



# ANNUAL REPORT

Caulfield Bears

Junior Football Club

# 2013





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## President's Report

Season 2013 saw us back at Koornang Park for another Season. The grass is now perfect for footy and the new surface is the envy of the league.

The challenge this year was to consolidate our growth, and to provide an appropriate environment for young people to play AFL football. The League also went through some changes, with a new GM at the start of the year, and a new Operations Manager during the year.

We continue to reinforce the standards that have been set in the past, with all that are involved with the club, and make a priority of the way we behave. This, above all else, creates an atmosphere that draws people in the local community to the Bears.

There are a number of challenges ahead for the CBJFC, including the growing pains associated with getting additional teams on the park each year, as well as the need to raise funds to support that growth. This year saw healthy attendance at the Family nights and a much better bottom line as a result.

The club has many great achievements over season 2013 and in no particular order are as follows:

- Over 200 junior players being able to participate in under age competition.
- 140+ Auskick registrations
- 10 under age teams playing for CBJFC (up from 9 in 2012 and 8 in 2011)
- Premiership in U13s
- Runners up in U15s and U17s
- 2 x League Best and Fairest Jasper Pickering (U13) and Sean Gunning (U17)
- 2 x League Runner up Hayden Bass (U13) and Will Barker(U17)
  
- The Bears Community each year participates in fundraising to generate awareness and funds for a charity. This year the club, again ran a Fathers Footy Charity game which raised about \$5000.00 in support of the TLC for Kids Charity. Thanks must go to Jon Edgar and Sam Kirkham for co-ordinating the night. Apart from a couple of bruised egos, and a number of ice baths required, a good night was had by all.



I would also like to recognise & wholeheartedly thank many people for their individual contributions throughout the season. Firstly, I thank all Team Coaches & Team Managers who make a regular commitment to deliver the football program to each of our teams – these people are:

Team	<u>Team Coach</u>	<u>Team Manager</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Team Coach</u>	<u>Team Manager</u>
U9 Polar	Justin Healey	Andrew Baldwin	U9 Grizzly	Andrew Clarke	Julian King
U10	Andrew Beet	Terry Pickering	U10	Matt Cooper	Lisa Fabre
U11	Mauro Affinita	Amanda Beet	U12	Campbell Mc Cullock	Rebecca Kovac Meg Rapp
U13	Rod Grace	Martin Fester	U14	Steve Answerth	Chris Di Stasio
U15	David Christiansen	Matt Baker	U17	Tony Nilsson	Jim Malady, Daryl Martinez, Simon Barker, Michael Dickson

Each team is also supported by many people who take on a variety of roles (such as first-aid, goal/boundary umpire, runner, umpires escort, etc) – these people are too many in number to name individually but their contributions are very much appreciated and have been duly recognised at team presentations.

There were many other people whom assisted our club in performing its various functions namely:

- Our club's bar was superbly supported by **Simon Anderson** and **Ross Rennick**, who always ensured the bar was well-stocked for our social gatherings.
- **Andrew Clarke** who co-ordinated the production of our weekly newsletter "*The Bear Facts*".  
**Chris Thompson** who co-ordinated the Medical Trainers. He also was an additional Sports trainer on duty for the duration of the playing day in 2012. Chris undertook this role for the Bears and was of great assistance to the team trainers every Sunday.
- **Peter Stamp** who performed the role of Registrar
- **Larissa Cassemento** our canteen manager has done a great job juggling dim sims, hot dogs, chips, chocolates on very long Sundays.
- **Jake McCauley** (SMJFL CEO) & **Adam Sparrow** and **Emily McIntyre** (SMJFL Operations managers) and the SMJFL Board for their efforts in managing the largest junior sporting competition in the SE Melbourne.
- We receive great support from the Glen Eira council and I extend our club's gratitude to **Belinda Griffiths** (Recreation Facilities Co-ordinator).



## Sponsors.

Thanks to **Damian Fraser** and **Chris Yates** this year for managing the sponsors in season 2013.

Sponsors are vital to the club and its ongoing financial stability. Therefore it is important that we recognise all of the 2013 Bears sponsors.



Graeme Callen – 0412 651 528 – pays a referral fee to the club

**I:I Architects**



**!impact**digital

Thompson and Thompson Solicitors

## Barry Gardiner Meats

There is a box behind the counter with Caulfield Bears Logo on it and when members of the club buy meat there if they let them know they will put their receipt in the box and he will donate 10% of the purchase price in meat to the club.

