

Granville Waratah Soccer Football Club **CLUB MAGAZINE - SEASON 2019**

Presentation Day Issue – 20th October 2019

FREE



KICK

CLUB COMMITTEE FOR 2019

(Executive committee members in bold)

President	Noel Dona
Secretary	Andy Gianniotis
Vice President	Tony Farrell
Treasurer	Vince Wyatt
Registrar	Andy Gianniotis
Competition Secretary	Paul Murphy
Mini-Roos Coordinator	Vacant
Equipment Officer	Vacant

TRUSTEES

Rick Paye

LIFE MEMBERS

J. Borg	H.F Jacobs	D. Sutherland
Mrs B. Borg	G. Kell	I. Tye
R. Burnett	J. Marsh	L. Walker
N. Dona	R. Paye	V. Wyatt
T. Farrell	A. Saggus	
Mrs M. Fox	D. Shipton	

73rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 6th November 2019

At the Clubhouse
ROBIN THOMAS RESERVE
COMMENCING 7.00 PM

Come make a difference. Come along and have your say in how your club is run to ensure your club is the best it can be for your children.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I joined this wonderful club in 1999, coaching my sons under 12's team. It was a hard slog and in a team that only had 8, 9 or 10 players all season. That was a very tough year...and so were the next 3 years. We barely won a game and had little to cheer about. It was even more frustrating for me because many other teams in the club were doing very well and winning Grand Championships. But rather than pack up and go elsewhere, I stayed with the club and at the year 2000 AGM, I was elected President. I stayed because I loved this little club. I loved its history – the oldest club in Western Sydney – I loved its position and I saw great things in the future. The vision I saw back then has taken a little longer than what I expected to realise but the club is currently in a good position and our future looks great but we will have a hurdle to navigate soon...but more about that later.



This season all but one of our six full field competitive teams made the semi-finals, two of those teams then went on to make the Grand Finals, and on Grand Final day the All Age division 5 White team, that I coach, were crowned GRAND CHAMPIONS in a gripping, tense and exciting match, the final score 2-1!

Whilst the team was rightly jubilant, what truly pleased me plenty was that we had approximately 100 fans attend the match and there were many fans supporting us from different teams within the club. They were not there to support their child or their child's team, they were there cheering on their club!! This is the sort of culture we want to see and I can tell you it meant a lot to me personally...so, thank you to those members, it is very much appreciated!!



I know it is not the be all and end all, but winning a Grand Championship is awesome! And what made this one more special is that it was against the Granville Kewpies. The rivalry between our two clubs goes back 100 years to 1919 and this local derby is perhaps the oldest in Australian soccer football! So to have two living legends – our very own 90 year old Bill Henderson and 93 year Kewpie junior, Alan Garside – attend the match, walk both teams out to the centre ad attend to the coin toss was both moving and very special for the players and match officials!



Earlier in the day my under 15's division 2 team lost their grand final in another very close match where the result may have been different had we taken a couple of very good chances in front of goal, but as the full time whistle blew, I felt my team knew that the better team on the day had won... but it was very, very close. It was disappointing we didn't get to sing our Victory Song just one more time.

All these achievements and results were all very respectable but what truly impressed me this season were the continued and excellent growth of our MiniRoos... and especially the commitment of many new parents to put up their hand and coach for the first time. To you I want to especially thank! I will continue to say, good teams have good coaches, and I know we have many very good teams amongst our MiniRoos because of the commitment of our coaches.

Of course to all our coaches I take the opportunity now to say... THANK YOU!! We had some good fun... often sang our Victory Song with Pride... so you should all be VERY proud of yourselves too!

Without you, our coaches, or club would struggle...so I look forward to seeing you all again in season 2020 to build on the foundations set this year!



This season I have spoken to you on more than one occasion of club culture, to grow as a Waratah family. I believe we are truly building something special here, so to all our members and parents, I say Thank YOU!! You have all earned your medals and trophies this season!

I must also take this opportunity to mention that we do have a potentially big challenge ahead of us. Firstly it was the Light Rail route and now it is the local and state government bureaucrats on knowing how to manage Robin Thomas Reserve. It is possible that for season 2020 we will be relocated to North Parramatta and not be able to use our beloved home ground. The situation is still very fluid at the moment but please note we must all speak together with a united voice. I will keep you posted with developments but, please, if I make a plea for action like emailing councillors, please do your part as we cannot do anything without your support.

Please join me in thanking the Club Committee for the big efforts they put in every week to keep the club moving forward...special mention to Andy our new Club Secretary for putting in the extra hours. Of course we need more Andy's from amongst our members to join the Club Committee to help the club prosper. Please consider what you can do for your club.

Finally, some of you may have noticed a small difference to our club logo: "Est. 1901". After much research we can declare that this is in fact the actual date. The Association was founded in 1900 but in its first year only school clubs were involved. The following year suburban clubs were involved and we were one of those clubs entering an under 16's team in 1901. We remain the only foundation club in the Association! So why didn't the logo promote 1901 earlier? Put simply, because we weren't sure. Research showed there was a Rugby Union club called Granville Waratah in 1898! Even though the last time any reference is made to this rugby club is 1902, we have found no evidence to suggest, let alone confirm that the two clubs were the same. So this year we decided to add the "Est. 1901" onto the logo to make it official!



2019 was awesome but 2020 will be even bigger and better... so please tell your friends and family and I look forward to many new members joining us all again for another great experience next year.

WE ARE SOCCER! We are THE WARATAH!!

NOEL DONA
Club President

SECRETARY AND REGISTRAR REPORT

This year marks the first season for many years where Granville Waratah SFC did not have the services of our club mainstay **Tony Farrell** in the secretary role. We still saw **Tony** (now club Vice President) on most Saturdays throughout the season, helping set up the fields and refereeing the mini-roos games, but a large part of the smooth running of the club is largely down to Tony's excellent job in creating the procedures we now follow, over the years he was club secretary. On behalf of the entire 2019 club membership: thanks **Tony!**

Thanks also to **Vince Wyatt**, our club treasurer, who *still* does the line-marks for our fields every week in his 1,437th year as a Granville Waratah club member.

Regarding the functioning of our club, it is important to state that we need to renew our pool of club volunteers otherwise it is possible our club will grind to a halt. We can't have the situation where most of the work is performed by just a handful of people. Right now, if something were to happen to just three people – club president, secretary & treasurer – the club would hardly get anything done and games certainly wouldn't be organised.

It was just two years ago that the response to our call for volunteer coaches ended up with just one person putting up their hand to be a new coach. We were not a very well organised club that year! Last year was much better with nine putting up their hand, and this year was even better with at least 15 new volunteers agreeing to help out where they could. This is not only an excellent result but also essential for teams to successfully enjoy their season. Thanks go to all new coaches and managers for this season, your help and work was essential for the club to function well!

However, the only thing that hasn't improved at all in the last few years is new blood on the club committee. The club really needs our members to take the next logical step from just coaching or managing their own team to helping manage the club as a whole. Please don't leave it for somebody else to step forward, consider how YOU can make a difference! The more people involved in running the club, the better the club functions and the better the experience for all our members. Please have a think about accepting one of the many vacant club positions as we could really use your help.

Another challenge for the club is keeping our many mini-roos teams going once the players become teenagers. It has been many years since we were able to field multiple teams in each age group for full field teams. Only a well-run club will achieve this so please put your hand up to help achieve this. We are also keen to form all-girl teams as the growth of the women's game is tremendous but we need volunteers to facilitate forming these teams. Can you help?

2019 was a good year for the club in terms of new volunteers but not so good in terms of the state of our playing fields and the news that council has decided to not renew our lease of Robin Thomas Reserve next year. However, you can be assured that the club is still going to be around for many years to come. We have a great community spirit (many people have sent emails to councillors as we asked you to) and it is this that will ensure the club, our club, continues to operate.

Regarding the canteen: in 2018 we opened the canteen probably twice the entire season as we didn't have anyone to take it on. This was a shame because we lost out on some decent revenue that we can always put to a good use. For the 2019 season I'm happy to report that our experiment of implementing a duty roster for all teams to help out around the time of their home games was a reasonable but qualified success. Most of the spots were covered but we also learned a lot about what we need to improve on. So, many thanks to all those who put in a shift, we can only benefit as a club from the community spirit we create when we get this going well.



