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# WELCOME LETTER

Congratulations SA Country on 50 incredible years.

For 50 years SA Country basketball has supported our basketballers whether it is playing, coaching, refereeing or in administration.

SA Country means different things to different people but no matter where your memories take you the common theme is country people working towards the betterment of our country basketballers.

When I think of SA Country I think about people, connecting through basketball. I find it wonderful I can walk into a stadium at a country champs or a local association carnival and see people I have connected with from many years ago.

Generally, there is a smile or a wave with a question "How are your kids, what are they doing now?" It's like a big family reunion.

Through the dedication and hard work of the past generations the foundations have been set to enable a bright future for decades to come.

Happy Birthday and Thank you

Nathan Grosser  
SA Country Basketball President





# HISTORY OF BASKETBALL IN COUNTRY SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The first game of Basketball in Australia was played in Adelaide in 1897 between the YMCA and OBI. Within 10 years the YMCA had taken it to many towns in Country South Australia as part of its Physical Culture and Exercise Program.

Prior to WWI strong basketball competitions were held regularly in Mount Gambier, Port Pirie, Peterborough and Terowie. On 29th June 1912 about 100 spectators watched visiting football team Sturt play Mount Gambier in Basketball at the Mount Gambier Boys Institute Hall.

By the late 1920's the game was being played in Port Lincoln, Cleve, Crystal Brook, Burra and many other towns, mostly in Memorial Halls, all with small dimensions and lowish ceilings. The Crystal Brook Council granted the use of the local hall to the YMCA for one night per week on the basis it was certainly in the best interest of the players, but some doubted it was in the best interest of the property. Elsewhere in the State, in 1926 the roller-skating rink in Cleve was turned into a basketball venue with regular weekly competitions. The Port Pirie YMCA team won the YMCA Australian Basketball Championships in Brisbane. Aldgate won the First Country Championships in 1939.

By the 1950's competitions were being held in many Country Towns such as Port Lincoln, Port Augusta, Kadina, Yorketown, Murray Bridge, Whyalla. Loxton and the Riverland were the standouts dominating the Country Championships.

In the late 60's and early 70's Basketball was booming in Country SA. Purpose built Stadiums were being planned and built in Port Augusta, Whyalla and Murray Bridge. One of the earliest Stadiums was built in Mount Gambier by association President Mr Bern Bruning.

In the early to mid-seventies, Mount Gambier Women's teams were the strongest Country teams in Australia winning both South Australia and Victoria Country Championships.

In this period of rapid growth, Country Basketball consisted of many volunteer run associations with regular weekly competitions. Bern Bruning recognised that these associations needed a peak body. After intensive lobbying of the State and Australian peak bodies, the South Australian Country Basketball Council was formed. The inaugural members were Val Robson, Geoff Lovelock, Bern Bruning with Beth Serle OAM appointed as Secretary. Beth has remained a hardworking and dedicated Council Member for 50 continuous years.

In 1974 the Basketball Federation of Australia sent an invitation to enter a team in the Under 16 Men Australian Championships. With only a month to organise a State Team, it was decided to enter the Mount Gambier U16M as the State Team.



1974 SA Country State Team

In 1975 after a full year of organisation by Beth Serle OAM, Mick Osborne and John Spooner, a fully representative SA Country U16M team played at the Australian Championships. Three years later our first Women's team played in the U18 Australian Championships led by Bob Borman, with Carlene and Ivan McMahon.

Senior and Junior Country Carnivals became a focus for associations to compare standards and were also a major fund generator.

With Geoff Lovelock at the helm after Bern Bruning left for Sydney in 1975, the Council started to grow and exert more influence. With the appointment of Ted Powell as Country Development Officer major progress was made in the areas of skills development, camps and state team preparation. Ted's foresight, together with his counterparts in Victoria and New South Wales led to the formation of the Australian Basketball Country Cup to be held in Albury each year. SA Country input of two teams in each grade of both boys and girls saw many more junior players represent SA.

Bert Bargeus made very early contributions to the Australian Country Cup as a Director and then followed with a long list of professional contributions to SA Country.