Koornang Road, Carnegie



The committee was strong and focused this year.

I sincerely thank:

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- **Simon Anderson.** (Vice President) was vital in helping in many different ways , always prepared to jump into the breach at short notice.
- **Chris Welsford** (Club Treasurer) who again superbly managed the accounting functions of our club as well as merchandise
- **Amanda Beet** (Secretary) performed the role with excellence. Amanda knows all the deadlines for council, SMJFL and performed a myriad of other tasks that kept the club on the park. Without Amanda's diligence and patience I am sure the Bears year would not have run as smoothly as it did.
- **Lyn McDonald** Stayed on the committee this year to help Amanda adjust to the Secretaries responsibilities, and continued her great work managing the Team Managers..
- **Chris Yates.** Sponsorship Coordinator, Given the job at short notice, we appreciate Chris' assistance in this role.
- **Larissa Casamento,** Bears Auskick Liaison, and Canteen Manager, Auskick Administrator

That was the year 2013 The club continues to grow which brings it own set of challenges. I am sure the committee moving into 2014 will stay on track to ensure that the CBJFC will continue to be an institution relevant to parents and children wishing to be involved in junior sport.

Jason Woods  
CBJFC  
President



## **Treasurer's Report 2013**

I advise that for the year 1 Oct 2012 to 30 Sep 2013 we traded with a profit of \$16832

This is an amazing \$14125 increase on last year.

Our bank balance at 30 September was \$50061.824 and we had approx. \$14800 of merchandise in stock in preparation for 2014 season.

The notable revenue increases were :

1. Player registration fees up \$3090. We had 228 registered players and increased fees by \$10 per player to offset increased running costs
2. Our bar takings increased by \$4757, due to the resolution of liquor licence issues and the good work by Kathy Lord and Annie Besnard coordinating our family nights.
3. Canteen takings were up by almost \$3200. Well done to Larissa our canteen manager,
4. Merchandise increased by a staggering \$4700 thanks to our new online ordering system and merchandise stall days managed by Katrina Anderson

The notable expense was :

- Our most significant expense was the \$12000 spent on new football jumpers for all teams for season 2013.

As at 30 September 2013 \$3328.01 is due out of our account as accounts payable. (including Photos, utilities and presentation day expenses). These figures have been included in all reports attached.

Our Profit and Loss for the 2012/13 trading period follows.

Christina Welsford  
Treasurer



## AUSKICK REPORT – 2013

A very rewarding Auskick Season , we again had over 150 registrations with growth in the Prep's of 40 children & growth in the older kids Grade 4 , 5's & 2 Grade 6's.

This enabled the older group to have specialised training that gave them great benefit when playing on the Sunday & further developed their skills.

This growth especially in the older group qualified us to represent a centre Grid game at Etihad , which has been a goal of Larissa's and mine as well as 2 outer Grid Games of Grade 2s & 3's. That was a great opportunity for 42 kids from the Caulfield Bears that they will always remember.

We again made a profit for the second year running thanks to Sausage Sizzles manned by parent Volunteers , Barry Gardiner Butchers Donating hundreds of sausages . Another successful Monster Raffle with Prizes all donated by local businesses and by many parents. We also brought on a new Sponsor "Mobile Tyre Shop" whom donated \$500-00 to cover our Medallion costs.

The Kids & parents enjoyed the AFL Player ( Collingwood ) Visit , the Caulfield Bears Senior Players Visit & the Grade 1's played a Grid Game half time at a Bears Senior Game , which they were so excited to participate in.

We also had our Traditional "Mothers Day Game" Grandparents Day & finished the last session with the Presentation of Medallions & Certificates , the coaches were again fantastic with their enthusiasm & mixed their sessions up with different skills & ensured there was plenty of fun that incorporated skill development.

Our coaching team of Julian King , Andrew King, Justin Healey , Andrew Beet , Mike Gerrand, John Cauchi , Andrew Campitelli , Jake Golding & Michael Cormick were "Sensational " and as I have said to them many times , never underestimate the influence & guidance they are providing these kids , their efforts & commitment this year has made the program a great success.

To my mate Larissa Cassamento , what a lady , never missed a beat again, her administration of all registrations & arranging BBQ's , Raffles was amazing , always there first on a Saturday to open up , she gives me so much support and makes my role so much easier. Enjoyed our coffee's to plan our season events.