Regarding the club's weekly e-newsletter, I hope most of you were receiving and reading it as it was a labour of love for me each week since our first game of the season. It was from those newsletters that I sourced all of the photos used in this edition so if your team's report didn't have any photos it's because I didn't receive any during the season! We intend to produce newsletters next season too so please can everyone hit the ground running with some action shots of your children along with a match report on what amazing things happened during the game, and only a few days later, you can re-live all the action with your Wednesday morning breakfast.

This year saw our membership reach 288 members in 23 teams, a substantial increase from 212 players in just 15 teams in 2018, and a little less in 2017. We haven't reached 300 players in nearly two decades and so we should be encouraged that demand for membership in our club is very strong. With all the building developments occurring in the area, we can expect this demand to stay strong for many years to come.

This year also saw a large increase in female participation with 25 players in 7 different teams, from only 7 players in 6 teams in 2018. We are very keen to form all-girl teams in the next few years but they won't magically appear out of thin air, we need to recruit more female players and also coaches to coach the teams. Will 2020 be the year we form our first all-girl team? Let's make it happen!



Andy Gianniotis
Club Secretary & Registrar

PERPETUAL AWARDS 2019

The 2019 Perpetual Award winners are the following:

Team	Award	Criteria	Winner
U6 Koalas BLK	K & B Shield	Best and Fairest	Isaac Aridah
U6 Koalas BLK	H Bremmell Shield	Most Improved	Mahmoud Kassem
U6 Koalas WHT	K & B Shield	Best and Fairest	Shrey Turakhia
U6 Koalas WHT	H Bremmell Shield	Most Improved	Mazen Ahmed
U6 Wombats WHT	K & B Shield	Best and Fairest	Arjun Heblkar
U6 Wombats WHT	H Bremmell Shield	Most Improved	Drisha Rathi
U7 Possums	Mary Fox Shield	Most Outstanding	Savya Vijn
U7 Possums	L. Walker Shield	Most Improved	Ella Matheson
U7 Wombats	Mary Fox Shield	Most Outstanding	Shreyas Ranjit
U7 Wombats	L. Walker Shield	Most Improved	Yashvardhan Sharma
U7 Koalas BLK	Mary Fox Shield	Most Outstanding	Ayushman Sharma
U7 Koalas BLK	L. Walker Shield	Most Improved	Jyanshu Maratha
U7 Koalas WHT	Mary Fox Shield	Most Outstanding	Sineth Thantirige
U7 Koalas WHT	L. Walker Shield	Most Improved	Arav Saralaya
U8 Koalas	T. Mangion Shield	Most Outstanding	Jahia Balume
U8 Koalas	D. Sipton Shield	Most Improved	Kaushik Chelladurai
U8 Wombats	T. Mangion Shield	Most Outstanding	Minu Gunasena
U8 Wombats	D. Sipton Shield	Most Improved	Francis Joe Maleko
U9 Dolphins	R. Burnett Shield	Best and Fairest	Ishan Shrestha
U9 Dolphins	Frank Jacob Shield	Most Improved	Anuj Upadhyay
U9 Koalas	R. Burnett Shield	Best and Fairest	Faheem Nessar
U9 Koalas	Frank Jacob Shield	Most Improved	Srivardhan Talatam
U9 Wombats	R. Burnett Shield	Best and Fairest	Cassie Liang
U9 Wombats	Frank Jacob Shield	Most Improved	Mali O'Brien
U10 Dolphins	I. Tye Shield	Best and Fairest	Angus Maple
U10 Dolphins	Borg Trophy	Most Improved	Saharsh Kontham
U10 Koalas	I. Tye Shield	Best and Fairest	Demiel Menashi
U10 Koalas	Borg Trophy	Most Improved	Alexi Nasr
U10 Possums	I. Tye Shield	Best and Fairest	Leo Talmont
U10 Possums	Borg Trophy	Most Improved	Elijah Brown
U11 Possums	Paul Black Trophy	Most Consistent	Shivvesh Kumar
U11 Possums	Tony Farrell Shield	Most Improved	Aneishah Texeira
U13 Combined	Mark Jankovic Shield	Most Consistent	Dean Lukic
U13 Combined	Sutherland Shield	Most Improved	Adnan Abdallah
U14 Div. 3	Vince Wyatt Trophy	Most Consistent	Ahmad Jomaa
U14 Div. 3	Colin Kehoe Shield	Most Improved	Ajay Ramola
U15 Combined	Beau Worthington Trophy	Most Consistent	Shreyansh Shrestha
U15 Combined	J. Marsh Shield	Most Improved	Brahadeeswaran Kannan
U16 Div. 2	Noel Dona Trophy	Most Valuable	Omid Baqeri
U16 Div. 2	Ken Vairy Shield	Most Improved	Brooklyn Cox

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

The **Bill Henderson Player of the Year** award is in honor of a great man & a true gentleman, who played for our club as a junior between 1944 and 1947 and then went on to become an Australian Soccerroo in 1953 and an Australian Olyroo in 1956.

So how do we decide the winner? Is it the clubs best and most talented player? Not necessarily. Is it the player who tries the hardest? Not necessarily. Is it the clubs fairest player? Not necessarily, though the committee decided that a player who has received a red card, whilst it does not disqualify that player from winning the award, it would make it extremely difficult.

After much discussion within the committee, we determined the award is designed to recognize 3 very important characteristics we look for in all our players. Three characteristics that Bill Henderson himself has endorsed. The winner must consistently display;

1. **Sportsmanship**
2. **Effort and commitment - to game day, training, team and club**
3. **Leadership - by word and actions**

Each coach was asked to nominate a player or players who they believe meet these characteristics. The discussion was very healthy and vigorous and after many minutes of deliberation, we had a winner of **THE HIGHEST HONOR WITHIN OUR CLUB.**

The winner of the **Bill Henderson Player of the Year** award goes to:

Brad Major

From

All Age Men 5 White

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Whilst the club Player of the Year award acknowledges a special player amongst our full field teams, the **Young Player of the Year** award acknowledges a special player from our Mini-Roos teams.

The winner of the **Young Player of the Year** award goes to:

Meya Joe Maleko

From

Under 11 Possums

CONGRATULATIONS!!

TEAM OF THE YEAR

In season 2002 the Executive Committee introduced this new Award in honour of a life member of the club, the late Mr Frank Jacob. This Award has each team within the club in competition against the other. The Award is based on a points system recognising a team's achievement and most important of all, their fair play.

The points system is as follows;

- 1 point for every point earned from the regular competition.
- 3 points for minor premiers
- 5 points if undefeated
- 3 points for making semi-finals*
- 4 points for making finals*
- 5 points for Grand finalists*
- 7 points for Grand Champions*
- 1 points deducted for every yellow card**
- 3 points deducted for every red card**



*Bonus points

**Deductions set at 60% of accumulated totals for teams 18's and over.

Team	Comp. Points	Minor Prem.	Undef.	Semi Final	Finalist	Grand Finalist	Grand Champ	Yellow	Red	Total
U10 Dolphins	21									21
U10 Koalas	14									14
U10 Possums	6									6
U11 Possums	23									23
U13 Combined	19			3						22
U14 Div.3	33			3				-2		34
U15 Combined	39					5		-4	-6	34
U16 Div. 2	37			3				-1	-3	36
AAM5 BLK	15							-7		8
AAM5 WHT	37						7	-13	-6	33

This Award has each team within the club in competition against the other. The Award is based on a points system recognising a team's achievement and their fair play.

And the winner of the **Team of the Year Award** is... **U16's Div. 2** **CONGRATS!!**



JUDICIARY RECORD 2019

Our Judiciary record for the year is summarised as follows:

Team	Yellow Cards (cautions)	Red Cards (send offs)
13/Comb.	0	0
14/3	2	0
15/Comb.	4	2
16/2	1	1
AA5/B	7	0
AA5/W	13	2
TOTAL	27	5



Historical Record

Year	Yellow Cards (cautions)	Red Cards (send offs)
2018	15	8
2017	13	4
2016	35	4
2015	34	2
2014	62	13
2013	2	0

Remember that our club is a proud supporter of **Zero Tolerance** and we aim to set the standard for other clubs to follow!



END-OF-SEASON TEAM REPORTS

U6 Koalas WHT

I would first like to thank Granville Waratah SFC and Noel for giving this fantastic opportunity to me. My son started playing last year at this club with me watching him learn and their coach meticulously coaching them, I had never coached any team previously and never imagined that I would coach one and this year it was my first experience as a coach with my own son in my team. This was a different role for me and it turned out to be a good one.

