

President's Report 2014

Although 2014 has been quite successful for RBI overall, staff shortages have brought about a downturn in the progress of this association with Heath Miller leaving for family reasons about 3 months into his second year.

We decided not make any rash decisions in looking for new staff, so the board employed two casual staff in Angela Tweedy and Andrew Rebah to do the administration for our club and I would like to thank them for a job well done.

Then our competitions co-ordinator, Brad Kahn, resigned and that left a huge hole as Brad did a great job in a number of roles while trying to do competition upgrades, refereeing rosters and also school player recruitment. Consequently, we then employed Linda Morrow to do parts of Brad's job but the recruitment and general coaching duties were sidelined.

The sad part of all this is that we had no one working at driving our sport forward for 6 months and consequently, we have lost about 150 members to other sports. To me this has been heart wrenching as we had held our member base for a few years and were on an upward spiral. We searched all avenues in Australia to enable us to employ a person able to do the job that we need to again focus on increasing numbers, teaching coaches, lifting player talent, increasing referee numbers, helping clubs to grow etc ,etc.

No, it was not Superman but Matt Neason who has been employed by RBI as our Manager Development Officer. Angela Tweedy has been employed as the Administrative Officer, which is a full- time position.

Matt has been talking to all persons involved in our sport in an attempt to ascertain all the relevant information. He is now compiling a programme to guide our association into the future. So expect some changes in the way we run our association. Some will support the decisions and some will not but I hope we all look at them in the context of our sport and support him in his efforts.

In talking to Matt a week ago, I was thrilled with the progress being made on the timetable for 2015. He is focussing on the direction of our association and is committed to moving it forward, his goal being to have our club the most progressive in Queensland in 2 years. I am thrilled that the Board has made such a great acquisition and I am sure he will take the new board and our association on a roller coaster ride to success.

The Junior Rep Committee made changes in regard to how the representative teams travelled in 2014. The feedback from the representative committee, managers and parents was positive and we will continue this in 2015. The classic team results for 2014 were strong with the U18 boys, U16 girls and U12 girls finishing high up in division 1 of

their age groups. Consequently we had Jared Blanchard and Briana Bailey make the North Queensland State Team.

In the NQ Emerging State Teams, we had six U18 boys and five U18 girls identified and in the CQ Emerging State Team, we had two U16 boys and four U16 girls. This shows the dedication that these athletes have and also shows the time and commitment that the coaches put in, on behalf of RBI.

A special congratulations must go to Jared Blanchard who made the Secondary School Boys' Australian team and will be travelling to America to represent Australia.

To add to his long list of achievements, John Hustler (Hussy), was awarded the North Queensland U20 Boys' Managers job. Congratulations, John, and hopefully a few more state jobs will come your way.

Adam Morrow has had a wonderful year refereeing, being invited to many age championship tournaments and topping it off with being awarded 4 gold- medal games. Being granted the gold medal game for the U18 Australian Schoolboys' Championships held in Townsville this year was a highlight for him.

The QBL teams, the Frenchville Sports Club Cyclones and the MacDonald's Restaurants' Rockets had a breakout season, with the Cyclones for the first time making a final of the QBL only to go down to Mackay in the final and the Rockets winning back to back championships for the first time. Congratulations must firstly go to all the players who put in so much effort and commitment for the teams, and the wonderful coaching staff and managers.

Congratulations go to Neal Tweedy who won Coach of the Year, and to Chris Muggeridge, Jay-Lee Pomfret, Gail Lorroway and Paul Christensen who took our girls to their first-ever final series.

Congratulations must also go to Ray Turner and Chehales Tapscott, for making the All Star Five and Chehales for being named the league MVP and leading point scorer, and Ray being named MVP of the final series. The award for leading 3 point shooter for the QBL for 2014 went to our own Glen Scott. Congratulations, Glen. The women's most valuable player for the league was a tie between Jessica Bibby and our own Chandrea Jones, who also won the league's Leading Rebounder Award.

Another positive for our club, is that the complex is attracting a lot of interest from organisations wanting to rent whether it be 1, 2 or 3 courts for events such as concerts, indigenous events, boxing or Beef Week 2015. This trend will continue as our complex is ideally situated so as not to give rise to complaints regarding noise.

The Big Ass fans which were installed this year, through a grant from Jupiter's Casino, have made a huge difference to the comfort of our athletes.

All volunteers have been busy this financial year in upgrading the Club Room by painting, building esky storage and installing blinds, and we are purchasing new furniture so that we can rent the area for birthday parties etc as it is quite acceptable now.

The large blue seating on Harney court was moved forward and a large storage area was built behind the seating, which now gives the clubs, the classic teams and RBI their own storage area. Also our new, expensive, floor scrubbing machine, purchased this year as a great investment for the future, is housed there.

The RBI's old office and the office under Bill's Bar including the safe area have been refurbished and now they can be used as office space, with one of them already occupied by Matt.

The shipping container has now been passed as legal by the council, after a lot of work was carried out on the foundations.

All the work above would not have been possible without the help and dedication of Barry Brady, Bob Shaw and Jan Griffin. A HUGE thank you from me, as I witnessed all the work that was undertaken to finish these projects.

Bob Shaw continues to maintain and upgrade the facility and no job is too difficult for him. Peter Voltz is invaluable in his commitment to us, especially during the QBL season. Del Harney continues her fund-raising Bingo without which, much-needed funds would not be available. Our new bingo on Wednesday that has been going now for 11 months is progressing slowly but is worth it. On behalf of the Association, a very special vote of thanks goes to Bob, Peter and Del.

Our association needs assistance from many volunteers to continue, or we will be like a lot of other clubs, struggling to survive. I hope new people take up positions on the RBI board but always remember that it is a lot of work and you need time to commit to it. I am not trying to scare potential committee people off, but if you cannot commit fully to any position, please reconsider.

I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their support in 2014. Although we have had some healthy discussions and disagreements, we are all on the same page in trying to help the RBI to prosper and continue to provide a valuable community service which, of course, is our main aim.

I wish the whole family of RBI a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a prosperous NEW YEAR.

Con Kyreakou
President RBI