



**Caulfield Bears
Junior Football Club**

Caulfield Bears Junior Football Club Inc.
Koorang Park – Munro Ave, Carnegie
PO Box 132, Carnegie Vic 3163
Association No. A0048985V
Affiliated with MSJFL

ANNUAL REPORT



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President's Report

Each football year brings with it a number of challenges and many rewards for a junior football club such as ours. This year was no different in that respect. Overall, the 2015 season was an amazing success thanks to a many hands makes light work philosophy although there were handful who put in over and above.

When I started out in this role at the end of last year, I went into it with a very clear idea about some positive outcomes the club needed if it was to keep on target with the strategic plan that had been developed. During the season under the guidance of Louise Nelson, who stepped into the Vice-President's role mid-season, we undertook reviews regarding how we select teams and also into the structure of the committee.

Both these policies have been approved by the committee and will be in effect for next season and beyond, with the revised committee being voted in at the AGM.

Perhaps our biggest challenge in 2015 was dealing with increased numbers, and we fielded 12 teams across the many divisions in which we compete, including three Under 9 teams which was an outstanding achievement. But this meant we had a number of growing pains to ride through and I thank the parents and coaches for their patience as we sorted out the final teams in March and April.

Late last year we also were asked by a group of parents from the Elsternwick Auskick Centre about fielding an Under 9 team for their children in 2015. After a few meetings with those parents they decided to join us as the Under 9 Grizzlies. While this was not always the most popular decision for some clubs that believed these kids should be playing with them, I think the parents and player are confident they made a good decision.

We had some movement this year too on the club's executive. As already mentioned, Louise Nelson stepped up to be Vice-President after the season had started, and when Amanda Beet took a job as the Director of Umpiring with the SMJFL she was replaced as Secretary by Rebecca Kovac.

Through all this we saw some great footy and we watched the development and progression of our teams and players throughout the season.

Our family nights continued to grow and by the end of the season we could barely fit the crowd inside the social rooms, it was just as well the kids enjoy kicking a footy and it wasn't raining for any of them. The parents' only comedy night was an amazing success and well over subscribed. Thank you to Clare Murphy who was the driving force behind this night with our social coordinators, Fiona Godfrey, Rosetta Scicluna and Helen Gearon, for pulling together a great atmosphere for a very funny night.

Our club values were put to the test a few times, and we came through with flying colors. What impressed me was how we, as a whole club, came together to help some of our families in tough times, to me it is values such as these that keep our club growing.

There are way too many people to personally thank in these pages, but to me this club is about more than the volunteers who keep the club ticking over. To all the coaches, team managers and regular officials, thank you for getting our children onto the field this year and the guiding and mentoring them on the football journey.

But most of all, I would like to thank our players who, on the whole, keep playing football in the right spirit and sometimes listen to coaches like little sponges soaking up information and then putting it into action. You have all given me hours of enjoyment this year as I have watched you play your games, I saw every team play a few games during the season in the 75 or so games at which I was an avid fan.

We have some exciting plans for next year that will keep the club moving forwards.

Registrations

We experienced significant growth in 2015, with 276 players registered for the season compared with 203 for the previous season. This growth took us a little by surprise and saw us with three Under 9 teams for the time first anyone can remember, and two Under 11 teams. We fielded 12 teams overall.

The first few months of the year were challenging for Rebecca Kovac who as Registrar was looking after the placement of players into teams. After a lot of player movement and discussions with parents, we eventually had our team's start the season largely settled but with some still growing – new registrations didn't stop until into May.

The total value of registrations for the club was \$49,334 but more of that is outlined in the Treasurer's report.

Football

Our footballing activities were led by Gary Birrell as the coaching coordinator and saw plenty of highlights for the year. Three out of the seven teams that could play finals did play finals, and the other teams only just missed out.

As a club we must continue to concentrate on the skills and fitness of our young footballers, and plans have been put in place to work on both of those core activities for next year.

Modified Rules Teams (No Scoring & No Ladders)			
	Coach	Team Manager	Season Notes
Under 8s	Mike Cormick	Katherine Roberts	
Under 9 Polars	Jake Golding	Andrew Baldwin	
Under 9 Grizzlies	Mike Gurrie	Lisbet Fraser & Sarah Graham	
Under 9 Kodiaks	Chris Mathieson	Glenda Beecher	
Under 10	Adrian Nelson	David Friend & Janey Rainey	
Open Rules (Scoring & Ladders)			
	Coach	Team Manager	Season Notes
Under 11 Polars	Justin Healey	Prasheeta Kuvar	Finished top of the ladder but knocked out in the first week of the finals
Under 11 Grizzlies	Gary Birrell	Kylie King	Missed the finals by 1 win
Under 12	Andrew Beet	Katrina Cox & Harriet Shelton	Missed the finals by 1 win
Under 13	Marc Bullard	Annie Besnard & Mauro Affinita (replacing Amanda Beet mid-season)	Missed the finals on percentage
Under 14	Campbell McCulloch	Rebecca Kovac	Missed the finals by 2 wins
Under 15	Rod Grace	Martin Fester	Knocked out in the Preliminary Final
Under 17	Peter Manakis	Peter Spackman	Knocked out in the Preliminary Final

The following players were recognised by the SMJFL for their seasons.

