



HELPING HOOPS

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

PHOTO: ADAM MCKAY



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ABOUT HELPING HOOPS

Helping Hoops is an independent charity running free basketball programs for over 1,000 underprivileged children. Over 450 sessions per year benefit children and young people of all abilities aged 7 to 21.

As a charity, Helping Hoops is not solely focused on improving skills, but also uses basketball to instill values that benefit children in their lives outside of sport.

Children attending Helping Hoops programs have an intellectual disability or special needs, are from a migrant or refugee background, are living on inner-city high-rise public housing estates, or are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

Helping Hoops aims to build self esteem, provide a sense of belonging and community, aid social cohesion, instil discipline, develop goal setting and leadership skills, and promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

BY THE NUMBERS



400+
PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS



120+
ACTIVE
VOLUNTEERS



20,000+
SOCIAL
MEDIA
FOLLOWERS



450+
SESSIONS
EVERY
YEAR



29%
FEMALE
PARTICIPANTS



\$160,000+
IN
DONATIONS
AND
FUNDRAISING



\$1,300+
EVERY MONTH
FROM
HELPING
HOOPS
MEMBERS



170+
PARTICIPANTS
IN THE 2017
24 HOUR
CHARITY
SHOOTOUT



2,400+
VOLUNTEER
CONTACT
HOURS

HELPING HOOPS VALUES

“Responsibility is the willingness to be accountable for our choices and actions. Others can depend on us to do what we say we will do and to give our best effort.”

We are always thinking of new ways to use basketball to instil positive values and achieve social outcomes. Opportunistic teachings happen throughout our programs, however in 2017 we sought to bring more structure and consistency to these teachings by introducing *Helping Hoops Values*. Our coaches decided on four key values to focus on through the year which were allocated to a school term. We are happy to share the below definitions, which were developed by Coach Nima with inspirations from the Virtues Project.

1. Courage

Courage transforms fear into determination, is bravery in the face of doubt. It is embracing life fully, without holding back, doing what is right even when it is difficult or not enjoyable. When we are tempted to give up, courage supports us to take the next step. It allows us to face challenges with confidence. Courage opens us up to new challenges and possibilities, and gives us the strength to sacrifice for what we love. At times we need courage to accept the truth, to admit and pick ourselves up after a mistake, ready to make amends and try again.

2. Respect

Respect is an attitude of honouring ourselves and others as people of value. We treat others with dignity. Everyone has the right to expect respect. We show respect by speaking and acting with courtesy. When we respect others

as we would like to be respected, we raise the level of trust and peace in our relationships. We can do this when we stop and think how our actions might affect other people.

3. Determination

Determination is the power of intent and commitment required to achieve our dreams. It is the strength of will to act with resolve. We focus our energy and efforts on a task and stick with it until we meet our goal. Determination is the commitment to follow through, until we accomplish our purpose. Even when difficulties arise, and things don't come easy, we keep on keeping on. If one path doesn't work, we try another way. We don't allow ourselves to get distracted, disappointed, or go off track. We complete the tasks we choose to do. With determination, we can succeed.

4. Responsibility

Responsibility is the willingness to be accountable for our choices and actions. Others can depend on us to do what we say we will do and to give our best effort. We take on what is ours to do with commitment and reliability. It is important to figure out what responsibility belongs to us, and what belongs to others. If we make mistakes, we have the courage to change for the better and try and offer solutions for progress instead of making excuses.



PHOTO: NICOLE REED

OMAR COLES

Omar is a native of Cleveland, Ohio who attended the University of Toledo before playing overseas in Canada. Omar has five years of experience in the US Navy which instilled values such as discipline and work ethic; values he now emphasises at Helping Hoops.



PHOTO: ADAM McKAY

STEVE BACASH

Steve began with Helping Hoops in 2012, where he volunteered at our Richmond and North Melbourne programs. He built up his skills and took over as head coach of both programs in 2016. Steve is known for his community focus, attention to detail and strong relationship building skills, and has become a pillar of the Helping Hoops coaching team.

RENEE CLARKE

Renee started playing at 12 in Queensland and represent her state in national titles. She has run successful basketball camps for children as well as working within the NBL arena. Renee has a strong passion for engaging young women from multicultural backgrounds and giving them the same opportunities afforded to their male peers.

COACHES

NIMA SOBHANI

Born and raised in Japan, Nima has also lived in Canada, China, and the Pacific Islands before moving to Australia in 2008. Basketball has been one of the main constants in Nima's life. A teacher-educator and PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne, Nima has coached the Yarra Wild Beasts of the South Sudanese Australian National Basketball Association, and has experience as an assistant coach of the Collingwood All-Stars Big V men's team.



PHOTO: NICOLE REED



PHOTO: ADAM McKAY



PHOTO: TIM O'CONNOR

BEN SHEWRY

Attica restaurant's Ben Shewry continues to give his time and energy to Helping Hoops through his annual Cook for Kids dinner and his ongoing participation in the 24 Hour Charity Shootout. Ben always has our back and is extremely proactive in his support.



PHOTO: ADAM MCKAY

CHRIS ANSTEY

Chris is one of Australia's greatest players, having played in the NBA, represented Australia at two Olympics and winning three championships and two MVP awards in the NBL. Chris is a keen supporter of the 24 Hour Charity Shootout and giving young people from diverse backgrounds an opportunity to access all levels of basketball.

CHRIS GOULDING

Chris plays for our partners at Melbourne United and has also represented Australia at the Rio Olympics. He has produced his own CG43 T-shirts with proceeds to Helping Hoops. Chris is a regular at our Prahran program and keen supporter of the 24 Hour Charity Shootout where he is a favourite among the Helping Hoops kids and supporters.

AMBASSADORS

TEGAN CUNNINGHAM

Tegan is a former WNBL player for the Melbourne Boomers and Adelaide Lightning, and a championship winner with the Dandenong Rangers. She has previously been a member of the Australian Opals squad and has been active at the program level having visited and coached at many Helping Hoops sessions. Tegan is about to embark on an AFLW football career with the Melbourne Demons.



PHOTO: ALAN BARBER



PHOTO: NICOLE REED

REPORTS FROM OUR PEOPLE



PHOTO: ADAM McKAY FEATURING CHOL FROM HELPING HOOPS CROXTON

ADAM McKAY - Executive Director

"We are a community of like-minded people who give our time, energy and passion to ensure no one in society is left behind. And we have a hell of a lot of fun doing it!"

It can be hard to articulate just how much Helping Hoops means to our community. In my position, I am extremely fortunate to see all aspects of the charity. I witness the social outcomes achieved by our coaches at programs, the fun and laughter of kids at the 450-plus sessions we run for free each year, the hard work and dedication by our people behind-the-scenes, the collaborative effort of those who come together for events, and the strategic planning and direction that comes from our committee of management. Helping Hoops is so much more than just a charity giving kids opportunities in basketball. We are a community of like-minded people who give our time, energy and passion to ensure no one in society is left behind... and we have a hell of a lot of fun doing it!

On the business end, and let me assure you that running a charity is a lot like running a business; we have brought on even more partners, hit our fundraising goals, and refined our processes and systems to ensure Helping Hoops is healthier than ever before.

In relation to programs, it has been incredibly rewarding to see us expand by two locations in 2016-17, and to now have a hectic schedule of 10 programs each week. I say hectic in a positive way, as we love and embrace being as busy as we can.

Helping Hoops has always prided itself on doing a lot with a little. We are still a small grassroots organisation, but we are punching



PHOTO: NICOLE REED

well above our weight. And the most exciting part is, we are just getting started. Our first 10 programs took us almost eight years, but I can guarantee our next 10 will not take this long. The systems, people and momentum are all in place. We just need to keep working to resource this growth, and I encourage all of you to jump on board and be part of the next phase of Helping Hoops. Become a member, get your company involved, volunteer. Invest in us as we continue to invest in kids, and our community will benefit as a whole.

I am incredibly fortunate to work with some of the most inspiring and supportive people on earth. Coaches, volunteers, staff, committee, partners and sponsors all have my heartfelt thanks. Let's keep building together.

DAVID KOOPMANS - President

“Our objectives as an organisation are simple: We’re here to provide disadvantaged kids with free basketball programs so that they can learn, get fit and have fun in the process.”

2016-2017 was a successful year for Helping Hoops. We achieved the goals we set through the efforts of literally hundreds of people. So what does “success” mean for us?

Our objectives as an organisation are simple: We’re here to provide disadvantaged kids with free basketball programs so that they can learn, get fit and have fun in the process. So at it’s most basic, success is measured in the number of kids we can reach and the outcomes we achieve with those kids.

