**President (1 Nominee)**

**Nima Sobhani**

Nima Sobhani has over 15 years of experience at the global nexus of education, community and international development, and public policy, with a particular passion in utilising basketball as a vehicle for social change. He has been actively involved in a range of basketball development initiatives over the past decade with roles related to strategy, policy,and operations; program development and management; as well as coaching for both elite and grassroots programs.

Nima has a PhD in International Education Policy, with a thesis that explores the effects of globalisation on education systems in the Pacific region through a postcolonial lens. He recently worked as a Senior Policy Advisor for the Victorian State Government’s Department of Education, which included project management and policy development for a four-year, $187 million school reform initiative to improve literacy and numeracy learning outcomes for disadvantaged students.

Nima has been part of the Helping Hoops family for over five years, starting as a volunteer at the Future program, before being appointed as Head Coach. He has been a member of the committee since 2018 and served as President for the past 12 months.

In applying for the position of President for the upcoming year, Nima will continue to prioritise the building of authentic relationships as a conduit to a truly collaborative approach, and work to ensure a diverse range of views and experiences are represented at all levels of the organisation to better reflect and cater to the needs of the community.

**Vice President ( 1 Nominee)**

**Erin Wallace**

As GM of Max Events, Erin brings over 15 years experience in delivering major events across multiple sporting codes and clubs. Erin has worked on some of the biggest global sporting events both in Australia and abroad including International Basketball tours, International Football tours, Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games.

A passionate supporter of basketball Erin has played for over 25 years, holds a club coaching accreditation and plays in multiple teams at Nunawading Basketball each week. Erin has been involved as a volunteer at the Helping Hoops Richmond program since the beginning of 2017 and has served on the Helping Hoops committee for two years, the most recent 12 months being in the role of Vice President.

Erin holds a Bachelor of Business in Sport & Leisure Management and an Executive Education from Melbourne Business School.

In applying for the position of Vice President of Helping Hoops Erin sees her value being the combination of the passion she has for the sport coupled with her strong business acumen gained through her experience in major sporting events.

**Treasurer ( 1 Nominee)**

**Jon Trayner**

Jon Traynor is a 16 year accountant/CPA specialising in servicing businesses in the small and medium enterprise space. He is the managing director of The Field Group, an accounting firm in Melbourne’s outer east which services businesses and non for profits with their compliance services with a strong focus on cloud computing. He sits on a number of advice boards and has a passion for helping business owners grow.

Jon is a lifelong basketball enthusiast who has participated in the charity shoot-out for the past 2 years and wants to assist in growing the Helping Hoops program to more communities.

**Secretary (1 Nominee)**

**Matt Bolitho**

I am an experienced professional sports administrator with a background managing elite sport team operations, professional athletes, staff, performance strategy, commercial partnerships, and academy programs.

Having originally graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Sports Management and Marketing at Deakin University, I graduated from Melbourne Business School with an MBA in early 2021. This further study has equipped me with a substantial knowledge base and network to supplement my professional experience.

Whilst I have a broad experience and proudly consider myself a ‘generalist’ in the sports industry, ultimately my passion and skillset lies within managing the operational planning and execution of professional sports. I have spent the last 7 years at North Melbourne Football Club, initially helping to deliver on commercial outcomes before more recently managing our AFL Women’s program as we entered the competition as an expansion side in 2019.

It is this operational experience that prompted me to apply for the role of Secretary at Helping Hoops. I enjoy organising people and all manner of things more broadly to ensure they run smoothly and efficiently. I am excited by the opportunity to apply these skills to ensure Helping Hoops can continue on delivering their fantastic suite of programs.

I am also excited by the opportunity to overlay experiences from a professional sport context to help contribute to tangible outcomes for the community that Helping Hoops engages with. I have seen firsthand through the work of North Melbourne Football Club’s community organisation, The Huddle, the positive impact such programs can have on our community. I look forward to meaningfully contributing to these outcomes amongst the Helping Hoops community.

**General Committee Members (Max 5 positions available – 5 Nominees)**

**Akec Makur Chuot**

Akec Makur Chuot is a Role model and an Australian rules footballer who plays for the Richmond Football Club in the AFLW. Born in war-torn South Sudan,and spent 11 years of her childhood in Kakuma, a Kenyan refugee camp, before arriving in Perth, Western Australia at the age of 12.