To top off such a great season I was lucky enough to be awarded "Coach of the Year " which is a reflection of my great TEAM & the support they give me & also recognition to the Caulfield Bears Auskick Centre. Many thanks also to the Junior Football Club & the Senior Football Club for their support , the fantastic involvement of the parents & families and the local community. Most importantly we would like to THANK the kids , as this is what it is all about to provide a Safe , Fun environment to help them develop the skills & knowledge & the spirit of the greatest game on the planet , I believe we are doing a fine job & look forward to handing the banton over to continue to grow & develop the Caulfield Bears Auskick & Junior Football Club.

Regards Marc Bullard Coordinator

## U/9 POLARS TEAM REPORT – 2013

U9	Polars	Season	Review
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With all of our boys playing in their 1st or 2nd season of competitive football, we started from the beginning. A focus on fun and enjoyment of the game for the players was paramount with individual skills and development of the team a priority. Kicking, marking, collecting the ball, bouncing and handballing through different training drills emphasised these points.

As a firm believer of participation and overall sportsmanship, the boys were rotated through the back-line, midfield and forward line, to ensure everyone got good game-time in their preferred position, but also learnt to push themselves out of their comfort zones by playing in unfamiliar positions, which will ultimately enhance their learning and knowledge of how the game should be played. Their ability to encourage one another, show appreciation of players from opposition clubs at the end of each game, and to stay focused on what was required leaves me buoyant for next year. The process of improvement is well underway with the boys displaying more confidence and greater self-esteem by the end of the year.

Our highlights for the year were our ability to link handballs together and run the ball down the ground, and a thrilling 'come from behind' win by 1 point courtesy of a sensational goal on the run from the boundary line. Through our wins and losses





for the season we learnt that coming together and working as a team, rather than focussing on individual play, always leads to more enjoyable wins.

Another win that shouldn't be short changed was the way the parent group came together to fill official match day duties throughout the season. Their positive support and involvement took a lot of pressure off on match days. I would personally like to thank Simon Nazaretian for his efforts at training every week and being my right hand man. Also Andrew Baldwin for his brilliant effort in managing the team throughout the season - no easy feat !!

In conclusion I would also like to thank the Caulfield Bears committee for all their support, and the other coaches who have helped me throughout the year. A special mention to Mark and Larissa from Auskick, whose enthusiasm rekindled my passion for coaching junior football again.

Thanks for an incredible year. I hope all the boys return next year for more fun, enjoyment and a few more wins !!

Regards  
Justin Healey  
U9 Polars Coach

## **U/9 GRIZZLIES TEAM REPORT – 2013**

Our expectations at the start of the season were not all that high as we entered the season with a very inexperienced group of players - we had only one player on our lists with previous experience and that impacted not only on the field, but also off the field as the parents learn what is required and expected.

At our peak, we had 21 players but by the lightning carnival that was down to 18, and even 17 for the last game. I started the year with the goal of getting a near 50-50 result, and with a series of losses by less than a goal that was very nearly a reality as our finishing percentage for the season of 87% reflects.

I set a bunch of KPIs at the start of the season around player management and achievements. By season's end we had all bar four players on an even split of forward, mid-field and defender duties, and all bar two players had kicked goals during the season. To watch the boys trying to get it those two in the final half of the Lightning Carnival shows what it meant to each of them and that they were really teammates.

In the end we unearthed some great talent who I hope enjoyed the season enough to remain constant figures around our footy club. I will look forward to renewing my association with the half that will move up to the Under 10s next season.

At this point, it is important to thank the team's official helpers. Julian King as team manager never missed a beat and kept me informed about player illness as made the sure the parents knew what was expected of them as the roster shifted their duties. John Cauchi as assistant coach provided great counsel to me and advice to the boys during the games, as did Adrian Nelson as runner (and a future coach I would suggest) and Louise Nelson who kept picking up the wounded bodies and kept them firing. Her busiest day was the Lightning Carnival, which tells you a lot about the desire of our boys to win when it counted.

On the field the season highlight for me was definitely our come from behind win against East Sandringham, the boys were well down at half time and fought their way into the game and then took control and put the winning goal on the board with less than a minute remaining. I was also impressed with the players approach to the game, no matter what was thrown at them they kept playing the game the way it should be played.

Off the field my biggest thrill was at the end of the season when the umpire from our lightning carnival congratulated me on the behaviour and conduct of our players.