The U6 Koalas White team of 2019 comprised of:

Hreyansh, Khang, Mazen, Shrey, Suhaas, Reyansh, Abhinn and Aniket. Each player had different skill set and strength but the most important thing to teach them was to enjoy their first season and develop basic skills to improve their game.

This year **Hreyansh** turned into a good mid-fielder and was a committed player of the team. He was very enthusiastic and was always willing to learn new skills. **Hreyansh** played as defender and was good with saving goals.

Abhinn was very strong with his running and strength, and developed basic dribbling and ball controlling skills over the season. He enjoyed learning new skills and developed a strong liking for the game.

Mazen was the team's first choice defender, with his skills he managed to save so many goals while learning new skills during training. He was also the most improved player of my team and he started off with basic skills but developed into a very strong player with his commitment to training.

Shrey was our team's main asset and was the centre forward for the team. A very mature player with his skills and temperament, he knew how to control the game. He was chosen as Best and Fairest for the season, well done **Shrey!**

Khang started off very well and controlling the ball was his main skill which we developed further. He played as forward and developed many other skills, a totally committed player for the team.

Reyansh was another player who gained confidence as the season progressed and become a very strong player. He developed some excellent skills and was always eager to give his best.

Suhaas was played as a defender, with his skills he managed to save many goals while learning new skills during training. He is a very strong player and a great team player.

Aniket was a surprise; he always brought lot of energy to the team combination great team player with good soccer skills who always tried to give his best for the team.

As the season progressed our team kept on getting better. We had a slow start but got our team combinations right and started winning games. All the kids were always very excited for a match and we really become a good team with match after match. We had few lows and few highs but we always stuck together as a team and enjoyed the game.

Coach Hrishikesh



U6 Koalas BLK

It would be easy to celebrate the season by the number of games we won and goals we scored. But we're here to celebrate the player's achievements and progress as a team: **Ninor**, **Tristan**, **Mahmoud** and **Isaac** are who we are here to celebrate. And maybe a small celebration with the number of goals scored this year by the boys.

These kids just LOVE playing soccer. Every week they turned up and did their best and had lots of fun. The parents were extremely proud to watch them work so hard and display so much integrity and good will. The players learned a lot of new skills as the weeks went on, and individual strengths and hidden talents emerged and grew.

Every goal scored and saved was hard earned and duly celebrated. It was wonderful watching the camaraderie develop and grow from game to game. The parents couldn't be prouder of this group of mighty players who gave it their all each week

Something clicked with **Mahmoud** mid-season and he became a fanatical, responsible and formidable defender. Kids don't want to be defenders because they all want to be Ronaldo or Messi but **Mahmoud** has just got it. To score against us, you had to get past our bulldozer Mahmoud. He improved week in week out. We saw the results on the field.



Isaac has skills and experience but sometimes has to be reminded to hustle. He knows how to score and scores with cleverness when required, which means he has forward ability but in the long term, **Isaac** is probably a midfielder. **Isaac** is a work in progress and his skills are there and he does seek results when he has the ball.

Ninor is smart and hungry for the ball and growing up quick, physically improving every game. He is also fast and when he is committed, he's formidable. **Ninor** alternated between playing forward with **Isaac** and defending with **Mahmoud**, moving smoothly between the two roles. His skill out shone most teams with his cheeky pull back that later became **Mahmoud** trick also.

Tristan was brilliant at making fantastic clearing kicks. **Tristan** could run up to a moving ball and boot it forward with his first touch, towards our goal, not kicking it out and the ball went where he planned, each time. Turning the opposition around and giving us advantage. That left foot is a weapon.

The secret weapon of this team is the amazing soccer skills and always showing passion and fight, pulling back the ball while dribbling, confusing opponents and getting around them and asserting themselves as a team. The team has a lot of flair which made them the ideal team - collecting the ball and booting or dribbling it forward.

Thank you to our team, they did a fantastic job throughout the year, even though we didn't win every game, lost only two games, the kids always had a positive attitude and always gave 110%, always striving to do their best but having fun at the same time.

I would like to thank all the Mums and Dads for their commitment in turning up to games each week, most especially for bringing oranges and yummy treats for the kids. If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't have a team. A special thank you to the Granville club in making sure we are all informed through newsletters, Facebook and emails.

Coach Ferras



U6 Wombats WHT

Our team had a very good season this year. With each game, the team became stronger. All players shined during this season. We had a wonderful team spirit and the players consistently showed up to the training sessions regardless of the cold and the bad weather. It goes without saying they were so eager to play and excel.

This season we saw **Arjun** make his way to become one of the best strikers of the ball for the team.

Roy's strong kicks were really a phenomenon. Just watching him made everyone laugh as no one could believe that, despite being the

youngest player, Roy had such a strong shot.

Juan had a special presence during each game, always in the game, and was irreplaceable.

Shrived... we could count on him in every game.

Gagan showed a lot of improvement with every game.

Our three little princesses were as good as the boys if not better!

Arisha with her artistic play style, **Drisha** with her strength, commitment and perseverance, and **Clara** with character of play were all great during this season.

We were glad to coach you all and proud to have every one of you in this team.

I can't wait till the new season starts and to see you back as we're looking forward to coaching you again.

Coach Victor



U7 Koalas BLK

The 2019 soccer season was great as always. In a season where results weren't overly flattering, the team persisted in building a base to make them competitive for next year's season. Kids enjoyed the Wednesday evening training sessions which involved some skills work and fun activities. Playing a team sport was a new experience for some and a continuation for others.

Players had to get to know each other so that friendships could transfer into teamwork on the field. This season all the team players have discovered new traits such as learning the positions on the field and working with team mates to play in union. The Kids had so much fun throughout the season, from the start of the season to the last game except few times where we struggle to have full team to show up for match games.

Our goal-scoring machine **Ayushman** was our most consistent player, scoring many goals all year with opposition teams marking him very hard. He scored a lot of our team's crucial goals and when required he would willingly fall back and defend with great skill and confidence.



The most improved player for the year was **Jyanshu** and had a great year with his improved skills, showing his ability to trap the ball, change direction and run to the goal and shoot.

Rajvir is a great sprint runner; he attacks the ball with great strength and scores goals at crucial time. He had good striking capability and very energetic on the field.

Austinjit was a shining star from the start of the season and always there when his team needed him in attack or defence and saved quite a few crucial goals during matches.

Yakshit had a great year in his very first season. He had great games with tremendous saves and played several different positions this year and had opportunities to scoring lots of goals.

Aditya was an enthusiastic member of the team at training and especially on game day. He was always never too far from the ball and showed great determination when tackling opposition players.

Darsh played his first season and a good team player and displayed a keenness to get on the field and make a contribution. His skill levels improved as the season progressed.

Kartik played his first season and a team player and had a smile on his face and was involved in passing the ball and chasing down the opposition. His skill levels improved as the season progressed.

Overall, this season was a challenge as I started coaching in last few games due to change of situation of previous coach. Thanks to coach **Ganesh** for this contribution as previous coach and smooth transition. Thanks to all the parents for support and understanding and special thanks to **Dhiraj** for his support as assistant coach and help during games.

I'm chalking it down as an experience to learn from and am very much looking forward to next year's season and the challenges. Congratulations to all the players for their commitment to training and their enthusiasm on game day. Good luck for next year.

Coach Vikas



U7 Koalas WHT

It was a crazy start to the 2019 soccer season as far more U7 players turned up than available coaches as each parent jostled and advocated for a spot on a team for their child. With the same desire for my son to have a positive and exciting experience learning to play soccer, I somewhat apprehensively agreed to coach for the first time in my life. But thanks to the fantastic support and commitment from the players, parents and the club, I don't regret it for a second - we had a blast!

After the initial heartbreaking task of narrowing down the team to just 8 players, we began to settle in and embark on a journey together that would be filled with highs and lows, excitement, learning, fun and friendship.

With a mix of boys who had played soccer before and some first timers on the team, I didn't know what to expect leading into our first match. As soon as the whistle blew to start the season, each player showed incredible enthusiasm and commitment, resulting in a shocking and unexpected 13-5 massive victory, filling everyone with great anticipation for the year ahead.

