



“(I want to give) a huge thank you to (assistant coach) ‘Pearl’ (Jamie Pearlman), Aaron and Jamie O’Loughlin,” Beecroft said.



thunderstorms come



Tribute to 'adored' Kamillah, killed by rottweiler



Wife's horror: 'What's going on?'



Head coach of the Cairns Taipans, Aaron Fearne leaves the court after losing the Round 19 NBL match between the Perth Wildcats and the Cairns Taipans at Perth Arena in Perth, Sunday, February 18, 2018. (AAP Image/Richard Wainwright)

“This year was a real challenge.

“Managing the ins-and-outs with the roster and all the curveballs, I think you did an incredible job.

“The fact that you can go into Perth (and win) in the second last game I think is a credit to the team and showed the potential of what a healthy roster could have looked like this year.

“I want to congratulate the guys on what they achieved and sticking it through right till the end.”

The Taipans will now turn to finding a new head coach, the first time they have had to do so in a decade, as well as looking to retain star guards Cameron Gliddon and Mitch McCarron, who are out of contract.

“Whether or not I stay or go, that will be decided in the next few months,” Gliddon told 7 News on Friday.

“That is a huge process ... and from there we will see what direction the club goes in and where they want to go.”

Fearne said on a number of different occasions through the recent season that 2017-18 had been his toughest since he took the top job, dealing with several injuries and imports coming in and out of the squad.





Head coach of the Cairns Taipans, Aaron Fearne reacts during the Round 19 NBL match between the Perth Wildcats and the Cairns Taipans at Perth Arena in Perth, Sunday, February 18, 2018. (AAP Image/Richard Wainwright)

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“I’m just trying to get through this season and see where things go from there. It’s not up to me (if I stay),” he said in late January.

“I’ve been here a long time, had some good success.

“Ultimately, at the end of the day I’d like to win a championship for this club and so would the players.

“I’d like to do it for the city and the fans. We’ve been close but it’s really hard to win a championship in any single sport.

“It’s really, really hard. We’ve done some good things. It’d nice to take that next step.”



Nate Jawai of the Taipans in action during the NBL Round 16 game between Illawarra Hawks and Cairns Taipans at the WIN Entertainment Centre in Wollongong, Sunday, January 28, 2018. (AAP Image/Craig Golding)

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Only centre Nate Jawai and rookie Kuany Kuany are under contract heading towards next season with the new coach having almost a clean sheet to work with.

### **THE TAIPANS UNDER FEARNE**

2009/10 7th (11–17)

2010/11 3rd (16–12) Grand Finalists

2011/12 5th (15–13)

2012/13 6th (11–17)

2013/14 5th (12–16)

2014/15 1st (21–7) Grand Finalists

2015/16 6th (12–16)

2016/17 2nd (15–13) Semi-Finalists

2017-18 6th (11-17)



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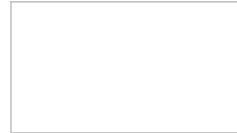


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