Presidents David Hull, Leo Sheehan and Frank Clark played strong supporting roles during this developmental period with Beth Serle providing the administrative expertise.

Ray Cadd took over the Secretary role in the late 80's and then worked as commissioner of the South Australian Country Invitation Competition later to be known as SACIBall. This provided strong competition for association in a country state league. Some years later, Ray became President of the Country Council.

After Ted Powell left, the coaching success slowed down until Glen Mathieson started having success with his U16 girls team culminating in a Bronze Medal in 2000 at the U16 Girl's Championships.

Mike Williams followed in 2002 with a Silver Medal at the U16 Boy's Championships.

Neil Gliddon, SA Director of Coaching, played an important role in developing our elite players and state teams. Coinciding with this improving on court success was the appointment of Bert Bargeus as Executive Director. Bert was a hardworking volunteer and his move to the executive chair gave much needed expertise.

The appointment of Dean Kinsman to the position of Development Officer in the new millennium heralded a new approach to the teaching of Basketball skills. This appointment brought with it a new level of enthusiasm and excitement to coaching basketballers.

During this period we saw prominent association coaches step up to coach state teams with true professionalism – Glen Mathieson, Peter Seeböhm, Jenny Herbert, Michael Rogers, Paul Salter, Trudy Ireland, Judy Prosser, Kym Hammond, Graham Semmens, Mal Penno, Peter Todd, Trevor Semmens, Matt Whittaker, James Murphy and Shona McKeon among others, brought knowledge, experience and professionalism to their state roles, in the same vein as earlier coaches Mike Osborne, Ted Powell, John Cadd, Graham Stringer, Neil Gliddon, Mike Williams, Roger Hammond, Frank Arsego, Wayne Beaumont, Jeff Fulwood, Noel Robertson, Nathan Jones, Paul Barton, Terry Casey, John Gillies, Bob Borman, Phil Smyth, Sonia Knight and Grant Surfield.

In 2006 a new structure emerged for Basketball SA. Over the next two to three years SA Country President Ray Cadd and Executive Officer Bert Bargeus supported by the Council Executive resisted Country Basketball being placed under the Basketball SA umbrella, with the result that SA Country today remains autonomous but required to pay affiliation fees for players to Basketball SA. The thrift and hard work by Bert Bargeus during this period have resulted in the strong financial position SA Country is in today.

Meanwhile other successes on the court followed Glen Mathieson's Bronze and Mike Williams Silver at the Australian Junior Championships.

The U16 Girl's won Silver in 2009 under coach Trevor Semmens and in 2013 won Bronze under coach Peter Todd.

The U18 women won Silver in Ballarat in 2015 under the masterful coaching of Paul Salter and a Bronze in 2008 in Ballarat with Stephen Patterson as the coach.

The U16 Boys won Silver in 2001 in Adelaide with Mike Williams as coach and most recently a silver in 2023 in Perth, coached by Ben MacCulloch.



2015 U18 Women - Silver Medallists



2023 U16 Men - Silver Medallists

The U16 Girls won Silver at the Australian Championships in Darwin in 2021 with Ryan Byrne in charge.

In 2014 SA Country won both U14 and U16 Girls and Boys at the Australian Country Cup in Albury. There have been many other age Division wins before and since. SA Country are grateful to the many Coaches, assistant Coaches and Managers who have had considerable input into these successes.

The emergence of new well credentialled coaches has driven the growth in playing standards. These Coaches include; Ben MacCulloch, Mark Billington, Danny Millard, Dan Stratford, Ryan Byrne, Boyd Fitton, Dan Wray, Nathan Humphries, Lukass Blicavs, Ben Wigzell, Grant Keleher, Paul Harris, Lyndsee Frost, Lisa Drefke, Ash Wutke, David Todd, Matt Sutton, Mitchell Stanbury and many more. As well Kangaroo Island's Valda Pain has made a significant contribution.