However as it turned out, our first game had given us a false sense of reality, as the following 3 weeks saw us come up against some very skilful players and well organised teams that beat us convincingly. I could see the initial excitement of winning was soon replaced with disappointment on the faces of the players, but the impact of these games helped focus our training on what we needed to do as a team to improve and provided a benchmark for us to work towards. It was during these challenging games that we also began to identify the individual skills and strengths of each player in order to determine their position and role in the team.

It was clear early on that **Sineth** would play upfront, given his keen eye for goal and his ability to dribble past most players with ease one-on-one. Not surprisingly, one of the most popular players on the team, **Sineth** scored an amazing 33 goals for the season. Apart from being a goal-scoring superstar, what impressed me about him was his willingness to be a team player by working hard on developing his passing skills during the year in order to provide opportunities for his teammates.

Another superstar in our squad this year was **Tristan**. With a natural tendency and desire to defend our goal with his life and put his whole body on the line for the team, **Tristan** consistently launched himself at the ball and opposition attacking players each week. He showed the highest level of commitment and passion for the game and although goal scorers get a lot of the credit for helping teams win matches, it was **Tristan's** defense that kept us from losing several times.

At first it was challenging to know what to do with a player like **Adriel**, who did everything with high energy and high intensity all over the park. Once I positioned him in the centre midfield with clear instructions about the position and his role on the team, he really took it on board and flourished as a player. It was amazing to see **Adriel** grow in his understanding of the game and to see him channel his energy into a purpose and plan, increasing his confidence and also enabling him to score a number of times with his direct running at the goals.

Liam helped out in the centre-midfield position as well. **Liam** really stepped up this year and showed great bravery and determination in the contact areas and promoted excellent teamwork to link up with other players. **Liam** has such a big love for soccer and the fun and friendships that it provides; he hardly missed a training or game all year.

Arav was the very definition of 100% commitment – always the first one to training every week and usually the first player ready to go on game day. **Arav** is a kind, generous and thoughtful young boy and this personality was shown on the field as well as off it. A delight to coach, **Arav** is an excellent listener and works hard to put new learning into practice, rewarding him with improved skills and great contributions in each game.



In many ways **Aryan** had a challenging first season at the club getting to know the game of soccer and finding his place in the team. **Aryan** was often used to fill in the gaps and help out in several positions. As a coach it's important to have a few versatile players that can step into any position from fullback, midfield to the forward line and get the job done. **Aryan** did this well and I look forward to seeing him grow his skills and confidence to reach his potential and become a real asset on the team.

Being the tallest player on the team I was glad when **Varish** gravitated to the fullback position himself and by the end of the season he owned it whenever he was on the field. **Varish** was fearless in defense and showed an intelligent understanding of the game with his perfectly timed interceptions and clearing kicks. The team (including coach) always grew in confidence knowing we had the rock solid **Varish** at the back to save the day.

Ashutosh was another debutant at the club, who filled our team with smiles and enthusiasm and a willingness to join in and do his bit for the team. It was easy to spot **Ashutosh** when he was on the field as you only had to look for the ball and there he was. Every team needs a player who will harass the opposition for the ball anywhere on the park and **Ashutosh** played this role well, shutting down the opposition and turning defense into attack.

Sushanth joined the team late in the season to take our number to 9 players in total. As **Sushanth** had played last year with a couple of the other players he slotted it very easily and smoothly into the team. With a deadly left foot, **Sushanth** played upfront on the left side often teaming up with **Sineth** to create a lethal two-pronged attack. Another player who improved his positional play throughout the season, **Sushanth** showed great patience and persistence. He scored a few memorable long-range goals for the team and was probably unlucky not to score many more.

At the end of the season we had lost more games than we won, however we finished the year on a high as we had grown so much in our individual skills and ability to work as a team. Commitment and enthusiasm were the key ingredients from the very first training to the very last game, making the year successful and enjoyable. Big thanks to all the parents who provided incredible support to me as the coach all year and showed great commitment to their kids and the team. We had a lot of fun together, learnt so much about soccer and formed new friendships. I can't wait to do it all again next year!

Coach Anthony



Under 7 Possums

The Bravest Team in the World!

It has been an honor and a privilege to be entrusted with coaching the Under 7s Possums in 2019. I could not be prouder of my little squad of champions!

When the teams were allocated at the beginning of the year, I somehow ended up with 10 players! I'm not sure how it happened, and I had some concerns about managing so many kids at once. However, it has been an amazing experience for me, and I know in my heart that the players have enjoyed it too. I will treasure the memories we forged this year and I hope they will too.

This year, we welcomed four new players into the team; three of which were girls bringing out total number of female players up to four.

We all worked hard at every training session, but we made sure to have lots of fun along the way.

One of the memories I will always have is of **Moksha** complaining at the end of just about every training session that it was too short, and that we should keep training for longer! How I wish I had his energy! **Moksha** takes the game very seriously but also knows how to have fun. Thank you, **Moksha**, for always have a suggestion of what activities we could or should be doing at training. He will make a fine leader someday. **Moksha** developed well as a player this year and made more passes than any other player in our team.

Of all the players on the field, I could always count on **Farhan** to turn up with a huge smile. He loves the game and loves running around having fun. It was my manager, **Nicola Rich**, who pointed out to me that even when he was on the sidelines waiting for his turn to come and play, **Farhan** would intently watch every moment of the game and literally run up and down the sides of the game cheering the team on. Also, I will always remember that **Farhan** shaved his hair to look like me! It has been a pleasure to have you in our team **Farhan**!

Aditya is not just a good little player but he is also a true little gentlemen. I have been very impressed by his manners and respect towards the coach. **Aditya** worked really hard at training and on match days. His specialty was his ability to dribble with power towards the goal. Thank you, **Aditya**, for always offering to help me carry equipment home after training.



control the ball with his weaving runs. I have watched **Savya** grow in confidence this year both on and off the field which is great to see. He would always do exactly as asked all season both at training and on game days and always did it with a smile. Good job **Savya**!



Core to our team was **Yash**. He would contribute something special to every match with enthusiasm and a genuine love for the sport. **Yash** was always helpful at training and was a pleasure to coach. He made some excellent contributions to our team in the midfield. He is able to control the ball with excellent touches and is always looking to distribute the ball when dribbling. Great work this year **Yash**!

Savya is as quick as lightning! In 2018 his speed was obvious but this year he really developed as a player. He is now able to use that speed to dribble and

Ella showed all players in the competition just what she can do. **Ella** would take charge on the field on match day and make sure none of those opposition players would get anywhere near our goal. There was no getting past her. In addition, she was able to dribble as well or better than any of the players in any of the teams we came up against. **Ella** could occasionally be a bit cheeky at training with a few of the other kids (namely, MY kids!) but it has been an honor to have her in the squad. Good work **Ella**!

If there is one thing I have learnt this year, it has been just what a challenge having a set of twins on the team can be! It took me half a season to consistently distinguish between **Tania** and **Rania**! Both girls were new to the sport this year and they should both be very proud of their achievements. **Tania** was a little unsure of herself at the start of the season but by the end I could count on her to go onto the field and play her heart out. She even made excellent tackles! Conversely, **Rania** had no doubts about herself at any point during the season and she showed the boys just how tough she can be! Great work **Tania** and **Rania**!



Rounding out the squad, we have **Rose** and **Nicholas**. This was **Rose's** second season playing soccer. Being the coach's daughter means there is no escaping training or match day. When **Rose's** confidence is high, she can just about dribble around anyone on the field. **Nicholas** loves the game with all his heart and was only 4 years old this season. I can honestly say that **Nicholas** has the most powerful shot of anyone in the squad. I am so proud of the way **Nicholas** (and **Rose**) would overcome any fear of the bigger kids to join in during training and match day.

One of the best moments this year was at the Gala Day. Our team turned up wearing our white shirts and we all looked good and ready to go. I will always remember the parents of another team approaching me after the match to say that they wished their club and team had the enthusiasm we showed that day.

I would like to thank the parents for their input this year too. A special thank you goes to **Savya's** mum and to **Nicola Rich** for helping with canteen duty and to **Moksha's** dad for helping coach this year when I was unavailable as well as to the parents who helped at training. Thank you to the volunteers who run the club including **Noel, Andy, Vince** and **Tony** as well as to all coaches and players for making the club a success.

Finally, thank you to my team. I want you to know that I enjoyed being your coach. You are all amazing little kids.