Andrew Clarke



## U10 POLARS TEAM REPORT – 2013

Pre-season training began in March, with a lot of 9 year-olds keen to begin kicking footies around Koornang Park again. Would we have enough for two teams again this year? Polars and Grizzlies? Yes. The 2013 Polars would eventually consist of many of last year's team, some of last year's Grizzlies and some valuable players new to the club.

We were all keen for the season to start. April 14: Round One had us playing at home against Beaumaris Blacktails. It rained goals and we won 10-5-65 to 1-1-7. What a way to begin! The season threw challenges at us, of course. We played teams that were very tall, or very fast, or had strong home ground advantages. We dealt with each challenge as an opportunity to test ourselves and to commit to and execute a plan. Sometimes we were successful and sometimes we weren't. Each week the team was reminded to play Bears football: play the ball, play fair, respect your opponent and enjoy the game. After round 7 we were 4 and 3, then had a difficult few weeks. We made a huge comeback against Mordi-Brae in round 9 and fell three points short. I think the bye in round 12 freshened us up for our final match, at home to the unbeaten East Malvern Red. We played with spirit and purpose. We won. That was a fabulous way to end the season. The following week we went to the Lightning Premiership and had only 2 games to prove ourselves. Unfortunately we had been drawn to play teams from 2 and 3 divisions higher than us. The results didn't go our way but I couldn't have been prouder of the players because they didn't drop their heads and they didn't give up against opponents who were clearly better than us.

Throughout the season the boys continued to perfect match tactics as well as learn new ones eg. to kick out from full back to the pocket, to run and spread, to drop/lift their eyes, run and carry, to kick it to the hot spot, getting goal-side in defence, ruck set-ups. The boys must be congratulated for the way in which they absorbed these tactics and repeatedly carried them out on match-day. For the most part they learnt to lose with dignity and to win graciously.

There are many people to thank: the parents for getting their players to training and matches on time, and for waiting until training finished after 6 o'clock because the coaches were having too much fun to stop on time; again the parents for helping with match-day roles; Everett Moutsidis (medical trainer) did a sterling job attending to our players; Tim Nichols (team runner) was tireless at training and on match-day; Terry Pickering (team manager) did a fabulous job; and John Theofilopoulos (assistant coach) was always on-board with what we were doing at training and had valuable input on match-day. The Committee were very helpful and supportive all season.

Just like last year, we played footy, we learnt some things and we had fun.



## U/10 GRIZZLIES TEAM REPORT - 2013

Coach: Matt Cooper  
Assistant Coach/Runner: Adrian Dixon  
Team Manager: Lisa Fabre  
Trainer: Geraud Fabre

Football at this junior level is less about results and more about teaching the fundamentals, and so the focus for this season was geared around the learning of foot- and hand-skills, teamwork, and following a simple game plan. With a number of our young players being first-time footballers - and for a few this was essentially their first exposure to the Australian game - coaching was made all the more challenging, though no less enjoyable.

### **Skills**

Initially, the execution of kicking and handballing by the majority of players was random at best. There were a handful of players who were clearly talented and athletic, and who were quick learners in regards to team drills and small-games, and these players were selected as team leaders - to act as both examples of correct form, and discrete mentors. As the pre-season training progressed skills improved dramatically. The standard and commitment of our novice players was very good, and this was well demonstrated in our practice match against the more experienced and skilled Under 10 Polar Bears immediately prior to the season-opening grading games, where the Grizzlies won with a narrow margin.

### **Teamwork**

Perhaps the biggest challenge of working with young people of this age group is inculcating the doctrine of *sharing the ball*. Our approach to this was frequent use of small-game drills, rewarding good decision-making with in-game points, and frequent analysis of both good and poor execution involving team discussion. This approach was enjoyed by all, and yielded terrific results in not just on-field play, but in boosting team morale.

### **Game Plan**

The universal rule of 'keeping it simple' was the guiding philosophy of the team game plan. As our squad was generally fairly small, the approach was to form a run-and-carry/run-and-spread/run-and-overlap tactic. All movement would be directed to the wings from our back line, with the ball to be funnelled into our forward line with the target being the 'hotspot'. This plan was taught from day one, and after approximately 4 weeks the team was able to execute this without additional guidance from the coaching staff. As the season progressed, we were able to begin tactical drills based around stoppages - ruck and roving drills from the ball-up/ball winning and supply from the grounded hard-ball.

