



Caulfield Bears Junior Football Club



Annual Report 2022

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President's Report

Overview

I am pleased to present the President's Report for the 2022 season of the Caulfield Bears Junior Football Club (CBJFC).

In last season's Annual Report, I wrote about the hope and optimism for a full season in 2022, after 9 games in 2021 and no games in 2020 (due to Covid-19). So, there was a terrific feeling amongst our Club to get back to the relative normality of a full season.

After an uninterrupted season, I am pleased to say that season 2022 will go down in the record books as the most successful on-field season in the history of the Club.

Firstly, I would like to give a special thanks to the tireless CBJFC committee and sub-committee and all the helpers who pitched in to assist the Club with special jobs whether it be to arrange the jumpers and team kits or organising social events and club photographs. As a President, it makes my job so much easier when the whole Club is connected and moving in unison, and I can honestly say season 2022 will go down in my memory as the best season that I have been involved in at the Club in over 10 years.

Secondly, I'd like to thank all our wonderful volunteers in non-committee roles such as coaching, team management, medics, runners, umpire escorts, timekeepers, photographers – so basically all parents who pitched in on match days to give the kids a safe and healthy environment to play footy with their friends.

And lastly, to the players; congratulations on a stunning season. We are a mid-sized Club as far as the SMJFL goes, but we are a family Club with a great community feel and your efforts on and off the field have been exemplary this season. We have enjoyed our merge teams and have made some new friends, hopefully for several seasons to come.

Onto the highlights and statistics for the 2022 season:

- 264 player registrations were recorded across our 14 teams
- 11 Mixed/Boys teams from U9's through to U17.5's
- 3 Girls teams from U14's to U16's
- 5 merge teams included within our 14 teams
- 9 of our 12 eligible teams made finals
- 6 teams made Grand Finals
- 4 League Premierships – the most ever recorded by the CBJFC in a single season
- 2 Runners Ups
- 3 League Best & Fairest awards winners; Jermaine Baleiviani (U12 Mixed Div 6), Angus Brown (U13 Mixed Div 2) & Ged Saunders (U16 Boys Div 3)
- Several Bears players participated in the Saints NGA training programs and Interleague and Intraleague Representative games
- Co-Club Captains in Jackson Cauchi and Lily Skinner
- Senior Bear of the Year Award – Matt Dry
- Junior Bear of the Year Award – Matt Hamilton
- 8 Boys and 2 Girls were awarded 10 Year and 7 Year player service awards
- Congratulations to the Hamilton Family for winning the SMJFL Volunteer of the Year Award
- Auskick numbers moving in an upward trajectory totaling 80 across the Friday night and Saturday morning sessions
- Continuing fantastic financial support by loyal long-term sponsors
- 4 Bear Cave Family nights, 1 Trivia night and 1 Volunteers event in the Koornang Park Pavilion
- New Life Membership Award introduced

Registrations

Registrations were down in 2022 compared to 2021, an unwanted effect of Covid-19. This downward trend was felt right across the AFL in Victoria, however I am optimistic that this will be a blip and registrations will increase again in 2023.

In 2022 we recorded 264 registrations against the 2021 figure of 322 registrations. Of the 264 registrations, 219 were male registrations and 45 were female registrations.

A big thankyou to our Club Registrar Alex Hopley who once again made Registrations look easy in her typical no fuss fashion.

Football Achievements

In 2022, we had 14 CBJFC teams comprising 11 mixed/boys teams and 3 girls teams. Included in the 14 teams were 5 merge teams.

In mixed/boys, we had the following teams; 2 x U9's, U11's, U12's, 2 x U13's, U14's, 2 x U15's, U16's & U17.5's. In girls, we had the following teams; U14's, 2 x U16's.

In 2023, I would like to see us return to having a mixed/boys team in every age group from U8's to U17.5's and we are aiming for new girls teams in the U10's, U12's and U18's to complement our existing U14's and U16's teams.

2022 was the best season on record for on-field Premiership success with 4 CBJFC teams winning the League Premiership. Our Club's previous best season for Premierships was in 2012 when 3 Flags were won.



Congratulations to the following teams on winning the SMJFL League Premiership in 2022:

- U11 Mixed – Division 6
- U13 Mixed – Division 2
- U14 Mixed – Division 3
- U16 Girls St Kilda Bears – Division 2

Commiserations but well done to our two Runners Up teams:

- U12 Mixed – Division 6
- U14 Girls St Peters Caulfield – Division 2

Three of our players won SMJFL League Best & Fairest awards; congratulations to Jermaine Baleiviani (U12 Mixed Div 6), Angus Brown (U13 Mixed Div 2) & Ged Saunders (U16 Boys Div 3).

We had several players who came runners up in the League B & F including: Elliot Mulholland Pyle (U11 Mixed Div 6), Matthew Fardell (U12 Mixed Div 6), Luke Mahimarajan (U14 Mixed Div 3), and Cleo Barbakas (U16 Girls Div 2).

In Representative football, quite a number of Bears players were selected to participate in the St Kilda Next Generation Academy (NGA) & Interleague training program and then several players were selected to play in representative Interleague games in mid-June. Congratulations to the following players for participating in the St Kilda NGA & Interleague/Intraleague programs:

- Under 12 Intraleague – Darcy Stewart, Matthew Fardell & Delilah Clohesy
- Under 13 Boys NGA – Angus Brown, Erik Hennequin & Eamonn Walker
- Under 14 Girls NGA – Cleo Barbakas & Sydney Dalton
- Under 14 Boys NGA – Cooper Acklom, Lucas Kennedy, Luke Mahimarajan, Lewis Goudie & Sheldon Quirin
- Under 15 Girls NGA - Reanna Barbakas, Sophie Hamilton & Chiara Ragni (who won the Interleague Stars Coaches Award)
- Under 15 Boys NGA – Rory Wright, Noah Will, Max Bremner & Johnny Roussos



I wanted to acknowledge our two Club Captains for 2021, Jackson Cauchi and Lily Skinner. Jackson and Lily captained our two eldest teams being the U17.5 Boys and U16 Girls amongst their accolades as being Co-Club Captains. I was impressed with the leadership Jackson and Lily showed on and off the field and enjoyed their contributions at the Bear Cave nights.

In season 2023, the SMJFL is likely to introduce an U18 Boys competition, so for several of our U17.5 Boys who thought they had played their last game of junior football for the Bears, the opportunity will hopefully be there in 2023 for you to play one more season for the Bears.

I'd like to highlight the amazing long-term service of the U17.5 Boys coach, Gary Birrell. Gary has announced that he is stepping down as coach after 17 years of continuous seasons as a coach at CBJFC, having coached all 4 of his sons in various teams since 2006. Gary has also been a Coaching Coordinator and has helped many budding coaches at the Club over the years. With an U18 Boys comp coming, maybe we can talk Gary out of retirement?

I'm hoping our upper age U16 Girls will continue their football journey with the Bears by being the first CBJFC Girls team to play in the U18 Girls competition.

At our final Bear Cave function in August, it was a pleasure to acknowledge player service awards to 8 boys and 2 girls who had played 10 years and 7 years respectively at the CBJFC.

The 8 boys who were awarded 10-year player service awards comprised; Jackson Cauchi, Hugo Birrell, Patrick Gerrand, Charlie Besnard, Jackson Healey, Ben King, Charlie Clancy, and Thomas Williamson.