Coach Michael



U7 Wombats

It was a great season for the players, parents and coach. Most of our players were new but we also had some who played under 6 last year. It was a challenging year as a first-time coach but with the help of the great supportive parents and their enthusiastic offspring we managed to enjoy a great season. All players were keen to learn which made my coaching exciting and, I have to say, easy as well. Our training sessions were always full of fun and excitement.

I am proud and appreciate the effort of all the players, the games have always been full of energy and excitement. At the beginning of the season as our team was in the process of being developed, there was a lack of teamwork and coordination but within few weeks of training and practice our players learned the importance of teamwork has shown a great result.

Shrihaan is very passionate with soccer he showed a great improvement. He always came up with new ideas and plan for the team. He is a fighter!

Aarush was always keen to learn and always follows instructions. He is our champion he showed a great progress and skill improvement.

Spencer is a good dribbler. He is a good learner and a good team player always helping his teammates when needed. He is our shining star.

Sim (Harsimrat) our sweet shining star always with a smile she is calm and follows instructions. She is a good learner and a very good team player.

Edward our fast and furious he is the smallest and the fastest in the team. Always full of energy and motivated to support the team.

Shreyas our superhero committed to win and never gave up. He is a great all-rounder of the team and has shown a great improvement and commitment to the team.

Yas (Yashvardhan) is a team player and showed an exceptional improvement since last year. He is attacking as well as a very good defender.

Shaun is a super star he loves to defend he is a good team player. He has shown a continuous improvement in the ground.

Our team managed to win most of the games. However, there were few losses and draws throughout the year but, most importantly, our team has shown a great improvement and this is the big success.

We really enjoyed this season and I would like to thank the club committee members and the parents for their help and support.

Hope to see you all in the next season!



Coach Shree

Under 8 Koalas

It's been my very great pleasure to coach the Under 8 Koalas this year [Ed: he coached the entire age group in fact!]. Each player showed great improvement because they put in an effort, followed instructions and became more footballers who were much more skilled, aware and clever. I look forward to seeing as many of you again next year as I can!

The 2019 Under 8 Koalas:

Owen was fast, energetic, creative and funny. **Owen** had a great season marked by kilometres of bolting around the field saving goals and pressuring the opposition. He is used to playing football with his brothers and other kids but playing in a team environment was new for him this year. He took to it really well and became a reliable winger both in forwards and in defence. Well done **Owie**.



Kalden: one of my enduring memories this year will be **Kalden** coming off the field after our second game against Dundas – the first we had won in more than a month. **Kalden** was drenched with perspiration but he still had a determined, concentrative look on his face, such was the seriousness with which he took his job as the roaming defender that game. This isn't **Kalden's** first year in soccer and in the past, his parents and I have wondered how to motivate him to use his skills. He smashed it this year. He's also a very funny – his sarcastic wit will put his team mates in stitches in years to come. **Kaldie**, I'm proud of you mate. Really well done, keep working hard.

Gabby was our pocket rocket dynamo, our little assassin. **Gabby** was one of our most consistent players this year, giving his absolute all every time he was on the field. He never talks back, just does his job and gets stuck in. His diminutive size is a huge advantage for him, allowing him to dash in and dash out through nooks and crannies that other players wouldn't be able to get through. But this belies an immense strength – ask **Gabby** to throw a ball at you and see how fast it comes back! Looking forward to seeing his precision develop in seasons to come and then he will likely be unstoppable as he's an absolute pleasure to coach. Well done, **Gab**.

Troy was another huge improver, we lost **Troy** for about five games mid-season and we really missed his speed, commitment and talent with the ball. **Troy** had clearly improved over summer and through the season; he kept improving as a player and working in tandem with other forwards. **Troy** is the key to causing confusion in the other side. He scored a couple or a few well-deserved goals this year too because he's in the right place at the right time. **Troy** is another one to watch. Well done, champion.

We lost **Rohan** for the last third of the season because unfortunately he broke his arm at MindQuest. He's a very clever player with great speed and was just starting to click with the other forwards when he had his accident. I'm looking forward to seeing more from you next year, mate.

Vivaan was, physically, our biggest player and a gentle giant. **Viv** started the season as one of our goalies but found the demands a bit too much – it's not for everyone. But then out in the field as a defender, **Viv** showed the most dedication of any of the U8 Koalas to marking the opposition forwards. Sure, they got around him a few times but forwards at this level will do that to any defender. The important thing is that he didn't give up and I'm certain he saved us goals by the discomfort he delivered to our opponents. **Viv** also has a magic touch. Three or four times during the season, a play that started with a strong hustle from **Viv** ended up with us scoring. I look forward to seeing further growth and improvement from him next year. Good on you, mate.

Harmish is a deep thinker and a clever player with a pretty big kick and really started to tap into his innate abilities towards the end of the season. There is a fast runner inside **Harmish** and we started to see him a little more by the end of the season. This was his first season and he improved a great deal – a very good defender and once we see more speed from him, the sky's the limit. Also a great team man, **Harmish** was a pleasure to coach. Good work mate.

Ejaz is a stocky, solid bulldozer of a player who I've coached before. He showed more improvement this year and I think he has the makings of quite a good midfielder – he provides great support to the forwards and if the season was longer, I would have placed **Ejaz** in the middle of the field a lot more. **Ejaz** is impossible to stop when he gets going and it will be great



to see that determination develop in years to come. Good season buddy.

Keith was one of our most dedicated players, arriving early, coming to training as much as he could and for his first season, he did well. His skills have improved a lot but we want to see more power from him in his running and kicking. Things to work on over summer perhaps, mate? Thanks for a great year **Keithy** and well done.

My son **Miles** grew into the goalie position really well, not just with quick reflexes and hand-eye co-ordination, but also with encouraging his team mates and giving clear guidance during opposition corners. When he wasn't in the goal **Miles** was also a great defender and (occasionally when substituting for other teams, a pretty good midfielder and forward). The big kicks I've seen from him in previous seasons evaded him at times this year but they'll come back. A very good season from you mate – Dad's really proud of you.

Kaushik grew immensely this year. He certainly has skill but it was difficult for him to share the ball a bit at the beginning of the season, and also to go all the way to netting the ball after a great run. But with a lot of concentration, listening, effort, humility and support, **Kaushik** became our number one striker, causing problems for our opponents all over the field and as the season went on, his shots became more and more accurate. Maybe **Kaushik** scored 10 goals for us or more during the season. He also became a great team player working more effectively in the forwards with **Gabby, Troy** and **Owen**, both in passing and receiving. I'm very proud of you buddy. Congratulations and well done.

Jahia was our Roman soldier. **Jahia** might be the fastest player I've ever coached. He is hungry for the ball and has great skills when he gets it. A great team man as well, his friendly and frequent dribbling-battles with **Owen** at training were hilarious at times.

For the first two thirds of the season, I thought **Jahia** was a natural forward because of his skill and his speed, but I would always see him down at our goals trying to keep the opposition from scoring. I couldn't stop him doing this, so one week, I pointed to our penalty box line and asked **Jahia** to march up and down on it as the last man defender. And the Roman Soldier position was born. The results were immediate. We stopped conceding so many goals and at the end of the season, **Jahia, Miles** and **Kalden** (with **Owen** roaming around from the forwards and back again) became an extremely formidable defensive unit, freeing up our forwards to work their magic. **Jahia** was absolutely key to this. In seasons to come we will work on his strategy and timing a bit more but **Jahia** really does have the makings of an amazing, dependable player. Congrats dude.

Discipline & Spirit: I want to take a moment to congratulate each of the players in the Under 8s. I have had the privilege to coach a group of incredible, fun and talented kids. I worked them very hard but they all responded positively without exception. Everyone in the team finished the season playing like the team – and their team mates - mattered to them a great deal. This was more than just friendship, they were backing each other. I think this is the thing that makes me proudest as coach for season 2019.

In addition to coaching, I also had the pleasure of refereeing a lot of other games as well as our own this year. Our team spirit and discipline in contrast to some other teams I refereed was scary. Players and parents should be congratulated for this. These kids will all be great, focussed footballers in years to come.

Community: And finally, I don't think I have coached teams with such dedicated and committed parents as our group this year. Thanks to all of you – thanks for all your support throughout the year & see you all at the presentation.

Coach Paul



Under 8 Wombats

Reflections on Team Wombats and their soccer journey - this has been a truly eventful and memorable soccer season, especially for the under 8 Wombats team, many of whom played soccer for the first time.