### **Overview and Special Mentions**

I was very impressed with the development of these young players. With some boys having never played before - Eymeric Pink, Louis Genesi, Titouan Duboy, Jack Hendricks, Jules Chaise, to name but a handful - by season's end, for them to be making consistent and valuable contributions to every team performance was a real triumph. Morale remained very high throughout the season, despite the initial drubbings we had in our grading games. Discipline, though an issue with the first couple of training sessions, was excellent, and the squad played fair, trained hard, and never faltered throughout. The appointment of Connor Strachan, Harry Penhall and Louis Benoit as co-captains allowed us to have skilled leaders in all parts of the field during games, and this fitted in well with our policy of 'rotations in all positions for all players'. Adam Paliatsos, Nick Karamihos, Jules Fabre and Liam Dixon were standouts



in most games. Other players to watch in the future include Matt Wylie (strong and quick), Orion Cooper (terrific mark, terrific kick), Alex Jacquet (fearless, quick and inventive) and Thomas Keenan (fast and brave for a small man).

It has been a real pleasure for me to be involved with this group, made all the more enjoyable by the excellent assistance from Adrian Dixon and Lisa Fabre. The parent group has been supportive and encouraging. It has been an honour working within the positive, inclusive culture of the Caulfield Bears.

Matt Cooper

### U11 TEAM REPORT – 2013

After winning all but 1 game in the regular season last year the Under 11s were elevated by the league to “South” division which was the division we played in last years Lightning Premiership. This division was certainly a bigger challenge, and the boys experienced an up and down season. We finished the season with 5 wins and 9 losses. Fortunately the wins came here and there, so the season never got to a point where the boys felt they were being beaten all the time. Our worst loss for the year was 52 points, but most losses were a lot less, and some entertaining football was played. Hopefully we remain in this grade, as it is making the boys work harder for wins, and the losses are good learning experiences.

This being our first year of tackling has been a huge challenge for this group. Unlike many teams in the competition the Bears don't practise tackling until U11s, and this possibly set us back a bit at the beginning of the year. Once the boys got their heads around this development they became more confident, and aware of the increased body contact aspect. Some of our boys have developed into veritable battering rams, others are slowly beginning to get better technique. Unlimited bounces has also freed up several of our speedier wingmen, who can now tuck the ball under the arm and “run the lines”!

The boys who registered for both Auskick and Junior club were also given fantastic extra coaching in these skills, and we would suggest that the club encourages players in the U9-U11 club teams to consider continuing on with Auskick in conjunction with playing, as the boys in this program showed faster development than those who did not have the extra “fitness and skills” session.

We had a list of 25 registered players (2 new to the club), but due to injury, sickness, overseas holidays or living out of the country managed to put 22 players on the park on average. Having these numbers certainly helped us on some of the more trying days, such as the St Anthonys confirmation day when 5 boys left after ½ time! We were lucky to have a couple of boys from the U10s to help out a couple of times.

We had 11 boys bring up their 50 game milestone during the season: Luke Mazzeo, Luke Thomas, Jack Affinita, Max Besnard, Nick Bailey, Flynn Snowden, Beau Bullard, Liam Woods, Fraser Sharman-Smith, Gordon Beet and Joel King all loved running through banners which were lovingly prepared by parents who were astonished at how quickly several hours of sticky taping and gluing can be smashed to shredded paper! The fact that these boys have all played this number of games together is starting to show, and the team spirit in this group is quite strong.

The U11 parent group needs to be congratulated. We have an extremely co-operative group, several of whom are involved at various levels with other teams or at a committee level. Every last one of them happily went along with rostered duties and our team manager and coaching group thanks them for this.

GO BEARS.

Award	Player	Award	Player
Best & Fairest	Paolo Cini	Most Improved	Finn Harvey
2 <sup>nd</sup> Best & Fairest	Henry Nicolay	Most Consistent	Gordon Beet
3 <sup>rd</sup> Best & Fairest	Fraser Sharman-Smith	Coaches Award	Joel King



## U/12 TEAM REPORT - 2013

At the beginning of the year we had established a game plan and team rules 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 rule
- The footy is in dispute - Contested situations

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, we had hoped, would be a positive consequence of this approach.

The Under 12's experienced a mixed but very memorable season, which despite the win / loss ratio was very encouraging for the boys and families.

The season started with two very narrow defeats before registering the first win for the season with a convincing performance against Ajax.

