



THE Cairns Taipans have announced they have parted ways with coach Aaron Fearné following the 2017-18 NBL season. (AAP Image/Richard Wainwright) NO ARCHIVING, EDITORIAL USE ONLY

NEWS

Cairns Taipans parts ways with coach Aaron Fearné following the 2017-18 NBL season

The Cairns Post

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- [Coach Aaron Fearné is expected to part ways with Cairns Taipans](#)

THE Cairns Taipans have announced that coach Aaron Fearné will not return for another season with the board choosing to carry the club forward into a new era with a new direction.

Fearné has been at the helm of the team since 2010 and has been on the playing and coaching roster for all 19 seasons the Taipans have been in the league.

“After being involved with the Cairns Taipans for 19 seasons, nine of those as the head coach, the club has made the decision that it is time for a new voice to carry the club forward into a new era and I am most understanding of their position,” Fearné said.

“Looking back on all we have accomplished during this time, I am filled with nothing but pride and a sense of gratitude.

“And while it is emotional to be moving on, I will walk out of here knowing

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that I have grown the game in this community and am leaving it in a much better place than when I arrived.”

Fearne thanked the Cairns Taipans board, the passionate Orange Army fans and his family for their support and the belief over the years.

“It has been more than just a job for me here — it has been my life and my family’s life,” he said.

“The Taipans have accomplished a lot over my time here that I am extremely proud of.

“It has obviously been disappointing that we haven’t been able to win a championship, as that has always been the ultimate goal.

“Nonetheless, we have played extremely consistent, competitive basketball, won a regular season title and made three finals appearances, including two trips to the grand final series.

“I would love to continue to coach in the NBL but will also look closely at opportunities overseas.

“It will be a process of exploring all of the options. When one door closes, another often opens and wherever I land, I’m excited to continue to learn and develop as a coach.”

CQUniversity Cairns Taipans President Troy Stone said it had been privilege to work alongside Fearne.

“Aaron has accomplished a great deal in his time with the Taipans and his core values of family and culture not only align completely with the club values, but have been integral in the success that the Taipans have experienced,” he said.

“It would give the Taipans nothing but pride to see Aaron go on to the biggest stages in the world of basketball as he continues to advance his career, while the club also moves on.

“The board have not yet gone to market with this development. Reflecting the respect for Aaron and his time with the club, the board made the decision to not engage in any discussions at any level until this announcement was made.”

Stone said the club was ready for a new chapter, building on what Fearne had established.

The Taipans will enter their milestone 20th year in the NBL this year.

Club chief executive officer Mark Beecroft said it is time for both club and head coach to make steps towards the future.

“While it will be an emotional adjustment, it is also a very exciting time for our club and particularly, our fans,” he said.

“I can’t wait to see what talent we bring in — both in the coaching ranks and on the playing roster, and how that team will advance us into the future.”

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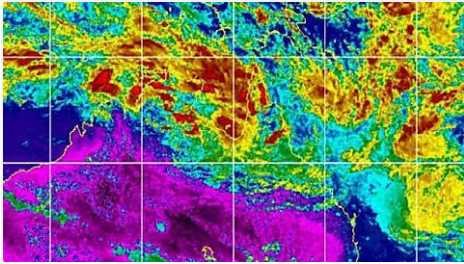


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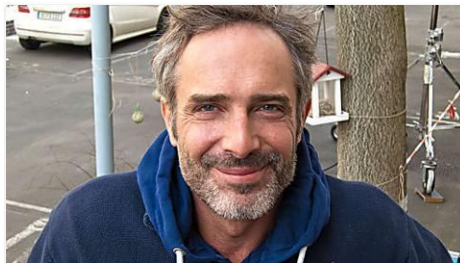
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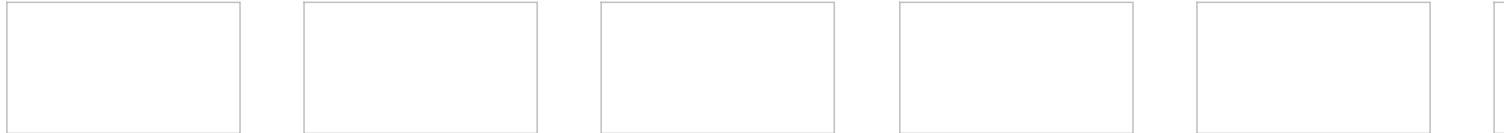
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