- Under 11 Polars – Nathan Scollo - 3rd Best & Fairest
- Under 12 – Angus Edgar - Runner Up Best & Fairest
- Under 13 – Oliver Lord - Interleague Coach's Award
- Under 14 – Timothy Syme - 3rd Best & Fairest
- Under 15 – Jacob Thomson - 1st Best & Fairest
- McDonalds Leadership Award Finalist – Jack Kirkham

Committee Structure and Restructure

2015 Executive	
President	Andrew Clarke
Vice-President	Louise Nelson
Secretary	Rebecca Kovac (also Registrar)
Treasurer	Penny Callaghan
2015 Committee	
Coaching Coordinator	Gary Birrell
Team Manager's Coordinator	Glenda Beecher
Sponsorship & Marketing	Clare Murphy
Auskick Liaison	Silvana Kerin
Council & SMJFL Liaison	Jason Woods

Non-Committee Roles

Newsletter	Belinda MacLeod-Smith
Line Marking	Paul McDonough
Merchandise	Sam Healey
Auskick	Prasheeta Kuver and Silvana Kerin
Canteen	Jess Yates
Social Coordinators	Fiona Godfrey, Rosetta Scicluna and Helen Gearon
Bar Manager	Greg Saunders

The Committee & Executive for 2016 and beyond will be structured as follows

Executive Committee Positions

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Football Operations

General Committee Positions

- Registrar
- Marketing & Communications
- Auskick Liaison
- Girls Football Coordinator
- General Committee

Sub-Committee Positions

- Coaching Coordinator
- Sponsorship
- Team Manager Coordinator
- Merchandise
- Umpire Coordinator
- Social Coordinator(s)
- Trainer Coordinator
- Auskick Coordinator

Marketing Activities

Much of our marketing activity was centered on growing the number of players in both Auskick and our teams. We targeted schools by attending numerous fetes early in the year and also by running some football clinics.

We also developed a new website at the start of the year and moved our team communications activities to Team App, which was bigger job than first thought but well worth the time investment from Clare Murphy.

Overall sponsorship was a little down on previous seasons for a variety of reasons, but we expect that will bounce back next year. We would like to recognize the following sponsors of the club.

Our 2015 Sponsors

Platinum Sponsor



Major Sponsor



Other Sponsors



President's Cup Golf Day

The second annual President's Cup was held in late October, with John Margerison stepping up with a score that would have kept a pro-golfer happy. Most of the club's volunteers are invited to attend the golf day, and the spread of participants came from all parts and all age groups of the club. Thanks to Drummond Golf for the day and Clare Murphy for pulling the day together. I promise I will put work into the damaged shoulder a little earlier so I can have a crack at the perpetual trophy.

Club Person of the Year

Former club president Jason Woods was our Club Person of the Year for 2015. Jason has done just about everything with and for this football club, and it was fitting he won this award in his final year on the committee. His wise counsel will be sorely missed on the 2016 committee, but we know where he lives if we need help.

David Southwick Junior Club Person of the Year

Finn Harvey from our Under 13 team won the David Southwick Junior Club Person of the Year award. Finn has been with the Bears since early in his Auskick days and it was felt his approach to football best exemplified our core values as a football club.

Capital Works

We have three main projects at various stages of planning for the next year. The first is the conversion of the toilets at the back of the pavilion into a storage area and umpires' room, and we expect those works to start soon. The other two projects are on their planning stages as we run the numbers, one is for the installation of an electronic scoreboard and the other is for lighting that will be good enough to bring Friday night footy to the Bear Cave.

The 2016 Committee will keep you up-to-date with these projects.

Andrew Clarke
President

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Caulfield Bears Junior Football Club Results for the Financial Year ended 30 September 2015. For the first year in a number of years the club has realised a net cash outflow as detailed below.

Results for the last 5 years

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Receipts	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Registrations	49,334	35,516	38,575	36,190	31,298
Merchandise	17,368	9,080	10,727	7,574	8,386
Food and Drink	42,366	31,962	34,949	26,713	33,659
Fundraising	12,098	17,767	23,731	24,276	17,806
Other	4,875	5,152	2,445	103	996
Total Receipts	126,041	99,477	110,427	94,856	92,145
Payments					
Registrations	43,776	25,386	39,720	35,057	28,589
Merchandise	45,121	17,173	20,113	19,562	20,106
Food and Drink	24,326	24,274	20,464	19,694	23,407
Fundraising	1,218	-	803	8,454	289
Utilities	10,594	10,960	8,529	7,268	5,830
Other	5,243	6,648	3,964	2,113	5,259
Total payments	130,278	84,441	93,595	92,149	83,479
Net cash increase (decrease)	(4,237)	15,036	16,832	2,707	8,667

1. Registrations

- Junior registrations were up 40% on the year before with an additional 3 teams and a slight increase in registrations fees and Auskick revenue increased by 15%
- With increased teams, SMJFL affiliation and umpires fees were also increased
- As part of the strategic plan all U8 and above juniors Auskick fees were reimbursed
- Football department cost increased with the purchase of new equipment
- A new website was created at the cost of \$4,125 with an annual hosting cost of \$500

2. Merchandise costs increased immensely this was due to a number of factors.

- Registration gift of t shirt/singlet given to each child. These cost nearly \$6,000
- Additional jumpers were purchased at a cost of \$3,360
- Teams were outfitted much more than other years with additional people receiving merchandise, with coaches and team managers also receiving additional items at a cost of just under \$3000
- Revenue increased by over \$10,000
- Merchandise of over \$19,000 on hand at the end of the year

3. Food and Drink

- The canteen improved dramatically from last year with an increase in revenue of 40%.
- Bar takings were increased by nearly 40%

4. Fundraising Sponsorship was down by \$2,500 with some sponsors not re-signing and no grants received

While this is the first year in a number of years that we have had a net cash outflow, there has been a concerted effort to increase the equipment used by the coaches and teams, increase the amount of children participating in Auskick and increase our marketing and communications presence. The benefits of all these investments will bear fruit in the coming years.

Thanks to all who assisted me during the year and particular, thanks to Sam Healey for an amazing job in her first year as the merchandise co-ordinator.