SA Country owes much to the contribution of the Executive Committee, some of whom have committed decades of service such as Beth Serle OAM , Sharon Venn, Ray Cadd, Bert Bargeus, Graeme Stringer, Cathy Warren, Peter Seebohm and more. The longevity and hard work of Team Manager Roger Hammond resulted in a professional approach to team management.

History will note that the outstanding contributions of Beth Serle OAM and Bert Bargeus over many years have been the reason SA Country thrives today.











THE HON PETER MALINAUSKAS MP

PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr Nathan Grosser  
President  
SA Country Basketball  
House of Basketball, 314 South Road  
RICHMOND SA 5033

1B423009

Dear Mr Grosser

I write to congratulate Country Basketball SA for reaching their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This significant milestone reflects the dedication of countless people who are passionate about strengthening our communities through sport.

Sport plays an integral role in bringing communities together in regional South Australia. It facilitates social harmony through improving the physical and mental wellbeing of individuals who share stories and build support networks.

It is a testament to the hard work of Country Basketball SA, that these outcomes have been achieved for half a century across 30 associations, which have also produced several players who have both represented and lead our national basketball teams.

On behalf of the South Australian Government, I wish to formally thank the volunteers, coaches, umpires, players, coordinators, and every individual who has been involved in Country Basketball SA's 50-year story. Your efforts have made a positive impact to your local communities, which we celebrate.

Once again, congratulations on achieving this important milestone, I hope you enjoy the celebrations and continue to thrive as an organisation into the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Malinauskas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Malinauskas  
PREMIER

My wholehearted congratulations on 50 years of dedication and service excellence to our community. 50 years is a very special milestone that is testament to the determination of the many who have forged and sustained this outstanding institution.

Like many, my family and I love basketball. For a number of years, I enjoyed making my way up and down the court and we have really enjoyed seeing one of our sons develop and sustain his passion for it.

Basketball, and indeed all sport, gives many a sense of belonging, helps people know that they are not alone, improves physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing and creates friendships.

Thank you very much to everyone who is part of SA Country Basketball for all that they do to include and encourage people to experience the benefits that come from being involved in this wonderful sport.

Thank you to the generous people who have given so much of themselves to this remarkable South Australian Institution; your efforts have strengthened our state and made such a difference in regional communities. I know that SA Country Basketball has improved the lives of many people over the past 50 years and will continue to do so.

I wish you all the very best as you celebrate your 50th anniversary and for the decades ahead.



Hon Katrine Hildyard MP  
Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing

Congratulations and well done to the people on the committee today.

SA Country Basketball, from what I can see today, is a highly organised body doing what we, the first group members were trying to do...and that is not so much to promote the game, but get help to keep the fledgling town competitions alive.

50 years ago, we were up against AFL and Netball, both very strong and very much not liking the new kid in town, and some town councils thought the same as well.

They were against SA Country from conception.

The fact is the idea of country associations came about because of the SA country people were passionate about basketball.

I was shocked when I received a call saying the State forbid us from playing in Victoria

That did not stop me I went above the State to Basketball Australia, and it became a hot topic, and we won the right to form Country Associations and to play across borders.

I called an SA country group together. About three associations sent delegates and we moved on from that start, Val Robson Whyalla, Geoff Lovelock Yorke Valley, and a gent from Loxton. These were the people with the vision.

My early vision was and still is that it is especially important to get kids off the streets and into any sport under good administration. By good admin I mean promoting good sports and helps kids to be good sports more than good at sport. One that teaches teamwork and why you have to be able to live and work within a team environment to be successful in sport, business and life. Kids should be asked to help themselves by umpiring, coaching and scoring as you get nowhere noteworthy in life without helping others.

Having wide business knowledge, I do know how difficult it is to grow and keep strong any organisation and you have to say the past management of SA County Basketball has done an outstanding job...well done and keep going.

Bern Bruning, First SA Country President

Dear Members and Friends of the South Australia Country Basketball Council,

As we celebrate the golden jubilee of the South Australia Country Basketball Council Inc, I am filled with pride and nostalgia. It seems like just yesterday (but in reality, 35 years ago) that I had the privilege of serving as the president of this tremendous council supporting the numerous associations throughout South Australia, and now we are celebrating five decades of passion, dedication, and community spirit that this council has helped to support.

