

Dear All Steelers Player, Coaches and Families both past and Present

It is with great pleasure that I write this email announcing that the Park Orchards Basketball Club will now have two courts at the new Mullum Mullum Stadium on the corner of Springvale Rd and Reynolds Rd. This is a new state-of-the-art 5 court facility that we hope players and families will enjoy playing at. It is modern, light, great seating, and heating and cooling for all seasons.

The committee has worked very hard over the years to get this stadium built for the local community. I wish to thank the previous presidents, Steve Waldren, Jason Hoen and Kellie King as well as Graeme Murphy for their work on this before I stepped into the role. Our club was one of the only Basketball clubs to help the council in securing the \$23M funding for the new stadium.

We feel that our members deserve the right to play in the best possible venues and we hope that over the coming weeks you get to experience the new Mullum Mullum venue. This weekend we have the two courts in action and then from term 3 we will have the show courts, courts 1 and 2 as our home venues. In Term 3 Blackburn Vikings will also have the remaining courts as their home courts so you may also play away games there too (nice and close). Whilst the committee has worked a lot on this over the past few years, recently Tim Coad and David Mayo have been amazing in their efforts to get us ready for the first blow of the whistle. I thank them personally for this. The venue will be managed by YMCA who will be on site- they will handle all the operations of the venue. We will have a referee supervisor there that we will share with Blackburn to assist in the running of the games as well as a plan to continually assist in the skill set of the referees. A new initiative to improve all aspects of the game. The Warrandyte and Park Orchards referees branch will continue to referee our home games.

However, with taking on the two courts at Mullum Mullum we have decided that we will no longer be playing out of Our Lady of the Pines and Milgate Primary Schools. These two home courts that have served us well over the years and we have definitely expressed our gratitude directly to the schools over the past few weeks for supporting our clubs during our times of hiring these facilities. I am sure we will all remember games played at both these venues in years to come. But, it was time to move on and our committee is excited about the future.

Operationally there will be some small changes that we will need teams, players and coaches to get used to. There will be no entry costs (except for finals which is normal), however game day payments from TERM 3 (not this Saturday if you are playing there) will be at the reception counter not to the team bench. This reduces the need for scorers and refs to count and collect money- so you will need to know which court you are playing on. The score benches will still use the same laptops that you are used to and the scoring clock should be familiar.

I am sure there will be some teething issues- can I ask all coaches just to double check the ball size is correct before starting the game for the first few weeks. We will have multiple balls of size 5/6/7 all onsite.

There is a great café and coffee shop and ample viewing areas.

This weekend we have lots of teams playing there from 8:30 -4.00pm, so please feel free to drop in and have a look. The facility is having an Open day between 10-4pm so they will have several activities going on. Parking may be a little crazy this weekend if they do have an open day so allow yourself 10 minutes more before the game this weekend.

I wish all players and coaches the best for the upcoming round and hope that you enjoy the break over the school holidays- stay safe and we will see you all back in term 3. For those playing 3 on 3- enjoy- have fun. If you haven't registered yet- jump onto it as registrations close 30 June 2018. Book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/VKHA>

Go Steelers.

Darren Ross

President

Park Orchards Basketball Club



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