This year we set out to maintain the programs we had and add two more. We’ve achieved this with the addition of Prahran and Power for older girls, while we moved our Sunshine program to Werribee, responding to changing community demand. We consistently receive positive feedback on the program results.

Our ability to secure funds is crucial to the ongoing success of the charity, in particular since we don’t receive government support. We rely on charitable grants, fundraising, donations and sponsorship to fund the existing and new programs. Through the generous support of many individuals and organisations, I’m pleased to report that we find ourselves in a stable financial position. However, our future relies on the generosity of others, so we’re never complacent about this and we hope for the continued support of the community. In the year ahead, we’re keen to again grow our reach and for that we will have



PHOTO: ALAN BARBER

to invest in our infrastructure and people to make this happen.

I’d like to take a moment to recognise the people behind the organisation. Apart from delivering the programs, there is so much work done to keep Helping Hoops going, much of it behind the scenes. A big thank you to our staff, coaches, volunteers, fundraisers, donors, sponsors and fans for the ongoing commitment you’ve shown us.

We have an important purpose which, as a Helping Hoops community, we share and treasure. Let’s keep reaching for the stars as there is still so much to be done.

OMAR COLES - Coach

"This year, I've discovered that not only has our impact been positive, but it has also been heartfelt and more magical than I had ever considered."

This past year for Helping Hoops has been very interesting to say the least. It has been quite colourful in a myriad of ways! It seems that the number of younger kids wanting to participate has jumped up considerably. This is truly magnificent I think because we are peaking the interest of children.

I believe that the goal of Helping Hoops is to create, maintain, and uphold a thriving community while continuing to make an impact with the older kids and remain constant in their lives. We will indeed influence the younger siblings to do the same. We become part of their learning, their growth, and ultimately part of their journey into the future. As the older kids join clubs that take up most of their training time, the younger kids are excitedly entering the realm of our Helping Hoops regime looking to participate and blaze a new trail for themselves.

This year, I've seen more participation from parents than any year prior. Most of the time the only correspondence from the parents are the signed permission slips, or the parents yelling from outside of the court area for their child to come straight home after the session. This year, I've had face-to-face moments, and shaken hands with parents while having a plethora of personal conversations about what our organisation is doing for them, the household, and our community. It is a great feeling to know that we are making a positive difference in the lives of so many.



PHOTO: NICOLE REED

We often walk away from a situation never knowing how much of an impact that we may or may not have had upon the experience of others. This year, I've discovered that not only has our impact been positive, but it has also been heartfelt and more magical than I had ever considered.

RENEE CLARKE - Coach

“Allowing our girls to feel like they not only belong, but can prosper in that elite basketball environment is, for me, what it is all about.”

The last 12 months of Helping Hoops have given me more insight into the bigger picture of what we do and more sense of community than I ever could have imagined. Like any community, there is a lot going on at all times, so here are a few highlights for me.

My main role is getting girls involved in the programs, which isn't that much of a challenge when all the programs are such fun. Luckily enough, through a wonderful partnership with the the Melbourne Boomers of the WNBL, we were fortunate to select four of our female participants to attend a six week coaching camp, an opportunity that they would surely have missed would it not have been for Helping Hoops. Allowing our girls to feel like they not only belong, but can prosper in that elite basketball environment is, for me, what it is all about.

We moved our program for Sunshine to the ever growing western suburb of Werribee. From the very beginning, we had in excess of 30 kids. The program is energetic, fast paced and ever-changing. The kids bring the very best of themselves to the court each week, and it's amazing to watch them improve, not only with basketball, but with their ability to build relationships with people they may not get to in the “real world.” How cool that Helping Hoops offers them that opportunity week in, week out without them really even noticing. I have a huge soft spot for Werribee. There are big things to come from this program for sure. Watch this space.



PHOTO: NICOLE REED

We obviously wouldn't be able to do what we do if we didn't have such strong and involved volunteers. They are the backbone of the organisation, and the reason why we are able to build programs so quickly and be in the community doing what we love.

I am looking forward to the next 12 months of Helping Hoops and what we can achieve in that time. I'm sure there will be trials and tribulations, just like any other organisation, but one thing I know for sure is, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

STEVE BACASH - Coach

“These experiences are not just tackled by me. Helping Hoops has a great team of volunteers, who in every program provide invaluable support to these kids and myself.”

2017 has been challenging yet rewarding. Going into my second year as head coach, I endeavoured to learn how to sustain and create environments that generate personal learning, basketball fun, and strong community over my four programs. It hasn't always been with success, but going through the necessary experiences to become and be what these programs need has spawned great personal growth.

This year has provided the opportunity to open up shop in Prahran. Prahran has been a unique situation, with the program being run on a 20 x 10 metre court in an enclosed playground, surrounded by multiple distractions including swings, a trampoline, a tree house, open kitchen and freshly cooked meals. I learned very early not to treat this like any other program but to ride the wave and learn as I go. This experience has helped not only my coaching in Prahran but across all programs.

North Melbourne has provided unique challenges this year but is a program worth fighting for. North Melbourne has been somewhat underdeveloped in the wider community, and kids have found themselves attracted to trouble as kids do when they feel bored. For about a year and half, we've actively welcomed the so-called “trouble makers” of the community. After a year of tug of war, the program is heading into a great place, and the kids participate as if it's their program to respect and own.



PHOTO: ADAM MCKAY

These experiences are not just tackled by me. Helping Hoops has a great team of volunteers who in every program provide invaluable support to these kids and myself.

I'm about to head into my sixth year at Helping Hoops, and I look forward to continue building on what we have with Adam McKay and the team.

NIMA SOBHANI - Coach

“Everyone is encouraged to speak, to ask questions, to mentor and teach those who are younger or less experienced.”

This past year for Helping Hoops has been a genuine success. While the first few sessions of our Future program in 2017 saw on average around 10 participants, by the time the word had gotten out and positive feedback was starting to spread, we were regularly having sessions with between 20-25 showing up each week. Some brought their friends, others heard about the program through word of mouth or social media, and all wanted to see what we were about. The majority happily continue onwards with us and remain an important part of our program to this day.

In terms of some key areas of on-court focus, we have tried to move away from merely working on individual skill development (ball handling, shooting, etc) and have tried instead to work on and incorporate these skills in team-oriented drills. This allows us to improve on our awareness of offensive spacing, importance of ball movement, team/help defence and rotations, communication on both sides of the ball, and in general building a stronger IQ on the court. This is of particular benefit as many of our participants are starting to develop formidable skills, but don't yet have opportunities to play at a high level of organised basketball.

A pillar of Helping Hoops Future this year - beyond the four core values we share with all other programs - has been the emphasis on building leadership capacity amongst all participants. Everyone is encouraged to speak, to ask questions, to mentor and teach



PHOTO: ADAM McKAY

those who are younger or less experienced, and to communicate clearly and confidently. A large number of our participants have made incredible strides in this regard.

Finally, some other highlights include the amazing selection of quality guest coaches who have graced our sessions over the past year and shared some great lessons and insights with our kids, and the *Third Man Up* charity tournament in which we entered a team comprised of participants and coaches from Helping Hoops Future with all proceeds going to support Helping Hoops.

A wholehearted thank you to everyone who helps make Helping Hoops the great organisation it is, year after year

OUR PROGRAMS



PHOTO: ADAM MCKAY AT HELPING HOOPS FITZROY

HELPING HOOPS BROADMEADOWS

“Coach Omar has enjoyed his first full year at the helm and has honed his communication and overall coaching skills to better cater for children with special needs.”

Helping Hoops Broadmeadows is a free basketball program for kids with an intellectual disability living in Melbourne’s north-west. The program runs every Tuesday from 3 to 4pm and 5 to 6pm and is overseen by coach Omar Coles.

The program is in its seventh year and has again seen new faces join the contingent of regulars. Coach Omar has enjoyed his first full year at the helm and has honed his communication and overall coaching skills to better cater for children with special needs. Omar’s years of experience across our multicultural and community programs have given him an extensive skillset to call upon, and the addition of Broadmeadows has in turn aided his coaching ability across his programs as a whole. We are extremely pleased with the strength of Helping Hoops Broadmeadows, and look forward to pushing forward in 2018.

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE FLORA & FRANK LEITH CHARITABLE TRUST



PHOTOS: ADAM MCKAY

HELPING HOOPS CROXTON

“Seeing relationships develop between coaches and children is one of the best parts of Helping Hoops, and Croxton has seen many new friendships form.”

Helping Hoops Croxton is a free basketball program for kids with an intellectual disability living in Melbourne’s north. The program runs every Wednesday from 3 to 4pm and 5 to 6pm and is overseen by coach Steve Bacash.

