unanimously determined that Basketball Australia create and conduct a new national competition in line with the principles and guidelines presented.

This decision was reached after considerable discussion, consultation and negotiation which has resulted in a national association based competition to be conducted during the winter with all constituents having access to the competition, shareholding and governance and to be involved in the planning.

Both NSW and Victoria have expressed interest in joining the new competition which will be known as the Australian Basketball Association (ABA).

The National Facilities Plan and the Merchandising programs made limited progress in 1998 due to significant changes to the resources and staffing within Basketball Australia. A firm has been commissioned to redesign the merchandising logos for the Boomers and Opals merchandise. These are to be launched early in 1999 as part of a campaign being undertaken in partnership with the NBL merchandising team.

An additional initiative involved the decision to establish an Australian Basketball Hall of Fame as part of Basketball Australia's celebration of 50 years affiliation with FIBA.

Whilst successful in achieving the above key directions, the Board was confronted with additional challenges.

Firstly, in seeking to unify the sport a concerted effort has been made by both our National Leagues and Basketball Australia to work together in the best interests of the sport. Through reciprocal invitations

to attend Board meetings, increased attention by the Leagues to development and promotional work at the grassroots level, increased communication and pursuit of joint commercial and/or marketing activities, a much closer relationship has been fostered. This concentration of effort can only aid the long-term interests of basketball as a whole.

Secondly, Basketball Australia received a major setback when the Board was advised that the Senior Men's Team sponsorship had been terminated. This was followed by further sponsorship reductions and the loss of the dividend from the NBL for 1998.

The Board acknowledged that competition for the sponsorship dollar in the current climate is particularly difficult for basketball given the limited exposure of our national teams in Australia in 1998.

As a consequence, the Board reviewed the whole operations of Basketball Australia which led to redirecting its focus to its core business i.e. the sport of basketball. In doing so the Board committed to maintaining the directions taken with the establishment of the ACN and Membership Card.

In order to gain the cost reductions, but not decrease the services to stakeholders, the number of senior managers were reduced, performance based consultancies introduced and the managers' roles revised.

This placed considerable strain on all our remaining managers and staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their patience, commitment and dedication to ensuring all our programs and services continued at the same professional level.

In addressing the core business of Basketball Australia, the Board identified the following six key areas on which management and staff should focus in 1999:

1. **Provide leadership**, vision, professional management and direction to Basketball Australia's constituents and the basketball sporting community in its entirety.

2. Manage our national teams' programs

optimising results of both "on" and "off" the court performance.

3. Market and promote Basketball Australia as a progressive, innovative and dependable sports corporation to its stakeholders, the media, government, the corporate sector and the public.

4. Manage services to States to assist them to grow participation rates and to develop players, coaches, referees, officials and administrators.

5. Develop and manage business opportunities within the sport that will enhance services provided to members and decrease Basketball Australia's reliance on Government funding and stakeholders' contributions.

6. Provide sound financial management thus ensuring Basketball Australia operates within budget and achieves both short term and long term financial targets.

On behalf of the whole Australian Basketball community I would like to thank Dick Butler and his wife Helen for the personal sacrifices they both made during the last two years in order for Dick to assist us in the role of CEO. Dick has given immense service to Basketball Australia in both his roles of President and CEO. We look forward to his continued support as International Director.

I add my personal thanks to Dick for his support and good counsel during my term as President.

I would also like to thank the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Olympic Committee Qantas, Goldmark and Optus Vision for their continuing support again this year.

It takes a huge number of volunteers and paid staff to enable 600,000 plus players to participate in basketball activities and competitions at all levels in our communities throughout Australia. Whether you are conducting development programs, coaching, refereeing, administering, or officiating in some other capacity, you are all part of Basketball Australia and we thank you for your contribution.

In summary, the Olympics, the Winter World of Basketball, the ABA Competition, the Association Communication Network and the Membership Program, all give us the opportunity to build on the excellent work being undertaken by our State and domestic Associations, our national and state development programs, the National Teams at all levels and by the Leagues. This places our sport in a great position for the new millennium.

JOHN MADDOCK

VALE SIR EDWARD

Sir Edward Williams, KCMG, KBE, Patron of basketball in Australia, passed away on Sunday 10th January 1999.

Sir Edward was invited to become the Patron of our sport in June 1983, by the then President Ron Harvey CVO AM, and remained in this role until his death.

Sir Edward's career was highlighted by the diversity of his involvement in a wide range of activities, including :

- Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland
- Chairman of the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games

- Head of the National Crimes Commission established by the Commonwealth Government in 1983
- 1983 Australian of the Year
- Commissioner-General of Expo 88 in Brisbane
- Chairman of the Queensland Turf Club 1980-91

Sir Edward is survived by his widow Lady Dorothy, seven children and 29 grand children.

The Australian basketball community mourns the passing of Sir Edward and extends its sympathy to his family on their loss.

This will be my last Annual Report as the Chief Executive Officer of Basketball Australia as I will retire from the position early 1999.

Basketball in this country has been well served and relied heavily upon the contributions of volunteers. Throughout my thirteen years as President and more recently as CEO, I have worked with many others devoted to the development and success of Australian basketball to make the role of volunteers more rewarding and pleasurable.

With the development of better educational methods and materials for players, coaches, referees, scoretable officials and statisticians, volunteers have not only found their roles more rewarding through greater knowledge but many have been able to gain part-time or fulltime employment in the basketball industry.

1998 has seen the initial preparation for a similar education system for basketball administrators. The development of courses for volunteer administrators in a similar fashion to coaching and refereeing has the potential to raise the standard of administrators at all levels and, along with the development of a far more efficient means of communication through the Association Communication Network (ACN) raised the image of our sport to a new level.

It has been my perception in recent years that the proportion of basketball administrators with a true passion for the sport has diminished. I look forward to the successful introduction of these new initiatives restoring the level of passion and reducing the growing element of self-interest.

A review early in 1998 of the financial status of Basketball Australia led to a structural review which addressed a number of staff and task movements to be implemented during the latter part of the year, the most notable of which were :

- a total reorganisation of the basketball development area which resulted in the redundancy of the senior manager's position

- a move towards the outsourcing of non-core activities in marketing and information technology leading to the senior staff positions in each of these areas being replaced by a consultancy arrangement.

The disappointment of sponsorship losses in 1998 and the inability of constituents to meet their membership card commitments, led to management under tight budgetary constraints. Aside from these constraints significant milestones were achieved across a number of programs.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

As a result of sponsorship losses and the current climate within the sporting industry, Basketball Australia had a difficult year financially in 1998 reporting an operating deficit. Despite the loss, the result for the year was well controlled through monthly reviews of the financial statements ensuring that all essential programs were able to be delivered.

The reporting and review systems that were put in place enabled the management and the Board of Directors of basketball Australia to identify the projected result for the year and institute a number of changes to the structure of the company to allow the continued provision of services to constituents.

The loss for the year has reduced Basketball Australia's reserves significantly. With the drop in the level of reserves, the Board of Directors is even more committed to achieving an adequate level of reserves to provide a "safety net" for the organisation and to enable Basketball Australia to assist its constituents if so required.

Assessment in 1999

New accounting software that is Year 2000 Compliant will be introduced in 1999. All other computer software and hardware are also undergoing thorough checking to ensure they also are Year 2000 Compliant.

INTERNATIONAL

1998 was a World Championship year for both the Opals and Boomers.

The Opals preparation was assisted by the WNBL's decision to play a short season in February/March as its transition to a summer competition in 1998-99. This made it possible for the Opals to undertake an extensive preparation program competing in the World Championship in Germany. This program included :

- playing Brazil in Rio de Janeiro in January
- participating in a four nation tournament in Japan in April
- playing in four nation tournaments in Slovakia and Portugal

This comprehensive international game schedule was a very positive factor in the Opals' Bronze Medal winning achievement at the World Championship.

Unfortunately the NBL's decision to play a full three round competition between January and July 5 had a disastrous effect on the options for the Boomers' preparation. With the NBL play-offs in June it was impossible to schedule games at this vital preparation time when top international teams were available both at home and overseas. A series of four games was arranged against Canada in Australia immediately after the NBL grand final. This series proved to be most valuable as preparation for the Goodwill Games in New York and the World Championship in Athens. Whilst the Boomers played very well in gaining the Silver Medal in New York, the ninth placing in Athens was disappointing. In hindsight it is clear that the restricted preparation was a contributing factor in the team's under achievement.

During 1998 Basketball Australia recognised Shane Heal and Michelle Griffiths as its International Players of the Year for 1997.

The National Junior Men's Team was in its last year

of preparation for the 1999 World Championship. In a prelude to the 1999 World Championship the team played in the prestigious Albert Schweitzer Tournament. This tournament included most of the top Junior Teams in the World. Australia won all matches in the lead up to the final where it lost by one point to Spain. In the last week of 1998 Australia avenged its loss by defeating Spain in an International Tournament in Portugal. Given that appropriate preparation can be provided expectations of a medal in Portugal next year are realistic.

The Men's Wheelchair Basketball team, the Rollers, played 2 series in Australia against Great Britain and Canada and also travelled to Georgia USA to compete in the Roosevelt Cup against the USA, Canada and the Netherlands.

The Women's Wheelchair team travelled to the Netherlands to compete in a tournament against Germany and the Netherlands.

