



## 2025 President's Report

As we reflect on 2025, it is once again clear that Volleyball Ballarat is defined not by any one program, competition, or result — but by its people. At its heart, this association is a community. A community built on connection, shared energy, and a genuine love of the game.

That sense of community is overwhelming as you enter the Minerdome on a Monday evening for our social competition as it brings together players of different ages, backgrounds, and experience levels. Across four divisions, we see friendly rivalry, laughter, competition, and connection all shared on the same courts. It is more than just weekly games — it is a consistent space where people belong, where friendships are formed, and where the simple joy of playing volleyball is celebrated.

Our Wednesday night training program has continued to grow throughout 2025, particularly within our junior groups, the future of our association! These sessions provide a structured pathway for skill development, confidence building, and long-term participation in the sport. The continued engagement from our coaching team has been outstanding, and their ability to create an encouraging and inclusive environment ensures players of all levels feel supported and valued.

All of this is in line with our 2025-2030 Volleyball Strategic plan Vision: *“We are a community that exists to enjoy exhilarating volleyball experiences and build strong friendships through a variety of volleyball competitions and programs.”*

Our strategic plan continues to guide our direction as we look to the future, centred around five key pillars:

1. Positive volleyball culture
2. Membership growth
3. Capable personal development
4. Facility access
5. inclusion of women and girls.

Each of these areas brings its own opportunities and challenges, and we continue to make steady progress across all pillars. Every step forward is driven by the commitment of our community, and growing and supporting our volunteer base remains essential as we look to the future.

Our presence in state league and regional tournaments has also continued to strengthen in 2025. With both men's and women's teams representing Volleyball Ballarat across Victoria, our members have competed with pride, resilience, and commitment. These opportunities not only showcase the talent within our association but also reinforce the pathways available for those looking to develop their game further.



At the 2025 Country Championships in Bendigo, we saw outstanding results — our newly formed women’s team brought home a silver medal in Division 3, while our men’s team claimed top honours as Division 2 champions. Special congratulations to Isabelle Macasero who was selected in the All-Star division 3 Women.

A standout event once again this year was our annual Skins Tournament — a true highlight on our calendar that brings together members of our wider volleyball community in a fun, competitive, and social environment. In 2026, we reached a new milestone, hosting a record 74 teams across three venues: Selkirk, Grammar, and Loreto.

This level of growth would not have been possible without the support of our partners. We are incredibly grateful for the grant sponsorship from the City of Ballarat, the generous contribution from our major tournament sponsor Zambrero’s Ballarat, and the support of our Division One sponsor, Dosa Hut Ballarat.

Beyond the support of our sponsors, it was once again the dedication and hard work of our committee and members that ensured this tournament ran smoothly and received overwhelmingly positive feedback. In particular, we would like to acknowledge Damon Minotti for his continued role as Skins Tournament Director. His commitment, organisation, and leadership were instrumental in delivering such a successful event. On a personal note, after stepping down as President last year, Damon has remained an incredible support to the association, the committee, and to me as I have taken on the role. For that, I am especially grateful.

Equally important is the role of our committee. The ongoing time, effort, and dedication of our committee members is something that cannot be overstated. Their work behind the scenes — coordinating competitions, managing logistics, supporting events, and ensuring everything runs smoothly week after week — is essential to the operation of this association. Volleyball Ballarat simply would not function without their commitment, and I extend my sincere gratitude to each and every one of them.

As we look ahead, we do so with optimism and pride. Our community continues to grow, not just in numbers, but in strength, connection, and spirit. It is this culture — built on respect, inclusion, and shared passion — that ensures Volleyball Ballarat remains a place where people want to play, stay, and belong.

Thank you to all members, coaches, volunteers, and committee members for your continued support and contribution.

Fiona Abbott

President