



Writing the column this week means the reality of the off-season coming to an abrupt end and the excitement of a new season beginning hits home. Welcome to Season 2017.

For many teams, it represents a fresh start. We say farewell to Altona who took the Championship last season along with the Cougars from Keysborough who collected the wooden spoon, and welcome in the Corio Bay Stingrays, an association which is fast developing a reputation as a very deep talented association.

And we won't have to wait long to see who can claim bragging rights supremacy in the Battle of Bellarine, with the Stingrays hosting the 'Cats in Game 1 of the season! If Corio Bay can get up, they won't have long to soak in the win, as they travel to Sunbury on the Sunday against another passionate team of players and supporters. In fact, it's a whirlwind Round 1, with many teams having two games to open the season.

Another exciting match up is a tantalising semi final rematch from 2016 as Werribee host Whittlesea. Revenge will be on the minds of the Devils after they lost their series last year in some incredibly tight tussles against the Pacers, with not much separating the teams. Expect much of the same again on Sunday.

The Giants will also want to start the season strongly after making the Top 4 in 2016 and open the season against a team that can sometimes trouble the establishment, the Dragons from Camberwell. Who will prevail – the Dragonslayers or Giantkillers? A tough assignment in the opening weekend for the Warrandyte Venom up against Werribee and Hume City – another formidable team on their good day.

The Bendigo Braves had a successful Country Basketball League season campaigns with their senior teams, and the Youth Mens team will be hoping to channel that positive mindset into their opening game in the early timeslot on Sunday against Camberwell.

First impressions count and that's no surer than in Round 1 of the new 2017 season! Good luck to all teams!

Corio Bay vs. Geelong	Sat 5pm	Geelong Basketball Netball Centre
Coburg vs. Camberwell	Sat 6:30pm	Coburg Basketball Stadium
Whittlesea vs. Keilor	Sat 6:30pm	Mill Park Basketball Stadium
Warrandyte vs. Werribee	Sat 6:30pm	Warrandyte Sports Complex
Ballarat vs. Hume City	Sat 7:45pm	MARS Minerdome
Camberwell vs. Bendigo	Sun 11am	Balwyn High School
Sunbury vs. Corio Bay	Sun 12pm	Boardman Stadium
Hume City vs. Warrandyte	Sun 1pm	Broadmeadows Basketball Stadium
Werribee vs. Whittlesea	Sun 2pm	Eagle Stadium
Keilor vs. Coburg	Sun 2pm	Keilor Basketball Stadium



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