The Gold Cup (World Championships for Wheelchair Basketball) was the highlight of the year for Wheelchair Basketball with both Australia's men's and women's national teams competing. The women won a bronze medal, which was an improvement of one place from the Atlanta Paralympics. The men slipped from 1st to 4th against some well prepared teams from USA, Netherlands and Canada.

The World Championships for Players with an Intellectual Disability were held in Brazil during November. The women's team won a bronze medal and the men's team, who had the gold and silver medallists in their pool, came fifth.

HIGH PERFORMANCE

Basketball Australia's High Performance Program primarily covers its five mainstream teams and their associated support programs. The Olympic Athlete Program, administered by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and targeted at successful Australian Team performances at the Sydney Olympic Games is a vital part of the program.

The focus for 1998 was the participation of the Opals and Boomers in the Women's World Championship in Germany and the Men's World Championship in Greece respectively.

The scheduling of the transitional WNBL season and the World Championship (May/June vice July/August) were significant factors in allowing the Opals to have an extensive preparation program against quality opposition. The "Bronze Medal" performance was the very pleasing result, maintaining the Opals' 3rd place world ranking.

On the other hand, the Boomers did not have an acceptable preparation due primarily to the scheduling of the transitional NBL season and this, together with the unavailability of key players, no doubt contributed to the disappointing 9th placing. A positive outcome was the experience gained by the emerging young and talented players who will be serious contributors to the team in 2000.

Following the World Championships the customary mid-term reviews for the Opals' and Boomers' programs were conducted. The Opals' review report was high in its praise for the success of the team's performance and the style of play which has established the Opals as a major power in women's basketball and a genuine contender for the Gold Medal at the Sydney 2000 Olympics. Some new initiatives to give even greater support for the program were proposed and the Head Coach, Tom Maher, was unanimously reconfirmed in his position for the Sydney Olympics.

The mid-term review of the Boomers' program, whilst expressing disappointment at the ninth placing in the World Championship, concluded that the team was on track with its aim for a Medal in the Sydney Olympics. The Silver Medal at the Goodwill Games and the bleeding of five rookies were seen as factors that would contribute to a more successful performance in Sydney. A number of new initiatives to assist the team's progress will be instituted. Head Coach, Barry Barnes, was also given the unanimous support of the committee in reconfirming his position for Sydney.

Basketball Australia is confident that the experiences

gained at the respective 1998 World Championships and the corrective and supportive actions taken as a result of the mid-term reviews will have both the Opals and the Boomers on track for medal performances at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

The Junior Men's Team was in the penultimate year of preparation for the Junior Men's World Championship in 1999. Performances during 1998, especially at the prestigious Albert Schweitzer Tournament in Germany, suggest a good result at the World Championship.

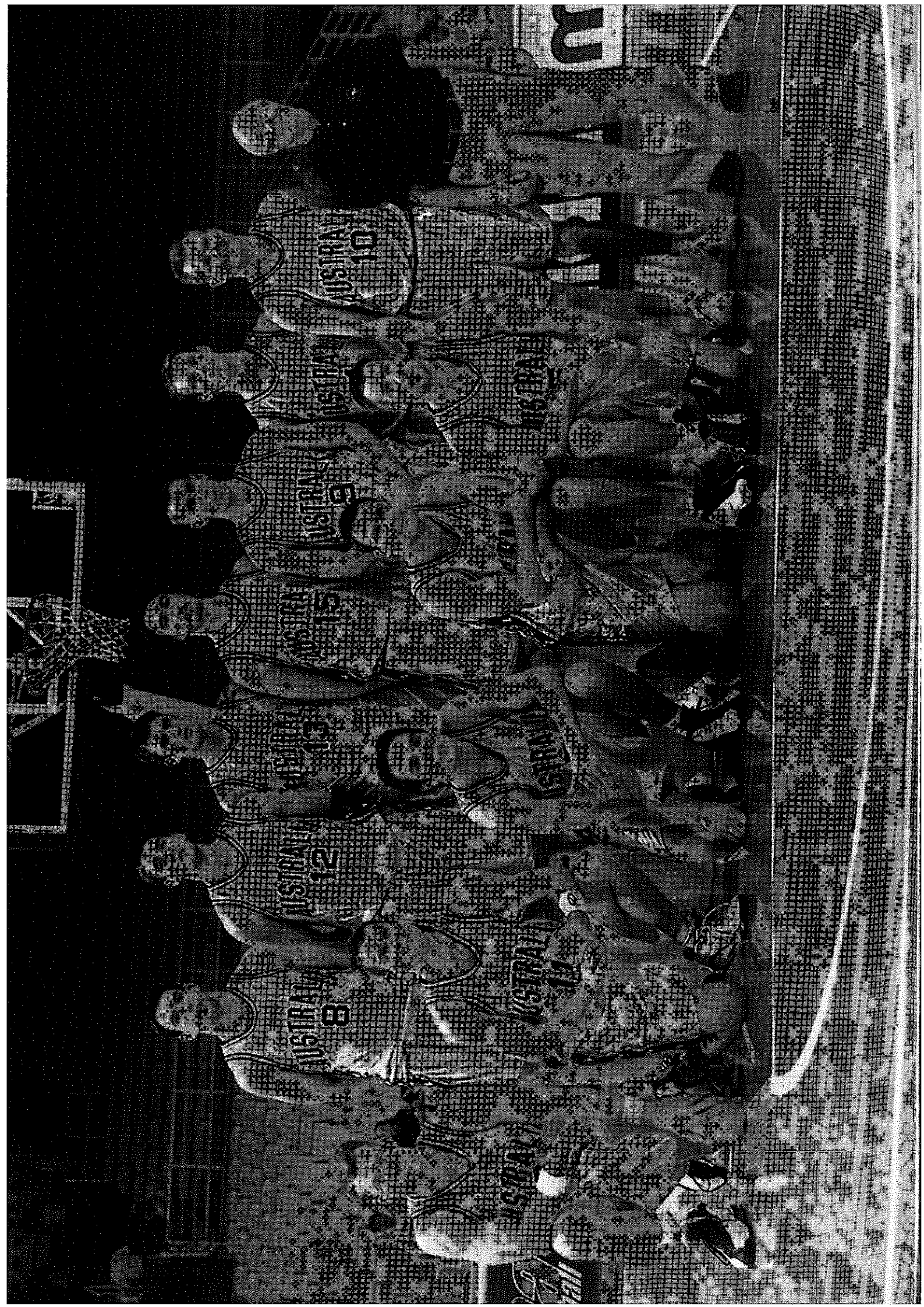
The national teams' programs once again operated successfully within a very tight budget in 1998. Continuing support for the program by the ASC, the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) and sponsors has enabled Basketball Australia to maintain the preparation programs of these teams as noted above. Of particular significance was the continued funding from the AOC Special Initiative Fund that enabled our national teams to undertake more extensive scouting and medical monitoring than could have been financed from existing resources. This funding will be even more important in 1999 as we begin the final preparation for Sydney 2000.

The AOC's Direct Athlete Support Program and the AOC's Medal Incentive Scheme continue to provide direct financial assistance to our national squad athletes although the National Men's Squad lost its funding as a result of the Boomers' disappointing result at the World Championship.

The provision of extensive sports science and sports medicine support, in most instances delivered through the State Institutes and Academies of Sport, was of great assistance in a year where the athletes had to contend with extensive and extended playing commitments.

In general, the management and coaching staff of the NBL and WNBL teams continued to support the national programs in 1998. This support will be even more necessary leading to Sydney 2000 especially :

- The Coaches assisting in improving the players' skills



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- Liaison with club administrators helping resolve conflicts between commitments to clubs and the national programs
- Co-operation between national sports science and sports medicine co-ordinators and the equivalent NBL and WNBL team staff in maintaining the health and physical condition of athletes.

Finally, the ASC conducted a review of the funding levels afforded to Basketball Australia under the Olympic Athlete Program following our sport's benchmark events, i.e. the World Championships. The review team was of the view that both our Men's and Womens' Programs had progressed since the Atlanta Olympics. The Men's Program lost some funding due to benchmark results, but we did receive some additional funding, e.g. technology and international competition for the Opals. The review team emphasised the need to focus attention on the final preparation for 2000, especially the need for extensive international competition against quality opposition and the need to manage players returning from overseas professional leagues.

Boomers

Australian Basketball embarked on major changes to its domestic season in 1998. The change in the National Basketball League season from a winter competition to a summer competition in the same year meant playing two seasons in the one year and consequently there were going to be heavy demands on the players. Unfortunately the Boomers' preparation for the World Championships was hindered with limited time available for camps and only one quality four game series conducted prior to departure.

The series against Canada was excellent. It is desirable that we continue to attract this quality of team as preparation in our lead up to 2000.

The camps that were conducted throughout the year in February, May and June were of a very high standard with the emergence of a number of young athletic players who would stake strong claims for

inclusion in our World Championship Team (five made the team). There also remain a number who will make very strong challenges for the Olympic Team in 2000.

Apart from the disappointing final position of ninth at the World Championship, the future is extremely promising with so many young talented players emerging.

Undoubtedly the attendance and success of the Boomers at the Goodwill Games was a highlight of 1998. To play off for a Gold Medal in Madison Square Gardens was very special indeed.