Penny Callaghan
Treasurer

FINANCIALS

Profit and Loss
Caulfield Bears Junior Football Club
Report Period: 01/10/2014 to 30/09/2015

Bar	\$ 9,150.30	
Canteen	\$ 23,015.27	
Donations	\$ 140.15	
Finals Hosting income	\$ 2,382.25	
Football Clinic	\$ 4,020.00	
Fundraising and Raffles	\$ 2,307.51	
Fundraising and raffles	\$ 818.60	
Interest Received	\$ 854.66	
Kitchen	\$ 7,818.65	
Merchandise.	\$ 17,368.00	
Misc.	\$ 0.17	
Registrations Auskick	\$ 1,321.25	
Registrations Juniors	\$ 48,012.38	
Sponsorship	\$ 8,832.00	
 Total Income		 \$ 126,041.19
 Auskick	 \$ 1,880.10	
Auskick Reimbursements	\$ 1,849.00	
Bank Charges	\$ 133.35	
Bar Purchases	\$ 1,305.97	
Bar Supplies	\$ 2,170.76	
Bar Wages	\$ 120.00	
Canteen Game Day	\$ 7,443.86	
Canteen Kitchen (family nights)	\$ 3,008.53	
Canteen Expenses	\$ 732.24	
Canteen Manager	\$ 3,568.75	
Canteen Supplies	\$ 3,108.68	
Football Operations - Canteen Vouchers	\$ 975.00	
Charity	\$ 1,218.00	
Cleaner (weekly)	\$ 1,560.00	
Coaching clinic	\$ 3,964.00	
Family Night Expenses	\$ 1,424.92	
Finals Hosting	\$ 878.73	
First Aid - Accreditations	\$ 376.00	
First Aid - Sports Trainer	\$ 2,071.50	
First Aid - Supplies	\$ 1,068.93	
Football Operations - Accreditation & Development	\$ 500.45	
Football Operations - Admin (postal Web etc)	\$ 8,965.15	
Football Operations - Footballs and Equip	\$ 11,682.50	
Glen Eira Council	\$ 5,456.41	

Insurance	\$ 1,180.10	
Lightning Premiership	\$ 990.00	
Merchandise	\$ 36,721.54	
Misc	\$ 1,146.49	
Photos	\$ 1,673.50	
SMJFL Affiliation Fees	\$ 12,147.00	
SMJFL Umpires	\$ 5,669.49	
Team Social Nights	\$ 563.82	
Trophies	\$ 4,724.80	
Total Expenses		\$ 130,279.57
Net Profit(Loss)		-\$ 4,238.38

Sponsorship Report

Coaching Coordinator's Report

This year the club was fortunate enough to field 12 teams.

- Under 8 x 1
- Under 9 x 3
- Under 10 x 1
- Under 11 x 2
- Under 12 x 1
- Under 13 x 1
- Under 14 x 1
- Under 15 x 1
- Under 17 x 1

After the registration period, under 8, 9 and 10s exceeded expectations hence the formation of the under 9 Kodiaks, which only had 9 players at the start of the season. This presented a myriad of problems in trying to get players from the two other under 9 teams or the under 8s, to either move across to the new side or at the very least rotate players on a regular basis to help this team function. Fortunately with a lot of consultation, players were able to be rotated early in the season and a few weeks in the Kodiaks had a settled line-up.

It is strongly recommended moving forward, where multiple teams of the same age group exist, players are not guaranteed to be in the same team year to year. For the club to provide competitive teams, make up of sides needs to be as equal as possible, rather than form one elite side and the other uncompetitive. This will also encourages new friendships to be formed including parent groups. The club is in a very fortunate position especially in the lower age groups, to at least try and implement, it cannot be held to ransom by a select few.

Coaches were provided with information nights and support throughout the year, concluding with the first coach's end of year dinner, which was well received and appreciated.

Our under 8s coached by Michael Cormick had a great year and were very competitive.

Our under 9s Polars coached by Jake Golding, also had a great year and showed great improvement as did our under 9 Grizzlies coached by Michael Gurrie. This team was formed predominately from the Elsternwick Auskick program and trained at Elsternwick oval, a first for the club. A fantastic effort by all those involved.

Our under 9 Kodiaks coached by Chris Mathieson, had 9 players at the start of the season but finished with a full squad. The team showed some very encouraging signs and continued to improve. A great effort from all.

Under 10s coached by Adrian Nelson, another great year for these boys, ending the season with a lighting premiership for the second year running.

Under 11s Polars coached by Justin Healey, fantastic year, finishing on top of the ladder and being very unlucky in the finals.

Under 11s Grizzlies coached by Gary Birrell, continued to improve with many new first year players supported by under 10 age group players.

Under 12s coached by Andrew Beet, continued to improve finishing just outside finals. Another very solid year by this group.

Under 13s coached by Marc Bullard, were regraded up a division. The team was very competitive finishing just outside the finals, another great result

Under 14s coached by Campbell McCulloch, were also regraded up a division. This team was also very competitive finishing just out of finals. A very strong performance.

Under 15s coached by Rod Grace, started pre-season with 9 registered players and was able to field a very competitive team with some assistance from 13s and 14s which was greatly appreciated. Team finished second on the ladder and was very unlucky in the preliminary final. Fantastic year, well done to all involved and a big thanks to the other coaches supporting this team.

Under 17s coached by Peter Manakis, another strong year by this group, finishing on top of the ladder, unfortunately the finals didn't go our way – great season.

To all the assistant coaches and everyone else involved in making teams “happen” at training and particularly game day; your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Moving forward, club will need to keep investing in new training equipment and hopefully upgrade ground lighting which in turn will provide the correct lighting for Friday night games.

A massive positive for a club expanding

Gary Birrell
Coaching Coordinator

Auskick Report

U8 Team Report

The Under 8s enjoyed a successful and fun season in 2015. The excitement of their first footy season started weeks out for many of our Under 8s and coaches. One player even marked off a special calendar to count down the days, such was his excitement. Preseason started officially in April with great anticipation and right from the start our young chargers were showing off their great skills and determination. It was no surprise to the coaching team who had been watching this group develop very closely for the past couple of years at Auskick. As a group they possess a high level of skill not expected of players entering their first foray into the world of competitive football.

Our first match started on a cold Sunday morning with the siren to start the game coinciding with rain and hail. However there were no signs of the cold with the under 8s 'red hot' as they got their season started. Tom Walsh took the honors of kicking our first goal for the year and was capably supported that day by Max Bremner who kicked two. The determination of the team and their tackling were a stand out in the early part of the season and our skills in this area were well developed compared to other teams. Preparation in Auskick in the previous year made the transition to 'bear hug' tackling easier on the team.