The 2 girls who were awarded 7-year player service awards comprised; Claudia Wotherspoon and Giselle Hennequin.

What an amazing year of football achievements in 2022!

Auskick

Auskick was a huge success at Koornang Park in 2022 with some 80 kids participating. We again ran Auskick sessions on Friday nights (Luke Codarin) and Saturday mornings (Kelly Wheeler & Sam Dunbar). Thanks very much to Luke, Kelly, and Sam for your dedicated efforts in teaching our future footy stars the skills of AFL and we look forward to another successful program in 2023.

Highlights of the Auskick season included a scratch match at half time of a Caulfield Bears Seniors match, playing in the Lightning Carnival, an inflatables day, and a NOVA Day. It is very important that our Auskick program is healthy and thriving with numbers and new kids are always welcome as this provides an important pathway to the Junior Club in the U8's and U9's.

Social Engagement

We relished having the Bear Cave back at our disposal in 2022.

We had 4 Bear Cave functions, a Trivia night, and a Volunteers function. All gatherings were well attended and the vibe felt at these nights was second to none. Thanks to all teams and helpers for making these events run smoothly, and I'd like to especially thank Kerry Widjaja for all your efforts coordinating these events.

In terms of our social media exposure, it's fair to say it exploded in 2022. Whilst we were already tracking well with followers and posts on Instagram and Facebook, Christina Pappasavvas took us to a new level on social media, ably supported by her legion of photographers. Thanks Christina for your regular posts.

Sponsorship

Without sponsorship, a Club like ours simply wouldn't survive. We are very appreciative of our loyal band of sponsors, some who have been with us for many seasons and some who have just joined. You are all important to us and we hope we give back to you too for our mutual benefit.

I would like to mention and thank the following loyal sponsors for financially supporting the CBJFC in 2022:

- Gary Peer
- The Bank
- @ The Catch
- TMS – Track Manage Support
- JBA Physio
- Colliers
- GPK
- Liana James
- Prosthétique Dental
- JBA Physio
- Carnegie Cellarbrations
- Community Sponsors; Grill'd, Bakers Delight, Sportsmart, Globe Design, David Southwick MP, Steve Dimopolous MP

I would like to thank Alistair Rowlands for his outstanding efforts in coordinating the Sponsorship section (and previously Merchandise) for the Club for the past 6 years. Al is stepping off the Committee so we will need to fill his shoes, but thank you Al for all your considerable efforts on Sponsorship and Merchandise.

For any local businesses that wish to become a CBJFC sponsor in 2023, we look forward to welcoming you to our Club.

Merchandise

The Merchandise section of the Club is running like a well-oiled machine, thanks to the considerable efforts of Nikki Hogan who is exceptionally well organised.

I am pleased to report that we are holding ample stock of everything for the 2023 season, so please look out for social media notifications to purchase gear in 2023.

I'd also like to thank Nicole Sternbergs for her dedicated work administering the Club jumpers for all teams which is no mean feat.



Facilities

The refurbishment of the Pavilion at Koornang Park was completed in July 2021 and we have made extra efforts this season to maintain the cleanliness of the Pavilion, changerooms and bathrooms.

I thought the canteen at Koornang Park was a highlight this season. It was always well stocked and professionally managed and I'd like to thank Anna Cahill for coordinating the canteen all season, including hosting two rounds of SMJFL finals.

We pretty much have everything we need at Koornang Park, although we will be lobbying various levels of Government in 2022/2023 to obtain grants towards new oval lights to enable us to host night competition matches.



Conclusion

The CBJFC is run by an army of volunteers who all pitch in to help with a myriad of tasks to help the club exist so the kids can play safe competitive football for 15 rounds plus finals. I won't individualise everyone by name or I'd need another page, but from the Executive Committee, to the General Committee to the Sub-Committees to the volunteers – I wish to thank you all very much for helping the Club in so many ways in 2022.

The General Committee recently approved a new membership criteria and award - Life Membership. I look forward to inducting our first Life Member in the near future. We will miss the Hamilton Family who are re-locating to live on their farm near Bairnsdale. Having won just about every Club and Community award there is to win, we will miss the Hamilton's presence, energy and commitment in 2023, but they are always welcome back at the CBJFC at any time.

I have never felt a better vibe at the Club in my 10 years of involvement and as I finish up my term as President at this year's AGM, I leave with the comfort and knowledge that the Club is in excellent shape on and off the field with a big and loyal band of dedicated volunteers.



Football Operations Report

The 2022 preseason was a challenging one. After the cancelled and interrupted 2020 and 2021 seasons, everyone was being extra careful about committing for another season. Player numbers were tight, and trying to get teams together was tough. The Club worked hard with other clubs in the area to try and establish mergers for some teams, with the ultimate goal, as always, being to make sure all the kids get to play a game every week. Covid isolation periods along with the usual spate of injuries made managing player numbers a tough affair for coaches and team managers.

Many of the 2021 coaches were keen to complete unfinished business, meaning we had good continuity of coaches for many teams in 2022. Huge thanks to Dave, Rhys, Troy, Josh, Tony, Adam, Marcus, Willsy, Al, Dan, Matt, Julian and Gary for taking on the roles this season. A big shoutout to Josh taking over the Under 12s late in the preseason, and taking a team that had struggled to win a game for two years to a grand final in 2022. Special congratulations must go to Gary Birrell, having coached four kids through their Bears careers - his countless years of coaching experience will be sorely missed next year (or will they?). Well done, Gary.

The Junior Bear of the Year, Matt Hamilton worked as Development Coach with the Under 13s teams. Anyone who was down at training or at game day when Matt was there would understand how valuable it is to the kids to have one of their peers giving them advice.

As a graduate of the Development Coaching program last year, Liv Hamilton stepped up to Assistant Coach the Under 16 girls team. The Club is also incredibly proud that she was appointed to the coaching panel for the SMJFL Under 12 Girls Intraleague program this year.

The Club ran a “Coaching Introduction” session to help find the next generation of coaches for our teams. This looks like bearing fruit in at least one coach already lined up for next season. As always though, anyone interested in a challenging but rewarding way to get involved with their kids’ sport, should put up their hand for coaching.

One of the big positives of 2022 was being able to make full use of the new facilities at the Bear Cave. Despite a few teething problems with lights, doors and not having power to operate a siren, the easier access to coaching equipment and changerooms was a great improvement.

On the field, and despite the difficulty of grading teams with two years of missing results, the Bears teams had great success. Taking home four premierships, having another two grand finalists, and three other teams playing in finals was a great result, but only one of those teams finished top of their division, showing how competitive the club was across all divisions this year.

On behalf of the Club, a huge thanks goes out to all of the volunteers who do their part to ensure our kids all have fun playing football each Sunday. To the Team Managers, Coaches, Runners, Volunteer Umpires, Assistant Coaches, Trainers, Water Carriers and Timekeepers, thank you so much.

Derek Waters

Team Reports

Under 9s

After a first season cut short, our youngest Bears returned in season 2022 full of energy and enthusiasm. As was the goal last year – this season was going to be all about continuing to develop our skills, develop our teamwork and most importantly – having fun!

With the effects of Covid lingering on modified team numbers, some difficult decisions were made early – namely we would not have a standalone U8s or U10s in 2022, with the players who would have been in those squads either playing up with the U9s or with the U11s. At this point, I'd like to thank Coach Troy (U11's) for embracing the additional players that came into his squad, and a special mention to the parents whose understanding of the situation made what could have been a really difficult time into a rewarding season for everyone.