In a year frustrated by compromise, it is important to learn from 1998 so as to not only regain lost ground, but to look ahead to the exciting and bright future and to capture the ultimate prize we are all striving for — a medal at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

The objective for 1999 is to put in place a program that will prepare us for the strong competition we will face at the Sydney Olympics. This will be crucial as we face a totally new preparation strategy to anything we have previously experienced. Some of these changes we will face are:

- Recommencing training after a break
- Having enough good balanced competition especially against European countries
- Players returning from participating in overseas leagues including the NBA.

Goldmark Opals

1998 proved conclusively that the Australian Opals are a legitimate contender on the world basketball scene. Not only was the team's Bronze medal performance in Germany Australia's first ever senior World Championship Medal, it was the team's third consecutive final-four appearance following on from the Atlanta Olympics Bronze and the OZ94 fourth placing. This consistency of semi-final appearances is a hallmark of great teams. Gold medallists in any sport do not "come out of the blue" rather they are

LEFT:
NATIONAL MEN'S TEAM - THE BOOMERS.
1998 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, ATHENS, GREECE.

Photo provided by courtesy of Thomas Chrisohoidis / FIBA. Copyright.



characterised by their consistent top or close-to-top finishes. Any cursory study of sporting history will bear witness to this principle.

The inauguration of the Maher Cup to honour one of our greatest champions, Robyn Maher, was an initiative that was very well received both within and outside the team. Entrenching historical links in future programming is vital not only as a recognition factor but to embellish the sport's character and culture.

Other highlights included winning a tournament against a strong field (including USA) in Japan and winning a test series over the USA in Australia.

Our record overall in 1998 was 26 wins and 4 losses.

The year 2000 should be dedicated to fine-tuning so by the conclusion of 1999 the team should hopefully not require any major adjustments. In 2000 we are going for the "Gold".

Junior Men

In 1998 the National Junior Team continued their intensive preparation and selection procedures for the 1999 World Junior Championship in Portugal.

The Oceania Qualification Series was held in early February with the team sweeping New Zealand 2-0 and qualifying for the World Championship in 1999. The series was also the final National Junior Men's Team commitment for Head Coach Gordie McLeod, and a "Gold Medal" was a fitting conclusion for Gordie's outstanding contribution to the Australian Junior Men's program since 1992.

In late February a revamped coaching staff made up of Head Coach, Frank Arsego, and Assistant Coaches Richard Orlick and Mark Watkins took charge of the National Junior Men's Program. The first commitment for the new officials and team came in early April when it competed in the prestigious Albert Schweitzer Tournament for junior men in Mannheim Germany. Sixteen National Junior men's teams competed including 13 from Europe, the USA,

China and Australia. Australia won the Silver Medal losing to Spain in the final 80-78, and the team finished with a 6-1 win/loss record.

David Andersen was named "Most Valuable Player". David Andersen and Bradley Sheridan were ranked first and second respectively in the top thirty ranked players at the tournament.

The program has made excellent progress in 1998 and at the conclusion of the European tour in January 1999 there will be a squad of players with international experience, winning results and common goal to represent Australia at the World Junior Men's Championship in 1999.

Sports Science and Sports Medicine

The key functions in sports medicine over the year were:

- Review of Basketball Australia's Anti-Doping Policy. This has taken considerable time and effort and it is anticipated the final document for ASC and AOC approval will be submitted for approval in early 1999.
- Servicing of the OAP's sports sciences and sports medicine requirements has consumed considerable time of the practitioners attached to the national representative teams.
- The Patellar Tendon Screening Program initiated by Karim Khan and Jill Cook has continued..
- Provision of medical support for the Boomers and Opals at their respective world championships.
- The reappointment of Dr. Peter Harcourt to the FIBA Medical Council.

Issues to be addressed in the coming year are:

- The completion of the Basketball Australia's Anti-Doping Policy to reflect the requirements of FIBA, AOC and ASC.
- The development and implementation of the OAP

LEFT:
NATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAM - THE GOLDMARK OPALS.
BRONZE MEDAL WINNERS 1998 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP,
BERLIN, GERMANY.

sports science and sports medicine program culminating in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

AIS Basketball Programs

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) basketball program aims to provide the best young basketball players (15-18 years of age) with a high quality residential scholarship program which incorporates education in basketball, academic and life skills. Many of the athletes graduate from the program into the national leagues and are selected in national junior teams and ultimately the national senior teams.

The program is a partnership between the AIS and Basketball Australia. It is an integral component of Basketball Australia's elite development program.

Women

There have been a number of achievements in the AIS Women's Basketball Program in 1998 as the athletes and staff continue to strive to higher standards each year :

- Lauren Jackson and Rohanne Cox were selected in the Opals Team to tour Brazil in January.
- The AIS team created history in April by reaching the WNBL finals for the second consecutive year.
- Phil Brown was awarded "WNBL Coach of the Year" for the 1998 season.
- Lauren Jackson was selected in the Opals Team to compete at the World Championship in Germany. Lauren became the youngest ever player to represent Australia at a World Championship.
- In August the AIS team participated in the inaugural Women's Korean Basketball League (WKBL) winning all 10 games.
- In September Penny Taylor and Lauren Jackson were selected in the Opals squad to participate in international series against China and USA.

- Seven former and one current AIS Scholarship holders (Jackson) were on the Opals team that won the Bronze Medal at the World Championship in Germany in May.

Men

The resignation of Gordon McLeod from the position of Senior Coach Men's Basketball, to take up a head coaching position in the NBL resulted in the need to revise the coaching staff within the AIS program. As result Frank Arsego was appointed Senior Coach and Martin Clarke (Tas) Assistant Coach. The Scholarship Coach in 1998 was Brett Cocksedge (NSW).

Under this coaching staff the team finished with a 14-17 win/loss record in the new expanded East Conference of the Continental Basketball Association. The team placed equal seventh and missed the top 4 play-off series by two games. It competed very well throughout the season, finishing with five wins in the last seven games. Other highlights were victories over Geelong, Dandenong, Mount Gambier, Newcastle and a triple overtime win over the Sydney Sky.

The team was invited to participate in the National Centennial Basketball Tournament in Manila. The final was an excellent contest with the AIS winning 74-66 in overtime. The team finished the Tournament undefeated with a 5-0 win/loss record.

AIS scholarship holders were an integral part of the Australian Junior Men's Program in 1998 with nine being selected to represent Australia in the Oceania Qualification Series to gain the right to participate in the Junior Men's World Championship in 1999. Ten current and one former AIS scholarship holders were selected for the Albert Schweitzer Tournament for junior men in Germany. During 1998 all scholarship holders were members of the Junior Men's Squad at some time.

BASKETBALL PROGRAMS

Through its technical and development programs

Basketball Australia provides resources, training and competition opportunities for junior players, coaches, referees, administrators and players with a disability.

The major focus in 1998 was maintaining all our basketball programs within the tight budgetary constraints.

The most significant events of the year were the employment of a dedicated Manager Coach Education and the inauguration of an Administrators' Education Program.

Junior Development

The Junior Commission advises Basketball Australia on areas which impact on junior basketball and oversees the National Junior Championships.

In 1998 a major review of the National Junior Championships was conducted by the Commission. A survey was sent to all State/Territory Basketball Associations asking for comment on each of the Championships. The Commission's recommendations were approved by the Board of Basketball Australia in August 1998.

These recommendations were :

- The Under 20 Australian Championships (all-star) should be held over a shorter period to reduce the time commitment required by athletes.
- The current timing of all National Championships was supported and was considered suitable for the future.
- To expand the National Under 14 Club Championships to 20 teams.
- The concept of the Great Australian Shootout (a club competition for U/20 men and women) was supported. The continued status of the Shootout as the Australian U/20 Club Championships and the subsequent Basketball Australia sanctioning would require a review against the sanctioning criteria for future years.

- Following advice from the Coaching Commission and the ITCP, maximum preparation times for coaches to prepare teams participating in National Junior Championships were established.
- The support for the National Championships for Players with an Intellectual Disability was maintained and the Championships will remain integrated with the National U/18 Championships.

The Junior Commission also commenced a new focus as an Administration and Participation advisory council in addition to the role it currently plays.

This saw the introduction of the Basketball Administrator's Program (BAP) which is designed to increase opportunities for basketball administrators through education programs, production of resources and increasing networking throughout Australia.

Research, design and implementation of the Basketball Administrator's Program (BAP) commenced. The main aims of the BAP are :

- To provide opportunities for basketball administrators to:
 - develop their skills
 - network
 - share ideas
- To assist administrators by:
 - developing resources
 - establishing benchmarks and national policies
 - developing avenues to increase communication

The first strategy of the BAP was to conduct a survey of all local basketball associations throughout Australia. This was to get an accurate 'snapshot' of issues facing administrators at a local level. This was completed in December and the results should be available early in 1999.

The focus for 1999 will be to:

- Use the results from the questionnaire to provide direction on other identified strategies of the BAP, and
- Compile a resource guide of people within the basketball community who have experience in aspects of basketball administration.

The success of basketball's future will lie in our ability as a sport to adapt to the increasingly more competitive recreation industry which is becoming more business oriented and the focus appears to be on the financial return. We need to ensure our administrators and our sport are equipped to face the future assertively.