Those first few rounds went quickly with the Bears playing well and opening the season on a positive note. There is no doubting the enjoyment of our players as they ran out each week in their Bears jumpers.

One of the initial challenges we faced was to manage the large group of players in the U8 age group. With the formation of the U9 Kodiaks a rotation policy was implemented for rounds 1-3. After the bye in round 4 three players moved permanently to the Kodiaks, and whilst we were sorry to see them go it did help with team organization. At this point the SMJFL also relaxed the ruling regarding age for U8s and we were delighted to have Angus and Conor join the team. Having a permanent list made it easier to manage the club rotation policy and this was strictly adhered to this ensuring that all players got equal opportunity regardless of skill or experience.

The weather grew colder but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm or spirit of the team who continued to show their love for the great game of Aussie Rules. The team goals were straight forward and included; contesting every ball, kicking long and playing as a team. We proudly noted that the team stuck well to these goals and as the season continued they showed an increasing ability to play together as a team. We watched in awe at some passages of team play that included great handballs, passing to a team mate as the ball travelled 'coast to coast'!

Whilst every game had its merits no one would forget that Sunday when the temperature dipped into single figures and was matched with equal measures of rain and wind. It was not the most enjoyable experience for the team but they did us proud by getting through the game.

No doubt many headed straight home for a hot shower, PJs on and a day on the couch.

The playing group was excellent all year, and their development as a team was fantastic. Each and every player improved their skills and the season ended in fine style with a great day at the Lightning premiership. No pennants were on offer this year, but we did all enjoy the challenge of playing three games in a row and as the final siren blew we were happy with the outcome.

The season was hugely successful and we all enjoyed the experience. Our coaching team worked well together and my sincere thanks to Alastair Rowlands and Shane Walsh for their great support and ongoing effort as both assistant coach and runner. We are all indebted to our fantastic team manager, Katherine Roberts, who was outstanding in her organisation, taking care of the team with patience and a calm smile. We also had a fantastic parent umpire in Andrew Will and team medic in David O'Keefe who generously gave their time each week to these important roles. The week to week roles were filled enthusiastically by our wonderfully supportive parent group, who came along rain, hail or shine to support the team.

Overall we had a fantastic season, which by all accounts was well enjoyed by players and parents alike. As head coach I was enormously proud to coach this team and enjoyed my role all throughout the season. This playing group has enormous potential for the future and I look forward to supporting them in the years to come.

*Michael Cormick
Under 8 Coach*

U9 Polars Team Report

With 18 returning players and several new faces, the U9 Polars took the field in 2015. It was startling as a coach and a parent to see the change, and the growth in the team, in size and stature.

Our team again had a very simple aim for the season - wanting everyone to kick a goal. Every player had a chance to score during the season, so there remains only a couple of the U9 Polars yet to score a goal for the club, but this will happen I am sure. The most important things were always to have fun, to give everyone a fair go, and to support each other.

In a season where every game was officially a draw, it would be fair to say that the U9 Polars benefited from this policy more than they were penalised. However there were a few team highlights that show how far the group has come.

In a quirk of scheduling the U9 Polars played the same team two weeks running after the grading rounds. A stirring turnaround to win after losing one the round before showed that a week is truly a long time in football. What came out of these two rounds was a belief in them, in each other, and that the team could be competitive with anyone and everyone.

There was also the continuing development of each player in the basic skills of the game, and the "art" of football, that is, playing the game as a team rather than just executing skills. With a couple of able assistant coaches, the training sessions were broken into groups to practice and reinforce the basic skills of football - to be able to mark, kick and handball - as well as other drills to focus on game play, to develop team work and positioning. It was always rewarding to see this come out during the games, either as an individual barreling a torp, decisive ruck work to a rover, the quick play on from a perfect pass to space, or the handball out of a pack to a running teammate. Simply good footy at any level.

As a team and as individuals there were many displays of both good sportsmanship and resilience, and it's a credit to all of them that they bounced back time and time again from adversity. The U9 Polars showed that they were made of stern stuff, keeping their heads up, and not ever letting their disappointment overwhelm them, but what also emerged were some genuine leaders - and I am sure they will go on to great things.

What was the best thing? Apart from the individual highlights that each and every player had, for a coach, it was seeing the whole group play together at the lightning carnival. This was one of the only times that they got to play together as a team, and they showed what exceptionally good football they are capable of.

The season was such a great success because all the parents made the effort, and the sacrifices, to make sure it was all it could be for the boys. For this I thank you all. Without the constant efforts of our Team Manager, Andrew Baldwin, it wouldn't have gone so smoothly, and so again, my thanks for managing the coach as well as everyone else. My assistants Rowan Brittain and Jason Lopes were an unending source of support and without their help the year would not have been as successful as it was. Most of all, the parents never swerved from putting the welfare of our children above anything and everything else.

So finally - thanks to the U9 Polars for making another season so fantastic. It was a privilege and my pleasure to be your coach for this year, last year and through the Auskick journey. I now look forward to seeing the games (and my son) as a proud parent, and not as coach.

Jake Golding
Under 9 Polars Coach

U9 Grizzlies Team Report

It gives me great pleasure to be writing my first coach's report for the Caulfield Bears Under 9 Grizzlies Football Team.

The team was formed after a group of parents from the Elsternwick Auskick Program made a submission to the Southern Junior Football League to start a club of their own but was subsequently declined. As we were still eager to keep the children that had come to through the program together, we looked at other alternatives and the Caulfield Bears Football Club welcomed us to their club with open arms.

As they say the rest is history.

The players came from several schools within the area with the bulk coming from Elsternwick and St Joseph's Primary. We had 23 children register and after several years of practicing the finer points of Australian Rules they were keen to pit their skills against other teams within the area.

All I can say was training was enthusiastic. I am not sure their focus was on football, however the chance to get together with their mates, (ignore the coach's instructions) and run around the ground with unbridled zest seemed to bring the best out of them and they decided to come back every week.