The program, now in its seventh year, continues to provide an encouraging environment for children with special needs. Coach Steve has completed his first year as head coach and has developed greatly in his communication with the group. Seeing relationships develop between coaches and children is one of the best parts of Helping Hoops, and Croxton has seen many new friendships form. Older participants have moved on after completing schooling, which opens up opportunities for younger children to take their place, and we have seen many new faces come through the program in 2017. Our second oldest program is in good hands.

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE MARIAN & EH FLACK TRUST



PHOTOS: ADAM MCKAY

HELPING HOOPS DANDENONG

"The development of the younger group is thanks to the nurturing and patience shown by Coach Omar and the volunteers to those still learning the game."

Helping Hoops Dandenong is a free, multicultural basketball program for kids living in Melbourne's south-east. The program runs every Wednesday from 4:30 to 7pm and is overseen by coach Omar Coles.

The program, now in its sixth year, has continued to develop the younger children while retaining older participants. The development of the younger group is thanks to the nurturing and patience shown by Coach Omar and the volunteers to those still learning the game. The ability to remain relevant to the older group and continue their relationship with Helping Hoops well into their high school years is a tremendous achievement, and has made this second session at Helping Hoops Dandenong similar to our Future program. We look forward to a huge 2018 at Helping Hoops Dandenong.

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE JACK BROCKHOFF FOUNDATION



PHOTOS: ADAM MCKAY

HELPING HOOPS FITZROY

“A strength of Helping Hoops Fitzroy has been its high engagement with young ladies, who make up 38% of participants.”

Helping Hoops Fitzroy is a free, multicultural basketball program for kids living on the Atherton Gardens public housing estate. The program runs every Monday from 5 to 7pm and is overseen by coach Omar Coles.

The program is in its sixth year and continues to provide a strong sense of community and a place where children feel they belong on a weekly basis. A strength of Helping Hoops Fitzroy has been its high engagement with young ladies, who make up 38 per cent of participants. 2017 has continued to see many younger participants join, ensuring the future of the program is strong. Many of these younger children have waited patiently on the sidelines for their opportunity, and we are delighted that they have grown to the point where they can participate and make Helping Hoops Fitzroy a dynamic and fun place to be every Monday.

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY GANDEL PHILANTHROPY



PHOTOS: ADAM McKAY

HELPING HOOPS FUTURE

“Helping Hoops Future has shown that if you expect great things of people, they will ultimately step up and achieve at a high level.”

Helping Hoops Future is a free, multicultural basketball program for older participants, having come from our community programs and now desiring more challenging and targeted experiences. The program runs every Wednesday from 6 to 8pm and is overseen by coach Nima Sobhani. Coach Nick Garcia also holds a Sunday gym session to supplement on-court activities.

The program is in its second year, and has taken a giant leap in terms of the expectations set for participants. Coach Nima taking over at the start of 2017 has been the driving force behind this growth, and the group should be congratulated for their buy in. Helping Hoops Future has shown if you expect great things of people, they will ultimately step up and achieve at a high level. The program has set a new benchmark for respect, discipline and hard work, and we look forward to seeing what else we can achieve through Future in 2018.

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE NEWSBOYS FOUNDATION



PHOTOS: ADAM MCKAY

HELPING HOOPS NORTH MELBOURNE

“Coach Steve wished to see the older members of the community, many of whom exhibit challenging behaviour, included as to curb the growing social issues in the area.”

Helping Hoops North Melbourne is a free, multicultural basketball program for kids living on the North Melbourne public housing estate. The program runs every Friday from 4 to 6pm and is overseen by coach Steve Bacash.

The program, now in its fifth year, has seen a shift in dynamic in 2017 with many older participants making the choice to take part. Coach Steve wished to see the older members of the community, many of whom exhibit challenging behaviour, included as to curb the growing social issues in the area. This shift has not been at the expense of the younger participants, however, who continue to come each Friday and show their growth on a regular basis. Well done to all involved at Helping Hoops North Melbourne, and we look forward to another fantastic year ahead.

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE BENNELONG FOUNDATION



HELPING HOOPS POWER

“The camaraderie of the group is immediately evident in the gym, and all involved should be proud of what has been achieved in such a short time.”

Helping Hoops Power is a free, multicultural basketball program for older female participants, having come from our community programs and now desiring a more challenging and targeted experience. The program runs every Friday from 7 to 9pm and is overseen by coach Renee Clarke.

The program is our newest, having launched in September 2017, however has been built on months of work by Coach Renee. These pre-existing relationships made Power a huge success from day one, and a place where our older female participants feel supported in an environment that is their's to take ownership of. The camaraderie of the group is immediately evident in the gym, and all involved should be proud of what has been achieved in such a short time.

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE VICTORIAN WOMEN'S BENEVOLENT TRUST & THE GROSVENOR FOUNDATION



HELPING HOOPS PRAHRAN

“We have been encouraged by the start to Helping Hoops Prahran, but are also mindful that it is unlike anything we have undertaken in the past.”

Helping Hoops Prahran is a free, multicultural basketball program for kids living on the Prahran public housing estate. The program runs every Saturday from 1 to 3pm and is overseen by Coach Steve Bacash.

The program is new to the schedule having launched in May 2017, however Helping Hoops has a long history in the Prahran area, having collaborated with Stonnington Youth Services on events for local children in public housing. We have waited for the right time to launch a weekly program to consolidate on the relationships we have built in the area, and this opportunity finally came in 2017. We have been encouraged by the start to Helping Hoops Prahran, but are also mindful that it is unlike anything we have undertaken in the past. We have an excellent core group and are building towards making Prahran another strong public housing program.

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE CITY OF STONNINGTON



PHOTOS: ADAM MCKAY

HELPING HOOPS RICHMOND

“Community, support, friendship and trust are all words that come to mind when thinking of Helping Hoops Richmond, and we could not imagine our week without it.”

Helping Hoops Richmond is a free, multicultural basketball program for kids living on the Richmond public housing estate. The program runs every Thursday from 4 to 6pm and is overseen by Coach Steve Bacash.

The program, now in its fifth year, is one of our most dynamic and colourful thanks to a cohort of amazing participants and volunteers. Community, support, friendship and trust are all words that come to mind when thinking of Helping Hoops Richmond, and we could not imagine our week without it. Richmond has enjoyed one of strongest and most consistent team of volunteers assisting Coach Steve, and we see this as the cornerstone for the health of the program. Although Richmond can always improve, it has become the standard by which we judge success, and we are looking forward to again doing great things in 2018.

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE JOHN & BETTY LAIDLAW LEGACY



HELPING HOOPS WERRIBEE

"We must go where the demand takes us, and our willingness to relocate the program to accommodate growing community needs is something we are proud of."

Helping Hoops Werribee is a free, multicultural basketball program for kids living in Melbourne's outer-west. The program runs every Friday from 5 to 7pm and is overseen by Coach Omar Coles.

The program, now in its first year, is the result of the relocation of Helping Hoops Sunshine, which ran from 2011, in response to the community's increasing move from the area to Werribee and the surrounding suburbs. Although we were initially sad to leave Sunshine, we were quickly reassured that the move was the right choice by the immediate impact made in Werribee. We must go where the demand takes us, and our willingness to relocate the program to accommodate growing community needs is something we are proud of. The program has already achieved so much, and we look forward to what 2018 brings in Werribee.

THIS PROGRAM IS CURRENTLY SEEKING FUNDING



PHOTOS: ADAM MCKAY

YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 1 2016 - OCTOBER 31 2017



PHOTO: ADAM MCKAY FEATURING MANYANG OF HELPING HOOPS FITZROY

BEN SHEWRY & FRIENDS COOK FOR KIDS

“In total, \$89,720 was raised by guests, who not only paid for the unique experience but also dug deep to bid for donated items across three silent auctions.”

August 2016 saw one of the greatest line ups of Australian chefs teamed up to cook a special dinner to raise money for Helping Hoops. Ben Shewry & Friends Cook for Kids saw Neil Perry (Rockpool Group), Maggie Beer (Cook, Author, Food Producer), Dan Hunter (Brae), Michael James (Tivoli Road Bakery), Peter Gilmore (Quay & Bennelong), Andrew McConnell (Cutler & Co.), Analiese Gregory (Bar Brose) and Tad Lombardo (Cioccolato Lombardo) join Ben Shewry to cook for a seven course meal for 57 guests at Attica Restaurant in Melbourne.