The 1998 National Junior Championships in Adelaide (U20), Bendigo (U18, Players with an Intellectual Disability, Basketball Week), Terrigal (U16) and the U14 Club Championships in Ulverstone (Boys) and Willeton (Girls) maintained, and indeed enhanced, the quality presentation and performance at these events of recent years.

Other Junior Basketball Events sanctioned by Basketball Australia including the National Classic (U18 and U16 Clubs), the Great Australian Shoot-Out (U20 Clubs), Australian Junior Country Basketball Cup (U18, U16 and U14) and the Northern Australia Junior Basketball Challenge continued to provide opportunities for our elite juniors to be exposed at a national level.

The Australian Junior Basketball Awards, recognising outstanding contributions by individuals and organisations to the development of junior basketball in this country, were announced during Basketball Week in Bendigo.

The award recipients were:

Junior Male Player of the Year
David Andersen (VIC)

Junior Female Player of the Year
Lauren Jackson (NSW)

Male Coach of the Year
Frank Arsego (AIS)

Female Coach of the Year
Linda Geheran (VIC)

Male Referee of the Year
Scott Butler (QLD)

Female Referee of the Year
Caroline Gillespie (SA)

Male Administrator of the Year
Peter Eddy (VIC)

Female Administrator of the Year
Leianne Palmer (NSW)

Contribution for Players with an Intellectual Disability
– Male
Tony Guihot (NSW)

Contribution for Players with an Intellectual Disability
– Female
Liz Fraser (QLD)

Media – Electronic Network TEN

Media – Print The Courier, Ballarat

The Third Annual National Schools Basketball Tournament held in Canberra continued to grow in size and prestige. To move to the next level of presentation and participation it would appear that sponsorship dollars will be essential.

Player and Coach Development

This program provides a bridge between the elite development programs at state and local level and the high performance programs of Basketball Australia. It encourages coaches and players to develop an international level of focus. A key element of the program is ongoing liaison with and co-ordination of the Intensive Training Centre (ITC) Programs run in each State & Territory in conjunction with the State/Territory Institutes and Academies of Sport.

The Australian Junior Camp was again held during January at the Australian Institute of Sport in



THE AUSTRALIAN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TEAMS FOR PLAYERS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BRAZIL, 1998.

BASKETBALL AUSTRALIA - PARTICIPATION NUMBERS 1998

STATE	SENIORS		JUNIORS		MINI BASKETBALL	TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE		
	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998
ACT	1,480	856	1,776	1,072	1,500	6,684
NSW	24,621	22,086	32,689	20,028	32,003	131,427
NT	477	515	551	434	342	2,319
QLD	9,031	6,786	16,370	8,302	9,839	50,328
SA	9,336	7,308	7,947	6,975	8,840	40,406
TAS	2,104	1,642	1,936	1,515	2,536	9,733
VIC	47,050	42,984	69,460	55,159	50,960	265,613
WA	10,107	8,005	24,083	13,506	13,868	69,569
TOTAL	104,206	90,182	154,812	106,991	119,888	576,079

Canberra. Selected players and coaches from the 1997 U/16 and U/18 Men's and Women's National Junior Championships attended the camp, as well as coaches from each State and Territories Intensive Training Centre Program. It is without doubt the leading camp of its type in Australia.

Wheelchair athletes and coaches again participated at this camp and we welcomed for the first time squads of athletes with an intellectual disability and their coaches.

The Interstate Coaching Experience (ICE) Program was conducted this year in Canberra, ACT. This program aims at providing coaches from throughout Australia exposure to coaches at varying elite levels in an intensive educational five day program. The program was well received and will be conducted again in Canberra in 1999.

To maintain an international level of focus and direction and ensure quality control each ITC Program was visited three times throughout the year. These visits involved :

- working with athletes and coaches
- conducting coaching clinics
- coaching review sessions
- coaching workshops for ITCP network coaches
- providing written evaluation of athletes, coaches and the program at the completion of each visit.

As part of Basketball Australia's contribution to the Oceania region a coaching course was conducted in Fiji. Coaches from fourteen countries from throughout the Oceania region attended the clinic.

The process of continual review and upgrade for ITC Programs has continued throughout 1998. With support from individual State Institutes, Academies of Sport, State Associations and through the hard work of athletes and coaches further sound advancement of the National Intensive Training Centre Program has occurred in 1998.

Coaching

Basketball Australia's coaching programs are overseen by its Coaches Commission. The Commission works to improve coaching standards in Australia by developing and implementing on behalf of Basketball Australia coach education programs, coaching clinics and coaching resources.

- The establishment of the Manager Coach Education position within Basketball Australia is a welcome boost to the resources for coaches nationally.
- The Commission focus has clearly been on "grass roots" and "club and association" coaching education. The availability of the Manager Coach Education to supervise the production, early next year, of the video for beginning coaches will prove to be a most valuable tool and resource.
- The Commission has also set about establishing a National Coaches Register.
- At the initiative of Basketball Australia's Coaches Commission leading Italian coach Mario Blasone again visited Australia this year. Coach Blasone conducted coaching clinics in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Townsville. Overall four hundred coaches attended the clinics which again proved to be very popular. The 1st Annual ABCA convention in Townsville in conjunction with the Blasone Clinic attracted 75 coaches – a great first up effort. Negotiations are underway for a European or USA coach to visit Australia in 1999.
- The Commission has prioritised a number of projects designed to improve coaching, including the development of operational plans and the identification of the needs of volunteer coaches.
- The ABCA Xs and Os Magazine has maintained its high standard as a resource and continues to serve the coaching fraternity well.
- The Level 1 and 2 NCAS coaching courses have been submitted to the Australian Coaching Council and approved for the next Quadrennium.

- The Level 1 Coaching Manual has been rewritten and is in the final stages of editing.
- A Presenters Kit for use in the presentation of the Level 2 Coaching Courses has been prepared and distributed to State Directors of Coaching.

The priorities in 1999 are :

- The completion of the "Starting Out in Basketball" Coaching Video
- The release of the revised Level 1 Coaching Manual
- The preparation and submission of the Level 3 NCAS Basketball Coaching Syllabus to the Australian Coaching Council for approval.
- The development of "best practice" coach education models for use by local associations

Basketball Australia formed a Statisticians Committee in July 1998 with the objectives of ensuring uniform statistical interpretations and accreditation procedures throughout Australia. This Committee has worked enthusiastically to develop training programs, compile a Statisticians Manual and establish a database of active statisticians. A primary role has been to assist in the identification, education and training of proficient volunteer statisticians for the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

Officiating

The Referee's Commission oversees Basketball Australia's officiating programs. The Commission works to improve the quality of officiating through new and innovative programs in addition to maintaining established effective programs.

The Commission works through the National Referees Director who facilitates the activities of the Scoretable Committee, the Technical Committee, the National Referees Development Program and the National Panel.

1998 proved to be a year when Australian Officials

showed that they have an International presence.

- Carolyn Gillespie's appointment to the World Women's Final (Germany) and subsequent participation in the USA Women's NBA gave the season a great start.
- Bill Mildenhall's Semi Final and 3-4 playoff appointments at the World Men's Championship (Greece) added more lustre to the achievement scene.
- This was further topped off by Sharon Arnold's appointment to the World Women's Wheelchair Gold Cup final in Sydney and Les Hill's allocation of a Men's Semi Final.
- John Martin (Women's World Championship – Germany) and Greg Love (Wheelchair Gold Cup – Sydney) were appointed as Technical Commissioners.
- In addition John Martin has been officially accredited as a FIBA Technical Commissioner.

The Editorial Committee has been busy preparing the new rulebook which, for the first time, will incorporate the rules and mechanics manual and also includes a special section on wheelchair officiating. The Illustrated Rule Book has been revised as has the Scoretable Manual.

The 2000 Olympics loom on the horizon and the Scoretable Committee has been active in assisting with the selection process and training of officials for this momentous event. Test events have been identified and standards of high quality performance are expected.

With the changing role of the Referees' Director this year, more emphasis was placed on field coaching and instructing responsibilities. State and local associations should be encouraged to utilise these services to best meet their needs.

Basketball for People with a Disability

The key organisations in this area are :

Roosevelt Cup with a 1-4 result against the USA, Canada and the Netherlands.

- The Women's Wheelchair team travelled to the Netherlands to compete in a tournament against Germany and the Netherlands and won all of their six games.
- The Gold Cup (World Championships for Wheelchair Basketball) was the highlight of the year for Wheelchair Basketball with both of our men's and women's national teams competing. The women won a bronze medal, which was an improvement of 1 place from the Atlanta Paralympics. The men slipped from 1st to 4th against some well prepared teams from USA, Netherlands and Canada.

Basketball for Players with an Intellectual Disability

- For the first time, 27 players with an intellectual disability attended the Australian Junior Camp.
- The fourth National Championships for Players with an Intellectual Disability held in July at Bendigo saw the largest ever number of teams competing - 9 men's teams and 7 women's teams



RIGHT:
SANDY BLYTHE.
THE GOLD CUP
1998.
AUSTRALIAN
MEN'S
WHEELCHAIR
TEAM - "ALL
STAR FIVE"

LEFT:
LIESL TESCH.
THE GOLD CUP
1998.
AUSTRALIAN
WOMEN'S
WHEELCHAIR
TEAM - "ALL
STAR FIVE"

hair Athletes (AWA)

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critical to achievements in this

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air Basketball team, the
eries in Australia against Great
and Canada 2-2 and also
USA to compete in the

including 2 teams from Japan.