As pre-season came to an end, the U9s had a solid squad of twenty boys and girls ready to go for the initial grading games. The theme for the opening games would be the same all year, focussing on the following:

Keeping our feet
Spreading
Using our voices

Our first half game in the grading saw us take on a very strong East Sandringham – with many parents awestruck by the number of ex-AFL parents lined up on opposition sidelines.

Fair to say the team was a little overwhelmed – but it did nothing to dampen their eagerness for the next game. Our second grading half was against East Malvern and having shed the initial nerves, everyone played with the freedom and enthusiasm you'd hope to see in an U9s game.

Our next two grading games were also competitive, with the boys and girls getting to know each other through consistent attendance at training and gamedays. Personalities were also beginning to shine through, as was the understanding of our development goals. This was best summed up when one of the players in the group raised his hand as the coach reiterated the goals for the day's game, asking if we could use the word "butter" rather than



spread. The laughter from the team was as spontaneous as the question – and our value of having fun made this decision an easy one. Butter it would be!

On the cusp of round four, word had “battered” that a whole lot of fun was being had at Koornang Park. This, combined with proactive reaching out to parents in our Auskick program with age-appropriate kids that had fallen through the Covid crack, saw the size of the squad suddenly swell to 28. Another decision was then made – that being to shift the recruitment gear into overdrive and split out into two combined U8/9s teams (Grizzlies and Polars). Coach Rhys stepped up and got himself qualified (as did Coach Luke). Our superstar TM Kerry made running two squads look easy by keeping parents informed; keeping the kids with their peers and respective friendship groups wherever possible; and operating the team bus - sometimes shuffling as many as eight kids from one game to the next as we continued to build our numbers.

For the next nine weeks, myself and the parents got to watch our kids have as much fun as you could hope to have on the footy field. And the squad welcomed new players every week. As is the case at this age, the abilities of kids vary greatly, but the determination and enthusiasm to get better shone through every week – and coaches and parents alike marvelled at how much everyone improved throughout the season. Our ball movement best reflected the growth in the group and the teamwork that is so vital in our great game. This was most evident with the kids who had played the year before. I can’t wait to see how the youngest kids that played up a grade in their first year improve exponentially next season when they split out into their own age-appropriate group.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents that helped this year when needed. A coach and TM are only as good as the support they get from other parents, and as our squad grew, so did the number of wonderful families that embraced the club and the responsibilities that come each week. Special mention must go to Kerry, who I hope will take her incredible skills and passion to another level at the club in 2023. Thanks also to Rhys for match-day coaching the Polars squad and to Shol, Simon, Luke, and Freddie for being amazing umpires – a match day role critical to the development and game-day experience for the kids.

To finish the year with a squad of 38 U8/9s was a fantastic achievement, and some great performances by the two squads in the lightning carnival capped off a terrific year for the kids. I’m looking forward to coaching next year’s U10s and wish Coach Andy the best of luck as he takes the reins of a stand-alone U9s in 2023! Hope to see all of you and your amazing kids back to continue their footballing journey at the Bear cave.

Have a safe spring and summer break and Go Bears!!

Dave Ratner and Rhys Quick

Under 11

The U11s had a good pre-season on the grass between the pool and Koornang Oval. The beep test was always a hit.

Two weeks out and we were well prepped for the start of the season with 22 players raring to go.

The team then got a call from the Club asking if we could find a home for a group of U10 players who would otherwise not have had a team this season.

Overnight our squad grew to 28.

We were fortunate to be able to work really well with Josh the Coach of the U12s team to give anyone a run if they were rostered off or just wanted an extra game. It worked well for the U12s too as some of our crew mixed it with the best of the U12s.

We saw some good development of the U10s through the year which was great – they were welcomed into the broader team by the U11s which is a credit to the whole group.

We are very fortunate to have a really supportive and engaged parent group who are willing to help out at training, on game day and helping out at the Club when needed. Specific thankyou's to Andrew (Assistant Coach), Cam (Team Manager), Chandra (Assistant Team Manager incl. rostering), Phil (runner), Andrew W and Michael G (Trainers), Emily (unofficial team photographer), Peter B (outgoing Club President with a son in the U11 team).

It was a joy to see the development of the group throughout the year. Their commitment at training and desire to learn new skills and evolve their game play as a team was a pleasure to be a part of. We had a big focus on player development and being the first year playing unmodified rules tried to give everyone a taste of a range of different positions throughout the season.

While we had some standout individual players and efforts, the whole playing group really worked well as a team and supported each other which along with putting in their best efforts is all we can ask as Coaches.

Throughout the season the group showed real character by never giving up and always putting in their best. This really shone through in the semi final. We hadn't beaten Prahran all season yet were dominating them in the first half. Prahran however staged a huge come back in the third quarter and into the fourth – our team was at risk of been overrun. The Bears held their ground and withstood the pressure and went onto win. A real character building effort.

East Malvern gained huge momentum in the second half of the season and were clear favourites going into the Grand Final after beating us by more than 50 points only a few

weeks earlier. East Malvern were held to just one goal kicking with the wind in the first quarter. Kicking three with the wind in the second quarter had us well placed. Applying immense pressure and great ball movement we managed to kick two goals into the wind in the all important third quarter while holding East Malvern goal less. With the wind in the last quarter and putting on display all the skills and team play they had developed over the course of the season the Bears group was really able to enjoy and gain the reward for all of their efforts by winning the flag.

I, along with Andrew and all of the coaching helpers, look forward to seeing the development and enjoyment of the group during the 2023 season.

Troy Fryar

Awards

Best and Fairest Player

Elliot Mulholland Pyle

Runner-up Best and Fairest Player

Zavier Madden

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Oscar Bremner

4th Best and Fairest Player

Yiani Tsakirakis

Most committed

Leo Brown

Best Team Player

Bhavin Bandlamudi



Under 12s

2022...The year the U12 Bears got their ROAR BACK!

It had been a tough 2 years for this group. Zero games in 2020 and zero wins in 2021. As the 2022 season rolled around, we were without a coach and were struggling to get a team together while being on the brink of a collapse and merger. Desperate to have an U12 team represent the mighty Caulfield Bears, players and parents put their recruiting hats on and week by week the excitement grew.

By the time Round 1 rolled around, we had 18 registered players and would rely on the enthusiastic and dedicated U11s throughout the year to ensure we had a team. In a sign of things to come, Delilah tore the game to shreds and starred as the Bears had their most competitive game for almost 3 years. It ended with a 12-point loss to Waverley Hawks, but it was the Bears' post-match chats about this being the team's highest score for years and wanting to sing the club song that demonstrated the drive the group had.

Round 3 against AJAX was the moment. Having practiced the song at training during the week, the Bears gave an almighty roar as they finally tasted success! A 16-point win that brought a tear to our assistant coach, Greg's eye. Things only got better from there and thanks to Jack's snap on the siren in Round 7, it was 5 wins in a row!