Through sheer determination, a life-long can-do attitude and the support of her large family, Akec has overcome Incredible hurdles to become the first African woman drafted into the Inaugural AFL Women's competition in 2017 with the Fremantle Football Club. Makur Chuot was Fremantle's 18th selection and the 139th overall in the 2016 AFL Women's draft. In 2018, she moved to Victoria to play with Carlton in the VFL Women's state competition. After joining Richmond's VFLW Program in 2019, Makur Chuot was elevated to the Tiger's AFLW list ahead of the 2020 AFL Women's season. She made her club debut against Carlton at Ikon Park in the opening round of the 2020 AFLW season.

Now a half Back with Richmond Fc in the AFLW, Akec is also a mentor for young African women and men, a passionate Anti Racism spoke woman and role model through her position as an Ambassador with cadbury for the Cadbury Women in Sport Initiative for the 2021 AFLW season.

She works as a Disability Support Worker and venturing out into her own business which launches in December.

**Kristen Penny**

Kristen brings over 17 years in partnerships and marketing in both the tourism, events, sports and music industries. She has worked on major Melbourne events such as the Australian Open, Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne Food & Wine Festival, ICC Soccer Championship, ICC World Cup Cricket and the many Boomers events held in Melbourne. Kristen has previously sat on the boards of Arts Mildura and Mildura Country Music Festival, both extremely successful regional event organisations.

Kristen is currently the Brand and Marketing Manager at Cricket Victoria, rolling out marketing campaigns to increase participation in cricket and leading the development of Cricket Victoria’s marketing strategy from grassroots to state level cricket.

Kristen has been involved as an active volunteer at the Fitzroy program of Helping Hoops for over 8 years, and as a Committee member for 6 years.

**Bradley Davidson**

The primary focus of my work in collaboration with the HH team has been around establishing and building new corporate relationships with organisations and individuals that demonstrate an alignment with HH culture, ethos and values.

On my end, I’m proud of the quality and variety of relationships being built over the period to date that I know will benefit the impact HH is making in communities across Melbourne. I have personally established in excess of 35 new relationships for HH. Opportunities that progress closer to actually committing to support HH financially typically go through a client onboarding process in which a presentation is delivered, corporate sponsorship pack is provided and worked through.

COVID unfortunately has impacted Corporate partnerships in a big way, however the positive is that I have been able to build even more new relationships and 2022 looks very promising. I look to bring my in excess of 10 years B2B Sales Management experience, along with a wide and deep network to the HH Committee and be part of leading the organisation into the future.

**Teuila Reid**

Teuila joined the Helping Hoops team in 2017 and brings a wealth of expertise managing the many facets of Helping Hoops. Teuila left Helping Hoops as their General Manager in October 2021 to continue working in the Sports for Community and Youth Development space. She is currently the CMSport Manager for The Centre for Multicultural Youth. Teuila is a Director of the Koorie Academy and volunteers on numerous community family and sports based groups throughout Naarm. With a former career in the US Foreign Service, Teuila‘s 15+ years as a Consular Specialist globally has equipped her with a very diverse skill set which significantly adds to the running of Helping Hoops.

Teuila imagines a world where all children, young people and adults receive the attention they are worthy of and is inspired by the vision and values of Helping Hoops to achieve this.

**Kate Thomas**

Kate is a consultant and facilitator who delivers evidence-based and engaging training and consulting services. She has spent over 15 years working in, designing and advocating for programs that enhance community wellbeing across various professional domains, including education, sport, corporate and the community sector and has strong links in the not-for-profit Family Services Sector within Victoria. With a background in elite sport, Kate is an AIS Basketball Alumna and WNBL athlete. She sits on the international faculty of the Neurosequential Network NM-Sports Program, an evidence-informed program that focuses on building the capacity of coaches around engagement and performance in sport by focusing on how the brain works, develops, changes, and is impacted by developmental adversity, including trauma. Kate facilitates programs that focus on wellbeing and emotional Intelligence and is often asked to consult on projects and programs for organisations around trauma-informed practice, organisational wellbeing, emotional intelligence and gender equality. Kate is also a Lead Consultant with the Centre for Healing and Justice Through Sport and facilitates training in Australia and internationally, focusing on Sport for Healing, Positive Youth Based Sports Development, and Girls in Sport as well as consultancy services around program design, delivery and evaluation. Kate is a mum of two boys (age 6 & 8), and is an active member of her community. She is committee member of her local basketball club and also runs the hoop time program and coaches the U/12s and U/16 teams. She also sits on her local school council.