- After the National Championships a 2 game series for the men's and women's teams was held between Australia and Japan as part of the preparation for the World Championships in November.
- The World Championships for Players with an Intellectual Disability was held in Brazil in November. The women's team won a bronze medal and the men's team who had the gold and silver medallists in their pool came fifth.

MARKETING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Basketball Australia continues to support the concepts, that, for the future development of basketball in Australia, it is necessary to :

- elevate the status of the national teams
- consolidate the sport's participant base
- provide value-added services to participants

Team Basketball Australia

Team Basketball Australia is a vision for a unified future of basketball which can be shared by all stakeholders. It focuses on the collective advancement of all aspects of basketball, from Basketball Australia through to state associations and to local associations, coaches, players, referees and sponsors and seeks to provide benefits to all.

The key aspects of Team Basketball promoted throughout 1998 were the Association Communication Network (ACN) and the National Membership Program.

Association Communication Network

The Nothin' But Net Web site at www.basketball.net.au is the central reference point of the ACN. In 1998 the site grew to almost 2,000 pages. It provided up-to-date results and statistics

on every national championship, all international tours involving Australian teams, the World Championships for Players with an Intellectual Disability and the National Schools Basketball Tournament. The site averaged more than 6,000 hits a day, rising to 18,000 during events such as Basketball Week. The site was completely re-vamped in 1998.

Visitors to the Web site can subscribe to Nothin' But News, a weekly electronic newsletter which is e-mailed direct to subscribers, including all associations which have joined the ACN. By the end of 1998 there were more than 1,500 subscribers. The newsletter has generated significant positive feedback from the basketball community.

A means to get associations on-line as cheaply and easily as possible. With the support of Telstra and Sirius Technology, Basketball Australia supplies any affiliated Australian association with a modem and six months free Internet access at a substantial discount. The first modem packs were sent to associations just before Christmas 1997 and by the end of 1998 156 modem packs had been delivered. In 1999 Basketball Australia intends to deliver packs to most remaining associations.

A suite of communications solutions. These include tools for affiliated local associations to create their own Web sites and competition management software which can generate Web pages. With Basketball NSW, Basketball Australia provided member database software for all 166 NSW local associations. Basketball Australia provided help desk support for affiliated associations. Basketball Australia hosted Web sites for state and local associations. In 1999 these services will be expanded to allow associations to create electronic newsletters for members, accept registrations and nominations over the Internet and develop more sophisticated Web sites for communicating with members. Basketball Unlimited will be replaced with a new upgrade product.

National Membership Program

In 1998 Basketball Australia launched a membership

program with Basketball NSW and Dandenong and Geelong associations in Victoria. The program provided a welcome letter, a high quality plastic membership card and a small benefits handbook direct mailed to members of participating associations. Although less than 20,000 cards were delivered in 1998, the response created an impetus for a more extensive program in 1999.

During 1998 Basketball Australia worked with its Constituent State Associations, a number of local associations and a major membership benefits provider, API, to pave the way for a full-scale program in 1999. In co-operation with API, Basketball Australia developed a comprehensive benefits package for members which has the potential to generate a significant revenue stream for basketball. The program will be delivered to approximately 115,000 people – every registered player in NSW, SA, Tasmania and the ACT and to six participating Victorian associations in 1999.

Basketball Australia and Basketball NSW made significant resource commitments to the program in 1998. As a result, Basketball NSW has established direct Internet communications with many of its associations and has created common database management processes.

Winter Of World Basketball

In 1998 the total marketing of international games played in Australia by our elite teams was conducted internally by Basketball Australia.

Due to the scheduling of the National Basketball League and the WNBA, the Boomers and Opals were only able to play a total of 15 games in

Australia in a World Championship year. All were covered live by Optus Vision with various games covered by ABC TV. 1998 was not an optimum Winter of World Basketball year, however spectator numbers increased marginally.

In preparation for the 1999 season of the Winter of World Basketball, negotiations have commenced with Cable Seven to replace SportsVision as the provider to PAY TV broadcaster, Optus Vision, of international games played by the Opals and Boomers. This contract will also give Channel Seven the right to free-to-air coverage.

The sport of basketball was the second most watched sport on television at the Atlanta Olympics and the challenge is to convert this television audience to those that will attend games conducted by Basketball Australia both pre and post Sydney 2000. 1999 will signal the first time in which the Winter of World Basketball will have a discrete segment within the basketball calendar, and with Channel 7 and Optus Vision as partners, is poised to take full advantage.

Over the past twenty years Australia has produced excellent coaches, referees, players and administrators to become one of the world's elite basketball nations. Team Basketball Australia and the Winter of World Basketball have been developed to capitalise on these strengths. Perseverance over the last two years has seen these programs, vital for basketball's success into the next millennium, starting to gain acceptance and momentum.

DICK BUTLER

ACT

- **Overview.** Allan Yates was elected President of Basketball Canberra for a two year term. Other elected officials included Laurie Olive as Vice President (immediate Past President) and Bernard Travanion as Competition Director.

The full impact of the new Tuggeranong facility (5 courts including a 1,250 seat exhibition court) and the implication of managing it as a community multi-sport facility took Basketball Canberra into new territory. The redistribution of competitions to ensure effective use of the 12 courts available and the review of our organisational structure continued as we seek new ways to do it better.

- **National Schools Tournament.** 142 schools (approx. 1350 participants) took part in the five day tournament through three centres in December. The high level of success and the interest that this event generates ensures its continued growth.
- **Kidzball / Junior Jammers.** The saturation of primary schools (some 14,000 children and at least 20,000 parents) resulted in 1500 5-12 year olds taking part in the programs. Improved participation levels will occur as the execution of the program is enhanced.
- **Hoopsters Program.** The program involving Cannons and Capitals profile players continues to be heavily supported by Healthpact (Smokefree) and Canberra Milk as an ideal target group for the health message.
- **NSW State League Finals.** Canberra hosted the Finals in October with 18 teams participating.
- **Canberra Cannons.** In a licence acquisition brokered and funded by a major club, the Canberra Southern Cross Club, in association with the Canberra Tradesmen's Union Club, Basketball Canberra again became the NBL licence holder and sole shareholder of a new entity, Canberra Basketball Ltd. With the considerable goodwill generated through the

community as a result of that exercise and association of the program with Basketball Canberra, we have expectation for a successful 1999-2000 program.

- **Elite Programs.** In reviewing its capacity to conduct elite programs, Basketball Canberra confirmed its commitment to both the WNBL and ABA programs with the participation of the Capitals and Gunners into 1999.

Representative programs were undertaken at all under age Australian levels except U20 men and women.

The ITC program conducted on behalf of Basketball Australia and the ACT Academy program was successfully concluded. 1998 saw increased emphasis on the qualitative aspects of the programs.

- **Appointments.** At the end of 1998 Brian Franklin, a Life Member of Basketball Canberra and Founding Director of the Canberra Cannons, was appointed General Manager with a brief to enhance the commercial focus of our operations.

Also appointed was former Canberra Cannon, John Stelzer, as Manager of the Tuggeranong facility.

NEW SOUTH WALES

- **Teams in National Under Age Mens and Womens Championships** won 1 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze medals.
- **Players with Intellectual Disability.** Mens team National Champions with five players selected for World Championships-Brazil. Joint Winner BNSW Team of Year. Joint Winner NSW Sports Star of Year Teams Award.
- **Development of Information Technology and Team Basketball Australia membership card** for all registered Associations and their members.
- **The successful involvement in the World**

Wheelchair Gold Cup Championship for Men and Women. (Sydney) NSW Sports Federation Event of the Year Award. Test event for Basketball Year 2000 Olympics.

- The Northern Australian Junior Basketball Challenge (NAJBC) and Australian Junior Country Basketball Cup (AJCBC) have proven to be outstanding events for development and identification of talented players to underpin the ITCP and NSW Institute of sport programs.
- Basketball NSW offices have moved from the State Sport Centre Olympic site, to 2 kilometres away but still in the Homebush area.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

- U14 Boys attended the Australian National Club Championships in Tasmania. The experience gained by the boys was extensive – they were placed 12th out of 16 teams. Although the team did not get a high placing the players and coaching staff gained a lot of valuable experience for future trips.
- U14 girls were unable to place themselves in the Championships in Perth, but with the up and coming talent in this age group the girls will be a team to contend with.
- U16 girls went to the Championships in Terrigal, NSW, and U18 girls went to the Championships in Bendigo in Victoria. Both teams performed well but were placed 12 out of 13 and 13 out of 14 respectively.
- The U16 and U18 boys' luck was not so good. Both teams were placed at the bottom of the ladder in their competitions.
- Our ITC Program had a total of 23 up and coming athletes, six of whom hold NTIS Scholarships. The highlight of their year was the trip to the AIS. These young people have gained experience not just in sport but also in life.