Allow me to introduce myself: I am David Hull, your Past President from 35 years ago.

Reflecting on those times, the remoteness of the SA countryside and the developing nature of Basketball made the Council a vital part of supporting the many widespread associations, incorporating 110+ individual teams, it certainly kept us busy, but created wonderful memories and friendships. Today, as I reflect, I am humbled by the way the Council and Associations have flourished.

The unwavering commitment of its members, coaches, volunteers and players, in continuing an invaluable contribution to the development of our sport, youth, & the wider country communities throughout the state over 50 years is certainly a great achievement.

The success of Council and Associations is much more than simply having an outstanding representation at a national level, but in the many thousands who have participated, building life skills, friendships and a sense of joy and courage that comes from playing the great game of basketball.

I send my heartfelt congratulations and support to SA Country Basketball Council, on achieving this remarkable milestone and its continued successes in the future.

Yours in basketball,

David Hull, Past President

Where do I even begin? Reflecting on the journey of SA Country Basketball feels surreal, especially considering I initially said "no" when Bern Bruning, our founding President, told me I was to be the foundation Secretary of the SA Country Basketball Council. I guess the rest, as they say, is history.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all our SA Country Basketball Affiliates and Communities. I am forever indebted to everyone who so readily gave their continuous help and support throughout our incredible journey. Dean Kinsman, as our first Development Officer, laid the foundation for our now-thriving Junior Programs and overall development. His impact and the example he set must never be underestimated.

My family described my position as: "Basketball was my business; teaching was my hobby."

The word **TEAM** perfectly encapsulates what SA Country Basketball means to me:

**T**ogether, **E**veryone, **A**chieves, **M**ore

It has never been about individuals; it has always been about us, SA Country Basketball.

Living in geographically isolated areas, SA Country people are naturally gregarious, creative, and resilient. These qualities shine brightly in the structure and history of SA Country Basketball.

The unbelievable development, growth, and vigour of SA Country Basketball are the results of people working together, united by a shared passion. Personal attributes such as an undeniable passion for basketball, drive, foresight, long-term commitment, and dedication are the ingredients of our unique and successful recipe.

Let's not forget the camaraderie, social benefits, and the regular "BS" and banter that are all part of the mix!

Those of us involved have made life-long friendships and are all richer because of the SA Country Basketball experience!

Thank you again,

Beth Serle OAM

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate SA Country Basketball on its 50th anniversary.

It is a credit to the SA Country Council Executive that the services and support provided to affiliated Country Associations over the years has allowed them to flourish and grow the sport in the Country areas of SA.

This would not have happened without the support of the Committees and members of those Country Associations.

They have done this despite the tyranny of distance and other economic hardships suffered by the general population in Country areas.

The Country areas have produced many outstanding players over the years, some of which have gone on to represent Australia at Olympics, Commonwealth Games and World Championships.

I have been fortunate to have been a small part of support services for the Associations and I thank them for the opportunity.

May SA Country Basketball continue to grow and prosper over the next 50 years.

Bert Bargeus, Life Member

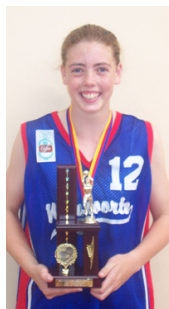
# LIFE MEMBERS

Beth Serle OAM  
Leo Sheehan  
Haydn Duffield  
Gary Carlson  
Bert Bargeus  
Ray Cadd  
Roger Hammond  
Sharon Venn  
Graeme Stringer  
Peter Seebohm  
Bernard Bruning  
Ian Glenn Mathieson  
John Spooner

# PRESIDENTS

Bernard Bruning  
Geoff Lovelock  
Frank Clark  
Leo Sheehan  
David Hull  
Graeme Jameson  
Ray Cadd  
Bert Bargeus  
Andrew Thomson  
Nathan Grosser