It was a formula that served us well. To the surprise of many of the parents (not the coach of course) we not only held our own, we were at times able to draw clear of our much fancied opponents... not that we were scoring.

The players showed an eagerness and willingness to learn and the improvement was evident for all to see.

The parents were fantastic and made the year very enjoyable. Without their help the year would not have been possible.

A special mention to Matt (Assistant Coach), Ken (Runner/Walker), Liz and Sarah (Team Mangers – could not have survived without you), Richard and Matt for umpiring, key training helpers Simon and David, first aid and trainers Sam and Cassandra, goal umpires Peter and Daniel and chief football scribes Nick and Daniel. Not forgetting those parents in the back ground supplying the food, helping out with lifts to training, doing the time keeping and setting up the grounds etc.

So overall a very satisfying year and I look forward to the continued improvement and enjoyment for everyone involved.

Michael Gurrie
Under 9 Grizzlies Coach

U9 Kodiaks Team Report

The genesis of the Under 9 Kodiaks could be described as relatively tumultuous! With too many numbers for one U9 team but not quite enough for two full teams it was a battle to get up and running. The committee should be congratulated for their perseverance in getting a third U9 team going, and more importantly the parents that supported the initiative of starting a new team should be commended. I arrived as just a parent with a child in their first season, hoping to simply watch him enjoy a kick, but like all involved, realized we all had to put our hands up to help to get a game going for our incredibly enthusiastic kids. Thanks to ALL of the parents, as everyone helped all season, and the kids wouldn't have enjoyed it as much without your input.

Enthusiasm from the coaches was always at the fore, and our fantastic assistant Dale McCabe always engaged the kids and kept them concentrating with his pep talks and personal care for each child. Thanks must also go to Simon Farrar, Simon Williams and Franco Greco amongst others who always helped out at training and jumped in at a moment's notice. It was a very collaborative environment that worked well.

With a really young group (more than half were Under 8s!) we were always smaller than our opponents on average. We focused on getting a running, open style of play going. The players relished running onto the ball in open space, and constantly practiced kicking the ball out in front of their teammates. At this level, the idea of direct passing was not a focal point, but moving the ball wide and clear of the bigger opponents saw the kids perform at their best. Much of our best play was on the big grounds, which ironically didn't see Koornang Park as a great home ground advantage!

Improvement from each individual was the main aim (after enjoyment) of the coaching staff. In this I believe we helped the kids succeed. We had a huge range of abilities and personalities in our team, and despite the challenges of tailoring training to improve all on the list, we all agreed the majority of the children played their very best games in the last few rounds and at the Lightning Premiership day. A real credit to the players listening skills and concentration, both facets we constantly worked on throughout the season.

Without mentioning every player individually, some of the highlights:

- The top flight skills of Quinn Cooper, Ethan Rayner, Joel Farrar and goal kicking star Jaikiah Honner.
- The fierce determination of Luca Greco, Marcus Prins, Jed Williams and the super courageous Romy Beazley.
- The amazing improvement of first year players Lachlan Hudson, Gabi Clarke, Lachie Mathieson, Charles Nelson, Thomas Bulner, Charlie Boyle, Isaiah Teycheney, Phoenix McCabe, Coburn Cairns and the hilarious Ignacy Swider!

A huge thanks to our amazing team manager Glenda Beecher, regular umpire Matt Beazley, all round champion Louise Nelson and President Andrew Clarke. Thanks also to the players and parents from the U8's and U9 Polars, without whom we couldn't have put a team on the field each week.

Lastly, thank you so much to the wonderful kids who challenged, energized, intrigued, cracked-up and amazed me every single week. One of the most enjoyable football seasons I have coached at any level.

Chris Mathieson
Under 9 Kodiaks Coach

U10 Team Report

Every single Bear from the 2014 U9 age group signed up to the Club again for 2015. With an additional influx of new players, quickly the 2015 age group had over 30 children wanting to play footy for the Bears this year. During pre-season, the squad was finalized, leaving 24 in the U10 age group and the remainder played U11s for the Bears. Adjustments were made also to the off-field team as we sought a new Assistant Coach (Andrew Yeaman [Max]) and Runner (Ross Johnston [Charlie]). The 24 players were a combination of new and experienced players who quickly came together as a group of friends and teammates.

The U10 Age Group in the SMJFL is the final age group of the modified rules, which include no scoring (except for the Lightning Carnival), zones, wristbands, smaller field, and modified tackling. In particular, it was a difficult adjustment at first for the team's experienced players who had previously played with scoring allowed and on full size grounds. There was a view by some that they were "going back to Auskick". The modified rules are of benefit to new players, but all the players will benefit next year when these rules no longer apply, and they are all sure to develop further.

Parent Umpires were another key element of modified rules this year. Our 3 "fluoro boys" Simon Farrar [Ryan], Josh Freeman [Will], and Ben Stein [Ruben] were positive role models for our team and helped them out on the field. Team Managers Janey Rainey & Friendly [Teddy] were experienced team managers that did an outstanding job keeping the group and parents organized throughout the season. I wish to personally thank them for their dedication and commitment over the past two seasons.

Team training was on Friday nights, and included some social activities afterwards, including a pizza night. Because more Bears teams wanted to train on a Friday night, the oval space was sometimes limited, but we worked in together with the other teams that share the ground.

The focus for the players this year was to develop a cohesive and positive team, and for each player to improve and develop throughout the year. All players were given leadership responsibilities throughout the season, and each child was Captain of the team for at least one match. About mid-way through the season, we gave the Captains armbands to wear during the game, which they loved to wear.

All players had equal time playing in different parts of the ground, with all players having time on the interchange bench. Our SMJFL Group was evenly balanced, with only one club (Bentleigh) out of reach. Most matches were highly competitive and against teams of similar ability.

With the lack of official scoring, we were still able to celebrate matches where we played well. In Round 4 away against Ajax, a physically taller and feisty opponent, we sung the Club Song back in the rooms with typical gusto. Two weeks later away against St Peters, a last minute goal from Nivvy Rakach on the boundary, inspired us for our loudest rendition of the Club Song to date.