In total, \$89,720 was raised by guests, who not only paid for the unique dining experience but also dug deep to bid for donated items across three silent auctions. The evening was not just about great food; Ben teamed up with our Executive Director Adam McKay to speak to the room about their experiences of Helping Hoops and give guests a first-hand insight into the work the charity undertakes. Artwork was on display throughout Attica featuring portraits of participants and action shots from across all Helping Hoops programs.

Helping Hoops coaches, staff, volunteers and participants were in attendance and entertained guests with a basketball shooting game in the Attica garden. Prizes were on offer for those able to score baskets on the mini hoop. Despite the mixed skill level, guests enjoyed the opportunity to have a shot

and chat with coaches about their programs and work within Helping Hoops.

The chefs, who generously donated their time to make the event a huge success, were given a taste of Helping Hoops thanks to a special session that was organised for them at Helping Hoops Richmond the day prior to the dinner. This was a great chance to get to know some of the kids that would benefit from the event and get a sense of why Ben Shewry is so passionate about Helping Hoops. Many chefs openly admitted they did not fully understand the significance of Helping Hoops prior to the event, but saw just how basketball can be used to positively impact the lives of underprivileged children.

The success of Ben Shewry & Friends Cook for Kids is a testament to the hard work of Ben, Kylie from Attica, and the dozens of people who worked behind the scenes to make the event the best experience it could be for guests. Thank you to all who attended, donated, volunteered and contributed in 2016, and we look forward to doing it all again soon.



BEN SHWERY & FRIENDS COOK FOR KIDS. ALL PHOTOS: STEVEN WRIGHT



THANK YOU SANDRA, HELLO TEUILA

"It has been a pleasure getting to know Teuila, and we feel her addition to the team is exactly what Helping Hoops needs as we embark on a period of growth going forward."

2017 saw a big change in our behind the scenes staff, with Operations Manager Sandra Tay moving on from Helping Hoops after accepting a job offer following completion of her studies.

Sandra started with Helping Hoops in 2014, and has been working part-time while she completed a Masters of Public Policy. Like all current paid staff, Sandra began as a volunteer, but quickly showed she had an aptitude for logistical and operational tasks, which came at a time where Helping Hoops was expanding and required more help behind the scenes. Sandra particularly excelled in event management, and was instrumental in the growth of the 24 Hour Charity Shootout.

Sandra was a much loved member of the team, and we are incredibly proud of her for what she has accomplished at Helping Hoops. We are keen to see what she will achieve in her new role as Youth Project Officer at YMCA Victoria.

Thank you Sandra. Your Helping Hoops family is cheering you on.

Sandra's departure meant a new member was to join our team, and that person ended up being Teuila Reid. Teuila brings a diverse set of skills and experience to Helping Hoops. Teuila's professional background has been in government administration, learning and development. She has worked with children

and families all over the world in the refugee, re-settlement and immigration space. After leaving the government after some 15 years, Teuila wished to contribute specifically to children in a community-focused, hands-on way.

We were incredibly impressed with Teuila's people skills, attention to details, passion and problem solving ability, and it is no surprise that she has made an immediate impact within Helping Hoops. Teuila is charged with managing the dozens of volunteers that make our programs thrive each week, as well as supporting Helping Hoops with logistical, events and administrative tasks.

It has been a pleasure getting to know Teuila, and we feel her addition to the team is exactly what Helping Hoops needs as we embark on a period of growth going forward.



OUTGOING OPERATIONS MANAGER SANDRA TAY. PHOTO: ADAM McKAY



NEWLY APPOINTED OPERATIONS COORDINATOR TEUILA REID. PHOTO: ADAM McKAY

MELBOURNE UNITED

“The majority of these kids would not have the chance to go to an NBL game if it was not for the generosity of United, and we applaud the club for their community focus.”

Melbourne United has been a sporting partner of Helping Hoops since 2012 (then as the Melbourne Tigers), and the partnership has again enjoyed a great twelve month of 2016/17.

Chris Goulding – Melbourne United’s star local player and a 2016 Olympic Games representative – officially became a Hoops Ambassador in November 2016 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to our organisation. Chris has been a great contributor to the 24 Hour Charity Shootout as he financially supported the event by launching his own range of CG43 T-shirts, and has also been a regular visitor to our Prahran and Richmond programs where his presence is a great source of inspiration for our kids.

Chris held the record at the 24 Hour Charity Shootout for four years, shooting 343 free throws in 15 minutes. This was surpassed in 2017 to now stand at 348, and we look forward to seeing how Chris responds to the challenge next year.

Finally, along with Chris, Melbourne United has ensured our kids have access to basketball at the top level in Australia through providing tickets to all home games. This sees approximately 50 Helping Hoops participants attend games each season, and provides our coaches with a fantastic incentive to reward those showing the values that we place an emphasis on in our programs. The majority of these kids would not have the chance to go to

an NBL game if it was not for the generosity of United, and we applaud the club for their community focus.

We have also enjoyed another successful campaign in partnership with Sportsmart that saw over \$10,000 raised for Helping Hoops on the back of a \$40 donation by the retailer for every three-pointer made by United players throughout the season. Although we will be changing the campaign at the club’s request in the 2017-18 season, we would like to thank them for their support to date.

Finally, along with Chris Goulding, United have readily offered access to players for events and appearances, the most notable of which being the 24 Hour Charity Shootout. 2017 saw David Barlow join Chris at the event and take part in the Celebrity All Star Game alongside dozens of excited kids from our programs.

Melbourne United have been a big supporter of Helping Hoops over an extended period, and we look forward to a long lasting partnership in 2018 and beyond.

VISITORS & EXCURSIONS

“Being up close to the players as they raced out in front of a cheering crowd was a special moment for us all, and something we will not soon forget.”

It was a busy 12-month period for welcoming guests to Helping Hoops, as well as getting out and visiting new places with our kids and community.

Helping Hoops Richmond welcomed the Oklahoma State University (OSU) women's basketball team in August 2017. OSU and Helping Hoops share a connection through Tegan Cunningham, who has been our ambassador for many years and attended OSU before returning to play in Australia.

The OSU team and coaches helped Coach Steve and the volunteers deliver drills to the group while making many new friends. Everyone was impressed with their positive attitude, energy and willingness to step out of their comfort zone and embrace our community in the limited time we had.

Before leaving to prepare for their game against the Waverley Falcons that evening, many of the OSU players and coaches approached to make cash donations as a token of their support. Although unexpected, these donations were much appreciated and will be used to help make Helping Hoops Richmond even better.

We also made new friends from the US Marines and Navy in August 2017 as they enjoyed their shore leave after a long stint aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard. Two groups visited our Dandenong and Richmond locations and helped with drills while getting

to know our crew. We thank the Marines and Navy for their time and energy, and wish them safe travels and all the best with their future endeavours.

The visit was facilitated by the US Consulate General, and marks the beginning of a new relationship with Helping Hoops that will see even more opportunities for cross-cultural events in the future. Basketball and the USA are inextricably linked, and we look forward to seeing what the friendship brings in the near future.

We were delighted to have the opportunity to take kids from three Helping Hoops programs to a Richmond Tigers game at Etihad Stadium in July 2017, where we formed a guard of honour for the players as they ran out onto the ground. The experience was a unique chance for the kids, with many attending their first ever game of footy. Being up close to the players as they raced out in front of a cheering crowd was a special moment for us all, and something we will not soon forget.



RICHMOND TIGERS GAME. PHOTO: ADAM McKAY



US MARINES VISIT. PHOTO: ADAM McKAY



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY VISIT. PHOTO: ADAM McKAY

BEN SIMMONS GIVES BACK

“Ben and his family generously reached out to Helping Hoops to offer 12 kids from six of our programs the chance to attend the camp, meet Ben, and get a prized photo.”

Melbourne’s own Ben Simmons, who is currently taking the basketball world by storm in the NBA with the Philadelphia 76ers, came home in August to run his very first basketball camp. The event was held at Boroondara Sports Complex and saw approximately one hundred boys and girls enjoy the opportunity to learn from some of Melbourne’s, and the world’s, best coaches.

Ben and his family generously reached out to Helping Hoops to offer 12 kids from six of our programs the chance to attend the camp, meet Ben, and get a prized photo.

The camp, which was hosted by Ben’s father Dave Simmons, was not merely a photo opportunity for all who attended. It gave our kids the chance to learn from Philadelphia 76ers Shooting Coach John Townsend, Ben’s sister and accomplished coach Liv Simmons, as well as local coaching royalty in Brian Vaughns, Lester Strong and Warrick Giddy.

Plans are already being formed for how Helping Hoops and Ben can work together when he visits Melbourne again in 2018, and we would like to thank the family for giving our kids the opportunity to be inspired by one of the world’s best players.



