



# MONTHLY MEMO

## February 2020

HAPPY New Year to all and what a very happy start to 2020 it has been for Newcastle Basketball with plans well underway on our new stadium.

Prior to Christmas we appointed Catalyst as our project managers after receiving some very impressive proposals from five local companies.

The Board and management of Newcastle Basketball have made a commitment to use local companies where possible for the entire project as we firmly believe that world class capability exists right here in the Hunter.

We have commenced a design and construct phase with Baker Kavanagh Architects (BKA) who have offices in Sydney, Newcastle and Byron Bay.

Our funding agreement has been signed, sealed and delivered so we are all systems go to deliver a historic part of the Hunter sporting landscape, hopefully by the end of 2021.

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Lake Macquarie City Council and representatives from the state government's Office of Sport have been incredibly supportive in getting this project moving.

It took a while to get from the budget announcement in June last year to starting the process, but since then all parties are to be commended on their desire to see this incredible facility come to fruition.

For those not up to speed it will be located on LMCC community land behind Hillsborough Primary School, between Waratah Avenue and the Inner-City By-Pass.

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Squeezing everyone into our existing stadium is becoming increasingly difficult and will be even more so following the announcement that Newcastle Basketball was again the No.1 Aussie Hoops program in NSW in 2019.

Aussie Hoops is the Basketball Australia approved entry level program and once again we have the largest participation numbers in the state and in the top-10 associations nationally.

In a bid to ease the pressure on Thursday nights our Rookies comps will be split between Under-10s on Thursday afternoons and the new Under-8s competition being played on Saturday mornings from 8.30am.

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The Newcastle junior representative teams have been selected and our senior Newcastle Hunters teams are taking shape heading into the rep season starting in March.

Newcastle managed to win three state titles last year in under-18 girls, Youth Women (under-22) and Open Women which was a remarkable feat.

The association was rewarded with the George Thompson Memorial Award for Best Female Development Program in the state.

Our championship-winning women's team were crowned NSW Senior Team of the Year and legendary volunteer Dhana Davidson also received recognition from BNSW.