QUEENSLAND

- The CBA North Conference continued its domination of the National Championships with the Cairns Marlins becoming premiers after their runner-up result in 1997. The Women fell a spot being defeated in the semi finals. The North Conference continues to set standards in this elite national program.
- The transfer of the NBL and the WNBL to summer season will see many fringe players from those competitions strengthening the ABA North Conference in 1999.
- In the Champion Schools of Australia Tournament, the Townsville State High "Tropics" Boys also wrested the Championship Trophy, after being runners up the previous year. St. Peter's Lutheran College Girls and the Townsville State High Girls both produced credible performances at national level.
- Queensland Regional Teams continued good performances at the Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup and the Northern Australia Junior Basketball Challenge gives encouragement to grass roots junior development throughout the State.
- The Merchandising department, the State Under 12 Years Championships, and the Junior Associate Membership scheme all continued to progress the development of the sport at elementary levels.
- The construction of new four court basketball facilities at Caloundra, Logan City, and the extensions to the Ipswich and Brisbane stadiums has alleviated the shortage of playing facilities in South Queensland.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

It was both a turbulent and exciting year for basketball in South Australia.

- Association owned Adelaide Lightning and

Adelaide 36'ers took out their respective National League titles to become the only clubs to win both trophies. Both Teams had the honour of receiving the Keys to the City and also taking part in a motorcade with AFL Premiers and Adelaide Crows in front of a crowd in excess of 100,000. The SA U20 Women also took out the Australian Under 20 Women's Championship.

- For the first time in more than a decade, South Australian clubs competed in the national scene when BASA became the Central Conference of the CBA. Unfortunately the State Grand Finalists (North Adelaide and Norwood Women; South Adelaide and Noarlunga Men) did not make a major impact on the CBA Finals.
- South Australia was well represented in the Bronze Medal winning Australian Opals with Rachael Sporn, Carla Porter, Jo Hill and Jan Stirling. Brett Maher only received limited court time in the ninth placed Australian Boomers Team at the World Championships.
- On the downside, a major concern is the continued decline of participation figures.
- In November, some 350 people including Basketball Australia CEO, Richard Butler, attended a Farewell to Forestville, the Stadium closing its doors after 40 years of operations. It has been replaced by a new modern three court stadium at Wayville.

Unfortunately the year ended on a low when the Sturt Stadium was completely destroyed by fire. The replacement of this stadium will be a challenge in 1999.

TASMANIA

- The Tasmanian Women's Team won the Australian Championship for Players with an Intellectual Disability, adding a gold medal to the silver won in 1997.
- As a direct result of the sponsorship of Aurora Energy P/L, 48% of the State's Primary Schools

took part in the Aurora Basketball in Schools Program. Each school was able to nominate two groups of up to 30 children, each of which generally received two 40-minute sessions conducted by one of Basketball Tasmania's three Regional Development Managers.

- Basketball Tasmania's full technical staffing level (four full-time) was attained with the Basketball Manager and the third of the Regional Development Managers moving from part-time to full-time.
- Tasmania continued to taste success in the Continental Basketball Association with the Hobart Chargers taking out back-to-back Southern Conference titles.
- The continued support of corporate supporters Aurora Energy, Spalding, Insurance Exchange of Australia, Qantas, the Commonwealth Bank and the Ricoh Business Centre assisted Basketball Tasmania in maintaining a wide range of accessible development programs.

VICTORIA

- 1998 has been an important year for Basketball Victoria in terms of changing, setting and implementing strategic directions. Wide ranging reviews of the relevance and effectiveness of structures and services have taken place and have resulted in significant constitutional reform, organisational adjustment and business plans.
- The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation and other major sponsors, including McDonalds, Schweppes, and the Victorian Government continue to enable Basketball Victoria to maintain and introduce a wide range of development programs. In 1998, Basketball Victoria introduced a new development program targeting Secondary School students – the 'Booze Less 3 on 3 High School Challenge'.
- Basketball Victoria continued to educate large numbers of coaches through our Level 1 and 2 Coaching Courses and also through the conduct

very successful Coaches Convention in
nction with Deakin University.

etball Victoria continues to achieve growth in
rations and participants statewide.
ional activities, such as McDonald's Primary
of Hoop Time clinics and round robins,
onald's Super Mini Series, Oz-ball and the
e Less Junior Hoopster Clinics, exposed an
ated 250,000 basketball participants to the
during 1998.

r basketball club competitions in Victoria
ue to flourish with approx. 125 teams
eting in the 1998 National Junior Classic
4 teams competing in the International
r 20 competition, the Great Australian
out.

RN AUSTRALIA

etball WA has continued to develop links
outh East Asia. Following the success of
ywest Basketball League ALL-Stars in
g the Angsapura Cup in Medan, Indonesia

in 1997, negotiations have continued with several
nations in the region.

- This has resulted in invitations being accepted by Singapore and Thailand for their National Men's Teams to participate in the SBL Pre-Season Tournament at Easter in 1999. In addition, both teams will play a series of games against local Skywest Basketball League teams in the Perth metropolitan area and major country centres.
- The men's title in the Skywest Basketball League returned to the country in 1998 with the Bunbury Slammers again finding success while the Perry Lakes Ladyhawks won the women's grand final.
- The Western Australian Basketball League junior inter-association competition has been restructured which resulted in a highly competitive and successful 1998 season.
- Extremely successful courses for coaches, referees, evaluators and scoretable were conducted throughout the year and the Healthway funded State Development Network continues to be highly effective program.

NBL

The National Basketball League (NBL) celebrated two significant milestones in 1998, paying tribute to its history and embracing an exciting new era.

The 1998 season was the 20th in NBL history, and marked the final winter campaign before the league made the move to summer. To celebrate the end of two decades of play, the league asked an expert panel to vote on the NBL's 20th Season team.

Fifty players were nominated for the team, with the voters choosing 11 players for the honour. The NBL 20th Season team comprised:

Guards: Andrew Gaze, Leroy Loggins, Phil Smyth, Herb McEachin, Cal Bruton
Forwards: Scott Fisher, Mark Davis, Larry Sengstock, Andrew Vlahov
Centres: James Crawford, Mark Bradtke

The NBL also introduced the Hall of Fame, to recognise the greatest players, coaches, referees and contributors. Candidates will be considered every year, with the initial intake comprising Cal Bruton and Herb McEachin (players), Barry Barnes (coaching), Bill Palmer, John Raschke (contributors).

The 1998 season was one of surprises, with Adelaide led by first year coach Phil Smyth, claiming their second championship. The 36ERS defeated South East Melbourne in the Grand Final, a major upset in many eyes given that the Magic had won 26 of 30 regular season games. Adelaide's impressive import Kevin Brooks took Grand Final MVP honours.

The biggest surprises came in Wollongong, where the Hawks who were tipped to finish last in their final season at the famous Snakepit defied the critics by playing well all season and earning a play off berth. At the other end of the ladder, perennial finalist North Melbourne had a horror run with injuries and won only nine games, finishing second last.

Andrew Gaze claimed his seventh Most Valuable Player award in the closest vote in NBL history. Newcastle's Ben Melmeth, in his second full season claimed Most Improved honours, was voted to the All NBL Team and ranked third in MVP voting.

Other award winners included David Smith (Rookie of the Year), Jason Smith (Best Sixth Man), Mike Kelly (Best Defensive Player), Brian Goorjian (Coach of the Year) and Bill Mildenhall (Referee of the Year). The All NBL (1st team) comprised Andrew Gaze, Derek Rucker, Steve Woodberry, Ben Melmeth and Ray Owes.

The NBL made a significant change in the front office, appointing John Rymarz as Chief Executive Officer. Bill Palmer, who had served in the post for 11 years assumed the role of General Manager Operations.

The year ended with the NBL stepping into the new frontier of summer. The season began in October with a new franchise- West Sydney, and new ownership in Canberra and Newcastle. The off season was significant for the Magic and North Melbourne Giants who merged to form the Victoria Titans. The new summer season saw the NBL embark on a national advertising campaign for the first time, adopting nothin' better as its advertising slogan.

WNBL

The 1998 Link Cup provided the mechanism for the WNBL to move to the summer months. It also provided its Member Clubs with the opportunity to have competition prior to a proposed October 1998/99 season tip-off, without which the 1998 season, players, coaches, fans, media and all involved with the Link Cup would have experienced a 12 month period with no elite women's games in Australia.

The decision by the League to fund air travel and accommodation for all teams in the 1998 season was a significant factor in enabling all teams to participate in the competition.

A shortened season enabled excellent preparation time for the Australian Opals to compete at the Women's World Championships.

The Link Cup was conducted between 13 February and 18 April. In a revised format it was agreed the

CBA

and final, would be held
bourne Sports and
als night attracted a
ut the preliminary-final
e Sydney Flames
t to Adelaide Lightening
e 3000 people.

shorter season than
unusual timeframe, the
the positive response
verage was provided
s Sport.

sydney Flames received
able Player Award and
VNL All Star Five.

Griffiths (Sydney), Kristy
Annie LaFleur (Sydney),
Allison Cook (Bulleen

Brown (AIS)

the Year : Andrea
Tigers)

ly McInerney (Melbourne

Dandenong Rangers was
hip of the League.

congratulate Tom Maher,
and the Opal's Team on
an Australian senior team

Extensive discussions and numerous meetings regarding the establishment of an Australia-wide association based basketball championship consumed considerable time and energy throughout 1998. This activity culminated in December 1998 with the Basketball Australia Council formalising the ownership and the national structure of an association based national competition. This competition will consist of representation from Basketball Australia's Constituent Associations in a series of regional geographic competitions and incorporating the existing CBA competition structure.