A personal highlight was the second last match of our regular season, at home against Murrumbena. Koornang Park was blowing a gale, and team manager Janey was required to hold up the modified point post to prevent it blowing over. Coming into the last quarter, we moved one of our "Super Twins", Tess Keogh, up forward, as it was to be her last game for the season before a family holiday. She had yet to kick a goal in her two years for the Bears, but when she snagged her first from the forward pocket, the entire team ran across their zones to give the biggest Bear Hug imaginable and celebrate this personal highlight for their teammate. Less than a minute later, while the coaching staff was still jumping up and down, she repeated it with a second. A great team lifter and a true showcase of why we love junior footy!

The season finale was the Lightning Carnival held in Bentleigh. It was a magical day, with the team lifting under the extra pressure of "finals football" to win all three games against strong competition. It was a great team effort, with a few absent, a couple passing last-minute fitness tests to even play. The celebrations and euphoria, particularly of the parent group, was immense. For many in the team, it meant "Back-to-Back" Lightning Premierships after their win in the U9s last year.

Thank you to everyone who had any involvement with the Caulfield Bears U10s this year, from grandparents who dropped their grandchildren to training in the middle of winter, to those with official jobs week-in, week-out. We hope to see everyone back at the Bear Cave in 2016, and to bring their friends so that we can have two U11 teams next year. Well done on a memorable season!

Adrian Nelson
Under 10s Coach

U11 Grizzlies Team Report

It was decided that due to the number of under 11 registrations that a second team be organised. To facilitate this, we were able to convince six (6) Under 10 parent groups /kids to play up, two of whom had never played before. The team was also fortunate enough to welcome four new families / boys to the club.

So with six under 10s and four boys who had never played before out of 21 players, the season was always going to be one of learning and extending all players skills.

To the boy's credit, we managed to win 3 games and lost 3 by under a goal, out of a total of 15, a fantastic effort by all. The most pleasing aspect of the year, from a coach's perspective, is that all boys improved immensely, those who had been playing a year or two, became leaders and the first year players skill levels showed marked improvement by season's end.

The team provided many highlights throughout the year but our first win was very special after losing our first 5 games, some heavily and let's not forget the game against St Peter's, in what can only be described as Arctic conditions, where the boys blood flow was almost frozen and their coach could barely speak (a great win was secured).

Team awards went to

- Bryon Clarke - Best and Fairest
- Griffin Beveridge - Runner up
- Miro Foldvari - Third best fairest
- Nick Johnston - Most improved
- Nick Mavropoulos and Noah Fiorenza – Coach's Award

On a personal note, the boys were terrific, always listened and were willing to improve skills, fitness and game knowledge.

A huge thank you to my assistant coach John Cauchi, Rob Beveridge, Mike Gerrand, Andrew King, some fulfilling runner duties and team manager Kylie King who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Finally to the parent group, thanks for your support throughout the year, it was a pleasure getting to know you all along with your sons.

Garry Birrell
Under 11 Grizzlies Coach

U11 Polars Team Report

Solid year from the Under 11 Polars this season! Skills in general again improved and in a division that was more suited to them saw them turn two wins the previous season into only two losses during home and away rounds.

A semi final loss should hold them in a good position next season as they should learn from that and now know what is needed to take the next step which is to win a finals match. Quite a few of the boys have now played more than 50 games with more to follow next season.

This has seen them understand the game better and thus get better results. Confidence is building well within the group and with another positive coaching team next year, encouraging and backing them in whilst still being disciplined and dedicated to skill work ,will achieve some inspiring for themselves !!

A huge amount of upside with this group of boys and a great parent group made the season a pleasure with everyone chipping in and willing to do their part.

Justin Healey
Under 11 Polars Coach

U12 Team Report

Pre-season training began in February at East Caulfield Reserve, while we waited for Council permission to train at Koornang Park. We had 23 players on our list and most were at training each week, eager for the season to start. By the start of April we were back at the Bear Cave and our first match was rapidly approaching. Our final list consisted of 20 players and we had been put into U12 Blue division (equivalent to 5th division).

April 19: Round One had us playing at home to Waverley Park, who were clearly playing in a division they shouldn't have been in. We lost 9-6-60 to 0-0-0. Round Two and we were off to St Bedes-Mentone. We played like a well-oiled machine, what a turnaround! The players made a strong effort, applied tremendous pressure to the opposition and combined well with passages of play straight from the textbook. Bears 7-5-47 to 0-0-0. As the season unfolded we dealt with issues, such as learning to cope with opposition niggles. In Round Five we led Mordi-Brae 5-1-31 to 1-1-7 at quarter time, having played beautiful football. Ultimately we lost that game as our opponents were able to take the Bears' minds off the game plan. So the players had to learn to develop mental strength and to their credit they learnt to focus better as the season went on.

We dealt with good and ordinary away venues, inclement weather, and player absences. The boys must be congratulated for the way in which they learnt from these issues and improved their mental approach to the game. They continued to learn what is required of them as members of a team. The boys also kept learning new tactics and used them with some success on match-day. Round fifteen, the final round saw us at home to East Malvern. We played beautiful football again, with spectacular teamwork, six goal-scorers and won 8-6-54 to 0-2-2. We finished the season in sixth place (in a 10-team competition) with six wins and nine losses. The boys learnt a lot this season and enjoyed themselves. Congratulations go to Cheltenham who deservedly won the premiership.

Ten players celebrated their 50-game milestones in the latter stages of the season, which added a carnival atmosphere to our season. Those players were: Archie Lord, Harry Beet, Orion Cooper, Will Nichols, George Moutsidis, Sam Sciffer, Ryan Cox, Matt Leembruggen, Jared Strom and Nick Karamihos. Congratulations to them.

Congratulations also to the award winners in the Best and Fairest count: 1st – Angus Edgar; 2nd – Archie Lord; 3rd – Nick Karamihos; Consistency Award – Harry Beet; Coach's Award – Cormac Dungan; Leadership Award – George Moutsidis; Encouragement Award – Ben Schmidtke.

