

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***“Taylor Hawks to Soar Under New Leadership in 2022”***

Hawke’s Bay, Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 – It’s been a busy and fruitful off season for the Taylor Hawks. The club has made some key changes to both our front office and courtside leadership. We aim to further capitalize on the teams recent on court successes, and improve the capacity to help foster growth within the Bay’s basketball community with this exciting appointment.

*“We’ve been really close to a championship in recent years. The sport continues to evolve quickly with its popularity, professionalism and growth, and we felt as a club now was the time to ensure we are resourced to continue on from recent successes and continue to build a championship caliber team both on and off the court.” Keith Price Taylor Hawks Chair.*



In what has been a significant recruiting success, the Taylor Hawks have landed internationally respected and experienced coach, Mick Downer, who will head up the Basketball team in both the role of General Manager and Head Coach of the Taylor Hawks in the Sal’s NBL.

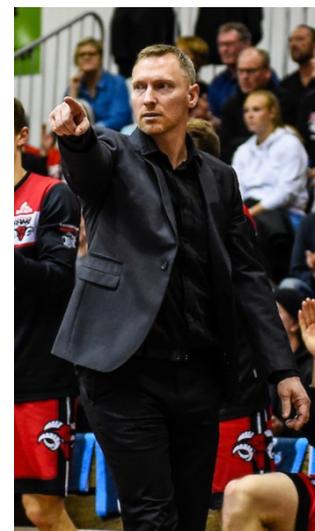
Downer’s resume is impressive with over 20 years of high-performance coaching and management experience throughout Australia and New Zealand, most recently as the Head Coach of the Canterbury Rams in the Sal’s NBL and Programs Director at the Canterbury Regional Basketball Foundation ([for more info about Mick click here](#)). The 2019 Sal’s NBL Coach of the year has coached in the Australian NBL for over a decade, as well as being on the 2016 Australian Olympic staff, but it is his leadership and experience in player development, coach education, and management which should excite the Hawks basketball community.

*“We are really excited about hiring Mick to lead the club as we move forward. He comes highly regarded, has the unique skill set of both coaching and management and has applied these skills with success from the community through to the Olympic level. He’s well respected throughout the league and we look forward to working with him as we continue to build upon the club’s professionalism and performances both on and off the court,” Price added.*

This appointment is part of a plan that will see year-round expertise on the ground in Hawke’s Bay, something that is essential to help foster opportunities for local players and help continue to grow strong partnerships with Hawke’s Bay Basketball and other community partners. The addition of Mick will see current General Manager Amy Price move into a supporting space for the club. We thank Amy for her tireless work and commitment to the club and are excited about Mick’s addition, which will help grow our off-court capacity into the future.

Basketball Hawke’s Bay’s General Manager Nick Hogan applauded the Hawks for the appointment. “Mick will be a great addition for Basketball in the Hawke’s Bay. We are looking forward to working closely with the Hawks to leverage off Mick’s pedigree and skill set. We hope to continue our strong relationship with the Hawks that will allow us to build stronger pathways between the community and the high-performance game in both a playing and coaching aspect of the game here in Hawke’s Bay.”

Mick and his family (wife Mel, who works as the National Pathways Manager for Basketball New Zealand and daughter Evie) will look to land in the Bay at the start of the New Year.



Work is underway as we speak as the Taylor Hawks prepare for a championship run in 2022, After the leagues recent announcement of the New Balance partnership, the 3x3 Christmas Cup and increasing exposure of the league through the Sky Sports broadcast it’s an exciting time to be a part of the Taylor Hawks family. Stay tuned for further announcements soon.

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