Bentleigh ended up being our archrivals. Losing by 37 and then again with the last kick in our next match and a Grand Final show down loomed. As we entered the big dance the team bared little resemblance to the group that started preseason training. Our new recruits were starring, Jermaine in the ruck, Cooper dominant at CHF, Ollie Y and Jagger in the pockets. Levi had given the team the best motivational speeches all season long and this was no different. The whole team had improved out of sight, particularly Oscar, Ben, Victor, Alex, Seb and William. Ken and Johnny had the backline locked down, Matt, Ollie P and Darcy were ready to run all day while Bado was not about to backdown from anyone. They gave it their very best until the final siren. We didn't come away with the win, but it had been the best season in years. The team were united and thoroughly enjoyed getting on the park together every week. Delilah, the only female on the park in the GF was B.O.G. and was also selected to play interleague with Matt and Darcy. Congratulations.

A huge thanks to Greg, Adam, Tony, Matt and Jamie for the efforts on and off the field and to all parents who helped out. Bring on 2023!

Josh Acklom

Awards

Best and Fairest Player

Darcy Stewart

Runner-up Best and Fairest Player

Delilah Clohesy

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Matthew Fardell

Best Defender

Ken Brown

Highest Goal Kicker (16)

Jack Madafferri

Most Improved

Oscar Dickens



Under 13s Div 2

More than six months ago, and after two interrupted years, the Bears Under 13s ran out for the first training sessions of what was hoped to be a complete season.

After the retirement of our team manager and assistant coach from last year, the hunt was on for replacements. Gav, with more than a little help from Tash, stepped into the role of handing out bibs, filling out forms and doing all those other things that coaches aren't even aware of. Three months of intense lobbying resulted in Donna taking on the Assistant Coach's role, bringing more enthusiasm and voice than the kids had ever experienced.

With two Under 13 teams (just) we opted for a soft grading / rotation policy to try and give the kids as much opportunity as we could. This meant everyone training together and engendering a "one squad" approach which really bore fruit later in the season.

It was a stuttering start for the Div 2 team, following up a heavy loss to St Kilda with a bye in round 2. Early in the season Covid and a series of other injuries played havoc with the team, often meaning the Bears facing their opponents with less players on field. Despite that, they never gave up, and although there were a few close losses we looked to the second half of the season with optimism. A heartbreaking five point loss to St Bedes / Mentone in the last minute was the turning point. From that loss, the boys never looked back, winning the next five matches to put themselves in the finals. The final round saw the team beat the previously-undefeated Prahran on their home deck.



The semi final brought the Bears up against their mid-season nemesis, St Bedes. This time, in the new clash strip, Caulfield wouldn't be denied, and controlled the game to book themselves a grand final berth. On a warm spring day in Mordialloc, the Bears faced Prahran again. And while Prahran had only lost one game all year, the Bears had kept improving every game, and saved their best for last. A commanding half-time lead was whittled down a bit by a charging Prahran in the last quarter, but the boys held strong for a well-deserved Premiership. Angus Brown, captain for the day, and playing his 50th game for the Bears, took home the Best on Ground medal.

Our "spine" of Div 2 players, Archer, Erik, Harry and Asher all showed their Bears spirit to lead their teammates from the front. Dimma threw himself at everything from the wing. Luca, Josh S and Will always looked dangerous with their speed. Quinn was a defensive titan, often playing on and nullifying much bigger opponents. Andrew, Callum, Jacko, Archie, Billy, Will T, Charlie B, Zac, Hamish, Jack, Darcy and Tadgh all rotated through the team, and all were great contributors.

Angus Waters was awarded Best Team Player. He's a quiet one off it, but on the field, his leadership and encouragement of teammates was well-recognised.

Josh G took to the wing role this year like a duck to water, his burst running matched by his awesome defensive pressure. He was a worthy winner of the Most Improved award.

Stasi stepped up from Div 5 to Div 2 this season, but you wouldn't know it by how easily he slipped straight into the Bears defence. Always playing on taller opponents, he could be relied on to do the job asked of him and to give his all, an ideal winner of the Coaches Award.

Third place in the B&F, and recruit of the season, was Jock McKenzie. Dropping back from the U14s gave the team an extra midfield option. His reading of the play to get intercept marks, and his great foot skills saw him charge into the B&F places despite not playing for the team til round five.

Eamonn Walker had another great season. Always hard at the ball, and with an eye for a goal, he also did well to start working on centre square positioning and inside/outside play. He was a worthy runner up in the B&F, and finishing top ten in the League B&F was a great reflection of his excellent season.

The winner of the Bears B&F, Angus Brown, also continued his clean sweep of the season by taking out the League B&F a couple of weeks later. Angus has always had great speed and evasion, but his delivery this year was great, and having strong teammates in the midfield allowed him to play on the outside of the stoppage a bit more, so he could put that pace to best use.

Well done to the entire team on a superb season.

Thanks to Gav and Tash on a perfectly smooth operation in their first year as Team Managers. Donna's work as Assistant Coach, on instilling a great team culture, and a focus on fitness, was crucial to our Premiership win. Thanks, Donna! Cheers to Dave, Luke and Matt for also helping out at training every week. Thanks also to all of our trainers and runners, and all the other parent volunteers. Also, the Div 2 premiership wouldn't have been possible without the support of the entire U13 Div 5 team, and particularly Tony and Nikki - thanks to you all. We're also very grateful to all the parents for getting their kids to training and games, and dealing with the rotations policy this year. See you in 2023!

Derek Waters

Awards

Best and Fairest Player

Angus Brown

Runner-up Best and Fairest Player

Eamonn Walker

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Jock McKenzie

Most Improved

Josh Godfrey

Best Team Player

Angus Waters

Coaches Award

Stasi Pipingas



Under 13s Div 5

Another year of change upon us as grading was put in place, the hope of no more lockdowns and yet again a third of our list needed to be replaced to field a side (did I hear deja-vu).

Next priority was to bring the 2 Bears sides together after being separate entities in the previous 3 years and work through the challenges and opportunities provided by rotation of 20% of the list.

Recruitment goes well with 4 new players joining the club.

1st couple of weeks we are being smashed in our Div (which happens to be the lowest) let's hope those teams get graded upwards. Lots of kids playing together for the 1st time, getting used to each other's style and working together to form a team. This was the story of the first few weeks. Then the season starts to get harder as we get hit by illness, injuries, absences, on average 4 or 5 a week. We nearly don't field a team against SMDFC, this can't get too much worse

The season continues, the losses keep getting racked up but the games are becoming more competitive, improvement is happening week on week.

Then the dam waters broke with our 1st win against Brighton Beach then improvements against sides we played in the 1st round with another couple of wins against Murrumbena (eventual grand finalists) and SMDFC we found ourselves sitting in 4th. Wow this group just keeps building and believing and the brand of football just keeps improving.

The last few games looked pretty hard playing sides mainly above us but we gave it a crack and were in every game for a long time. Rotations didn't make it easy after all the outs throughout the season, thankfully we had a number of kids who played both divs countless times and some great assistance from U11s and U12s. The benefits of the increased games really did progress the development of the kids, which was great given previous seasons. Each and every player on the list improved for the year and I loved the way the kids bonded and enjoyed their day on the field as well. Half the list reached 50 games which is a testament to their love of the game, and we had a number of 1st goalkickers for the club, some of who have played 5 seasons before nailing it.

Off the field which thankfully was once again planned, controlled and executed through our wonderful Nikki who just made it happen along with the help from the many others that made game day possible. My team led by Dave, Aaron and development coach Matt Hamilton were brilliant.