Thanks go to the parents for getting their players to training and matches on time and for helping with the various match-day roles as well as being very supportive; Everett Moutsidis (medical trainer) and Cameron Brooks (team runner) were excellent in their roles; Harriet Dungan and Katrina Cox shared the team manager role and were fabulous; and Tim Nichols (assistant coach) was crucial, someone I can rely on 100%, who shares my understanding of what this team is about. Thanks to the Committee for their help and support all season.

I'm very proud to be the coach of the young men in this team and also very thankful to their parents, a wonderful group of people, who have entrusted their players to me.

Andrew Beet
Under 12 Coach

U13 Team Report

What a fantastic season of Footy, we had a list of 25 boys who committed to work hard and enjoy their football.

Julian and I had a shared vision to provide the boys with an encouraging environment with no limits, just do your best, work hard and enjoy this great game with your mates. Winning or losing did not come into it, it was all about development and improvement in all individuals, with this success would come.

The season started in February, we had a core group of 16-17 kids for preseason, we had 2 new comers, Dylan and Rex who immediately fitted in and were accepted as mates by the group.

Training numbers were consistent during the season 16-22 even on cold, chilly nights which made training competitive and enjoyable.

We gave the team more responsibility, they chose their own Leaders in Henry, Beau, Gordo & Joel, and these boys stood up and led by example, they did the team proud and worked well together.

But the pleasing aspect was the improvement of all the boys and how they developed, which was reflected in the vote count.

We started off 2-2 in the grading and were put up to Division 3 which was a compliment to the boys but also very challenging.

Most games were very tight and hard fought against very good opposition who played higher grade players against us in some matches.

To the boys credit we matched most teams, with skill and a never give in attitude. With this spirit we managed to win most last quarters and ended the season strong with 6 wins, winning the last 3 impressively to just miss out on finals.

This should be incentive enough for them to work harder for next season.

I thoroughly enjoyed the year, we have such a great bunch of kids who are respectful and keen to do well, they listen and want to improve themselves; their attitude is a strong reflection on the parent group who should be congratulated on their sons and must be very proud of them.

The team could not operate without the parents support, so to ALL the parents who help out from canteen, snakes, oranges etc to pick up's on training nights and just being there to support and cheer the boys on, Thank You so much.

Special thanks to Amanda Beet for her many years as Team Manager and to Annie and Mauro who took over the reins, this role must be filled next year so please consider and help out as we cannot go forward without a Team Manager.

Big Thanks to George as Goal Umpire, Umpire Escorts Clara and Tony, Medic Paul "Paaoloo" Cini, Boundary Rider Rod, Match Reports by the eloquent Tim Bailey, Master Runner Sebastian and to my team mate Julian King who provided outstanding support to me all through the season.

Keep well, keep fit and keep on believing in yourselves... Dreams can come true

*Marc Bullard
Under 13 Coach*

U14 Team Report

At the beginning of the year we established a team objective of being the fittest team in the division (D4) which would help us better implement our game plan which would again be based around a simple footy philosophy – win the footy, move it fast;

- Caulfield Bears have the footy – Attacking rules
- The opposition have the footy – Defensive rules
- The footy is in dispute/contested situations – Win the footy

Underpinning the game plan was an emphasis on enjoyment of playing footy with your mates, development of our individual skills, becoming better footballers, playing good team football. Winning games of footy would be a positive consequence of this approach. We were also thrilled to welcome new players Oscar Fiorenza, Harry MacLeod-Smith, Josh Tung and Timothy Syme to the Bears' fold.

The Under 14s experienced a very successful commencement season and found ourselves on top of the ladder and a strong candidate for regraded up to D3. The opportunity to move into the higher division was strongly embraced by the boys who appreciated that winning by 10+ goals every week was in no-one's interest and that playing against stronger teams would provide a guide as to how much we'd improved. The coaching team was also aware that playing against better footballers and better football teams would have a positive impact on our improvement.

So having won 4 from 4 in D4, the boys went on to win 3 out of 10 games in D3. Of the losses, we were extremely competitive in 3 games and unlucky not to have won them. Of particular note was a 9 point loss to eventual premier Oakleigh. As anticipated, the move into D3 had a really positive impact on the boys individually as well as the team. Some of the lads fitted seamlessly into D3, relishing the increased pressure and quality of football, providing amazing leadership for the other lads who initially found D3 a little more challenging. By the end of the season the whole team had adjusted and the improvement was clearly evident and wonderful to observe.

One of the key learning points was that the D3 teams were stronger and were clearly more committed to getting in first and winning the footy. This was a really important lesson for us and became our FOCUS at training and on match day. Nothing new to us in terms of game plan, we just needed to compete harder and execute better for longer. Win more of the ball in order to then move it with clean, one touch, pace and skill. The improvement naturally game - the challenge of D3 lifted us all. We can be very satisfied with our achievements. The harder we worked, the better we got, the better it felt – singing the song a few times was also pretty cool.

There were many positives – fierce tackling pressure that has always been a feature, and we continued to focus on fast, skillful ball movement and team focused football. This was our game style and usually how our goals were scored. In addition there were plenty of great individual and team efforts.

Skill areas that improved greatly over the season included;

- Winning the contest
- Clean one touch possession
- Marks were held
- Options were being presented and target being hit with quality disposal – hand and foot
- Constructive talk and teamwork
- 1% ers

On the negative side of the ledger, the following areas cost us at times and will again be a focus for next season;

- We got caught spectating at times. Our intensity and commitment to the contest was too often left to too few
- Winning the ball could be a problem at times. We often fell into habit of being second to the ball rather than getting in and winning it first, we may have become a bit tackle focused rather than get the ball.

Other highlights for the season included 2 players reaching 100 games milestones and 2 players reaching 50 games milestones. We also had Tim Syme take out third best & fairest for the SMJFL U14 D3, Ollie Lord win a coach's award for the SMJFL Inter-league team and Jack Kirkham was nominated for an SMJFL Leadership Award. Well done fellas.