PHOTOS: ADAM MCKAY

NEW APPAREL LINE

“All proceeds from sales go directly into keeping Helping Hoops thriving.”

Helping Hoops has dabbled with T-shirts, hoodies, caps and other items in the past, however has never given enough time or resources into developing and producing a fully fledged apparel line. This changed in 2017 with the release of our brand new line of items, which include long sleeve T-shirts, hoodies, T-shirts, caps, beanies, crew neck jumpers and snapback hats.

The new range, which was designed in collaboration with local screen printers Redwood Press, was launched at this year's 24 Hour Charity Shootout and then released to the wider community via the newly designed Helping Hoops online shop. All proceeds from sales go directly into keeping Helping Hoops thriving.

The new line was also a great excuse to get some of our older participants into the studio to take some photos to show off the range. We have enjoyed including our community in the promotion of the apparel line and feel that they are the perfect representation of who we are as an organisation.



PHOTOS: ADAM MCKAY



HELPING HOOPS PARTICIPANTS SHOWCASE OUR NEW LINE OF APPAREL. PHOTO: ADAM MCKAY

24 HOUR CHARITY SHOOTOUT

"The 24 Hour Charity Shootout is the true definition of teamwork, with hundreds of people coming together to support Helping Hoops."

The sixth 24 Hour Charity Shootout took place in July 2017 at Albert Park College and saw fundraisers of all ages come together to raise \$76,694. The event is based on a simple concept: shooting as many free throws as you can in a chosen 15 minute time period. Collectively, over 170 fundraisers participated and made 23,277 free throws in total, which is the most in Charity Shootout history.

The 24 Hour Charity Shootout is also a festival and chance to bring our community together. Along with non-stop free throws taking up the on-court space, there were activities and events throughout the two-day event, such as a live street art showcase, barbers, arcade games, a photography exhibition, food trucks and a pop-up apparel store selling our new range of Helping Hoops clothing.

One of many highlights throughout the weekend was the Celebrity All Star Game featuring guests Chris Goulding, Ben Shewry, Peter Siddle and David Barlow along with an excited contingent of kids from across our programs. Helping Hoops coaches joined in to provide some much needed play-calling for the four-team tournament, which was ultimately won by Team Goulding and a very proud Coach Nima.

The elusive free throw record, which has stood since 2013, was broken this year, with Nahom beating the previous mark of 343 free throws in 15 minutes held by Chris Goulding. The new score to beat stands at 348, and we look

forward to seeing Chris return to attempt to reclaim his title in 2018.

The 24 Hour Charity Shootout is the true definition of teamwork, with hundreds of people coming together to support Helping Hoops. We would like to thank all the amazing fundraisers, sponsors, volunteers and organisers who made the 2017 Shootout the biggest and best to date. In particular, a big shoutout goes to Chase Basketball for donating the fantastic venue, NA Represents for generously giving all involved their own Shootout T-shirt, Mr Burger and the Brulee Cart for keeping us fed, Never Faded crew for their incredible live street art, Brother Wolf for coming through and giving out some fresh fades, our celebrity guests and Helping Hoops coaches, Sportsmart and Melbourne United for donating showbag items and helping promote the event, Goalrilla for giving away a portable hoop system, Max Events for logistical support and the donation of the inflatable outdoor hoop, and Beyond Rest and the Prince Alfred Hotel for their generous prize donations.



CHRIS GOULDING PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRITY ALL STAR GAME AT THE 24 HOUR CHARITY SHOOTOUT. PHOTO: NICOLE REED



24 HOUR CHARITY SHOOTOUT. PHOTO: ALAN BARBER



24 HOUR CHARITY SHOOTOUT. PHOTO: ASHLEIGH WONG



24 HOUR CHARITY SHOOTOUT. PHOTO: TIM O'CONNOR

RMIT CHARITY SHOOTOUT

“The day-long event also saw 2,555 free throws made by the group as a whole, which was a great effort considering the outdoor conditions.”

Helping Hoops has enjoyed a fantastic relationship with the RMIT Basketball Club since 2014, and in early 2017 we again partnered to run the third RMIT Basketball Club Charity Shootout at the university’s city campus.

The Shootout, which just like our 24 Hour Charity Shootout sees participants shoot as many free throws as they can in 15 minutes while fundraising in the lead up through receiving donations from friends and family, raised over \$1,200 for Helping Hoops and provided a perfect excuse to get together and enjoy catching up with older members as well as welcoming new ones.

The day-long event also saw 2,555 free throws made by the group as a whole, which was a great effort considering the outdoor conditions. Partnerships like this are not only important from a fundraising perspective for our charity, but also build strong relationships with individuals and strengthen our community and reach.

Thanks to Eli, Sam, Michelle and Denver for helping throughout the event, and to the dozens of participants who made 2017’s Shootout another great experience.



PHOTOS: ADAM MCKAY

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

“Basketballs are the tools of our trade, and being able to use the best in the business means our coaches and kids can enjoy the best possible experience at Helping Hoops.”

We were pleased to extend our partnership with Molten in 2017, meaning Helping Hoops will be using Molten basketballs exclusively at our programs for the next three years. The deal was reached with Madison Sport, which manages Molten in Australia, and has been supporting Helping Hoops since 2012.

This latest deal however takes the partnership to a new level and will see a further 210 basketballs donated with a retail value of over \$17,000.

The extended partnership with Molten is timely as it comes during a period of expansion for Helping Hoops. Having in-kind sponsorships for essential items allows our limited funds to be directed into reaching even more kids who can benefit from our programs. Basketballs are the tools of our trade, and being able to use the best in the business means our coaches and kids can enjoy the best possible experience at Helping Hoops.

Scott Besson, Madison Sport Brand Manager, says,

“Molten first became aware of the Helping Hoops program around seven years ago. Since that time, we have been happy to play our small part in supporting the wonderful community programs Helping Hoops have undertaken by providing our basketballs as the tool with which this outstanding independent charity connects with

disadvantaged and disabled children. We are very proud to extend our partnership with Helping Hoops.”

We look forward to continuing to grow Helping Hoops throughout Melbourne thanks to the fantastic community support we enjoy with companies such as Madison Sport.

Melbourne promotional products company Bluegum also came on board in 2017 to support Helping Hoops and our membership campaign. Bluegum has a focus on low environmental impact and also supports a number of social enterprises through a clear community and ethical focus to their business.

Bluegum donated T-shirts to be provided to members who sign up to support Helping Hoops each month through a small donation. The members campaign is vital to the sustainability of our organisation and provides a regular income stream that affords us the stability to look at expanding our programs to engage even more children in need. We thank Bluegum for their support and look forward to working together in 2018 and beyond.



MOLTEN PARTNERSHIP. PHOTO: ADAM MCKAY

SCHOOL HOLIDAY TOURNAMENTS

“These school holiday tournaments provide an excellent opportunity for our coaches and volunteers to consolidate and build on the relationships we enjoy with our kids.”

In the April and September school holidays each year, Helping Hoops runs tournaments for our participants and their communities. These school holiday tournaments provide an excellent opportunity for our coaches and volunteers to consolidate and build on the relationships we enjoy with our kids.

Tournaments take on the format of an extended session, lasting three hours instead of the usual two. Following a warm up, participants are allocated teams and given uniforms. Depending on the size of the group, there can be anywhere from four to six teams. A double-elimination bracket with shortened games means all teams play at least two games, and special rules around passing and sharing ensure more advanced participants help and support the younger ones in their team and learn to be leaders within their community. Prizes are awarded to the winning team and encouragement awards are given to those who exhibit the core Helping Hoops values and show the kind of qualities we emphasise week-in, week-out.

The 2017 school holidays proved our most ambitious to date, with 15 events run over a four week period across our Fitzroy, Dandenong, Richmond, Werribee, North Melbourne, Prahran, Future and Croxton/Broadmeadows locations.

This was the first year we ran tournaments for the Werribee, Prahran and Future programs, and we were extremely pleased with the attendance, attitudes, atmosphere and



PHOTO: ASHLEIGH WONG

general sense of community we found at all three events. From the teamwork of Werribee and Prahran to the competitiveness and athleticism of Future, all events were a great way to spend an afternoon together and become closer through sharing a common activity.

We would like to thank the kids, volunteers, coaches, staff and families that made 2017's school holiday tournaments the biggest and best to date.

THIRD MAN UP TOURNAMENT

“19 teams and 150 players took part in the tournament at Sportlink in Vermont South and raised over \$2,500 for Helping Hoops through entry fees, raffles and donations.”