Five more narrow losses ensued and by round eight we still only had the one win.

Factoring out a 32 point loss to the eventual premier, the average losing margin was only four points and generally it was one quarter letting us down. Although there were some disappointing losses, the boys had played some great footy and the enthusiasm and spirit within the team remained very positive – both at training and on game day.

There were many positives - fierce tackle pressure that has always been a feature, team rules were being followed and we saw encouraging signs of fast, skilful ball movement. This was our game style and usually how our goals were scored. In addition there were plenty of great individual and team efforts.

Areas that needed to work included;

- Remedying the early season fumbles
- Ensuring marks were held
- Getting our hands on the footy first, we may have become a bit tackle focused rather than get the ball
- Improvement in concentration and effort

So after round eight our training and match day focus was on:

- Skills – ball handling, clean hands, becoming one touch players and getting our hands on the ball first and holding marks
- Much greater levels of effort and concentration – work for each other, no quarter fade outs due to lapse of concentration. These fade outs had become so common place they had been named – “hangover quarter” or “bear with a sore head quarter”
- Following up disposal – numbers to contest to provide options
- Move the ball fast and skilfully, into open forward line = goals

After the round eight loss – 7 pts to St Kilda City, we had arranged an intra club practice match against the U11s. This proved to be a really good decision. We enjoyed the match, played some nice footy and scored some goals. We were extremely grateful to Mauro and the U11 boys for playing us into a little bit of form.



Through the middle and end of the season the improvement was remarkable and the game plan was starting to click. The boys were playing extended periods of clean one touch footy, confidence was growing, marks were sticking, and targets were being hit. Effort and hard work was paying off. It was great to watch the boys playing playing such a fantastic and exciting brand of footy.

The round 9 against Mordy Brea (2<sup>nd</sup> on ladder) saw the emergence of this team with a hard fought 4 quarter effort and a close game which we won. The next four games were won by an average of nearly 50 points.

The team developed some real momentum and team spirit and it was a very exciting thing to be a part of. The fierce tackle pressure that has been a signature of the team was now being nicely balanced with fast skilful ball movement. It was very gratifying to observe the gradual improvement of the team throughout the year as well as the development of individual players. Not to mention the coaches.

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 an outstanding assistant coach to the team this year and a great support.

Team Managers: Thanks to Rebecca Kovac and Meg Rapp continued the outstanding TM tradition of this group.

Runner: Great work from Delmar. Greatly appreciated his commitment and calm along the boundary.

Trainers: Thanks to Paul Mc Donough and John Strom.

Boundary: Pete Stamp – as always the ultimate professional.

Match Reporter: Reading Chris Yates reports was a must do for the team. Great work! Wonderful sense of humour.

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

Thanks also to the entire U12 group for the great support shown for Darren and I in our first year coaching this team. I feel as the year went on we found our feet and developed some really effective strategies around game style and planning. We did our best to ensure that the boys got exposure to playing in different positions and we both really enjoyed the year.

There is a great spirit about this team, and next season should be exciting.

<b>Award</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Player</b>
Best & Fairest	Ollie Lord	Most Improved	James French
2 <sup>nd</sup> Best & Fairest	Shamus McDonough	Most Courageous	Max McCulloch
3 <sup>rd</sup> Best & Fairest	Jack Kirkham	Coaches Award	Harrison Beveridge

## **U/13 TEAM REPORT – 2013**

The Under 13 Bears had another great year, building on the steady improvement from 2012.

Retaining all of our players from 2012 and with the addition of two new team mates, we went into the season with a healthy list of 23.

The players have gelled into a really tight group and demonstrate a strong team culture, both in their play and in their camaraderie off the field. Playing in Division 5, they started the year strongly and may have been unlucky not to have been promoted early on. The team went on to have a terrific undefeated season, capped off with a grand final win against East Sandy. They played hard and fair and we're all very proud of their efforts.



Our captain, Jasper Pickering, took out the league's best and fairest award, with Hayden Bass runner-up and Spencer Martinez topping the goal-kicking. Well done guys. At the end of the day though, you don't win premierships without a champion team and all of our guys made great contributions week in and week out.

We've had great support from Amanda Beet, Lyn McDonald and from Jason and the Committee. The parent support was also terrific in all of the necessary roles, with special thanks to:

- Paul Moorthy (Assistant Coach)
- Martin Fester (Team Manager), supported by Matej's mum, Meri
- Terry and Michelle (Runners), David Collins and Luke Meyer (Trainer) and once again, Shaun Peel for taking on the boundary umpiring duties.