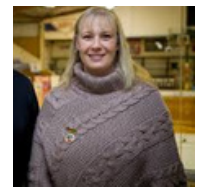
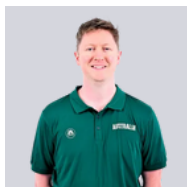




# AUSTRALIA

## REPRESENTATIVES

Abby Bishop - Port Pirie  
Alex Wilson - Murray Bridge  
Aneeka Smith - Strathalbyn  
Angela Marino - Whyalla (Representing New Zealand)  
Ben Madgen - Barossa Valley  
Brad Hill - Eastern Hills  
Brad McKinnon - Barossa Valley  
Bree Farley - Yorke Valley  
Cayla George (nee Francis) - Eastern Hills  
Chris Blakemore - Whyalla  
Demi Skinner - Port Lincoln  
Emma Langford - Yorke Valley  
Jacob Holmes - Eastern Hills  
Jordan Dodman - Port Augusta  
Kelsey Ireland - Yorke Valley  
Leigh Carlson - Eastern Hills  
Luke Schenscher - Willunga  
Matthew Thomson - Yorke Valley  
Nicole Seekamp - Riverland  
Olivia Levicki (nee Thompson) - Adelaide Plains  
Shannon Seebohm - Millicent  
Stephanie Talbot - Yorke Valley  
Taylor Ortlepp - Port Augusta  
Tess Madgen - Barossa Valley  
Tracey Beatty (nee Braithwaite) - Yankalilla  
Olivia Bradley - Eastern Hills  
Sienna Lehmann - Riverland  
Sonia Knight - Mount Gambier (Coach)



# BERT BARGEUS MEDAL

Awarded to both male & female elite athletes of the year within the SA Country program. Athletes who win this award demonstrate all of the qualities we expect all our athletes to have. commitment, hard work, high achieving, teamwork & integrity.

Bert Bargeus has had a long and distinguished history with SA Country Basketball including:

- Eastern Hills Basketball Association Secretary 1996 – 1999
- SA Country State Team Manager – U16/U18 Aust. National Junior Championships, 1996 – 2002
- SA Country Council Executive – Regional Supervisor 1998-1999
  - SA Country State Manager – Country Cup 1998 – 2002
  - Basketball Administrator of the Year SA 2003
  - Australian Junior Camp AIS – Manager 2003 – 2004
- SA Men's Team Official/Statistician – U20 Aust National Junior Championships
  - NBL Adelaide 36er's Statistician, 2002 – 2008
  - Australian of the Year Nominee 2009 & 2010
  - SA Country Executive Officer 2000 – 2010
  - SA Country Life Membership 2010
- Basketball SA Board Member/ Commissioner 2006 -2020
- NBL Adelaide 36er's Game Commissioner, 2008 – Present
  - Country Cup Director 2003 – Present
  - SA Country President, 2011 – 2016



# MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

2010	Matthew Markiewicz - Mount Gambier
2011	Jack Vigar - Whyalla
2012	Joel Foster - Light
2013	Sam Stafford - Mount Gambier
2014	Ky Matthews-Hampton – Strathalbyn
2015	Brad Rathjen - Mount Gambier
2016	Daniel Stock - Great Southern
2017	Sebastian Bald - Eastern Hills
2018	Matthew Black - Mount Gambier
2019	Stuart Scott - Great Southern
2020	No award due to COVID
2021	Charlie Wyatt - Eastern Hills
2022	Jackson Bowden - Millicent
2023	Jackson Bowden – Millicent

# FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

2010	Kristen Macaskill - Yorke Valley
2011	Elle Eleftheriadis – Riverland
2012	Georgia Green - Mount Gambier
2013	Samantha Lubcke - Murray Bridge
2014	Demi Skinner - Port Lincoln
2015	Sarah Elsworthy - Yorke Valley
2016	Georgia Thomson - Yorke Valley
2017	Isabella Stratford - Mount Gambier
2018	Taylah Levy - Great Southern
2019	Portia Size – Riverland
2020	No award due to COVID
2021	Taylor Moffat - Eastern Hills
2022	Olivia Bradley - Eastern Hills
2023	Sienna Lehmann - Riverland

# JUNIOR COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS JOHN SPOONER TROPHY

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 was the organiser and manager of the first fully representative SA Country State team to attend the Australian Championships and was a member of the Country Council in its early years.