Third Man Up is a newly formed not for profit raising money for children in need through social and sporting initiatives. Their first event was a charity basketball tournament held on Easter Monday 2017, and Helping Hoops was chosen as the the beneficiary.

19 teams and 150 players took part in the tournament at Sportlink in Vermont South and raised over \$2,500 for Helping Hoops through entry fees, raffles and donations. An invitation was extended to us to enter our own team in the open competition, so we decided to gather members of our Helping Hoops Future program to represent and give all involved a first-hand experience of our work and those who benefit from our programs.

Although Team Helping Hoops did play extremely well, and provide the crowd with plenty of highlights in the form of dunks and blocks, we ultimately lost in the grand final. We do enjoy winning, however the real reason for entering the tournament was to showcase the skills and values of our participants, and we did so in a way that made us extremely proud of the kids and coaches.

We would like to thank Third Man Up and their organising committee for choosing Helping Hoops as an organisation worthy of their efforts. Also thanks to all the players, referees and donors who came together to make the event a huge success and a great way to spend Easter Monday. We also want to acknowledge our kids and coaches from



PHOTO: ADAM McKAY

Helping Hoops Future who represented Helping Hoops extremely well and made the day a great spectacle.

MELBOURNE BOOMERS PARTNERSHIP

“It was an amazing experience to see the girls flourish in an environment that wasn’t first nature to them. Only time will tell how big of an impact this opportunity has had on them.”

The inaugural Melbourne Boomers Girls Academy kicked off in March/April 2017 and saw over 80 young women from across the city attend the six-week program every Tuesday at the State Basketball Centre in Wantirna South. The Boomers generously extended an invitation to Helping Hoops participants from our Fitzroy and Richmond programs for children living in public housing. The girls chosen were supported by Coach Renee, who provided transport and moral support from the sidelines.

Renee says,

“It was an amazing experience to see the girls flourish in an environment that wasn’t first nature to them. Only time will tell how big of an impact this opportunity has had on them. I’m guessing big things will come of these young women.”

The academy included the unique opportunity to learn directly from Melbourne Boomers players and head coach Guy Molloy who facilitated the sessions.

The inclusion of girls from a multicultural background shows a clear focus from the Boomers on giving equal-opportunity to children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

General Manager Justin Nelson gave his thoughts on the academy,

“The Melbourne Boomers Girls Academy embodies everything we strive for when it comes to connecting the grassroots level of basketball with the elite – connection, inclusiveness, positive role models and the benefits associated with a healthy and active lifestyle. Our hope is that academy participants stay in the game for longer, set goals and strive for them, connect with positive influences and improve both basketball and life skills.”

The partnership between Helping Hoops and the Boomers is not limited to our involvement in the academy. Girls are given the opportunity to attend Boomers home games as well as learn from players and coaches through their contribution to the newly launched Helping Hoops Power program for our young women.

We would like to thank all those at the club, and especially Tony Hallam who has spearheaded the relationship. We look forward to a big twelve months ahead with the Melbourne Boomers.



PARTICIPANTS IN THE MELBOURNE BOOMERS GIRLS ACADEMY. PHOTO: ADAM MCKAY

NEW PROGRAMS

“The addition of Prahran and Power takes the number of sessions we provide for free to the community each year to over 450. We are excited by the growth of Helping Hoops.”

2016-17 was another growth period for Helping Hoops which saw us launch two new programs and successfully relocate a third.

Helping Hoops Werribee replaced our Sunshine program in 2017 in response to the multicultural community’s increasing relocation from the inner-west and Sunshine area to Werribee and surrounding suburbs.

Helping Hoops Werribee quickly grew to 30-plus participants and over 25% female participation, which is particularly pleasing as engaging young women was a challenge at the previous Sunshine location. We see Werribee as an area of huge growth and opportunity, and we look forward to sharing our progress.

Prahran is a location we have had a long history with, having collaborated with Stonnington Youth Services for a number of years at their events run for local children living on the public housing estate. We have long planned to run a weekly program on the estate, and the timing was finally right in 2017.

Helping Hoops Prahran kicked off in May and utilised the community hub on the commission housing run by Stonnington Youth Services. Our previous work in the area helped us quickly establish a core group of kids to give us a strong foundation for growth. We are excited about the future of Prahran

and are pleased to finally have a weekly presence in the area.

September saw us increase our weekly program schedule to 10 with the launch of Helping Hoops Power. Power is a female-only program that gives young women the opportunity to grow and flex their basketball muscle. Based on hard work, determination and grit, it is where we put the power in empower.

Coach Renee, who heads up Power and has been working with young women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds for a number of years, says of the start of the program,

“Friday’s session was a great way to start a new program with girls that are willing to work hard and push the limits. Want to see how good women’s sport can be!? Watch. This. Space.”

The addition of Prahran and Power takes the number of sessions we provide for free to the community each year to over 450. We are excited by the growth of Helping Hoops.

SPORTSMART

“Sportsmart are a great supporter of grassroots sport, and their ongoing commitment to Helping Hoops shows their focus on community.”

For three seasons now, local retailer Sportsmart has partnered with Helping Hoops to present the Three Point Community Sponsorship. The campaign sees Sportsmart donate \$40 to Helping Hoops for every three-pointer made by Melbourne United during the NBL seasons, and the 2016-17 campaign saw 264 threes hit the bottom of the net and \$10,560 raised in total. This figure now brings the total raised for the Three Point Community Sponsorship to over \$30,000. To put this into meaningful context, \$30,000 allows a child to attend one Helping Hoops session 6,000 times, or allows us to put on over 193 Helping Hoops sessions free of charge for the community.

As a charity that does not charge for the service we provide, Helping Hoops must constantly look to campaigns and initiatives such as the Three Point Community Sponsorship to help us continue the relationships we have built with underprivileged children, and help fulfil the promises we make to be there on a weekly basis. These promises are incredibly important when considering the volatile nature of the home lives of many participating in Helping Hoops.

Sportsmart are a great supporter of grassroots sport, and their ongoing commitment to Helping Hoops shows their focus on community. This support helps break down the barriers that prevent disadvantaged children from accessing sport.



PHOTO: HERALD SUN

After three years, we are looking to revitalise the partnership with Sportsmart through a new campaign that will take the place of the Three Point Community Sponsorship in 2017-18. The campaign will see Sportsmart donate a percentage of profits to Helping Hoops for every basketball system sold in-store and online, and we look forward to sharing the results this brings in mid-2018.

SOUTH SUDANESE TOURNAMENTS

“Seeing relatives, families and community members from all over Australia come together reminds us that the events are so much more than basketball tournaments.”

Both the South Sudanese Australian National Classic and Summer Slam took over Eagle Stadium in Werribee in Melbourne over the past 12 months, and built on the 13-plus years of tournament history that has made it one of the most exciting events in Australian basketball.

Over 50 teams and 800 players, the majority from a South Sudanese Australian and multicultural background, competed across five divisions at both the National Classic (July) and the Summer Slam (December). Both tournaments ran for three days and featured all the excitement of the dunks, blocks, ankle breakers and crossovers that have become the norm for the tournaments.

The tournaments are also significant for the South Sudanese Australian community. Seeing relatives, families and community members from all over Australia come together reminds us that the events are so much more than basketball tournaments. Teamwork, encouragement, community and providing young people with a place to belong that teaches them how to be the best version of themselves they can be are all values that come with the South Sudanese tournaments, and we congratulate all the players, coaches, team managers and spectators on their tremendous effort.

The 2017 South Sudanese Australian National Classic also played host to a special guest, with Luol Deng of the Los Angeles Lakers

making his third trip to Australia to support the tournament and the community. Luol first visited Melbourne in 2013 and was amazed by the cohesiveness and supportive nature of the African Australian community, and has made it his goal to return each off-season to lend his support.

Luol and Steve Vear, who heads up the Luol Deng Foundation, hosted a special day-long camp for kids on the Monday following the National Classic, where he shared his basketball knowledge and experience in an intimate environment. The day was about far more than basketball however, with strong values and community-focused lessons permeating the session.

Events like the National Classic and Summer Slam are only possible thanks to the team of volunteers behind the scenes. Helping Hoops was proud to provide approximately 50 volunteers for both events, and enjoyed the opportunity to participate in something that is a fantastic compliment to the work we do each week through our programs.



LUOL DENG RUNNING A CLINIC AS PART OF THE SOUTH SUDANESE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CLASSIC. PHOTO: ADAM McKAY



SOUTH SUDANESE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CLASSIC ACTION. PHOTO: ADAM McKAY



SOUTH SUDANESE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CLASSIC PRESENTATIONS. PHOTO: ADAM McKAY



SOUTH SUDANESE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CLASSIC WOMEN'S FINALS. PHOTO: ASHLEIGH WONG

MEMBERSHIP

“The campaign has been a great success with over 60 members coming on board to donate more than \$1,300 in total on a monthly basis.”