Congratulations and much respect to Derek, Donna and the Div 2 team for a well-constructed, planned and delivered flag, thoroughly deserved and the way we all

worked together to form team Bears, was a triumph. To the boys that played for both sides that got the opportunity to be part of the win, I was rapt on how you played.
See you all in 2023

Tony Hogan



Awards

Best and Fairest Player

Harley Benton

Runner-up Best and Fairest Player

Archie Johnstone

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Callum Morley

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Will Taylor

Most Improved

Cooper Warburton

Best Clubman

Tadhg Hogan

Under 14s

The 2022 season started off very tough with the boys trying their best to be a Division 2 team but up against some really tough opposition while at the same time missing lots of players through injury and illness. The boys however never dropped their heads, kept training hard and kept improving.

When the season proper started we were in Division 3 with nine other teams and started with a hard fought win against Mordi Braeside and we were off and running and the confidence started to slowly flow. Each and every week the boys continued to develop their skills, fitness and willingness to play as a team in a fast, daring and accountable game style while working super hard on the training track every week. Each and every game the boys were getting better until we came up against Waverly Park Hawks in round 8 and we were brought back to earth with a thud and beaten very well. We learnt a lot from the loss to the Hawks, changed a few things, focussed on some weaknesses and came out the next week and knocked off the top team being Oakleigh in a really strong team performance keeping them goalless while kicking 7 ourselves. The loss to the Hawks was our last of the season as we went all the way to beat them in the GF by 4 points in a nail biter. All 25 boys contributed to an amazing season where they worked, trained and played with enthusiasm, dedication while having fun.

Highlights of the season:

- Welcoming 5 new players to the bears who had not played / played minimal football before – Emmett, Harry Annells, Leo, Ben and Hugo – well done all
- Being kept scoreless in grading to an eventual Div 1 team to three months later winning the GF
- Having 3 players representing the Bears in NGA / Inter League – Luke, Lucas and Cooper – all 3 were top 10 in the league in the BnF with Luke coming second by 1 vote – well done boys
- To see the smiles on the 25 boys' faces when they won the GF and volume and enthusiasm in how they sang the song after winning the GF.

Thanks to my assistant coach Michael Goudie and support staff Nicole, Peter, Jodie, Nerida, Malcolm and Matt.

Adam Conrad

Awards

Best and Fairest Player

Luke Mahimarajan

Runner-up Best and Fairest Player

Lucas Kennedy

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Cooper Acklom

Best Team Player

Adam Shkoulev

Most Consistent

Ryan Sternbergs

Most Improved

Sheldon Quirin



Under 14 Girls

With registrations low and many 2021 players not returning, pre-season training kicked off with only a handful of players and a small group each week. In the background, the Club was investigating a potential merger with another club, as numbers were down across the league. It was only two weeks before the season started that an agreement was struck with St Peters JFC to create a merged U14's girls' team, the St Peters Caulfield Bears.

The first merged training session started with some fun games to help break the ice. Then, as many of the girls were playing unmodified rules for the first time, there was a big focus on tackling technique. How to execute a tackle safely while immobilising the opposition's movement as much as possible. This was something practiced at most training sessions in different formats, as we needed all players to be able to tackle effectively and without any fears.

With a relatively young side, we were put into Division 3 (the lowest) for the grading games, winning two out of four. Already we were seeing big differences in the opposition teams and what we'd be up against each week. The girls were also still getting used to playing together and learning the strengths of their teammates.

Moved up into division two, the first game of the main season was quite memorable, as we led all game only to lose the lead in the last few minutes. However, the girls didn't give up, and with a great passage of play with some fantastic under pressure marking, a winning goal was kicked leading to some spirited celebrations.

As the season progressed, the team's ladder position hovered around third and fourth position meaning that playing finals was likely. There were some big wins, and some unexpected losses, but with player availability for both us and the opposition always changing, the emphasis was continually on what the girls did well, and what they could improve on.

The last three games of the season we witnessed some very strong football played by the team. This involved beating two teams we'd previously lost to, Murrumbeena and Waverley Park. The final game was against East Brighton, and we warned our girls that it wouldn't be anything like the previous walkover win, as the Vampires had a full team this time. The first three quarters were tight and low scoring, with East Brighton choosing to flood our forward line to make goal kicking difficult. It wasn't until the final quarter that we were able to break away with three goals to win by twenty-one points and lock in second position on the ladder and a double chance in the finals.

With another win against Waverley Park in our second finals game, the team earned their place in the Grand Final, making us all very proud. Arriving at the game the following week you could sense the excitement amongst the team, with the girls reminded in the pre-game talk that would have play their best to beat the undefeated St Pauls McKinnon Bentleigh. The game was closely fought in the first quarter, but by half time our girls were four goals down. A solid third quarter by the Bears had them cut the lead by two points, but it was a very strong opposition that finished off with two goals in the final quarter to take out the

premiership. There were some long faces from our girls during the speeches and presentation, but I was so very proud of the team and how far they had come as a group during the season.

It was very rewarding coaching this group of girls throughout the season, and fantastic to see the advancement of skills and the confidence that grew as it progressed. I was very fortunate to have Steve Holland as the Assistant Coach who brought extensive football experience to the role and was great with the players, especially with skill development. Thanks to all the parents who took on a team role each round, especially Marty Daff (Team Manager), Renee Smith and Caroline Pinn (Trainers) and our Runners, Phil Vergers, Rachel Matthews and Cath Knights.

Finally, thanks to St Peters for being such a great partner club. Should the opportunity arise to merge again, there would not be any hesitation.

Marcus van Lint

Awards

Best and Fairest Player

Asha Smith

Runner-up Best and Fairest Player

Ella Matthews

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Sarita Atluri

4th Best and Fairest Player

Gemma Holland

Most Improved

Isabella Schinck

Coaches Award

Mia Dimento



Under 15s Div 1

Based on the merged success of the 2021 season, we were keen to retain a similar model for 2022. Fortuitously a like minded club, St Kilda City approached the 2022 season with limited numbers and seeking a balanced approach for their players for 2022 – so a merged group of 43 players across Caulfield Bears and St Kilda City was formed. Two teams were planned for, and we initially commenced the season in Div 4 and Div 2. However once grading concluded both teams were elevated to higher divisions – an immediate challenge for all involved.

The player numbers, school camps, injuries and the ongoing presence of COVID forced a scenario each week of at least 3-6 players participating in 2 games each Sunday. By years end, this had an impact on the players energy levels.

The Division 1 team provided effort each and every week and were eventually awarded with a win against Mordy Brae mid year. Given the step up to Division 1, many players had the opportunity to develop significantly across the season – and we were rewarded with 5 x players competing in the Inter League games over the Queen's Birthday Weekend – Zander Ross, Archie Murrihy, Johnny Roussos, Rory Wright & Noah Will.

The team would've been disappointed with the final 3 x games of the year, as the intensity of Div 1 eventually wore a few players down. That said, the entire group should be proud of the year and their collective achievement of competing at the Division 1 level. The merge with St Kilda City was a resounding success, and the parents of all players should be thanked for their support for the program we initiated.

Special mention to the coaching cohort – Woosha, Al & Mike... and to the broader trainer group (Donna, Matt, DOK) and regular runner Punchy

See everyone for pre season soon!

Andrew Will

Awards

Best and Fairest Player

Rory Wright

Runner-up Best and Fairest Player

Archie Murrhy

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Athan Ioannidis

Emerging Talent

Will Scott

Coaches Award

Oliver McCurdy

Most Improved

Phoenix McCabe



Under 15s Div 3

The team numbers were a problem in January – not enough for two teams and too many for one.