The first match they played contrasts sharply with the last match they played. In their first match, the team was not able to figure out what to do with the soccer ball, how to tackle, how to pass and how to play together as a team. It was more akin to band of kids running around aimlessly from one place to another.

However, under the able guidance of **Coach Paul** and skill-focused trainings which slowly but gradually lead to comprehensive and all-round development, almost every member of the team showed remarkable improvement.

Three team members took on the mantle of forwards – **Minu, Aaryan, and Aarya**. One feat which is worth highlighting is the fact that each member displayed true sportsmanship in passing the ball so that whoever is near the goal gets a chance to score goal for the entire team.



Francis has developed as a true all-rounder, acting as a wall for the opponent team trying to goal, snatching the ball from the opponent and scoring a goal with his now famous shots. **Lexy** started off as just another goalie trying to protect the turf and has soon graduated as a dare-devil goalie who would never allow a goal under her watch. The way she has thrown herself to the ground to save the goal is highly praiseworthy.

Sai with his stamina to run across the field in a tireless manner also showed great improvement in thinking with a clear head and in passing the ball to the forwards. **Varshith** has shown grit and determination in snatching the ball, acting as a dependable last man and in shooting the ball away from opponents.

Clara truly deserves to be called one of the smartest team members and the dexterity with which she shadowed some key forwards from opponents team went a long way in saving significant number of goals. Both **Clara** and **Mustafe** exhibited great tenacity in hustling and trying to snatch the ball from opponents' team. So many times, this laid the foundation on top of which team Wombats were able to score winnings goals.

Max showed great skills in supporting the team, however he could not play till the last match as his parents had to shift to some other place in NSW. **Karm** has done a commendable job in playing the role of defense and last-man. **Hanjie** has done good job in supporting his team members whenever it was required. **Rizul** was seen several times at training and we hope to see more of him next year.

Along with the kids, it has been an exhilarating opportunity for parents as well. In so many matches, it was heartening to see the parents cheering and encouraging the Wombats to play their best.

I am sure that all kids and their parents are keenly looking forward to start of new season – long live team Wombats and spirit of sportsmanship.

Coach Himanshu



Under 9 Dolphins

The team had an outstanding and very rewarding season! We played 16 of the 18 scheduled games (losing 2 to wet weather) with 11 wins, 3 draws and only 2 losses. If there was a competition table, we would have come second, only behind Regents Park who went the entire season undefeated. The team scored 61 goals – the most of any team in our division – with only 27 conceded. We were undefeated at home all season which is a record the team should be very proud of as all teams want their home ground to be a fortress that can't be breached.

However, statistics only tell part of the story. Stats don't tell of how close knit the players were and how well the parents got on with each other. Very well is the answer in case you were wondering! A heartfelt thanks goes to all players and parents for making each game an enjoyable experience for all concerned throughout the season.

The Under 9 Dolphins of 2019:

Harsh and **Ethan**, our mainstay defenders, were very good at keeping things tight at the back. **Ethan** used his speed to always be in the right place at the right time and ended each game with a high block and tackle count, while **Harsh** was indispensable with his brave and death-defying goal-saving tackles. You should have seen some of them, **Harsh** was incredible. The team suffered when both our defenders weren't on the field at the same time as they worked in tandem very well.

Ajiri and **Ishan** were our regular defensive midfielders. **Ajiri** probably made the most interceptions of anyone as he was invariably in a great second ball position, while **Ishan** could always be relied upon to be where he was needed most, in both attack and defence. Both players scored very useful and timely goals – **Ajiri's** were usually long range bangers, while **Ishan** was great at mopping up loose mid-field balls and putting them in the back of the net. **Ishan** did very well to pick up the second highest number of assists for the season while playing as a defensive midfielder.

Our midfield roster consisted of **Joseph**, **Lucas**, **Troy** and **Anuj** and all played a great role for the team. **Joseph**, one of the most improved players over the season, could always be relied upon to get in good positions to help the team, while **Lucas** was great on the wings, always able to beat the opposing player in front and put in a good cross at the end of his run.

Troy was our ball scrapper, winning the ball back once we lost possession but still finding time to score the odd goal or two (**Troy** bagged two against Rydalmere), while **Anuj** over the course of the year turned into our midfield general, coming up with the most assists for the season via his nicely weighted passes, and he also scored a few memorable goals himself.



Our strike force consisted of **Jamaar**, **Siddhant**, and also **Nathan** when he wasn't goalie. **Jamaar** scored the lion share of goals for the team with his trademark bustling and bullying runs right through the opposition, the highlight being a memorable haul of five in just one game. **Siddhant** was probably our trickiest player, regularly bamboozling the opposition with his quick feet and even quicker acceleration, and was scoring for fun towards the end of the year. And **Nathan** was very clinical in front of goal when he could be prised out of the goalkeeper position: for the away game against Pendle Hill **Nathan** kept a clean sheet in the first half in goals and then went out in the second half and scored a hat trick.

If we had a golden boot award it would go to **Jamaar** with 21 goals, with **Nathan** second on 10, and **Ishan** and **Siddhant** equal third with 9 each. The team should not underestimate the achievement of being the most prolific goal scorers in the division but should also remember that virtually all our goals were team goals, made and created by the team working together. Football is at its most beautiful when the team clicks together to score their goals and we had

moments of that this season. The challenge now is to work out a plan to coach defending in a way that is fun and enjoyable because that's all this group of players need to be a champion team of the future.

Our goalkeeper situation was a constant cause of frustration as no-one really wanted to be our regular goalie. **Nathan** found himself in goals most of the time as it became clear he was very good at the task but we were also helped out by all other players at least once. Some players even proved very good at the job! I'm looking at you **Joseph** and **Anuj**...



The most pleasing team development of the whole season was the player's confidence in the team's ability. We didn't have it at the season start which was unfortunate as we came up against Regents Park in only our third game and who knows what could have happened if we already had the confidence the team ended up with. Parents want to see their kids play well and I'd like to think the team delivered this season, especially during our memorable 11 game undefeated streak when the team seemingly could do no wrong.

Can I just say to all parents of other teams reading this report: the under 9 Dolphins had a very successful season not just in terms of results but in how well organised we all were. Our WhatsApp group was very lively, it always had the information for where and when our next game was on, and who was next on the jersey washing, and half-time oranges roster. Parents helped each other get to and from games and were happy to swap roster spots to help out people's ever-changing schedules. We took good action shot photos for the newsletter match report, helped out taking game statistics and were generally on time for all our games. It all adds up to a great season of football that makes each Saturday the best day of the week for your kids. If your team didn't have a team manager this year, this is the first step towards a better season experience.

So, a big thank you goes to all this team's parents for help making a great season happen this year, especially our team manager **Indra**. The players can only score goals and win games, the parents do everything else behind the scenes, including putting up with our stinky shin pads and socks after each game! Hope to see you all next year, wherever we are...

Coach Andy



Under 9 Koalas

2019 was a good year for the U9 Koalas in that they were a much more cohesive team by the end of the season compared to the start. They started off with the team enjoying the coaching of **Karthick**, father of **Gitu** who was one of the better players, but lost both to a move to the USA only after our first game and so the team was very fortunate that coach **Anand** (**Ariv's** dad) stepped up to take over.

It took the team until their 8th game to finally register a win - a 3-2 victory over Greystanes FC, but once that was under their belt the team was generally competitive and pulled off some great results.

The best game of the season looked like it was going to be the big win over Rydalmere in round 11 with a great team effort to come out 5-0 winners but then they played against the academy-linked Silverwater Flamingos and oh my goodness did that game blow the Rydalmere one away.

The team had already played Silverwater in round 7 and got spanked 9-0. In the return fixture at home, in one of the greatest score reversals of all time, the team were leading 4-0 at half-time and were rubbing their eyes in disbelief at the score. The team was defending well against a good team with **Faheem** running riot and scoring for fun!

In a thrilling second half, the Flamingos pegged the Waratah back to 4-3 before the team scored the eventual winner, after enduring what seemed like an epoch before the whistle blew for full-time, to end with a 5-3 win. What a game! What an epic achievement! And what an indication of just how much the team had improved in a relatively short time.

The 2019 Under 9 Koalas:

Sharurya was a veteran from the previous year and used his experience to great effect, always in a good position to scrap for the ball, and he always tried valiantly to get the ball over the line, even if he didn't always (or ever) succeed!