Great year guys and all the best for the challenges ahead.

AWARD	PLAYER	AWARD	PLAYER
Best & Fairest	<b>Jasper Pickering</b>	<b>Most courageous</b>	<b>Jode Moorthy</b>
2nd Best & Fairest	<b>Hayden Bass</b>	<b>Best clubman</b>	<b>Joshua Meyer</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Best & Fairest	<b>Sean Bass</b>	<b>Most consistent</b>	<b>Emin Ladevic</b>
Top goal-kicker (divisional)	<b>Spencer Martinez</b>		

## U14 TEAM REPORT 2013

The season began with high expectations of being a competitive unit in Div 2. A solid recruiting drive over the summer meant our numbers were great with a list of 25 players, this allowed some of our younger group to play back in their correct age.

As round 1 drew closer key injuries to some of our stronger boys were unable to play or perform at a level high enough to remain in division 2. back in div 3 the results were encouraging with great wins against top four sides but starting 4 games behind with no wins was always going to prove difficult.

I believe we had a lot of boys improve with their skills & game sense during the course of the season as training was always well attended. Unfortunately finals were beyond us after winning the previous year.

Award winners

B& F Andrew pinna

RU B&F Sean McDonald

3rd B&F tied Lachlan Stevens, Mitchell Stevens, Atu Bose.





Most improved Liam Maher  
Coaches award Brad Hickey.

Thank you to all parents who helped during the season and special thanks to:  
Chris Distasio, Michael Dickson, Simon Anderson & Simon Casey for all their support .

Stephen Answerth

## U/15 TEAM REPORT - 2013

At registration day very early on in 2013, I was asked by Jason Woods and some others, whether I felt confident that we would have a team this year. I responded and said we might get to 18 just and with a bit of active recruiting by the boys, we might just get up a team. After a year in 2012 where we had won only 2 games, it was going to be hard to attract new players to the club. Fortunately, we did get a team together and we lined up in Division 4. In round 1 we lined up against St Paul McKinnon and sadly, we got smashed 22 goals to 4. Clearly St Pauls were too good and they eventually went on to the Div 3 Grand Final.

Many parents and players would have thought that this was going to be a long season so we steeled ourselves and prepared for our next game at home against Oakleigh and had a gutsy win with Evan, James and Gunners starring along with our new man, Olme.

A loss to Ajax in round 3 and then a thumping win against Mordi Brae in round 4 and things weren't so bad. After round 4 we were 3<sup>rd</sup> and hoping our success would not see us regraded to Div 3. Fortunately we stayed in Div 4 and in round 5 we came up again against Oakleigh who returned the favour we had dealt them 2 weeks prior . Another meeting with Ajax and they also reversed the earlier result and by round 7, we were 5<sup>th</sup> out of 6 and injuries were starting to take their toll on the boys. In Round 7 we again handed Mordi a smashing and in round 8, we met our cross town rivals Ormond, whom we had not beaten for some time. Sadly, we went in undermanned and got done so 5<sup>th</sup> place was about right for us based on form.

Round 9 was our first meeting with 4<sup>th</sup> placed St Bedes and we had a good win with Under 14 player, Liam Maher kicking 3 goals. By this stage of the season, it became clear that there were 3 teams out front and 1 team clearly struggling, leaving 2 teams in the battle for the coveted 4th spot. The Bears and St Bedes.

In Round 10 and we again came up against Oakleigh whom we were developing quite a rivalry with. James Bailey was on fire with 3 as was Will Smith with 2 and we had our first draw after dominating for the first 3 quarters.

In Round 11 against a team we loved to contest with, Ajax, we had a good win by 1 goal and there was belief from the group that with a fit team and a bench, we could beat anyone. In this match against Ajax we had 15 players.

Round 12 had us at home against Mordi Brae and a thumping win again had us firmly placed in 4<sup>th</sup> on the ladder and ready to take on one of the top teams again, Ormond at Ormond. With 15 players at the start of the match, we again relied on the cavalry from the under 14s in the form of Liam Rashleigh and Andy Pinna. Disappointingly we fell short by 1 goal with our inaccuracy costing us. With 2 games to go we had stitched up finals and we beat St Bedes away and finished the season with a confidence boosting towelling of Oakleigh at home in great display of 4 quarter footy.

