

# FREE KICK



**Granville Waratah SFC Newsletter**  
**2019 season - Vol. 19 - August 21, 2019**



## FROM THE PREZ

It is time to be heard with one united voice!!

I am sure you are, like me, totally disappointed if not disgusted in the state of our home ground. In my 20 years at the club I have never seen it this bad. Sure the lack of rain has had something to do with it but the bottom line is, the grounds are under too much pressure from over-usage. The booming local residential and commercial populations and the local schools, particular the new Arthur Philip High School to open next year, will sound the death knell of the ground as it will be in a perpetual dust bowl condition. This is an embarrassment to the Cradle City just 300 metres from the heart of Parramatta City CBD and unacceptable for a soccer surface. In fact, the large areas of bare dirt are dangerous and referees are now questioning whether to allow games to be played! The surface is more akin to that which can be found in under-developed nations than a field that is in the heart of Western Sydney. We need action, we need it now and the only logical solution is a synthetic surface.

I ask that all Waratah members please write to all our local councillors and let's fill up their email inboxes with the message that we can no longer be ignored and treated with disrespect! As the long-time tenant of Robin Thomas Reserve and true representatives of the local community, we need to be heard and treated both equitably and much better than what we are now!

Please help the club by getting in touch with your local council representatives! We strongly encourage you to write an email to the addresses at the end, covering these points:

- I am a proud member of the Granville Waratah Soccer Football Club, the oldest Soccer Football club in Western Sydney.
- Our home ground is Robin Thomas Reserve and the state of the ground is simply disgraceful/unacceptable/woeful/dangerous/ugly/extremely dusty/unenjoyable (choose one or two words or pick your own)
- Having grass coverage should not be a luxury, however at our ground it is. Robin Thomas Reserve is currently a dustbowl. Rather than being the pride of Parramatta City, it is an embarrassment to the community.
- The grounds are overused and usage will only continue to increase as the city population continues to boom.
- Why is there no evidence of forward thinking and planning to address this problem?
- The club has informed us that referees have threatened to cancel games deeming the bare dirt too dangerous to play competitive football on.

- Please consider something much more durable like Synthetic turf, it is the only logical and practical answer.
- When will a solution be found to the patches of weeds, grass, dust and dirt? We need synthetic turf!

Please send your email to all our local Councillors listed below and ask friends and family to do same. We need to be heard...and if you don't do this, our voice is only soft and won't speak with authority. Together we can and will win!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Lord Mayor Andrew Wilson      [lordmayor@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lordmayor@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

Councillor Dr Patricia Prociv      [pprociv@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pprociv@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

Councillor Steven Issa      [sissa@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sissa@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

Councillor Phil Bradley      [pbradley@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pbradley@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

Councillor Sameer Pandey      [spandey@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:spandey@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

Councillor Martin Zaiter      [mzaiter@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mzaiter@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

## 2019 FINALISTS

Congratulations to the following teams who have made the finals:

- U13 Combined who came 6th but play in the finals as it is a combined competition, well done coach Goran!
- U14 Div. 3 who squeezed into 4th by a point as Wenty Waratahs failed to win against the 2nd bottom team! Well done coach Zac!
- U15 Combined who came 2nd, and so are only one win away from the Grand Final! Well done coach Noel!
- U16 Div. 2 who came 3rd. Well done coach Stephen!
- and AAM5 WHT who also came 3rd. Well done coach Noel!

We wish all our teams the best! They would love your support, please come and see one or more of the games! Here are the first round fixtures:

Time	Age/Div	Home Team	Away Team	Ground
09:00	15/2	Lidcombe Waratah	<b>Granville Waratah</b>	Eric Primrose Reserve 1
11:00	16/2	Granville Waratah	Toongabbie	Coleman Park 2
12:00	13/2	Auburn District	<b>Granville Waratah</b>	Ted Burge Sportsground 1
13:45	14/3	Toongabbie	<b>Granville Waratah</b>	Guildford West Sports Ground 2
17:30	AAM/5 WHT	<b>Granville Waratah</b>	Toongabbie	Guildford West Sports Ground 2

## RESULTS FROM ROUND 18

It was a mixed bag of results for our last round of the regular season. I hope everyone enjoyed the season and are keen to come back next year! If you have any feedback regarding what we could do better, please let us know.

Age Group / Div.	Home Team	Home Sc.	Away Sc.	Away Team
08 Koalas	Lidcombe Waratah	4	1	Granville Waratah SFC
08 Wombats	Newington	0	5	Granville Waratah SFC
09 Dolphins	Granville Waratah SFC	4	1	Auburn District
09 Koalas	Granville Waratah SFC	1	2	Silverwater Flamingos
09 Wombats	Greystanes FC	7	1	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Dolphins	Toongabbie	1	1	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Koalas	Lidcombe Waratah	3	2	Granville Waratah SFC
10 Possums	Pendle Hill	?	?	Granville Waratah SFC
11 Possums	Merrylands SFC	4	0	Granville Waratah SFC
13 Combined	Merrylands SFC	4	0	Granville Waratah SFC
14 Div. 3	Guildford County	11	1	Granville Waratah SFC
15 Combined	Granville Waratah SFC	3	0	Dundas United
16 Div. 2	Lidcombe Waratah	0	9	Granville Waratah SFC
AAM Div. 5 WHT	Ermington United	2	4	Granville Waratah SFC
AAM Div. 5 BLK	Granville Waratah SFC	6	0	Pendle Hill

## MATCH REPORTS

It is our intention to feature in all newsletters, every match report we receive. Coaches, managers and parents, please organise among you to ensure someone is selected to write a report of the match!

