

## **SBA President's Christmas Message**

SBA Community,

2019 has been an eventful year for the SBA and I would like to thank all of you for your support this year as we have transitioned and continue to transform into the basketball association of choice for our community.

This year we have seen the continued positive growth in participation across our domestic basketball programs. In addition, we have had strong and developing performances from our junior girls and boys teams in the representative (Sabres) program and the continued rise in popularity of our senior representative program. Our focus on the development of our home-grown youth coupled with a blend of player experience equates to a very positive outlook for our men's and women's Youth League and NBL1 teams.

Our CEO, Craig Weir, Head Coaches and Operational team have done an outstanding job for the SBA this year as they work towards achieving our vision of being a "recognised and respected sporting association that is the destination of choice for basketball in our region". Thank you all for your commitment and hard work.

Thank you also to our team of Referees and Referee Supervisors, who have really stepped up and supported the Association while we appointed a new Referee Advisor this year.

To all our Coaches, Team Managers, Parents and Volunteers, our Association could not survive without all your efforts and support of our programs, and we sincerely thank you for the time and contribution you make. And of course, to all our players, across domestic, representative, senior and adult competitions, you are the lifeblood of the Association and we thank you for your participation, dedication and enthusiasm.

Thank you to our 12 Domestic Club Presidents and their Committee Members, and our SBA Life Members for your passion and commitment to the SBA. The success of our Association is in large part to your contribution and we thank you for the opportunity to serve you and continue to grow and improve our Association moving forward.

I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of our past Board members and thank them for their service to the Association and welcome our new Board members. The Board remains committed to supporting our Vision and Mission and partnering with all our community stakeholders to realise our goals. We thank Bayside City Council for all their support to date by continuing to assist us in securing the development of our new four courts and maintain our existing stadium at Tulip Street.

On that note and to finish the year off on a high, last night I presented to the Bayside City Council our updated funding model for the four new courts at Tulip Street. I am pleased to report that the Council unanimously approved our proposal and we are now through to the final stage of funding approvals.

Our focus in 2020 and beyond will be dedicated to progressing the SBA's Strategy with its five priorities of People & Culture; Governance; Participation & Pathways; Communication & Engagement; and Facilities & Infrastructure (including the four new courts).

I am excited for the year ahead and believe it will be a significant and positive year in the growth and development of our sport locally.

On behalf of the Board I wish you all a safe and restful festive season and a very happy New Year. We are looking forward to 2020 and all the possibilities it brings.

Phil McFarlane



SBA President