Finals time and our first match was against Ormond and boy did I want to win that one. We spoke about the 1%ers and played amazingly well. Ormond had not prepared for this and having not seen us at full strength, they probably expected to win the match. Keeping them to 1 goal was extraordinary and on we marched into a semi-final against Ajax and in the words of the league football writer, Ben Pollard, the Bears were coming!

It was a very windy day and momentum was with us as we came away with a great win albeit an inaccurate one and it's fair to say that we were marching us one to get our hands on the holy grail. Ajax too were not all that happy at being beaten by a team that had struggled with numbers all year.

Grand Final time and there was a lot of excitement amongst the boys and up against Oakleigh it was going to be a torrid affair but one which we felt ready for. Sadly for us, we had played our best footy in the first 2 weeks of the finals and they saved their best game for the Grand Final. We were outplayed but I was very proud of our boys who displayed class and dignity in defeat. It was a great effort to get there from 4<sup>th</sup>.

Injuries had killed us this year and whilst not offering it up as an excuse, had we had our best 22 fit, I have no doubt we would have had a better result on Grand Final day.





Thanks to Tony Neilson our very capable Team Manager, Matt Baker for his dedication to fitness and being our medic, Dom Margulio for being our runner and Nick Philips who answered the call to be assistant coach. Special mention to the players and parents from the Under 12's, 13's and 14's who supplied reinforcements when we were short on numbers. I hope our new players and their families enjoyed their first year the Bears as much as we enjoyed having them. Thanks to the parent group for all your support and finally, my thanks to James Bailey, Lewie Holmstrom and Evan Polydoropolous for their leadership and to the players for making this a fun year. To Jason, and the committee at the Bears, thanks for your support throughout the year.

Best and Fairest	Olme Nacarella
Runner Up	Oliver Gunning
3 <sup>rd</sup> Best and Fairest	Evan Polydoropolous
Most Consistent	Ben Spackman
Most Improved	Nick Rayson
Coaches Award	James Bailey

## U/17 TEAM REPORT - 2013

After looking like we would not be able to field an U17's side in 2013, Nipper and the boys worked hard to recruit a number of new players and in the end we had a solid list of 26 players. Many of the boys had other football commitments so during the season there were a number of weeks where we found ourselves struggling to put a team on the paddock. We got there though and only forfeited one game during the school holidays.

The strong sides in Division One were Ormond, Brighton Rovers, Beaumaris and The Bears. We had the wood on the Beaulie but struggled against the other two during the season. We finished four on the ladder but gave ourselves a good chance of mixing it with the best of them in the finals with a full side to choose from.

We ripped through Beaulie in the Elimination and towelled up Ormond in the Semi to go through to the Grand Final against and very strong, hand picked Brighton Rovers. Our boys gave it everything in the Grannie but in the end the opposition was too strong on the day. Had we not had 2 concussions, a serious knee and the odd whack in the gonads, things may well have been different.

Our boys can hold their heads up high, we were all so proud of their efforts. There is no doubt that, whilst we were one of the fairest sides, we were the best tackling side in the comp and every team who played the Bears in 2013 knew all about it.

Once again Nipper and Wayne did an excellent job with the boys and drove them to reach their potential. They are to be commended for their dedication and long term commitment to the boys & the Club.

The U17's were supported by a fantastic group of families who put their hands up to provide assistance at every opportunity making the job of both team manager and coach a whole lot easier. Their behaviour and that of their guests was once again exemplary and epitomised the values that the Club holds dear.

Special thanks must go to the following people for their roles this year.

- Assistant Coach - Wayne Short
- Team Managers - Jim Malady, Daryl Martinez, Simon Barker, Michael Dickson.
- Trainer - Mark Trumble
- Runner- Mark McClelland

Last, but not least, thank you to the Committee for your hard work and for continuing to steer this great club down a path that encourages respect, responsibility and integrity, as well as, a pathway towards the best football that our kids can play.



<b>AWARD</b>	<b>PLAYER</b>	<b>AWARD</b>	<b>PLAYER</b>
<b>Best &amp; Fairest</b>	Sean Gunning (again)	<b>Coaches Award</b>	Joe McClelland
<b>2nd Best &amp; Fairest</b>	Will Barker (3 <sup>rd</sup> last year)	<b>Most Improved</b>	Ollie Milner & Lachie Dickson
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Best &amp; Fairest</b>	Kade Answerth		