All previous newsletters are available from the club website via this link:

<http://granvillewaratah.com/wp/newsletters/>

**Please Note:** The final score will only be shown for U8s and up. For 6s and 7s we don't want to encourage parents to focus on the score but how much fun and enjoyment their kids are having.

Each week we choose the best report to be the **Featured Match Report**, for the second week running the **Under 10 Dolphins** win for their heartfelt goodbye to a long serving member. Thanks to **From the Sidelines** for sending it in!

The **Under 9 Dolphins** also win the Photos of the Round for great action shots of goals being scored. Thanks to **Yulia** for sending them in!

Thanks to all teams that contributed during the season!



## Under 10 Dolphins – Featured Match Report

### Goodbye, Sai. Goodbye, 2019 Season

Last game of the season.

Shared the field with **Toongabbie Demons**.

Shared the score with a one all draw.

It was a slower paced game this day.

No-one was super up; no-one was super down.

It was all very calm and middle-ground.

Maybe everyone was conscious it was the last game of the season.

Maybe it was playing on all their minds.

Maybe no-one wanted it to end...



*Sai is POTM*

And as for the Under 10 Dolphin Waratahs – not only was it the end of the season; it was the end of an era – the end of our player **Sai's** run with us. For after a couple of years of running hard on the field, **Sai** and his family will depart for Melbourne.



To Sai,

Our Player of the Match this week and a big part of our team – we say, “Goodbye and Farewell!”

Goodbye, Sai. Goodbye, 2019 Season. You will be missed.

From,

**Angus, Frank, Dhruv, Deon, Rayan, Noah, Adee, Aryan, Harish, Hrrishi, Saharsh, Tom, Sarth, and Ethan; Steve, and Parents.**

**Coach Steve**

Coach’s Player of the Match: **Sai**

**Final Score: a 1 – 1 draw**

Report by **From the Sidelines**

## Under 7 Koalas WHT

This was it - our last game of the season and what better way to finish off the year than with an away game and an 8:30 kick-off!!! As we arrived at our destination to take on **Greystanes FC**, the temperature was still very low, but the enthusiasm and excitement from our players (and their parents) was at an all-time high.

The opposing team's coach suggested we play 5 on 5 in order to give everyone a good run for the last game and insisted Granville kick-off first to get the match underway.

Greystanes had the better run of play in the early exchanges and after two minutes one of their players created some space for himself and struck the ball cleanly from a good distance into the back of the net. Although disappointed at being a goal down so soon in the game, this play from Greystanes helped our team identify immediately which player was the one to watch closely and to not allow too much time and space on the ball.

As the game progressed our defence became more organised and **Tristan, Varish** and **Arav** were starting to get the measure of Greystanes attacking moves with some well-timed tackles and interceptions. **Adriel** and **Liam** were busy as always in the middle of the field, desperately trying to get the ball into the opposition half and get our offense working. It wasn't until **Sineth** was substituted on that we were able to start getting some clean breaks up front through his brilliant dribbling skills, speed and ability to beat most players one-on-one.

A combination of determination from the team as a whole and some individual brilliance enabled **Sineth** to get our opening goal, making the scores level and giving our boys a much needed confidence boost.

Not long after our goal celebrations, Greystanes were working the ball down the right side of the field when their key playmaker lofted a perfect cross to an unmarked teammate standing right next to the back post. There was some confusion for a moment, as the Greystanes player appeared to use his hand whilst trying to control the ball before striking it with his boot into the goalmouth. I looked to the opposition referee to gauge whether he saw it as I did, but he seemed happy and his players were already busy celebrating and racing back up the field to prepare for the restart.

Not willing to 'rain their parade', particularly in the last game of the year, I didn't mention the handball and knew there was plenty of time left in the game for our team come back strong.

At halftime our team was still buzzing with excitement. I reminded them that this was the last 20 minutes of soccer for the year and I called on every player to put in all their energy and effort.

As the second half got underway it was Greystanes that began with some crisp passing between their players, resulting in an impressive, well-worked early goal. This put our team at 3-1 down and in danger of letting the game get away on us. However, Granville were not about to surrender their season without a



*Sineth about to tackle a Greystanes player with Sushanth and Adriel watching on*

fight, and the remaining 15 minutes saw a massive effort from all the players putting their bodies on the line to finish the game strong.

