



## **John Spooner Life Member**

**August 2021**

John's love for country basketball began when he moved to Whyalla 1972 where he played and coached basketball. John played many games for Whyalla at the South Australian Senior Country Championships in the 1970's. He coached Whyalla U16 and U18 girls at the SA Junior Country Championships. His U18 girls' team won the Noarlunga City Tigers inaugural Easter tournament in 1977.

- 1972 Coached Robinettes A Grade Whyalla
  - 1973 Coached Robinettes A Grade Whyalla
  - 1974 Coached Spartans A Grade Whyalla
  - 1975 Coached Spartans A Grade Whyalla
  - 1975 Coached Whyalla U/16G and U/18G
  - 1976 Coached Whyalla U/16G and U/18G
  - 1977 Coached Whyalla U/16G and U/18G
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- President of Whyalla Basketball 1975 – 1977 also head of the 3-man committee that built the Whyalla Stadium.
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- SACBCI was formed in 1974 and John became the Whyalla delegate soon after.
  - John and future Adelaide 36ers Coach Mike Osborne were appointed to organise the first ever fully representative State U16 boys' team in 1975. That meant numerous trips throughout the state every weekend to ensure a strong team was formed. With no internet or mobiles, the communication lines were letters and landline phones, John spent numerous hours in country phone boxes communicating with associations and players. He always acknowledges the enormous administrative leadership of Beth Serle OAM in those days, with the Council having limited resources and a miniscule budget.
  - John was the inaugural manager of an SA Country State team and was part of the committee who established SA Country.
  - 1975 John was appointed as Vice President of the SA Country Basketball Council.
  - The John Spooner Trophy is awarded each year to the Association with the most minor round wins in division 1 competition in the SA Country Junior Championships. The award is



named to recognise the significant contribution over many years of John Spooner to SA Country Basketball.

- John moved to the ACT and subsequently coached at seven Australian Championships, two club championships, became a Board member of the Canberra Cannons and hosted the first one hour TV basketball program in Australia, Hooked on Cannons. This show received an NBL award in 1983
- John moved back to SA in the early 2000's
- 2005 -2006 Development Officer for Mount Gambier
- 2005 – 2006 Coached U/14 -U/16G Lakers Mt Gambier
- Took a team of Junior Boys from the Limestone Coast to the Championships in Melbourne. Undefeated in eight games. Won the Grand Final against Nunawading.
- SA Premier Certificate of Appreciation 2006
- Organiser and MC – SA Country both 30<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations
- Producer and Director of history DVD for SA Country – “ 40 years of SA Country Basketball”
- As a Defence Basketball Coach of many years, John initiated the SA Country U18 annual game against the SA Defence team, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year.
- John represented Far West as a Regional Supervisor on the Country Council for approximately 12 years
- As a member of the History, Honours and Awards committee of the Basketball SA Commission, John formulated and wrote the initial policy for honouring and awarding all SA Basketballers. This was long overdue as no one had been recognised with a Basketball award for many years.
- John researched the life and immense basketball contribution of Noel Woollacott and presented a video of his life story at the Hall of Fame dinner.
- John has researched the early history of SA Basketball from its first game in 1897, and produced a 20 minute video on the First 50 years of SA Basketball 1897-1947.
- He has almost completed a Documented History of SA Country Basketball 1907 – 2017. This will also be recorded on a 20 minute video. These three videos along with a future video on Woollacott Medal winners will be available for viewing at the new House of Basketball when the Basketball Museum opens.
- John has researched, Life Memberships that have been awarded to SA Country recipients: Graeme Stringer, Peter Seeböhm, Sharon Venn, Bern Bruning and Glen Mathieson.

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John is and has always been very passionate for grass roots basketball and is remains very active in the basketball community.

- Volunteers as Stadium Manager for the Senior & Junior Country Championships
- Presents trophies at numerous finals, including Country Championships, State Championships and others
- Is a member of the newly appointed Honours & Awards Committee for SA Country Basketball
- Is the delegate for Whyalla Basketball Association and
- Currently runs the U/23 M program for Southern Tigers.

John is a life member of two associations and a Hall of Fame member for another. In 2021, we are excited to honour John's commitment to SA Country Basketball with much deserved life membership.