We wanted two teams, so we set about looking for another merge. We found a merge partner in the St Kilda City Saints Under 15's who did not have enough for a full team, so it was an ideal merge.

We became the under 15 Caulfield and St Kilda City Bears and had a total of 43 players to start the season in Division 2 and Division 4.

We adopted the same team allocation method as we tried to implement the past 2 covid effected years.

This format enabled all players to have a taste of Division 2 footy over the season.

Through training as one under 15 group we were able to focus on the same messaging for the whole group and focussed on specific skills and areas we saw for improvement.

Both teams were strong in the first 4 grading rounds. This resulted in both teams being re-graded higher, so we had DIV 1 and DIV 3 teams.

This was a fantastic achievement for the club, players and coaches, and although neither team made finals, the benefits for the boys were immeasurable in stretching them to play at a much higher standard.

It also showed the boys what effort, fitness and teamwork required in the higher levels. It was also a great boost for the Club to have a DIV 1 team.

The form in DIV 3 was highlighted by some great footy and really good improvement in the playing group.

It was special for the boys to play a night game at Wattie Watson – hopefully, we will do a few more next season.

We were, however, short on numbers in several games due to covid, flu and school camps. In the end we just missed out on making the finals by percentage which was unlucky for the boys.

Thanks to all the boys – great group of kids to coach. Thanks to the whole group of players and parents from both clubs who embraced the grading format and the merge.

Thank you to the St Kilda City Football Club, in particular, Damo for making the merger happen.

Thanks to the coaches of the under 15 group, Andrew Will, Shane Walsh and Mike Cormick. Particular thanks to Shane Walsh who is finishing coaching this season.

We both started out in the Auskick days and he has had a fantastic and positive impact on this player group over the years. Well done Woosha!!!!

Thanks to all the club volunteers across all teams and the committee.

Special thanks to the team managers for the under 15 group, Ash and Tom, the trainers, Donna, Dave and Matt, and the parents who did matchday roles.

We are looking forward to next season, merging with St Kilda again and hopefully attracting some new players to the under 16 group to again form two teams.

Alistair Rowlands

Awards

Best and Fairest Player

Jackson Jeanes

Runner-up Best and Fairest Player

Will Matthews

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Jaikiah Honner

Coaches Award

Mack O'Keeffe

Emerging Talent

Toby Foreman

Most Improved

Fergus McFadzean



Under 16s

After a few interrupted years we finally got a full preseason and a full season of footy. The U16 boys were a bit slow out of the blocks and after 3 losses in the first 3 games there was talk of relegation to Div 4. I had confidence the boys were on the improve and we had the potential to challenge the top teams. We proved our potential in round 4 with a great win over the undefeated and eventual premier Beaumaris and won 5 of the next 6 games including beating top of the ladder Highett in the final game before school holidays.

We lost focus and momentum over the holidays and lost the next 3 games but finished the home and away season strongly winning 3 of our final 4 games including convincingly beating 3rd placed St Bedes/Mentone by 13 goals to 3 in the final H&A game to earn our spot in the finals by percentage.

We entered the final series with confidence knowing we had beaten the three top teams and played exceptionally well in the Semi beating St Bedes by 9 goals to 1.

The Prelim final against Highett was expected to be a tussle. We started well, leading by a goal at 1/4 time but lost our focus for a 10 minute stretch in the 2nd quarter and were outscored 6 goals to 1. 4 goals down at 1/2 time we could easily have folded but to the team's credit we outscored them by 2 goals in the 3rd, then kicked the first goal in the final quarter to trail by 7 points. Unfortunately Highett held on and kicked the final 2 goals but it was a great team effort and a credit to everyone on the team for playing their part.

Lots of parental support throughout the year, with Assistant Coaches, George, Andrew and Richard, Trainers Tim and Jacinta, Team Managers Chris and Rowan, weekly photos by Peter, match reports by Andrew and Joel, Jason, Mark, Andrew and many other regular contributors helping, so thanks to all.

The presentation evening provided recognition of some great individual efforts which all contributed to the overall excellent team performance throughout the year.

We had 5 players who missed >6 games through injury and illness (Quinn (8), Finn (7), Marcus (6), Jed (6), Liam G) and another 9 who missed 3-4 games) Only Ged, Lucas, Cam and Matt played every game. Ash, Jude, Jake, Jacob, Jono, James Go missed 1. Luckily we had 27 registered players (including Lachie for 1 game). Training attendance was monitored with Top 10 (Ged-26/29, Ash, Jude, Matt, Jack, Cam, Ben, Jake, Leo, Michael all >20) Top 13 goal kickers – Ged 21, Quinn 20, Jacob 15, Ben 13, Jake 11, Jude 11, Lucas 8, Jed 8, Matt 7, Cam 6, Ash 5, Leo 4, Jez 4 highlighted a great team split with lots of avenues to goal including some great goals from our backline.

A year of improvement, which was a major factor in us winning a final, was highlighted with 12 players nominated by coaches for the **Most Improved award**. A fantastic year from Jude becoming a key midfielder, kicking goals and deservedly winning the award from other

nominees in alphabetical order, Jack, James Ge, James Go, Jono, Leo, Liam C, Luke, Matt, Michael, Ollie, Sam

The **Most Determined award** was won by Michael after a great year improving his game and showing great competitive spirit, second efforts and desperation, ahead of other nominees Ash, Finn, Ged, James Ge, JT, Jeremy, Jude, Lucas.

Best Clubman award was won by Matt ahead of other nominees including all our leadership team Ash (vc), Ged (c), Jack, Jacob, Jake (vc), JT, Leo, Lucas (vc), Matt, Michael, Sam.

Our B&F award was voted independently by all coaches on a 5-1 process with combined votes determining each weeks' 5-1 for B&F. This saw as many as 10 players and no less than 7 recognised by the coaches each week. Every player either received a vote, or was recognised by the coaches during the year so a real credit to a well balanced and even team effort.

Final votes for the year were: Jacob 1, Jed 2, Michael 3, Jack 3, Jez 4, James Ge 5, JT 10, Ben 10, Matt 12, Luke 15, Jake 15, Jude 18, Quinn 19 (Great effort considering he missed 8 games and still came 5th in league goal kicking and equal 7th in league vote count), Cam 21 (Great year stepping up in age group and twice keeping the league leading goal kicker to zero goals)

3rd B&F Award went to Ash on 24 votes who had a fantastic consistent year, coming back from a tough injury last year and unfortunately finishing with the same injury in the prelim. A leader on and off field. Well Done Ash.

Runner Up B&F Lucas 35 votes – Really stepped it up this year. One of the leaders of the team who took on more responsibility talking and motivating the team during the year. Great versatility playing forward or back but mostly our big bodied midfielder. Consistent and worked hard every game including when sick. Great work Lucas.

2022 Best & Fairest - Ged 58 votes – After a solid year in 2021, Ged was challenged to step it up in the midfield and kick goals. Ged regularly sought feedback, did extra training away from the club and the results showed. A really consistent year which has been recognized not just by the club and coaches but in winning the league B&F and being invited to try out for the Oakleigh Chargers. A true leader on and off the field, took on the responsibility and along with his vice captains did a truly amazing job of leading the team. Reward for effort, determination and leadership. Congrats Ged on a great year.