**Tristan** copped a heavy blow to the chest from the ball and was momentarily out of action as he tried to catch his breath, before dusting himself off and launching himself into another tackle to halt Greystanes once again from progressing any further.

Granville was starting to dominate the game and were throwing everything at the opposition. **Ashutosh** was doing some great work for the team to steal the ball and retain possession, while **Sushanth** was getting in good position down the left side of the field in support. Attempts on goal were coming thick and fast from **Adriel**, **Sineth** and **Sushanth**, but nothing wanted to go straight or cross the goal line and I could hear the anguish from the sidelines as parents were willing their boys on with each attempt.

Just when it seemed like it wasn't our day and things were just not going to go our way, **Sineth** finally managed to direct a shot into the goal. It came with huge relief, as the team deserved something from all their persistence and effort. In the dying seconds of the match **Liam** almost claimed an equalizer after intercepting the ball on the halfway line and striking the ball immediately toward the goal, only for the Greystanes defender to deflect it away over the goal line. It would have been a fitting way to end the game as both teams were evenly matched and a draw would have been a nice way to finish the season. But it wasn't to be this time and to be honest it didn't matter - Our team put it 110% in their last game and did themselves very proud.

**Varish** (pictured below right) received our last Player of the Match trophy after another strong game defending and making good decisions throughout the game to intercept the ball.

Thanks for a fantastic effort boys and a great and memorable season.

### Coach Anthony



## Under 9 Dolphins

Our last official match of the season was against **Auburn District** who were one of the powerhouse teams last year but this year, not so much. The team beat them comfortably in our reverse fixture in round nine and it looked like the perfect game to end the season on.

So when we trudged off the dusty moon surface of a field at half-time with the score still nothing to ziltch, the players having sent their parents to sleep on the sidelines, it looked like maybe the team was already on holiday!

I'm being a little dramatic because we played well with lots of good passes and players looking up frequently to see where team mates were at, which is a good sign of their development. And defensively we didn't let Auburn have much of a sight of our goal, but we just didn't do very well in the final third and hardly mustered any shots at all.

Well we did have a few, notably a couple from **Anuj**, both which would have been bangers had they gone in, but apart from that the shots-at-goal cupboard was bare.

Maybe it was the half-time oranges, maybe it was the less-than-impressed coach and his withering words of scorn (maybe a little bit overdramatic) but the second half was much better!

**Siddhant**, probably in a hurry to get back to his holiday, quickly scored our first for the match, and then added another not long after, and then one more to make sure we would all go home happy. Great hat-trick **Siddhant**!

Not to be outdone on his birthday, **Jamaar** gave himself an early present with a fine goal at the death to make it four to zip.

The best thing about the goals were all the assists: **Anuj**, **Ishan**, **Nathan**, and **Troy** all picked up one each and it was hard to pick a winner for the Assist of the Game so I conveniently didn't and let them all win it. And we did have a Defender of the Match in **Ethan** who was everywhere putting in tackle after tackle alongside **Harsh**, **Ajiri**, and **Troy** who also deserve the credit for another clean sheet. Well done team!



*Siddhant scoring for fun: our 2nd and 3rd goals*



*Jamaar pokes the ball home after leaving the Auburn players in his dust (literally)*

Charitably, after the game had finished we let the Auburn team have a goal. Just before the match ended the ball hit the crossbar of our goal and bounced down and then out, which was Auburn's only significant chance of the match. No-one likes to go away empty-handed so we let them have it.

A big thanks to the parents for their like-clockwork jersey washing and half-time oranges, and thanks to team manager Indra for compiling the game stats and managing the rosters. You guys are the best!

**Coach Andy**

**Final Score: 4 – 1 to Granville Waratah SFC**



## Under 11 Possums

Our last match of the season was against **Merrylands SFC** and we were desperately unlucky and went down 4-0.

We were without **Miya** who was injured and this was a big blow the team didn't recover from.

Still, we had a great season and everyone learned and developed as players and coach. Thanks to all the parents for their support and to the club committee for helping with the team.

**Coach Kumar**

**Final Score: 4 – 0 to Merrylands SFC**



**SOCCER**  
is my  
life

## Under 15 Combined

We had 2 objectives in our final game of the season – to win and to keep a clean sheet – WE ACHIEVED BOTH!

The team continued their impressive play from the kick off and apart from one scare late in the half and again in the second, we scored three to **Dundas United's** zero. Goals from **Moey**, **Hesam** and **Ahmed** were all very classy with a couple of laser accurate through balls, a beautiful cross and an impressive header to score goals.

To Dundas's credit, they did not stop fighting and on two very good occasions threatened to score but **Rishabh** saved the day and earned the Player of the Match Award! We had a couple of uncharacteristic lapses of defensive concentration where we left a player unmarked close to the goal mouth. They didn't score this time but we must be more focused for our semi-final match next week.

And the Victory Song sounds sweeter every time we sing it now.

**Coach Noel**

**Final Score: 3 – 0 to Granville Waratah SFC**