To this day, John continues to assist SA Country with the Awards committee and researching and recording SAC's History. As well, John has assisted in the organisation of special events such as our 30th, 40th and 50th Anniversary celebrations.



1990	Sunraysia
1991	Sunraysia
1992	Mount Gambier Sunraysia
1996	Eastern Hills
1997	Eastern Hills
1999	Mildura
2000	Broken Hill Whyalla Mildura
2002	Mildura
2003	Mildura
2005	Millicent
2006	Millicent
2007	Murray Bridge
2008	Port Augusta
2009	Mount Gambier
2010	Murray Bridge
2011	Mount Gambier
2012	Mount Gambier
2013	Great Southern
2014	Great Southern
2015	Mount Gambier
2016	Mount Gambier
2017	Mount Gambier
2018	Mount Gambier
2019	Mildura
2020	Mount Gambier Mildura Eastern Hills
2021	Mildura
2022	Eastern Hills Great Southern
2023	Eastern Hills
2024	Strathalbyn

# JUNIOR COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS SALLY-JANE ALLEN MEMORIAL TROPHY

Awarded to the MVP of the Division 1 U16 Girls Competition of the South Australian Country Championships. This award commends the outstanding achievements of Sally-Jane Allen in the sports of basketball, athletics and netball at club, association, state and national levels and is awarded to the MVP of the Division 1 U16 Girls Competition of the South Australian Country Championships. In January 1990, along with Trisha Flett, Sally-Jane tragically lost her life while travelling home from Albury after representing South Australia Country in the Australian Junior Country Basketball Cup.



1991	Kim McLeod -Broken Hill
1996	Caroline Nixon - Eastern Hills
1997	Kylie Williamson - Port Pirie
2001	Angela Marino – Whyalla
2002	Trudy Holland - Naracoorte
2003	Alyse Johns – Mildura
2004	Emma Langford - Yorke Valley
2005	Bree Farley - Yorke Valley
2006	Kelsey Ireland - Yorke Valley
2007	Emma Grantham - Port Augusta
2008	Stephanie Talbot - Yorke Valley
2009	Nikki Dougall – Murray Bridge
2010	Claire Schupelius - Port Augusta
2011	Brianna Walters - Mount Gambier
2012	Claudia Thomas - Port Pirie
2013	Alex Walker – Millicent
2014	Shayelan Paech - Murray Bridge
2015	Molly Coleman - Yorke Valley
2016	Meaza Otto - Port Lincoln
	Kiana Sochacki – Strathalbyn
2017	Isabella Duval - Strathalbyn
	Madi Haggett - Millicent
	Portia Size – Riverland
2018	Lana Gregoric - Riverland
	Mikaela Horrigan - Mount Gambier
2019	Olivia Bradley - Eastern Hills
	Bianca Stasionwsky – Riverland
2021	Airlee Ramsey - Yorke Valley
2022	Krystal Thompson - Port Augusta
2023	Daisy Hocking - Strathalbyn
2024	Daisy Hocking - Strathalbyn
	Emerson Beeching Strathalbyn



# JUNIOR COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS TRISHA FLETT MEMORIAL TROPHY

Awarded to the MVP of the Division 1 U14 Girls Competition of the South Australian Country Championships This award commends the outstanding achievements of Trisha Flett in the sports of basketball, athletics and netball at club, association, state and national levels and is awarded to the MVP of the Division 1 U14 Girls Competition of the South Australian Country Championships. In January 1990, along with Sally-Jane Allen, Trisha tragically lost her life while travelling home from Albury after representing South Australia Country in the Australian Junior Country Basketball Cup.



