

## “WHITE OUT NIGHT”

Thunder would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who played a part in making our themed “White Out Night” such a huge success. The generosity of the North West Coast basketball fraternity has proved to be absolutely outstanding and donations received for our nominated charity, Ronald McDonald House, have totalled a sensational \$4,635.60. This is a fantastic effort and testament to the hard work of everyone around the organisation, but in particular Thunder’s Marketing Manager, Michael Rowlands, who has been tireless in his promotion and organisation of the event over many weeks. We would also like to highlight the amazing contribution of the NWBU, our eight coastal basketball clubs and the Referee’s Association who between them kicked in a staggering \$1,700 to get the ball rolling! Our Vice Chairman, Michael Gaffney (MLC), also dug deep and contributed \$250 to the cause. These were awesome efforts and very much appreciated by Thunder and of course our charity recipient RMH and their guest family, the Daverns. The very generous donation of T-shirts by



McDonalds helped us to create a great visual spectacle, with a broad expanse of white T’s filling the stadium. It was a fantastic night, a great idea, a super-successful fundraiser and certainly an initiative that will enhance the Thunder brand and ensure that we continue being good community citizens while we pursue our sporting goals. Take a look at the many Facebook posts on our page and follow the links to the many insightful media interviews and also those with some of our special guests and the players. The day kicked off with members of the team assisting at the Devonport McDonalds takeaway and close to \$200 was collected during this phase of the fundraising. The guys really enjoyed the hands-on experience of customer service and their input was appreciated by staff and customers alike. Our thanks to local “Maccas” management for making this part of proceedings possible.



## UPCOMING CHARITY FUNDRAISERS

Following on from the very successful Ronald McDonald House “White Out Night” in Devonport, there are a couple of other charities that Thunder will support in coming weeks. At the Ballarat game this coming Saturday, there will be a Salvation Army representative taking donations for their annual Red Shield Appeal. This is another very deserving charity and vulnerable Australians rely heavily on the funds raised. The appeal enables the provision of a range of services from providing shelter for the homeless, assisting families in crisis through practical support and financial counselling, to guiding people with addictions through to a clean, healthy lifestyle.



On the 30<sup>th</sup> June, at the Thunder vs Melbourne game in Ulverstone, we will be holding our yearly Todd Nothrop memorial game in honour of our former Red Hopper and SEABL player who tragically passed away in 1995 at age 25 after contracting melanoma cancer. Todd was a great friend to so many people in basketball circles on the North-West Coast and the game is a very special one on the Thunder calendar every year. The monies raised go to Cancer Council Tasmania and all funds stay in Tasmania to help people and families affected by this terrible disease and to support research into possible cures.

Everyone in Thunder ranks is very mindful that people do not have “bottomless pockets” and we apologise for the close proximity of our 2018 fundraising initiatives. We fully understand that people can’t always afford to donate and many people have their own favourite charities that take precedence. We certainly do not expect anyone to commit to any donation when they cannot afford to or when they would prefer to direct their money in another direction. The option to contribute is simply there if people feel that they are able and are keen to do so.

## STATISTICS

Thunder players are figuring prominently in a number of SEABL’s statistical categories with Paul Campbell leading the Offensive Rebounds section and sitting in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Blocks area. Jeremiah Ingram is currently in 4<sup>th</sup> place in Total Steals with 19 and Mason Bragg is in 6<sup>th</sup> place with 18. Mason is also Top 10 in the Assists category, currently registering 4.9 per game.

| Total Offensive Rebounds  |                                      |          | Total Blocks  |                                 |          | Total Steals  |                                      |          |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------|---|---------------------------------|----------|---|--------------------------------------|----------|
|  | <b>Paul Campbell</b><br>N W TASMANIA | 40<br>OF |  | <b>Deng Acuoth</b><br>MELBOURNE | 76<br>BL |  | <b>Deba George</b><br>ALBURY WODONGA | 21<br>ST |
| POS NAME  |                                      | TR       | POS NAME  |                                 | RI       | POS NAME  |                                      | ST       |
| 2   | Markuei Puondak<br>SKN               | 39       | 2   | Michael Best<br>DIV             | 25       | 2   | Jeremy Kandle<br>BEN                 | 20       |
| 3   | Craig Moller<br>HOB                  | 37       | 3   | Samuel Muldrow<br>HHA           | 25       | 3   | Indiana Faithfull<br>BEN             | 19       |
| 4   | Ray Turner<br>BEN                    | 37       | 4   | Paul Campbell<br>NWT            | 20       | 4   | Jeremiah Ingram<br>NWT               | 19       |
| 5   | Lamar Mallory<br>ALD                 | 36       | 5   | Ray Turner<br>BEN               | 15       | 5   | Lucas Barker<br>VAN                  | 19       |

## SEABL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

In what I am sure is a first for Thunder we have gained selection in SEABL's Team of the Week for three consecutive weeks, with Mason Bragg securing the honour in Rounds 4 and 6 and Jeremiah Ingram filling the gap in Round 5. Congratulations to the guys on this very well deserved honour!