For a number of years, we have run a campaign called Helping Hoops Heroes, which saw individuals make a monthly donation to the charity.

In 2016, we changed things up and shifted our Heroes across to our brand new membership campaign. As a membership-based charity, members decide the direction of Helping Hoops through the election of our committee of management and other key decisions that are fundamental to the health of our organisation. The decision to actively promote memberships, and the voting rights that go along with being a member, was based on making Helping Hoops more accessible and transparent, and ensuring our entire community and supporter base were aware of the opportunity that exists to have their say.

The campaign has been a great success with over 60 members coming on board to donate more than \$1,300 in total on a monthly basis. We look forward to growing our membership base in 2018 and giving even more people the opportunity to invest in the direction of Helping Hoops.



PHOTOS: ADAM MCKAY

OPERATION BROKEN WING

“In total, over \$20,000 was raised by participants, who were sponsored by their friends and family in the lead up to Operation Broken Wing.”

Operation Broken Wing (OBW) is a regional fitness charity movement dedicated to improving the lives of underprivileged kids. Originating in Singapore, the crossfit event has expanded to other countries, and October 2016 saw the first ever event take place in Melbourne at GW Performance in South Yarra. Helping Hoops was selected by OBW's organiser Michael Wong, who liked the fact that the charity brings sport to children who may not have the opportunity to participate otherwise.

GW Performance welcomed over 40 participants who put themselves through a punishing workout consisting of push presses, kettle bell swings, burpees, rowing machine and box jumps designed to test the limits of human endurance. The participants were given a target of 10,000 repetitions which they exceeded with an overall total of 11,759 achieved.

In total, over \$20,000 was raised by participants, who were sponsored by their friends and family in the lead up to Operation Broken Wing. This also combined with a \$10,000 corporate sponsorship from Village Roadshow and Kay & Burton (\$5,000 each) which was generated from the event hitting its 10,000 repetition goal.

After sweating it out in the gym, participants were treated to a wagyu burger cooked by The Smith hotel, which featured meat by

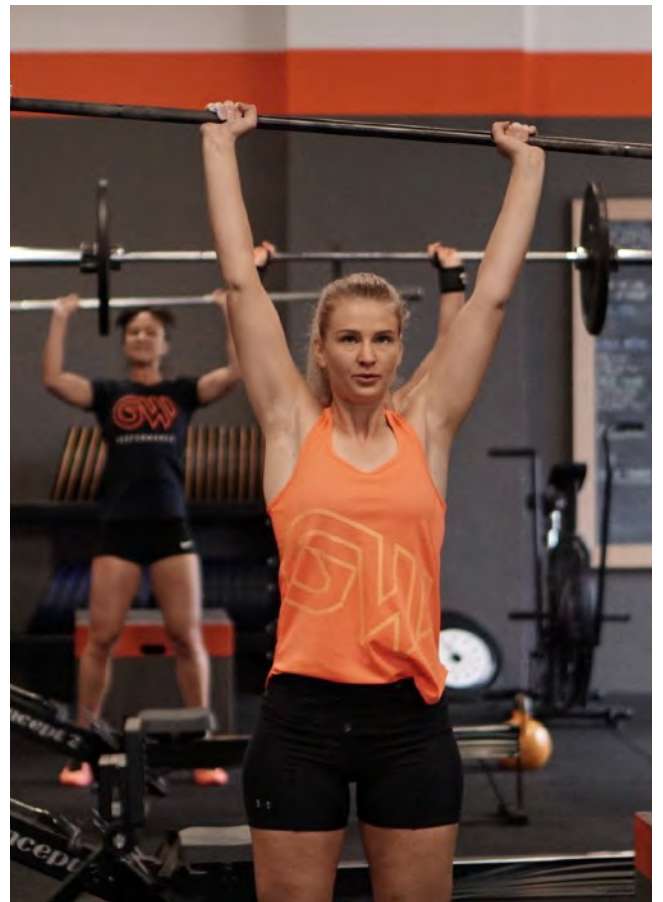
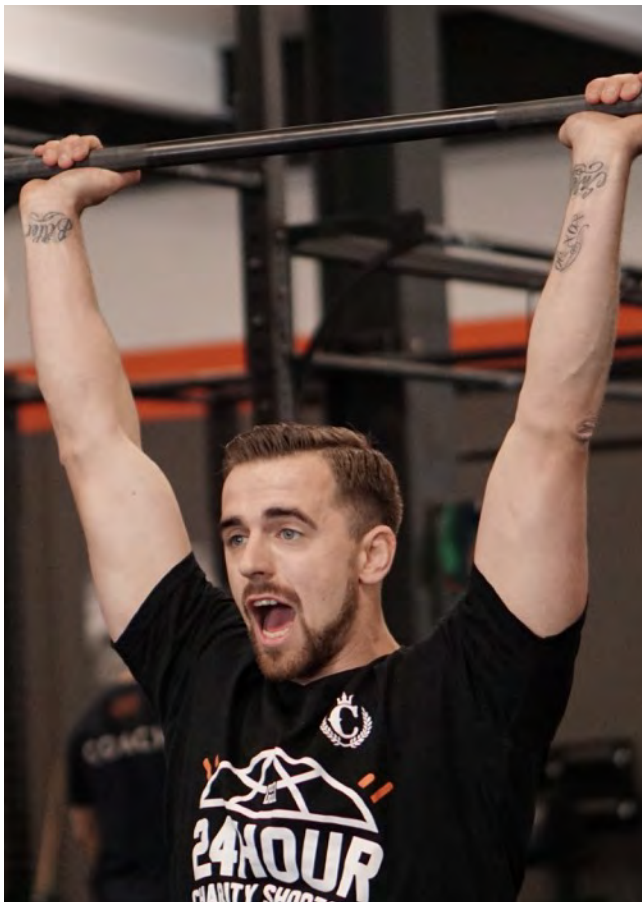
Sevens Creek Wagyu, cheese by Maker and Monger, and buns by Tivoli Road Bakery.

Thanks to all the practitioners who donated their time, Virus for coming down and giving away items, the restaurants ESP and Amaru for donating gift vouchers, Gary's Quality Meats for donating kranskies, and the suppliers mentioned above for their generous donations.

Big thanks to all the participants who gave their all for the event. The biggest thanks goes to Michael Wong for organising OBW and personally raising over \$10,000. Your effort is appreciated and we thoroughly enjoyed working with you.



OPERATION BROKEN WING. ALL PHOTOS: ADAM MCKAY



A VOLUNTEER'S PERSPECTIVE - Michelle Sim

"I see the increasing value of programs like this providing support, encouragement and opportunities for kids at such a vulnerable stage of their life."

I started volunteering with Helping Hoops as a way to connect with the Melbourne community and do some good in the world around me. It was perfect that I found an organisation that allowed me to do so while fuelling my love with basketball.

The first program I saw was Future, and I can honestly say I was blown away. The intensity and the skills of the boys was only overshadowed by the heart and incredible sportsmanship they showed towards each other. I know now that this is all credit to the program's support, encouragement and guidance, and that was proof enough for me that I was joining a fantastic organisation.

Since then, I have volunteered at the North Melbourne program on Fridays, and it has become a highlight of my week. Like me, the kids come to blow off steam, hang out with friends and show their skills. However I have come to realise that these programs are so much more. I have seen these kids grow as young people, and watched them develop life skills that will carry them into the future. I see the increasing value of programs like this providing support, encouragement and opportunities for kids at such a vulnerable stage of life. I am so grateful to be a part of it. Plus, they are adorable, heart-melting angels, so it's not the slightest bit hard to show up every week!

Helping Hoops has also provided me with opportunities to grow personally. I have



PHOTO: NICOLE REED

developed my experience in the not-for-profit field by working behind the scenes, mainly finding grants to fund programs and helping with event management at the 24 Hour Charity Shootout. The biggest insight I have gained is just how much hard work, effort and passion it takes to keep each program and event thriving and growing every year. I have also seen other locations, including public housing and special needs programs, and as a result have met heaps of awesome kids, coaches, and volunteers.

This is a truly amazing organisation that pours figurative blood, sweat and tears into making sure these programs keep the kids' best interests above all, and stay valuable, supportive, effective, and fun.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The follow is an excerpt from the official Helping Hoops audited financials.
A full version is available at helpinghoops.com.au/annualreports or by request.



