

## **Aussie Hoops Uncovers Tomorrows Stars**

Maroochydore Basketball launched the first of their 2011 Aussie Hoops programs at Suncoast Christian College on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The resurgence of the popularity of basketball across Australia and in particular the Sunshine Coast has prompted Maroochydore basketball to provide opportunities for first time players to enjoy basketball through the Aussie Hoops program.

Aussie Hoops is Basketball Australia's key participation/entry level program that provides a fun, safe, inclusive and supportive introduction to the sport through modified games and activities to sequentially grow participant skills to readiness for junior competition.

Maroochydore basketball's player/coach development personnel, Shane Truscott and Gordon Fawcett conducted the first session for 12 primary school children at the Suncoast Christian College indoor sports facility.

"Shane Truscott has been actively coaching in the Christian schools network for a number of years, including selection duties for representative teams, and we are fortunate to have coaches with Shanes experience and rapport promoting basketball to first time participants" said Fawcett.

Current high profile Maroochydore juniors, Jessica Gajewski, Soraya Page and Yasmin Miller were participants in Maroochydore basketball's very first Aussie Hoops program in 2003. All three girls have gone onto represent Queensland at the 2010 National U/16 Championships where the team won a silver medal and are now in contention for future State and National representative programs.

Jessica, herself a Suncoast Christian College primary student, remembers how Aussie Hoops ignited her passion for the game which has now seen her achieve high level, junior elite profile. "I remember the really cool maroon and white striped ball that came with the beginners pack and how I took it home and slept with it in my bed" Jess remembered. "It was such a fun and simple program that it made me decide that basketball was going to be the sport for me" she added. Jessica's mother Cathy went on to say that it was Jess's introduction to basketball with Soraya, Yasmin and a whole group of Maroochydore boys and girls that has formed the basis of those friendships continuing to the present day where they have successfully competed in the South East Qld., BQJBC Premier League division for State Championship honours from under 12 to the current under 18s in 2011.

"It's a huge jump to the high intensity elite camps at the Australian Institute of Sport that Jess and her team mates have been invited to recently" said Fawcett, 'Though every star of the game decided when they were young that it was their passion and Aussie Hoops provides that positive introduction" he added.

A further irony is that current Maroochydore Lady Clippers Head Coach, Terri Page, had actually written and designed much of the scope and sequence of the Aussie Hoops program during her employment as National Coordinator for Basketball Australia in Sydney. "We have established a timetable of Aussie Hoops roll outs at various participating schools within the region as part of Maroochydore basketball's Player/Coach Development program's maintained commitment to providing structured, sequential pathways from social novice to National representative honours in the sport" said Page.

Aussie Hoops will continue to run at various schools and venues during the year. If you are interested please contact one of our Basketball coaching and development personnel to secure your spot in a program:

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