In late breaking news just through from SEABL, we can alter that figure of three consecutive Team of the Week listings to four, as Mason has clocked up the award for the third time this year with his inclusion in the Round 7 team. This is a fantastic effort and at the rate he is going he will eclipse the record of our previous American point guard. BJ Jenkins, who I think made around six appearances in the Team of the Week back in 2014 before going on to make the SEABL First Five at the end of that season. A great article on Mason and his NBL aspirations appeared on the back page of today's Advocate!



### NBL CAMP

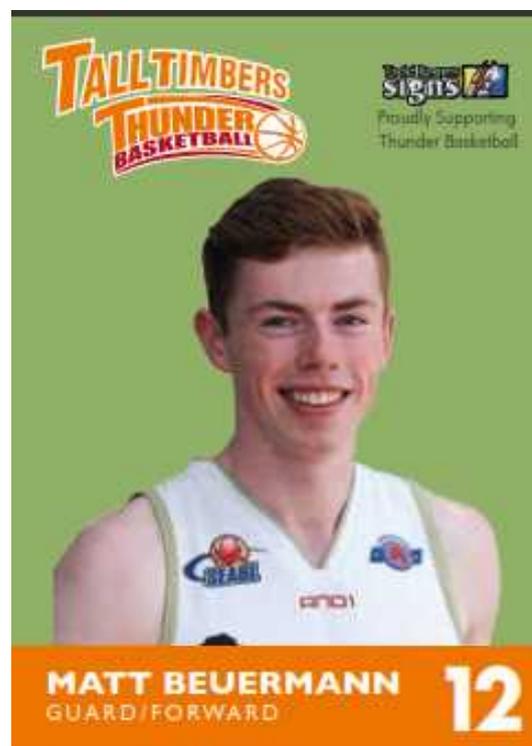
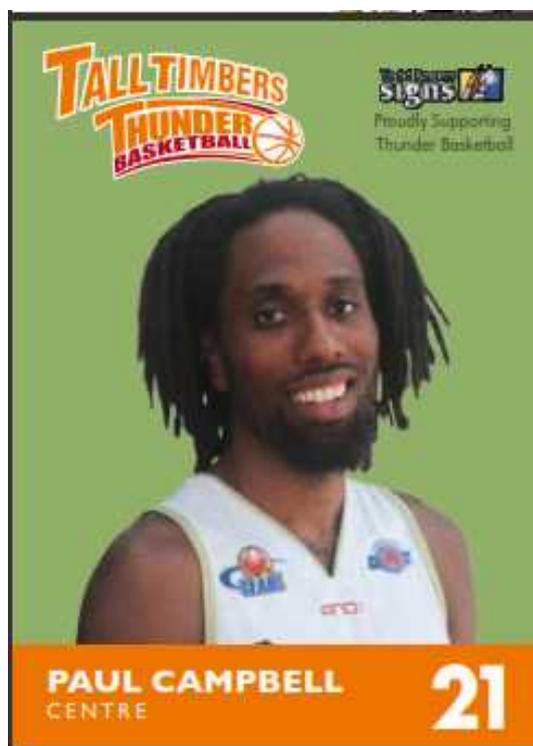
As mentioned in this week's Monday email, Mason Bragg has ventured to Melbourne to attend the Next Gen Combine, in the hope of picking up another NBL contract. The Combine is a partnership between the NBL and Basketball Australia, designed to give the next wave of talented players a platform to perform in front of all NBL coaches and scouts. An article on the second last page of Wednesday's Melbourne Herald Sun, in relation to Andrew Bogut and the Sydney Kings, touches on the Combine and the opportunities it presents. The last paragraph of the article reads as follows:–  
*“Young guns, Mason Bragg, Daniel Grida, Callum Dalton and Deng Acouth have impressed during the two-day Combine.”* I suspect that won't do Mason's chances any harm! We wish him all the best in regard to his future goals.