Veydant was also a veteran but from the year before last and quickly shrugged off whatever rustiness he had from not playing for a year to be a dynamo on the field. His small stature belied his ferocious tackling and he has a wicked left foot. He just needs to work on using his other foot!

Faheem was probably the team's best weapon with his supreme confidence on the ball and power shooting. Who will forget his goal from beyond halfway that flew like a rocket guided missile into the top of the goal!

Srivardhan was the team's box-to-box midfielder who used his pace to be everywhere on the field. **Sri** showed probably the team's biggest improvement of all in his ball control and footballing intelligence. He is always keen to learn everything there is to know about soccer which is why he was so important to the team.



Joshua has also developed very well this year to the point he can keep possession well and make telling & useful passes to his team mates. He makes training and games enjoyable with his antics and good humour but could also be a bit more attentive to his long suffering coach when he's trying to impart his wisdom to the team. Still, great season **Josh!**

Ramcharan was not a stranger to soccer but new to club football and it took a bit of time for **Ram** to show his value but then he became an indispensable team member who always knew what to do on the pitch. **Ram** was always the worse for wear after the games which meant he was putting his all out on the pitch.



Ariv was one of the quiet achievers of the team but was also the backbone of the team in defence and making himself useful for the team's needs. It's not easy being the coach's son but **Ariv** did very well in the role.

Aditya was stolen from the Wombats at the start of the season and did well in his first year of footy. He is quietly spoken but has impeccable manners and will never need to be told to stop mucking around (unlike his more talkative team mates). I hope **Aditya** wants to keep developing as he has the potential to be a good player.

Nithin was our newest player, only joining around the season's half-way mark, but he certainly made up the lost time! I've never seen such enthusiasm in getting stuck in to learning the ropes and helping the team, it was so great to see. **Nithin** will develop very well if he keeps his enthusiasm levels high, I think he has the makings of a good full-back.

And lastly, we were lucky to have **Sameep** with us for a few games who has played for Granville Waratah for a number of years. You will always be welcome back **Sameep!**

Overall, it was a good season for the team and I hope the parents are proud and happy with their kid's development. Bring on next year!

Coach Anand (Report by Andy)



U9 Wombats

Oh what a season has it been?! Great time! Great memories!

I only took to coaching the U9 Wombats as a last minute assignment. The group of children was mostly new to football and team sport in general. The kids liked each other from the very moment they met. Along with my wife Jenni, I managed to forge a good connection with the parents which helped reaching the kids with my coaching methods much quicker. All season we watched the children train hard and transform from a group of happy munchkins to becoming a football team!

We have had a bigger team to start with but we lost a few players due to their parent's private reasons. We are not here to judge. Although we are definitely here to praise the efforts of those parents who week in week out turned up to trainings and games in cold and wet and gorse bringing their kids to teach them how to be a part of a team!

I've decided not to write an individual report on every player. It has been our first year together and we became a team thanks to every player who was with us. **Rohan, Rhithik, Naitik, Tanmay, Cassie, Mali, Matylda, Rutva** and ... little **Klara** who played many games for U9s being 3 years younger than the rest of the team. Why do we mention **Klara**? Because other players made this team so special, the atmosphere so good, despite the scores, that even the little girl wanted to be a part of it and helped us with numbers.

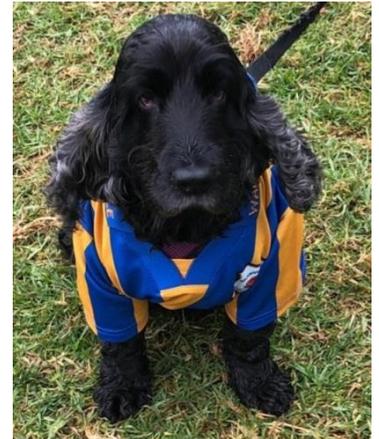
We loved meeting on Wednesdays and have had a lot of laughter and fun time on Saturdays. We won some and lost some games. Regardless the effort was brilliant. General football skills and understanding of the game has highly improved.

This time we'd like to thank the parents. Thank you for your support on a sideline and your trust in the coach. And a big thank you to all the Mums who have been fantastic!!!

Special thanks also go to assistant coach **Tom (Mali's dad)** who took over when I traveled to Poland.

I hope to see you all again next season!

Coach Mike



Under 10 Dolphins

Another season has gone by with the Under 10s Dolphins having a great year. We started off really well, growing in confidence by the week. The team achieved some really great results until we came up against the Flamingos. That big loss took a real toll on the player's confidence which in turn affected there on field performance.

But the boys battled on and had a few unlucky losses. Overall we only played badly a few times, 2 games with big losses and a draw in our last match of the season.

I am very proud of all the kids who overall played with great sportsmanship and attitude.

I would like to thank all the parents who have supported me over the years and try to help me as much as possible.

The coach's Player of the Year went to **Saharsh** who has only been playing for two years but, my, what a wonderful player he is.

There were two other players who were always trying their best at training and on game day and deserved to be players of the year: **Angus** and **Rayan**. The golden boot went to **Frank** who not only scored many goals throughout the year but being an unselfish player set up some easy goals especially for **Adee** who made a return to the team this year.

Our captain **Sarth**, who was the rock of the team, had another fantastic year.

Our two new midfielders **Ethan** and **Harish** had a great first year with the team and will build up to becoming an integral part of the team.

Our main man in defense, **Deon**, had another great year supporting **Sarth** in the back to give us a very strong back three.

Our keeper **Hrrishi**, who has been part of the team since I started coaching here, has finally found his place in the team. His is a sensational keeper who will only get better with time.

I also had **Noah**, **Aryan**, and **Tommy** coming off the bench who also made great contributions to the team, especially **Aryan** playing great games as keeper.

Overall we had a solid season with a few heartbreaking losses but I am very proud of all the boy's efforts.

Coach Steve



Under 10 Possums

What a season it was from day one as we had a big turn up and all the team players having discovered so many new talents such as: learning their positions on the field and working with team mates to play as unit. The team all had so much fun throughout the season, from the start of the season to the last game. We need to thank the team players for their enthusiasm, motivation and amazing sportsmanship. We have even seen team players be extremely excited about being goal keeper at some games.

Rudar was the huge improver in defence, those long kicks got the team out of trouble on numerous occasions.

Dhairya has found his calling with super-fast reflexes and great saves as goalkeeper

Leo played fullback and also in midfield and never missed a beat during the season. He always kept up with the game and used his incredible passing skills to great effect. He also anchored our defence this year.

Elijah mastered passing and scoring and ended up a great midfielder and striker.

Sajaad was strong in midfield and attacked the ball with great strength to move the ball forward well.

Zabian was our pocket rocket and scored goals like it was nobody's business.

Elie fitted straight in and played with fight and passion.

Maryam was a first timer this year and has developed well with her swift passing skills.

Sarah turned into a fair and skilled player who challenges well for the soccer ball.

Vedant was a great central player with good vision of the game.

Janai had a very good attitude, developed his skills well during the season and played with a lot of heart

Rayan played a good defence and improved his skills

Anthony was the quite achiever who showed a lot of skills.

Sudeep improved and was very quick & played well.

Charlie was a good team player and performed well in any position he was given.

and **Mary** put her heart and soul into learning the art of soccer, she was enthusiastic at training, ready to dribble the ball or tackle the player.

Thanks coaches, **Louie & Anthony** & manager **Vita** for the hard work and commitment to the team. Thank you to all the parents for your support and encouragement throughout the season.

Coach Cetin



Under 11 Possums

It was my privilege to coach the mighty Under 11 Possums. The team had great fun while training and at the matches throughout the year.

By season's end the players had turned into great team players and they learned how to resolve problems as a team

The team's fitness was achieved with fun which helped increased their endurance and pace.

During the season the Kids all raised their interest towards a more professional attitude towards the game and this was very encouraging.

Zach, Ali, and Shivvesh were top scorers of goals in most matches.

MeYa was our awesome and fearsome goalkeeper; her throws from the box had to be seen to be believed.

Nilay, Taaha, Deshaun, Taym, Saksham, Sebastian, Prabhnoor, Aneishah, and Guled all made great team players.

Overall team won half of the matches throughout the season which is a very acceptable result and everyone deserves a trophy!