Like all Bears teams the support from the parent group was excellent with everyone more than happy to contribute. Special thanks to the following parents who performed permanent duties:

- **Assistant Coach:** Darren Lord was again an outstanding assistant coach and a great support.
- **Team Manager:** Thanks to Rebecca Kovac, Team Manager and Club Secretary extraordinaire.
- **Runner:** Great work from Rob Beveridge – what a clubman.
- **Trainer:** Thanks to Paul McDonough, his calm and wise head on the boundary a great support.

And of course a huge thanks to all families for the help throughout the year - training and game day.

There is a great spirit about this team. Next season is already shaping as a cracker with the super exciting news that Rob Beverage is taking over the coaching role to be assisted by Sam Kirkham.

Award	Player	Award	Player
Best & Fairest	Timothy Syme	Most Improved	John Theofanopolous
2 nd Best & Fairest	Emin Ladevic	Most Courageous	Shamus McDonough
3 rd Best & Fairest	Oliver Lord	Coaches Award	Jack Kirkham

Campbell McCulloch
Under 14 Coach

U15 Team Report

The Under 15 Bears had a great season.

After starting pre-season with fairly low numbers, we managed to get a good list of 21 players by the start of the season. Our list had the full spectrum of experience, from boys having their first go at Aussie rules to highly experienced players, such as Jake Thompson, who ended up taking out the Division 4 Best & Fairest award.

Footy is a challenging game – it's physical, unpredictable, and requires great endurance and teamwork – what a great environment for young men to learn lessons about coping in adversity and not giving up.

Our team had its share of challenges this year, often taking to the field a few players short. In spite of this, the boys never complained or dropped their heads, resulting in some great against –the-odds wins and a second place finish at season's end. While we ultimately fell short in the finals, everyone associated with the team was incredibly proud of the boys' achievements and we have no doubt there's an enormous amount of upside yet to be fulfilled.

We've had great club support from the President and Secretary down. The parent support has also been great, including:

- Luke Meyer (Assistant Coach)
- Martin Fester (Team Manager), Terry and Michelle (Runners),
- David Collins (Lead trainer)
- Shaun Peel for always being available to run the boundary if required.

What a great year guys and all the best for the challenges ahead.

AWARD	PLAYER	AWARD	PLAYER
Best & Fairest	Jacob Thompson	Most determined	Jesse Georgiades
2 nd Best & Fairest	Ari Yashaev	Best clubman	Declan O'Brien-Reeve
3 rd Best & Fairest	Joshua Meyer		
Top goal-kicker	Spencer Martinez		

*Rod Grace
Under 15 Coach*

U17 Team Report

We started our season with a big win at Oakleigh and quickly established ourselves as a side to beat during the home and away season; the boys put together some great team performances and finished on the top of the ladder despite injuries to key players during the season.

Unfortunately we lost our first final to St Bedes and injuries took their toll in the preliminary final against East Malvern where we were knocked out after a gallant effort

A disappointing end to a great season which I was very proud to be involved with

I would like to thank the following people, assistant coach Lou Kalisperis who was fantastic in helping the boys with confidence & guidance to play the game in the right spirit, also Dave Christiansen for his help during the entire season whenever we needed a helping hand.

Paul Leary for always being there as a runner or boundary umpire.

Our trainer Curtis who did a great job in looking after the boys.

The team was lucky enough to Ken Spackman as team manager

Special thanks to the great parent group who were always eager to help

The club committee who supported me during the season and to Gary Birrell and Andrew Clarke your support during the tougher times – thank you.

- Best and Fairest – Ben Spackman
- 2nd Best and Fairest – Nick Leontaritis
- 3rd Best and Fairest – Olme Naccarella

*Peter Manakis
Under 17 Coach*

Strategic Plan – 2015 Update

The Caulfield Bears Junior Football Club Strategic Plan was formulated in 2104 by the Strategic Plan Sub-Committee, and endorsed at the 2014 Annual General Meeting

The Strategic Plan outlined the broad objectives, mission and guiding principles of the club as well as an action plan on how to achieve the stated goals.

Once such a plan is formulated, it is important to monitor its progression, successes and challenges as each year passes.

Short Term Goals

- Increase Auskick numbers to 150.
 - While our numbers did increase for the year it was to 125. One of the goals was to increase the participation of Junior CBJFC players at Auskick as an extra skill session and reimburse ½ their fee. This was only minimally successful and needs further focus in the future
- Field 10 Mixed teams for the 2015 season.
 - This was a resounding success with 12 teams taking the field this season. While one team was from the Elsternwick Auskick centre, this is still a marked improvement on our 9 teams in 2014
- Field an All Girls team in season 2015
 - This did not eventuate and much work is still to be done in this area. There needs to be a dedicated committee member for this objective who will drive this initiative. With the increased visibility of Women's AFL it is important that CBJFC make this a priority in the future therefore a committee position has been designated to this role
- Review Club Management
 - There were 2 parts to this goal – review of the committee structure and increase the strength of the football department. This has been achieved with an excellent review and recommendations undertaken by Louise Nelson which overhauled both the structure and depth of the committee. The new Structure has been ratified by the committee and positions will be nominated at this AGM.

Long Term Goals

- Increase Auskick numbers to 200
 - With the increasing number of sporting options for young children this may be difficult and will need a concerted effort but not only the Auskick team but the CBJFC Committee
- Increase to 15 Teams
 - This may only be possible if objective 1 can be achieved as growth can only be achieved from the bottom up!
 - We also need to build on our relationship with the council to get an overflow ground and also see facility upgrades (lights, changing room improvements, storage room etc) if we are to properly accommodate extra members.
- Develop CBJFC into a sporting Club
 - There has been a modicum of success with a CBJFC basketball team set to take the court in the summer period – Go Bears!

It is imperative that the Strategic Plan remain a living document and the goals updated regularly by each committee to ensure it is relevant, achievable and will continue the growth of the Caulfield Bears.

*Penny Callaghan
Strategic Sub-Committee*