### BACOE FORFEIT

Most people will have seen the recent newspaper article outlining that the BACOE team are now unable to play in their scheduled roster game against Thunder on Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> June due to international commitments. This has led to a forfeit, which means that Thunder will just play Canberra on that weekend's road trip and we will be credited with a win for the Centre of Excellence “no show”. A scoreline of 20–0 will be used as a calculation figure for our percentage. On a related note, it is interesting that a cancelled game between Mt Gambier and Nunawading, put off on the 11<sup>th</sup> May due to issues with weather/flights, has still to be rescheduled. It seems likely that given the tightness of the roster, finding a date to hold the cancelled match may prove extremely difficult. One would assume, given the nature of SEABL's ladder and scoring system, which does not cater for game points and has no capacity for a draw to be played, that Nunawading as the away team will likely incur a forfeit. They are currently second on the ladder, so the outcome will be very interesting and certainly may impact on eventual ladder positions.

## PLAYER CARDS

The rollout of our player cards continues, with two more on offer this week at the Ballarat game. Grab a copy of the Matt Beuermann and Paul Campbell cards and get an autograph after the game. You can also catch up on any you may have missed; we will roll out our remaining six cards, Sam Armstrong, Jeremiah Ingram, Ben Woolley, Mason Bragg, Lachie Barker and Tre Armstrong over our remaining three home games.



**NORTH WEST  
TALLTIMBERS  
THUNDER**

**|Vs.**

**Ballarat Miners**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>VENUE:</b>         | <b>Ulverstone Stadium</b>   |
| <b>TIME/DATE:</b>     | <b>7.30pm, Saturday 26th May</b>  |
| <b>SUPPORT GAMES:</b> | 4.45pm - U12 Girls Ulverstone v D'port<br>5.45pm - U12 Boys Ulverstone v D'port |

|                                    |      |                           |      |
|------------------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|
| <i>Children (13 and under)</i>     | \$6  | <i>Adults</i>             | \$13 |
| <i>Group (2 Adults/2 Children)</i> | \$32 | <i>Student/Concession</i> | \$9  |



# CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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## North West Tall Timbers Thunder Basketball

The North West Tall Timbers Thunder Basketball team participates in the South East Australian Basketball League (SEABL) playing against teams from Tasmania, ACT, Victoria and South Australia. This program is the step prior to the NBL. It is a chance to watch local, national and international players competing in a very strong men's basketball league.

Since the inception of the North West team, the coastal club has achieved the following: 1996 South Conference Premiers; 1996 ABA National Premiers; 2004 South Conference Premiers; 2004 r/u ABA National Premiers and in 2015 won the SEABL Club of the Year.



The team has had various names depending on the major sponsor at the time:

- 1983-1993 Devonport Warriors
- 1994 North West Coastal Breakers
- 1995-1996 North West Boags Originals
- 1997-2002 North West Boags Brewers
- 2003-2006 Patrick North West Thunder
- 2007-2008 Scorpion Buck Thunder
- 2009-2018 North West Tall Timbers Thunder.

North West Tall Timbers Thunder is the only team on the North West Coast that plays in the SEABL program. There is a women's team in the north (ancestors Tomatoes) and Hobart has women's and men's teams known as the Chargers. There has been a long time positive rivalry between the Thunder and Chargers men's teams.

North West Tall Timbers Thunder conducts coaching sessions in schools along the North West and West Coasts of Tasmania, from Smithton to Fort Sorell and Queensdown. Thunder players look forward to the school clinics, teaching the students skills and introducing those students that have never played basketball to the game. The clinics are also supported by the State Government and Basketball Tasmania.



North West Tall Timbers Thunder is a very community-minded organisation and annually raises funds for charities such as the Cancer Council. Each year the Thunder participates in games that promote awareness around men's health issues. This year, Thunder will be holding several special nights, including the Todd Northrop Memorial Game, which raises funds for cancer and the McDonald's "White Out" game where a theme night will be conducted in an effort to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald charity. In 2017 the Thunder raised funds for a young local man who lost his home in a fire, he was able to put the funds raised towards the purchase of a new wheelchair.

The North West Tall Timbers Thunder coordinates holiday clinics for youngsters all along the Coast from Smithton to Deloraine and also runs very successful junior tournaments. Recently the Little Transport Thunder Classic was held, and 24 junior teams ranging in age from U10 to U14 boys and girls, participated in a two day tournament with games held in Ulverstone, Penguin and Burnie.

If you head to a Thunder game you can expect a great night's entertainment, brass band, cheerleaders and a number of half time activities involving participants drawn from the crowd. Thunder volunteers put in many hours for families and individuals alike to supply a great night out, including a high standard of basketball and great athleticism on display. Ten home games, either on a Friday or Saturday night, will be held for the 2018 season, with six games in Ulverstone and four in Devonport. Everyone is invited to attend a game, assured of having a most enjoyable night out. Feel free to check out the North West Tall Timbers Thunder website or Facebook page.



# "WHITE OUT NIGHT"