The management of this competition was offered to the CBA. To accommodate this decision, it was agreed that a new company, CBA (National) Ltd, would amend its Memorandum & Articles and change its name to Australian Basketball Association Ltd. Basketball Australia and all participating conferences are equal shareholders in this management company. The competition will be promoted under the Australian Basketball Association banner from 1999 with further enhancements the following year as envisaged in the approved Guidelines for the establishment and conduct of the new competition.

With the professional leagues moving to a summer season, the ABA will provide Australia's elite domestic winter basketball competition – a competition that relies on and is driven by its community ties and association environment. This competition will continue to provide the career path for basketball's elite development.

Conference winners in 1998 :

Men

North	Cairns Marlins
Central	Noarlunga City Tigers
South	Hobart Chargers
Eastern	Frankston Blues

Women

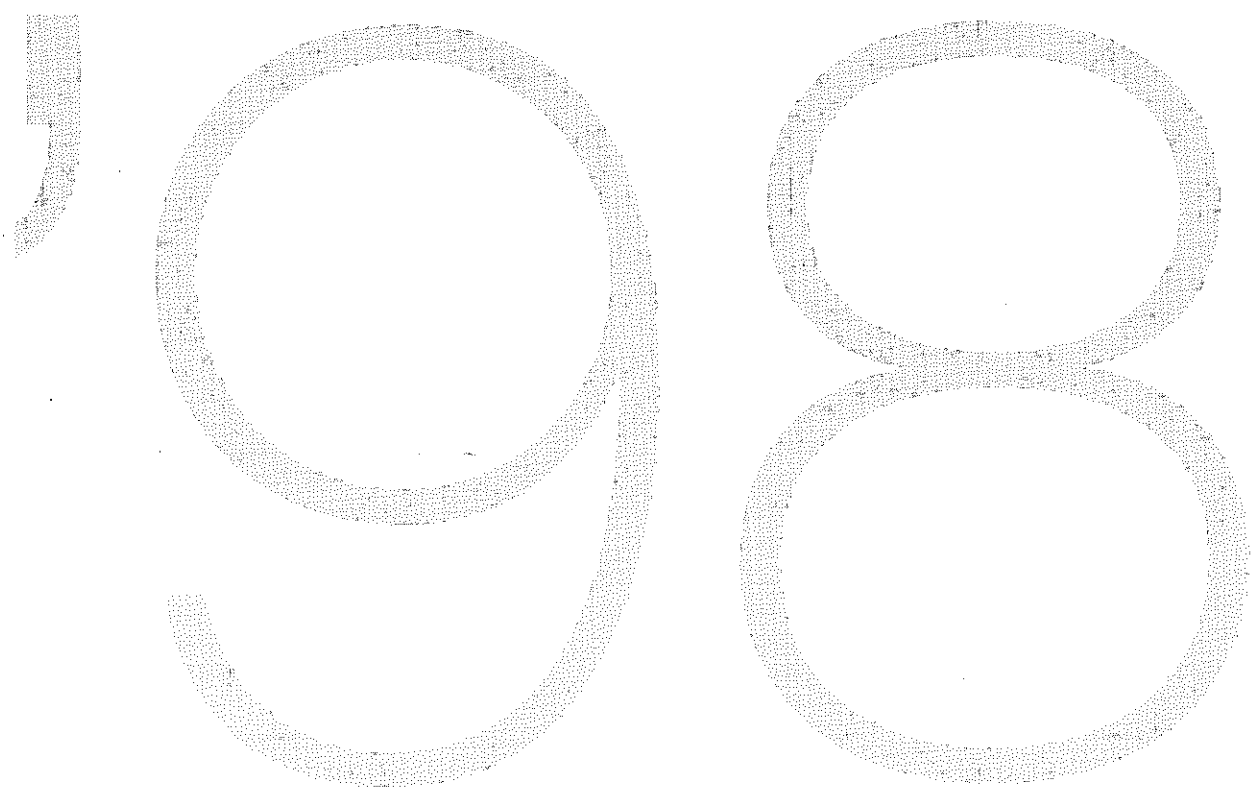
North	Southern Districts Spartans
Central	North Adelaide Rockets
South East	Kilsyth Cobras

The 1998 national championship series saw Cairns (North Conference Men) successful over Frankston (East Conference Men) and Kilsyth (South

Conference Women) retaining the title over Knox (South Conference Women).

National Most Valuable Players were:

- Men: Chris Sneed, Cairns Marlins
- Women: Sharon Simons, Forestville Eagles



NATIONAL TEAM PERFORMANCES IN OFFICIAL FIBA EVENTS

	LOCATION	PLACING
	Melbourne	12th
	Tokyo	9th
	Yugoslavia	12th
	New Zealand	Winner
	Munich	9th
	Puerto Rico	12th
	Montreal	8th
	New Zealand	Winner
	Philippines	7th
	Australia	Winner
	Moscow	8th
	New Zealand	Winner
	Colombia	5th
	New Zealand	3rd
	New Zealand	Winner
	Los Angeles	7th
	Australia	Winner
	Spain	13th
	New Zealand	Winner
	Seoul	4th
	New Zealand	Winner
	Argentina	7th
	New Zealand	Winner
	Spain	6th
	New Zealand	Winner
	Canada	5th
	Australia	Winner
	Australia	4th
	Atlanta	Winner
	New Zealand	9th
	Greece	
	Brazil	9th
	Australia	Winner
	Spain	10th
	New Zealand	Winner
	Italy	5th
	Australia	Winner
	Canada	11th
	Australia	Winner
	Greece	2nd - Silver
	Australia	Winner

MEN 22 AND UNDER

1993 U23 World Championship
 1997 U23 World Championship

LOCATION

PLACING

Spain 8th
 Australia 1st - Gold

SENIOR WOMEN

1957 World Championship
 1967 World championship
 1971 World Championship
 1974 Oceania Championship
 1975 World Championship
 1978 Oceania Championship
 1979 World Championship
 1982 Oceania Championship
 1983 World Championship
 1983 Commonwealth Championship
 1984 Olympic Games
 1985 Oceania Championship
 1986 World Championship
 1988 Olympic Games
 1989 Oceania Championship
 1990 World Championship
 1993 Oceania (automatic qualification-host OZ94)
 1994 World Championship
 1995 Oceania Olympic Qualification
 1996 Olympic Games
 1997 Oceania Championship Qualification
 1998 World Championship

Brazil 10th
 Czechoslovakia 10th
 Brazil 9th
 Australia Winner
 Colombia 10th
 New Zealand Winner
 Korea 4th
 Australia Winner
 Brazil 11th
 New Zealand Winner
 Los Angeles 5th
 Australia Winner
 Soviet Union 9th
 Seoul 4th
 New Zealand Winner
 Malaysia 6th
 Australia 4th
 Australia Winner
 Atlanta 3rd - Bronze
 New Zealand Winner
 Germany 3rd - Bronze

JUNIOR WOMEN

1985 World Championship
 1989 World Championship
 1992 Oceania Championship
 1993 World Championship
 1997 World Championship

USA 6th
 Spain 3rd - Bronze
 Australia Winner
 Korea 1st - Gold
 Brazil 2nd - Silver

APPENDIX C: NATIONAL TEAM PERFORMANCES

Australia's national basketball teams played 68 games amongst them in 1998. Following is a full summary of all games played and those who represented Australian basketball in 1998.

SENIOR MEN

Event	Games	Won	Lost	H	A
Japan	2	2	0	x	
Canada	4	3	1	x	
Goodwill Games	5	3	2		x
13th World Championship	8	5	3		x

Japan (incoming tour)

Boomers	121	def	Japan	65
Boomers	97	def	Japan	76

Chris Anstey (2) CJ Bruton (2) Simon Dwight (2) Scott Fisher (2) Andrew Gaze (Capt) (2) Shane Heal (2) Ben Melmeth (2) Matt Nielsen (2) Paul Rogers (2) Andrew Vlahov (2). Officials : Barry Barnes (2) Brett Brown (2) Allan Black (2) Peter Harcourt (1) Stephen Evans (2) John Trivellion-Scott (2)

Canada (incoming tour)

Australia	87	def	Canada	81
Canada	96	def	Australia	93
Australia	70	def	Canada	68
Australia	88	def	Canada	70

Chris Anstey (4) Frank Drmic (4) Simon Dwight (4) Scott Fisher (3) Andrew Gaze (Capt) (4) Shane Heal (4) Sam Mackinnon (4) Brett Maher (4) Ben Melmeth (4) Paul Rogers (4) Anthony Ronaldson (4) Andrew Vlahov (4). Officials: Barry Barnes (4) Alan Black (3) Brett Brown (4) John Trivellion-Scott Manager (4) Peter Harcourt (1) Carolyn Broderick (1) Stephen Evans (4)

Goodwill Games (New York: Silver Medal)

Australia	84	def	Argentina	72
Russia	81	def	Australia	73

Australia	82	def	Lithuania	64
Australia	86	def	Puerto Rico	74
USA	83	def	Australia	85

(OT)