Thanks again to all players, parents and friends who supported and assisted during the year. Hopefully the boys can stay together for a final year in U17 and go all the way. Go Bears.

Matt Joyce

Awards

Best and Fairest Player

Ged Saunders

Runner-up Best and Fairest Player

Lucas Agar

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Ash Margerison

Most Improved

Jude Shaked

Most Determined

Michael Liolios

Best Clubman

Matt Hamilton



Under 16 Girls

Fantastic group of Girls on the Rise! These Bears are sharpening their claws...

What a fantastic year it was!

I had the honour and responsibility to continue coaching the same group from last season. We started pre-season early in November and got six sessions in before the Christmas break – Focus points were Running, Skills and Connection. The Girls were put through several 1km time trials with significant improvement on each run and also working on how we want to move the ball.

I was really amazed by the attitude of the Girls during grading rounds – Starting in Division 4 and making our way up to Division 2 after the first four rounds was a great achievement. Overall, in Division 2 we really grew as group especially after our Round 6 encounter with East Brighton Vampires – a very tough loss but a loss the girls needed to really understand for their growth.

Our second half of the season showed significant improvement, the girls were up for the fight. The margins were a lot closer. We managed to qualify for finals and rectify our Round 6 loss, out playing and out running East Brighton with pure determination from the girls. Ultimately, we fell short in our Prelim Final – we simply ran out of time and didn't make the most of our chances. A very proud coach watching the girls fight it out to the end. Great experience for the girls moving forward.

Special mentions to Liv Hamilton being Assistant Coach, very bright future ahead. Alex & Angela for being the greatest Team Managers anyone could ask for. Jacinta & John for being Trainers. Adrian, Matt, Lysanne & Tim being runner. This is a very special group of parents – All willing to put their hand up for whichever role allocated during training and game day. We as a team appreciate everything you do.

I would also like to acknowledge Sophie Hamilton's services at the Bears football club. She has been an absolute pleasure to coach, a true leader. We wish you all the best for the future and we are looking forward to hearing your name being called out in the AFLW draft in the near future.

Bring on season 2023!

Daniel Marin

Awards

Best and Fairest Player

Sophie Hamilton

Runner-up Best and Fairest Player

Cleo Barbakas

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Sienna Cipriani

Coaches Award

Lara Sullivan

Team Player of the Year

Kayla Vais

Most Improved

Bailey Lucy



Under 16 Girls St Kilda Bears

Our 2022 season was bookended by two extremes: a 107-point loss in Round 1 while in Division 1 and a 14-point win in the Grand Final to take out the Division 2 premiership!

Before all of that, there was a merger. As we got closer and closer to the start of the 2022 season, we realised that our 10 loyal families and their daughters weren't going to be enough to field a team. Thanks to the tireless effort of the Bears Football Operations team, we confirmed a merger with the girls from St Kilda City less than two weeks before Round 1.

After the first two rounds in Division 1, we were moved to the more appropriate Division 2 from Round 3 onwards.

We started well with three wins from Rounds 3-6, but after two consecutive losses, it was time to regroup. By this time - at the season's half way mark - the bond among the relatively newly-merged team began to build from strength to strength. This strong bond saw our girls win seven consecutive games and finish on top by the end of the home and away season.

Our finals campaign began with a strong 24-point win in the second semi final against St Peters, which gave us the privilege of going straight into the Grand Final with a week's rest.

We met St Peters again in the Grand Final and after a tight struggle, our girls prevailed by 14-points to claim the 2022 Division 2 premiership. A sweet end to a challenging start!

We all know how dependent we are to all our parent volunteers and supporters, and I want to take this opportunity to thank all our loyal families for all the many hours they've devoted to their daughters and our team!

Gilbert Hennequin

Awards

Best and Fairest Player

Lily Skinner

Runner-up Best and Fairest Player

Gisele Hennequin

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Hannah Foran

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Sarah Jamieson

Most Improved

Amelia Morcon

Coaches Award

Aleise Sak & Rianne Darvell



Under 17s

Well there nearly wasn't a team for the U17s. Early training sessions were thin on the ground for numbers, so much so that we were outnumbered by the Tai Chi group of elderly people on the lawn adjacent to the ground (but we looked fitter). The call was made to merge with East Brighton Vampires again and we quickly started looking like a team. Training prior to the first round required players to wear name tags, given not one player had met everyone else in the team yet. Remarkably the players put on a great performance and rolled the team that got promoted to division one by 5 goals. The season went up and down from there with injuries and illness hitting the team hard with 21 of the 28 listed players being hit by severe injury or illness and missing multiple games. By finals four players were out for the season.

There were plenty of highs that involved the team playing great footy. Given they were up against teams that had been together for up to 10 years, any merged team has to be congratulated for playing such cohesive and exciting footy.

Some of the highlights:

- Starting the season with a bang kicking 5.4 in the team's first ever quarter together.
- Going down to Prahran by only 4 points after playing with 17 for the full game against 24 for Prahran, and two players who were sick and probably should not have played.
- Kicking 6 goals straight in the first quarter against Ajax in round 3.
- Defeating Mordi-Brae by 38 points after they came down from Division 1 and won their first game by 100 points. Included some scintillating football in the third quarter kicking 5 goals in 8 minutes with 9 on the injury list that week.
- Defeating eventual premiers Waverley by 5 goals in a freezing wet June day, with some of the less muscular players turning blue with hypothermia.
- Coming from 3 goals down at three quarter time to defeat cross-suburb rivals Murrumbeena by 3 points.
- Celebrating many of the boys' final game and milestones at Koornang Park after 12 years of Auskick and Bears footy, with a 40 point win against Prahran including a 6 goal blitz in 10 minutes in the second quarter.

We experienced the pain of a heartbreaking finals loss, defeated by Waverley by a point with 5 seconds left on the clock. Waverley went on to win the flag so we can think of "what might have been". After seeing Richmond (which was familiar in more ways than one!) and Collingwood going down in similar fashion in the AFL it's a common occurrence in finals at all levels.

No doubt these boys will bounce back, their resilience and commitment to each other was outstanding. They can take away some memories of playing some fantastic attacking footy when the injury list allowed it and knowing they were well and truly capable of going all the way.

A credit to all players.

Thanks to:

- Gary Birrell as head coach, after 47 continuous years (it keeps getting longer, everyone has lost track of the actual number) of coaching, Gary has finished as a junior coach. Thanks for your dedication and commitment Gary.
- John Cauchi as team manager did a brilliant job making sure we had every job covered,
- players kitted up and registered. The work of a TM is extensive (and stressful) and John does it without complaint and with precision.
- Julian King, assistant coach/coach, for his help, experience and insight on many levels not just football. Having coached teams in his own right, team managed and helped oversee and coach Auskick many years ago (some 14 years) some might say a club stalwart. Also for putting this document together with some minor editing from yours truly, great year mate.
- Justin Healy as forward coach and confidant, we won at least one game due to Heals' excellent tutelage of the boys and their forward play and goal set up.
- Alex Webb as medico was great to have on the bench and looked after the players with great care. The injury list would have been even longer without Alex.
- Ian Jensen-Muir stepped in as medico and was great support from the East Brighton Vampires side of things. Ian was a big reason the team gelled so well together in such a short time and worked countless hours behind the scenes.
- Lucas Baldwin our runner, who made the mumblings and grumblings of the coaches sound coherent to the players, which is quite a feat! Wonderful Bears player who stuck around to help the club and made the team so much better.
- Will "The Edge" Edgell was fill in runner, boundary umpire – whatever was required. Despite not being able to play, attended all training sessions and made us sorry we didn't get to see him on the field. Hopefully next year Will.
- To our parent group for their support throughout the year.
- To our Club, Peter, Derek and Matt - not easy roles you guys carry out for the whole club, let alone the support you provided our team.