Coach Kumar



Under 13 Combined

After our very successful season in 2018, being crowned as grand champions, the team had a huge task in 2019. Firstly, being promoted to Division 1 for the season and then also trying to improve as a team.

However the season did not start well, with defeats against well-established teams. Then 2 of our top players decided to leave the club after just 4 rounds, after being here for over 5 years. Then the competition got amalgamated with division 1 and 2 teams. Once things settled and reality hit the team really hard, the team really worked hard and stepped up to the task with some close victories and hard fought draws throughout the season.

Our most memorable game was against Merrylands in mid-season (who were undefeated at the time) and were riding high on success. Our opposition thought they would walk away from Robin Thomas reserve with all 3 points, but our boys had other ideas. An outstanding performance by all and a great defensive tactic saw us pull off a 1-1 draw. The game sent shock waves within the competition with other top placed teams starting to fear when they played the mighty Granville Waratahs.

With the combined season nearing completion, the finals protocol was top 4 play division 1 finals, while the next 4 play division 2 finals. Our boys just missed out on the top 4 spots, so we were scheduled to play division 2 finals. We also had several players injured towards the end of the season. However due to some misunderstanding within the association and a certain opposition club dispute, we were forced to play in division 1 finals, giving our team a harder task to reach the grand final.

Come preliminary-final day our boys were up against Auburn District. Despite going down the boys gave it all and fought hard throughout the game. We created some chances, but lady luck was not on our side, on the day.

It was a tough season and with some hurdles along the way, but one thing is for sure is that the boys really worked hard and stepped up during training sessions and game day. One of those players who puts in 110% for every game is the team's captain **Adnan**. He is the key member of the team's defense together with **Kamal, Dean, Ricky** and **Soumil**.

For the thankless task of going in goals we thank **Manraj** and also **Dev** who took over towards the end of the season. In midfield we saw great efforts from **Wisam, Daniel, Gene, Aaron, Adam, & Tyson**, while upfront we had **Arash, Rajesh** and **Gurneel** doing their best.

At the end of the day I was really proud of the boys and look forward to another season. Wish the boys all the best, cannot wait for 2020 season.

Big thanks to **Paul** for assisting and giving some advice throughout the season. Also a big thank you to the **Kneipp family orange tree** supplying fresh oranges almost every game. Thanks to all other parents on assisting with oranges and taking care of jerseys. Thank you all for the annual team BBQ food and drinks (in particular the **Kamal** family feast). Well done team!

Coach Goran



Under 14 Div. 3

What a season.... Let me start by saying I'm a very proud coach of my U14 this season. The dedication, hard work, attitude and the gigantic improvement my boys went through throughout the season.

In the pre-season, no one thought we will make it into the top four teams of the division as we had quite a few players for which this was their first time on the pitch, while for others this was their first year playing for a club, and still others were players from the U13 age group.

We started the season with missing a few training sessions due to wet weather, so we didn't really have a good chance to build up for our first game of the season, and then there it was, first game for the team, the boys and myself were nervous but excited to be on the pitch to kick start our season. Yes, we won our first game and that had a positive mark on the boys and myself, but we knew that a lot of hard work coming our way if we wanted to be a top team in the division, so we did just that. We went to work every Tuesday and Thursday with a very positive attitude and great effort to better ourselves.

As the season went on, we had our ups and downs, we played amazing games with great display and won, other games we didn't have luck on our side but we did put in a great performance, some games simply we didn't play our game and the results went the other way, but we did work hard every time regardless of the result.

The game that still hurts me for losing it is the semi-final game against Toongabbie. We were the better team in all aspects of the game only the score line didn't reflect our dominance of the game, but I'm very proud of the boys for putting in a great display that we can build on for next season.

Finally, I'd like to mention few names for an outstanding season, but not to take it away from the rest of the boys:

Our Captain, **Himanshu** for stepping up and putting his heart on the field throughout the season.

Swornim, what a great season for you buddy, came a long way on all levels a true leader on the field.

Ajay, for being the heart of this team on the field, every training every game you just kept going and going.

Ahmad, what a beautiful foot you have, great goals and skills throughout the season, every time you had the ball we knew something good was coming.

Dhwanit, you are a true all-rounder in the midfield, I knew I can count on you every time we needed you, great speed, skills and attitude.

Erol and **Allan**, not much to say boys, you were the backbone of our team.

Harsh, you came a long way and improved so much, well done.

Rudra, despite you couldn't make training most of the time due to moving away from the area, but it felt that you didn't miss any training sessions, scored some amazing goals when we needed you.

And finally, I'd like to mention **Shash** and our goalkeeper **Abhishek** who, although both are from the younger age group, have what it takes to be a good player and both showed it game in and game out.

Way to go Boys, till next season.....

Coach Zac



Under 15 Combined

Last year this team only won one game. This year we only lost one game in the regular season. That fact alone should be enough to make us feel like grand champions, but it doesn't. Unfortunately we lost a gripping Grand-Final to Lidcombe Waratah 3-1. We give credit where credit is due, on the day Lidcombe were just a little better and had we taken a chance or two in front of goal, the result would have been different. Notwithstanding, we cannot consider this season a failure but rather we will look back and see what we have achieved with pride.

We allowed only nine goals in the regular season – the second best in the entire Association! Our defensive wall led by our captain **Shree** and **Nicholas** on the left was incredible and it took something special to beat them. **Sam** used his height, muscle and his beard to intimidate. **Martin** joined mid-season and was the missing piece on the right hand side to complete the wall.

The midfield was the engine room and it excelled with the rise of **Braha** filling this position early in the season. His leadership and work rate both in attack and defense was very impressive and will only get better. He was ably assisted by **Parmy** who enjoyed his first year and grew to understand the game well enough to put through many sharp through balls and as did **Rodney** who moved the ball around the park with efficiency. **Aaryan** and **Omar** had many wonderful moments and made solid contributions through the season including scoring goals.

On the flanks we had **Moey** on the left who bamboozled defenders time and time again with his crafty ball work and sharp crosses and cut backs. On the right was **Hesam** coming into his own running hard and looking to be aggressive both when chasing down the ball and when scoring a goal.

All the good team ball movement very often ended with **Ahmed** scoring a bunch of goals both on the ground and in the air. For some of the goals it was just beautiful soccer and glorious to watch. **Ahmed** was scoring them but in goals **Rishabh** was saving them. He made many impressive saves this season and often inspired the boys to do better.

Coming off the bench were **Tommy** and **Maz**. These two teammates played the perfect team roles and when given the chance to get on the field gave the team their 100% never giving up and making life difficult for the opposition.

There were some wonderful moments throughout the season like, every time we sung the team song, seeing the boys maturing, and the beautiful team goal that **Braha** scored against Lidcombe outside the 18 yard box after some sweet passing and a laser sharp cut back cross from **Moey**. As a coach I stood up and applauded that one! I felt very proud.

Next year we will back in division 1 and with some special recruiting, hard work and a committed attitude, we will aim to go one better and have another awesome season!

Coach Noel



Under 16 Div. 2

In 2015, the team back then was a champion team in the under 12 age group and lots of the same players have continued to play together.

This year I got to coach the under 16 boys. The team went on a good run at the start of the season and things were looking promising. We tried very hard to make the semi-finals but due to the lack of players, some traveling overseas, we nearly didn't make it. But make it we did.

Unfortunately, the team was under-powered and were not able to get past the semi-finals, narrowly losing the game against Toongabbie 1-2.

The remaining 11 players played without substitutes and did very well considering. I commended the remaining players who fought hard throughout the season and were committed to the end of the season.

We came this far to the semi-final which helped players to improve even more than before. We can see consistency, commitment and determination in layers and they are already excited for the next season. So am I.

Good luck for next year!

Coach Stephen



soccer
is my
life



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2020 REGISTRATIONS

First 2 Saturdays in February

1st and 8th of February

11.00am - 1.00pm

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Also:

Granville Waratah Orientation and Welcome (GWOW) Day

Is on

Tuesday 25th February 2020 at 6pm (Under 6's & 7's)

Wednesday 26th February 2020 at 6pm (Under 8's to 11's)

At location TBA (check online)

Or REGISTER ON LINE!

See below for the web link

Spread the good news... tell your friends to join the Mighty Blue and Gold of the Granville Waratah Soccer Football Club

Always check our website for all the latest news and updates:

www.granvillewaratah.com.au

SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR!!