REYANA & HA AT HELPING HOOPS RICHMOND. PHOTO: ADAM MCKAY

AUDITOR'S REPORT

For the year ended 30 June 2017

Independent Auditors Report to the members of the Association

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Helping Hoops (the association), which comprises the committee's report, the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2017, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, cash flow statement, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Helping Hoops is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects (or gives a true and fair view –refer to the applicable state/territory Act), the financial position of Helping Hoops as at 30 June 2017 and (of) its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Helping Hoops. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Auditor's signature:	S G Kerley
Auditor's address:	3/26 The Parade West, Kent Town SA 5067
Dated:	November 22 2017

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Gross Surplus	-	-
Other Income		
24 Hour Charity Shootout	12,876	69,742
Cook for Kids	87,366	-
Donations Received	36,445	10,020
Fees	2,309	-
Fundraising	29,466	-
Grants	108,209	69,755
Interest Received	125	88
Other Revenue	-	1,399
Sponsorship	-	21,598
Total Other Income	276,796	172,603
Expenditure		
Accountancy Fees	557	470
Advertising	1,693	1,987
Bank Charges	2,472	705
Coaching	54,495	51,835
Contract Work	4,579	718
Electricity	658	376
Freight & Cartage	409	1,564
Fundraising Expenses	13,881	5,892
GST Written Off	-	75
Hire of Courts	14,170	12,173
Insurance	4,386	4,064
Internet	773	1,068
Printing & Stationery	1,907	1,311
Rates & Taxes	1,195	-
Rent	11,700	5,780
Salary Sacrifice	15,716	21,127
Staff Training & Welfare	-	170
Sundry Expenses	1,468	4,489
Superannuation Contributions	14,172	12,999
Telephone	308	216
Tool Replacement	2,663	2,933
Travelling & Entertainment	441	111
Trophies	-	131
Uniforms	1,847	820
Wages	82,133	65,899
Water	198	140
Workers Compensation	3,444	3,494
Total Expenditure	235,265	200,550
Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit) Before Income Tax Adjustments	41,532	(27,947)
Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit) Before Income Tax	41,532	(27,947)
Net Current Year Surplus After Income Tax	41,532	(27,947)

ASSETS & LIABILITIES STATEMENT

As at 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents		
Cash at Bank	117,784	77,196
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	117,784	77,196
GST Receivable	2,216	325
Total Current Assets	120,000	77,521
Total Assets	120,000	77,521
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Employee Entitlements		
Superannuation Payable	3,950	3,847
Total Employee Entitlements	3,950	3,847
Total Current Liabilities	3,950	3,847
Other Current Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	4,280	3,436
Total Other Current Liabilities	4,280	3,436
Total Liabilities	8,230	7,283
Net Assets	111,770	70,238
Member's Funds		
Capital Reserve		
Current Year Earnings	41,532	(27,947)
Retained Earnings	70,238	98,185
Total Capital Reserve	111,770	70,238
Total Member's Funds	111,770	70,238

HELPING HOOPS IS:

The people below have all contributed to our organisation during the period covered by this Annual Report:

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

President

David Koopmans

Vice President

Daniel Heath

Treasurer

Daniel Heath

Secretary

Kate Sleeman

Committee Members

Julian Hammond

Gregor Brownlee

Kristen Penny

Adam McKay

STAFF

Coaches

Omar Coles

Renee Clarke

Stephen Bacash

Nima Sobhani

Executive Director

Adam McKay

Operations

Coordinator

Teuila Reid

Operations Manager (Past)

Sandra Tay

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT COACHES BY PROGRAM

BROADMEADOWS

Glen Hall

Jenny Owens

Olivia Madden

CROXTON

Dawn Ah Gee

Liam Crockett

Neysa Charlton

Robyn (Rubing) Ge

Sarah McLinden

Tess Haveaux

Wilson Li

DANDENONG

Christabel Teo

Georgia Stirton

Jagesh Prachal

Megan Welsh

Roy Groncki

Ryan Guneseckara

FITZROY

Clarissa Harris

Dave Zwolenski

Justin Crow

Kristen Penny

Lachlan Cloak

Luke Smith

FUTURE

David Maddock

Denver Fernandez

Nick Garcia

Taylor Acheson

NORTH MELBOURNE

Adam Bacash

Chris Ashen

Josh Morigi

Kanani Abubeker

Michelle Sim

PRAHRAN

Aron Clarke

Titama Nia

POWER

Bec Blackney

RICHMOND

Adele Glue

Eric Tee

Erin Wallace

Meredith Oldham

Tom Martin

WERRIBEE

Bec Blackney

Bodaniel McClure

Julianne Prenc

Stevan Klady

HELPING HOOPS IS:

The people below have all contributed to our organisation during the period covered by this Annual Report:

BEHIND THE SCENES VOLUNTEERS

Assistant Grants Manager

Michelle Sim

Helping Hoops Bounce Editor

Ashleigh Wong

Photographers

Ashleigh Wong

Alan Barber

Ben Clement

James Whiting

Nicole Reed

Samuel Kwong

Tim O'Connor

Graphic Designer

Aron Clarke

Web & IT Manager

Josh Meney

Ambassadors

Ben Shewry

Chris Anstey

Chris Goulding

Lance Hurdle

Tegan Cunningham

EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Adam Sliwinski

Adrian Herbert

Aguer Athian

Ahmed Ibrahim

Alexander

Khodasvoski

Alice Godfree

Andrea Gobbo

Anna Streater

Ashley Baltetsch

Beverly Peters

Brian Condon

Bridgette Alonzo-

Stewart

Caitlin Vick

Chad Chan

Charith Karunaratne

Charles McHarg

Claire Horobin

Clint Murrell

Delvene Sliwinski

Dominic Bolt

Faisal Suryadi

Garry Zimmerman

George Rickard

Harrison Simcoe

Holly Marchioni

Ibrahim Hussein

Jack O'Niell

Jamal Nobandi

James Buckley

James Kerwin

Jason McCurry

Jay Boyle

Jeremy Cheong

Jimmy Mullins

Jordan Anisseh

Josh Butler

Karim Gamali

Karla O'Connor

Kourosh Mesdaghi

Kris Hollis

Lachie Miller

Lara Bernado

Lee Rowbottom

Louise Conwell

Manyang Berberi

Mark Warke

Mary Maguet

Michael Allison

Michael Costa

Nadine Haidar

Neysa Charlton

Nick Loizou

Patrick Hills

Paul Fayle

Phu Hung Cam

Rachael Rubin

Robbie Kentfield

Russell Tolentino

Ryan Tay

Ryan White

Sam Kingsley

Samu Elleperuma

Seb Melham

Sebastian Goldy

Sophie Noone

Stephanie Young

Sugar Garcia

Susie McKenzie

Tim Dobson

Travis Dennehy

Violet Boyson

Zachery Plowman

OUR HELPERS

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support of Helping Hoops during the period covered in this Annual Report.

Basketball Partner

Molten

Community Sponsor

Sportsmart

Sporting Partners

Melbourne Boomers

Melbourne United

Equipment Partner

Goalrilla

Funders

Bennelong Foundation

City Of Stonnington

Coca Cola Foundation

Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust

Gandel Philanthropy

Jack Brockhoff Foundation

John & Betty Laidlaw Legacy

Marian & EH Flack Charitable Trust

Newsboys Foundation

Pierce Armstrong Foundation

Sentinel Foundation

Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust

Apparel Partners

Bluegum

AS Colour



ALI OF HELPING HOOPS BROADMEADOWS (TOP). COACH NIMA, DENG DUT (CENTRE) & CHRIS ANSTEY (RIGHT). PHOTOS: ADAM MCKAY

HOW YOU CAN HELP

BECOME A MEMBER

Become a member of Helping Hoops by making a monthly donation and enjoy great benefits, including a Member T-shirt, having your say with a vote at our AGM, and more.

Sign up today at
helpinghoops.com.au/member

HOST AN EVENT

Whether it be a Charity Challenge at your work, or a Helping Hoops Coach running a session at your school or basketball club, we are always looking to get out into the community to spread the word.

Find out which event best suits you at
helpinghoops.com.au/hostanevent

DONATE

All Helping Hoops programs are run free of charge for kids and their communities. We rely on your support to sustain and grow Helping Hoops so we can reach even more children in need.

Make a tax-deductible donation online at helpinghoops.com.au/donate

VOLUNTEER

Whether your skills are on the basketball court or behind the scenes, we rely heavily on volunteers to keep Helping Hoops thriving.

Enquire today to see how you can get involved at
helpinghoops.com.au/volunteer

KEEP IN TOUCH

WE HAVE SOCIAL MEDIA!
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PHOTO: ADAM McKAY



helpinghoops.com.au

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