1996	Rochelle McGrath - Mount Gambier
1997	Brooke Sidebottom - Mount Gambier
2001	Alyse Johns - Mildura
2002	Alyse Johns - Mildura
2004	Kelsey Ireland - Yorke Valley
2005	Abbey Lambert - Port Pirie
2007	Stephanie Talbot - Yorke Valley
2008	Emily Stafford - Mount Gambier
2009	Ebony Sandiman - Mildura
2010	Peyton Fuller - Port Augusta
2011	Ellie Turner - Yorke Valley
2012	Jasmine Simmons - Broken Hill
2013	Olivia Dukalskis - Mount Gambier
	Shelbie-Rae Allen-Hammer - Port Augusta
2014	Madison Alvino - Mildura
	Taylah Levy - Great Southern
2015	Elyscia Mackiewicz - Broken Hill
	Emily Close - Mount Gambier
2016	Tiah Peek - Port Pirie
2017	Shelbi-Lee Sutcliffe - Barossa Valley
	Alyssa Duncan - Mount Gambier
2018	Alyssa Duncan - Mount Gambier
2019	Shontae Kartinyeri - Eastern Hills
2020	Krystal Thompson - Port Augusta
2021	Bailey Hahn - Riverland
2022	Daisy Hocking - Strathalbyn
2023	Lucy Crowe - Millicent
2024	Mackenzie Pitt - Riverland







# SENIOR COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

## THE PAT O'KEEFFE

### TROPHY

Awarded to the MVP of Men's A Grade Grand Final at the Senior Country Championships. Pat O'Keeffe was a Broken Hill Basketballer with the quintessential Aussie approach to sport. Hard, tough and fair on the court, social and friendly when the game had finished. His spirit lives on at the Senior Country Championships.

1991	Tony Cook – Mount Gambier
1992	Jason Stephenson
1995	Randall Stephens – Broken Hill
1996	Bill Wilson – Murray Bridge
1997	Martin Barmentloo – Eastern Hills
2000	Chad Marston – Eastern Hills
2001	Chris Shee – Eastern Hills
2002	Scott Arnold – Port Pirie
2005	Peter Todd - Riverland
2006	Joel Goodenough – Eastern Hills
2007	Dillon Millard – Riverland
2008	Shane Curnow - Port Augusta
2009	Phil Smith – Eastern Hills
2010	Joel Goodenough – Eastern Hills
2017	Lyall Gillett - Port Pirie
2021	Dellon Brown- Mount Gambier
2022	Kyle Tipene - Mount Gambier
2023	Lukass Blicavs – Strathalbyn
2024	Toby de Wit - Mount Gambier

# SENIOR COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

## THE FRANK CLARK

### TROPHY

Awarded to the MVP of the Men's A Grade competition at the Senior Country Championships. Frank Clarke was the third President of the SACBC. He was integral to the successes of Barossa Valley Basketball and the ever-growing Country Championships.

1996	Bill Wilson – Murray Bridge
1997	Martin Barmantloo – Eastern Hills
2000	Chris Mason – Eastern Hills
2001	Sam Fotu – Mount Gambier
2002	Scott Arnold – Port Pirie James Walker – Mildura
2005	Shane Curnow – Port Augusta
2007	Darren Quinn – Whyalla
2008	Phil Smith – Eastern Hills
2009	Phil Smith – Eastern Hills
2010	Cameron Edser – Eastern Hills
2017	Chris Mason- Mount Gambier
2020	Dylan Shorne - Yorke Valley
2021	Kane De Wit- Mount Gambier
2022	Lachlan Hunter - Mount Gambier
2023	Lachlan Knibbs - Port Pirie
2024	Simon Berkefield - Mount Gambier

# SENIOR COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

## THE MRS MUDGE

### TROPHY

Awarded to the MVP of women's A Grade at the Senior Country Championships. Mavis Mudge was the "Mother Hen" of the SA Country Championships. For many years she was the custodian of the Bowden Stadium. She was an organiser, friend, and confidant to all. Nothing was too much trouble for Mrs Mudge, including washing uniforms overnight for many teams.