And finally, it has been a great pleasure and honour to have coached a lot of these boys for many years watching the improvement and growth into your men. To the EB boys - big effort especially making training on Thursday nights at KP. I wish ALL boys great success moving forward not only in sport, but whatever they pursue in life.

Awards

Best and Fairest Player

Charlie Clancy

Runner-up Best and Fairest Player

Jarrold Freedman

3rd Best and Fairest Player

Jackson Cauchi

Most Consistent

Daniel DeGuarra

Most Improved

Ben Webb



Treasurer's Report

In our first full season since 2019, I am pleased to report the club recorded a modest profit in 2022 of \$3,199. Coming off the back to two interrupted seasons this was a solid outcome, enabling the club to maintain its secure financial position.

Past five years comparison summary:

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<u>Receipts</u>					
Registrations	54068	76339	2975	68202	62591
Food and Drinks (Net)	6762	2440	-	19417	13497
Fundraising/Sponsorship	25661	16,750	1,750	31686	21932
Other	-	1,253	2,254	3,137	3,137
Total Receipts	86,491	96,782	6,979	122,442	98,634
<u>Payments</u>					
Registrations	66927	36,737	13,758	75,381	68,695
Merchandise (net)	467	15,747	(1,852)	27,091	14,151
Utilities/Insurance	12349	8,659	2,565	11,970	10,830
Other	3549	482	620	9,314	604
Total Payments	83,292	61,625	15,091	123,756	94,280
Net cash increase /(decrease)	3,199	35,157	(8,111)	(1,314)	4,354

Registrations

Registration income (264 players) was significantly lower than the peak in 2021, predominantly as a result of a lower number of modified rules teams and an increase in the number of merged teams. Auskick numbers (82) increased slightly as we continue to see the benefit of holding both Saturday morning and Friday night sessions. Registration fees for both players and Auskickers remained unchanged.

Registration expenses were in line with 2018 (similar number of teams) with continued investment in our players, coaches, and volunteers - both past and present with the introduction of life membership. A credit from last years shortened season has also been applied to 2022.

Merchandise

Merchandise costs have been treated differently in 2022, with a complete stocktake of all saleable items completed and recorded at cost. This has resulted in only a small net loss this year, with very high levels of stock available for resale in 2023.

In addition to this, the cost of jumpers and training tops that are provided to players have been allocated to Cost of Goods Sold.

Food and Drink

Canteen revenues are down, however there are several reasons for this. Firstly, with the reduced number of modified teams, only one canteen was utilised during the season. In addition to this, staff costs increased as a direct result of the decision to use more paid staff to ensure the canteen ran consistently and smoothly. Finally, revenues don't include "Bear of the Week" awards redeemed at the canteen.

Big thanks must go out to Anna Cahill and her team for their efforts this year.

Investments in capital equipment to support the canteen have also been included (see Capital Expenditure below) which has further reduced the net figure for 2022.

Donations

The club made a significant contribution to the Go Fund Me campaign for the Affinita family in 2022 as well as a donation to the RCD Foundation.

Fundraising/Sponsorship

Support of our sponsors returned to pre-pandemic levels, and the club continued to receive support through successful grant applications.

Capital Investment

The club made several investments in 2022, with the major expenses being the purchase of a new BBQ and a new Point of Sale system for the canteen. Both items were fully expensed in 2022.

In addition to these capital expenditures, the club has moved to a cloud-based accounting system (Xero). This is expected to provide greater transparency to the executive, real time financial data throughout the year, and a stable environment for current and future financial information to be maintained.

Profit and Loss Statement for year ending 30th September 2022:

Trading Income

Canteen and Bar Sales	43,083.38
Grants	2,925.00
Merchandise Jumper Resale	100.00
Merchandise Sales	7,231.88
Registrations Auskick	665.72
Registrations Junior	53,402.61
Sponsorship	24,500.00
Total Trading Income	131,908.59

Cost of Sales

Cost of Goods Sold	16,816.68
Total Cost of Sales	16,816.68

Gross Profit	115,091.91
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Operating Expenses

Advertising	43.37
Auskick/Recruitment	850.03
Bank Fees	378.31
Canteen Expenses	29,725.04
Canteen Staff	6,596.50
Cleaning	1,155.00
Coaches, Team Managers	5,000.36
Consulting & Accounting	164.27
Donations	1,763.75
Entertainment	884.00
Football	3,972.76
General Expenses	5,676.26
Ground Hire	8,489.40
Ground Manager	3,071.00
Insurance	1,686.52
Light, Power, Heating	874.13
Medical Expenses	6,973.90
Merchandise Purchases	(325.76)
Newsletter	1,875.00
Printing & Stationery	205.00
Repairs and Maintenance	1,496.74
SMJFL - Fines	270.00
SMJFL - Subscriptions	8,135.20
SMJFL Umpires	14,146.62
Telephone & Internet	144.00
Trophies and Awards	8,125.00
Website	517.00
Total Operating Expenses	111,893.40

Net Profit	3,198.51
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50/100 Award Winners

Lachlan	Manning	100
Will	Scott	100
Noah	Will	100
Thomas	Walsh	100
James	Thomas	100
Jock	McKenzie	100
Jacob	Baldwin	100
James	Godfrey	100
James	Gearon	100
Finn	McMahon-Johnson	100
Benjamin	Lascelles	100
Max	Bremner	100
Ged	Saunders	100
Lucas	Agar	100
Matthew	Hamilton	100
Angus	Brown	50
Callum	Morley	50
Lachlan	Lewicki	50
Darcy	Stewart	50
William	Taylor	50
Elwood	Dunn	50
Oscar	Herrmann	50
Kenneth	Brown	50
Pita	Baleiviani	50
Baden	Vandenberg	50
Andrew	Melvin	50
Angus	Galvans	50
Zac	Millar	50
Anastasi	Pipingas	50
Luca	Cipriani	50
Toby Jack	Foreman	50
Jed	Soultanakis	50
Charlie	Dimogotsi	50
Cooper	Warburton	50
Harley	Benton	50
Gisele	Hennequin	50
Ryan	Sternbergs	50
Archie	Johnstone	50
Quinn	McDonald	50
Joshua	Godfrey	50
Jonathan	Lopes	50
Samuel	Davies	50
Jackson	Dry	50

Natasha	Margerison	50
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2022 Committee

- President - Peter Bremner
- Secretary - Matt Dry
- Treasurer - David Ratner
- Head of Football Operations - Derek Waters
- Team Manager Coordinator - Kerry Widjaja
- Registrar - Alex Hopley
- Sponsorship Coordinator - Alistair Rowlands
- Merchandise Coordinator - Nikki Hogan
- Canteen Coordinator - Anna Cahill
- Trainer & Medical Coordinator - Jacinta Hamilton
- Child Safety Officer - Scott Millar
- Auskick Administration - David Ratner
- Social Media - Christina Papasavvas
- Incident Officer - Karen Massier