Chris Anstey 5) Frank Drmic (5) Simon Dwight (5) Scott Fisher (5) Andrew Gaze (Capt) (5) Shane Heal (5) Sam Mackinnon (5) Brett Maher (5) Ben Melmeth (5) Paul Rogers (5) Anthony Ronaldson (5) Andrew Vlahov (5). Officials: Barry Barnes (5) Alan Black (5) Brett Brown (5) John Trivellion-Scott (5) Peter Harcourt (5) Stephen Evans (5) Gary Evans (5) Ray Hunt (Referee)

13th World Championship For Men (Athens, Greece: 9th Placing)

Argentina	66	def	Australia	62
Spain	77	def	Australia	76
Australia	70	def	Nigeria	64
Australia	71	def	Lithuania	61
Australia	75	def	Brazil	63
USA	96	def	Australia	78
Australia	88	def	Canada	71
Australia	79	def	Brazil	75

Chris Anstey (8) Frank Drmic (8) Simon Dwight (8) Scott Fisher (8) Andrew Gaze (Capt) (8) Shane Heal (8) Sam Mackinnon (8) Brett Maher (8) Ben Melmeth (8) Paul Rogers (8) Anthony Ronaldson (8) Andrew Vlahov (8). Officials: Barry Barnes (8) Alan Black (8) Brett Brown (8) John Trivellion-Scott (8) Peter Harcourt (8) Stephen Evans (8) John Maddock (8) Bill Mildenhall (Referee)

SENIOR WOMEN

Event	Games	Won	Lost	H	A
Brazil Invitational	2	2	0		x
Four Nations – Japan	6	5	1		x
Grand Prix – Slovakia	4	2	2		x
Tournament – Portugal	3	2	1		x
World Championship	9	8	1		x
Maher Cup	4	4	0	x	
Goldmark Cup	5	3	2	x	

Brazilian Olympic Committee Invitational (Brazil)

Australia	101	def	Brazil	67
Australia	70	def	Brazil	46

Allison Cook (2) Rohanee Cox (2) Michelle Griffiths (2) Kristi Harrower (2) Jo Hill (2) Lauren Jackson (2) Annie La Fleur (2) Robyn Maher (Capt) (2) Carla Porter (2) Rachael Sporn (2) Gina Stevens (2) Jenny Whittle (2). Officials: Tom Maher (2) Jan Stirling (2) Carrie Graf (2) Carolyn Broderick (2) Jill Cook (2) Marian Stewart (2)

Womens Basketball Festival Of Four Nations (Japan)

Australia	97	def	China	61
USA	85	def	Australia	74
Australia	87	def	Japan	82
Australia	70	def	USA	53
Australia	81	def	Japan	64
Australia	99	def	China	52

Sandy Brondello (6) Allison Cook (6) Michelle Griffiths (6) Kristi Harrower (6) Jo Hill (6) Lauren Jackson (6) Annie La Fleur (6) Robyn Maher (Capt) (6) Carla Porter (6) Rachael Sporn (6) Michele Timms (6) Jenny Whittle (6). Officials: Tom Maher (6) Jan Stirling (6) Carrie Graf (6) Jill Cook (6) Marian Stewart (6)

Grand Prix (Slovakia)

USA	92	def	Australia	80
Australia	64	def	Slovakia	62
Canada	61	def	Australia	58
Australia	114	def	China	87

Sandy Brondello (4) Allison Cook (4) Michelle Griffiths (4) Kristi Harrower (4) Jo Hill (4) Lauren Jackson (4) Annie La Fleur (4) Robyn Maher (Capt) (4) Carla Porter (4) Rachael Sporn (4) Michele Timms (4) Jenny Whittle (4). Officials: Tom Maher (4) Carrie Graf (4) Jan Stirling (4) Karen Holzer (4) Jill Cook (4) Marian Stewart (4) Leeanne Grantham (4) Carolyn Gillespie (Referee)

1st International Tournament Povoá do Varzim (Portugal)

Australia	68	def	Korea	60
Australia	61	def	Portugal	45
Brazil	68	def	Australia	65

Sandy Brondello (3) Allison Cook (3) Michelle Griffiths (3) Kristi Harrower (3) Jo Hill (3) Lauren Jackson (3) Annie La Fleur (3) Robyn Maher (Capt) (3) Carla Porter (3) Rachael Sporn (3) Michele Timms (3) Jenny Whittle (3). Officials: Tom Maher (3) Carrie Graf (3) Jan Stirling (3) Karen Holzer (3) Jill Cook (3) Marian Stewart (3) Leeanne Grantham (3) Carolyn Gillespie (Referee)

13th World Championship For Women (Germany)

Australia	92	def	Cuba	86
Australia	88	def	Germany	69
Australia	99	def	Congo	43
Australia	92	def	Hungary	66
Australia	82	def	Slovakia	57
Australia	76	def	Brazil	75
Australia	87	def	Spain	54
Russia	82	def	Australia	76
Australia	72	def	Brazil	67

- Bronze Medal

Sandy Brondello (9) Allison Cook (9) Michelle Griffiths (9) Kristi Harrower (9) Jo Hill (9) Lauren Jackson (9) Annie La Fleur (9) Robyn Maher (Capt) (9) Carla Porter (9) Rachael Sporn (9) Michele Timms (9) Jenny Whittle (9). Officials: Tom Maher (9) Carrie Graf (9) Jan Stirling (9) Karen Holzer (9) Jill Cook (9) Marian Stewart (9) Leeanne Grantham (9) Carolyn Gillespie (Referee: Gold Medal Game)

Maher Cup vs China (incoming tour)

Australia	102	def	China	53
Australia	104	def	China	70
Australia	103	def	China	68
Australia	119	def	China	74

Sandy Brondello (4) Allison Cook (4) Rohanee Cox (2) Trish Fallon (4) Jo Hill (4) Lauren Jackson (4) Annie La Fleur (4) Robyn Maher (Capt) (4)

Carla Porter (4) Shelley Sandie (2) Rachael Sporn (4) Gina Stevens (2) Penny Taylor (2) Jenny Whittle (4). Officials: Tom Maher (4) Jan Stirling (4) Lori Chizik (2) Phil Brown (2) Mike McHugh (2) Carolyn Broderick (4) Jill Cook (4) Marian Stewart (4)

Goldmark Cup vs USA (incoming tour)

Australia	68	def	USA	63
Australia	62	def	USA	51
Australia	70	def	USA	67
USA	56	def	Australia	47
USA	71	def	Australia	53

Tully Bevilaqua (3) Allison Cook (5) Rohanee Cox (5) Kristi Harrower (5) Jo Hill (5) Lauren Jackson (5) Annie La Fleur (2) Robyn Maher (Capt) (5) Shelley Sandie (5) Rachael Sporn (5) Gina Stevens (5) Penny Taylor (2) Michele Timms (2) Jenny Whittle (5). Officials: Tom Maher (5) Carrie Graf (5) Jan Stirling (3) Lori Chizik (1) Phil Brown (2) Mike McHugh (2) Carolyn Broderick (5) Jill Cook (5) Marian Stewart (5)

MEN 22 AND UNDER

Event	Games Won	Lost	H	A
2nd Oceania Tournament * 5	4	1		x

2nd Oceania Tournament (New Caledonia)

Australia	66	def	Tahiti	43
Australia	76	def	Fiji	39
Australia	105	def	American Samoa	55
New Zealand	69	def	Australia	59
Australia	72	def	Tahiti	29

3rd Place

* This was an ITC team representing Australia

Joshua Morgan (5) Luke Osborne (5) Adrian Crow (5) Wesley Pate (5) Kane Riley-Henderson (5) Allan Swystun (5) Phillip Benn (5) Matthew Cook (5) Martin Zumstein (5) John Philip (5) Officials: Peter Buckle (5) Jack Thomas (5)

JUNIOR MEN

Event	Games Won	Lost	H	A
Oceania Championship	2	2	0	x x
Pre Albert Schweitzer Games	2	2	0	x
Albert Schweitzer Tournament	7	6	1	x

Oceania Championship - World Qualifications (Adelaide)

Australia	88	def	New Zealand	40
Australia	101	def	New Zealand	53

David Andersen (2) Stephen Black (2) Andrew Latimer (2) Jonathon Lee (2) Andrew Looke (2) Adrian Majstrovich (2) Andrew Rice (2) Kurt Russell (2) Bradley Sheridan (2) Luke Spencer-Gardner (2). Officials: Gordon McLeod (2) Frank Arsego (2) Mark Watkins (2) Stephen Evans (2) Bob McGugan (2)

Pre Albert Schweitzer Games (Germany)

Australia	85	def	USC Heidelberg	83
Australia	113	def	China	61

Albert Schweitzer Tournament (Germany)

Australia	77	def	Croatia	57
Australia	79	def	France	76
Australia	79	def	Israel	75
Australia	64	def	Slovenia	50
Australia	89	def	USA	80
Australia	60	def	Turkey	46
Spain	82	def	Australia	80

2nd Place

David Andersen (9) Stephen Black (9) Justin Brown (9) Andrew Coulter (9) Andrew Latimer (9) Jonathon Lee (9) Andrew Looke (9) Adrian Majstrovich (6) Andrew Rice (9) Kurt Russell (9) Bradley Sheridan (9) Luke Spencer-Gardner (9). Officials: Frank Arsego (9) Richard Orlick (9) Stephen Evans (9) Bob McGugan (9).



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