1996	Sarah Nobbs – Pt Augusta
1997	Leslie Griegor – Barossa
2000	Fleur Holmes – Eastern Hills Amanda Williams – Eastern Hills
2001	Nadine Chivell – Port Pirie Amanda Williams – Eastern Hills
2002	Shelley Cornolo – Mount Gambier
2005	Tenille Pitt – Strathalbyn
2006	Natasha Westbrook – Yorke Valley
2007	Bree Farley – Yorke Valley
2008	Tess Dempsey – Riverland
2009	Sara Chapple – Mount Gambier
2010	Tenille Searle – Eastern Hills
2017	Hayley Wadforth – Strathalbyn
2020	Portia Size - Riverland Montana Briggs - Yorke Valley
2021	Stephanie Lubcke – Keith
2022	Emily Winter – Millicent
2023	Krystal Thompson - Port Augusta
2024	Taylah Levy - Yorke Valley







# 50 YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Formation of SA Country Basketball in 1974 under President Bernard Bruning. After intense lobby of SA and Australian peak bodies.
- First Team to represent SA Country at an Australian Junior Championships in 1974 was Mt Gambier U16 boys.
- The first fully representative statewide U16 boys team attended the Australian Junior Championships in Sale in 1975.
- The first U18 Women's team attended the Australian Junior Championships in 1978.
- 115 senior Country Association teams attended the Senior Country Championships at Forestville and Bowden.
- Forestville legend Arthur Newley professionally hosted these teams for many years.
- Broken Hill Basketball accepted as an affiliate of SA Country Basketball.
- Mildura accepted as a guest team at State Country Championships.
- Ted Powell appointed as the first paid employee of SA Country Basketball.
- Ted Powell's brainchild, the Australian Junior Country Cup with full support from SA Country was established in the mid 1980s.
- Beth Serle OAM honoured with SA Country's first Life Membership.

# 50 YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Beth Serle OAM Volunteer Administrator of the Year annual award.
- Bert Bargeus Medal awarded annually to both Male and Female Elite Athletes of the Year.
- John Spooner Trophy awarded to the Most Successful Association at The SA Country Junior Championships at Div 1 level.
- Bert Bargeus honoured with Administrator of the Year award by Basketball Australia
- Sonia Knight appointed as assistant Coach of The Australian Gems.
- Numerous Male and Female SA Country athletes played for Australia. (see page )
- Record number of teams attend the Australian Junior Country Cup at Albury.
- The SA Country Invitational Basketball League was established with Ray Cadd as administrator.
- Professional Coaching Director Dean Kinsman appointed as SA Country Development Officer.
- President Ray Cadd kept SA Country autonomous despite intense pressure from BASA to absorb Country.
- At the Women's World Cup, Opal's Coach Brendon Joyce played 5 ex SA Country girls on the court together.

# 50 YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Ever increasing record number of teams at SA Country Junior Championships.
- SA Country win 4 age group titles at Albury.
- Captaincy of the Australian Opals held by SA Country players, Steph Talbot and Tess Madgen.
- Successes at the Australian Junior Championships:
  - 2000 - U16 Girls Bronze
  - 2002 - U16 Goys Silver
  - 2013 - U16 Girls bronze
  - 2014 - U18 Girls Bronze
  - 2015 - U18 Girls Silver
  - 2021 - U16 Girls Silver
  - 2023 - U16 Boys Silver
- Successes at the Australian Country Cup:
  - 1991 - Age Group Unknown
  - 1994 - Age Group Unknown
  - 1997 - Age Group Unknown
  - 2002 - Age Group Unknown
  - 2007 - Age Group Unknown
  - 2009 - Age Group Unknown
  - 2012 - Age Group Unknown
  - 2014 - U14 Boys Champions
  - 2014 - U14 Girls Champions
  - 2014 - U16 Boys Champions
  - 2014 - U16 Girls Champions
  - 2015 - U18 Girls Champions
  - 2016 - U14 Girls Champions
  - 2018 - U14 Girls Champions
  - 2023 - U14 Girls Champions







