



**Caulfield Bears  
Junior Football Club**

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

# ANNUAL REPORT



## October 2016

### Contents

President's Report	3
Treasurer's Report	7
2016 Financials	8
U9 Grizzlies Team Report	9
U9 Kodiaks Team Report	10
U10 Kodiaks Team Report	11
U10 Polars Team Report	12
U10 Grizzlies Team Report	13
U11 Team Report	14
U12 Grizzlies Team Report	15
U13 Team Report	16
U14 Team Report	17
U15 Team Report	18
U16 Team Report	19
2016 Individual Player Awards	20
2016 Committee	22

## President's Report

When I took over the Presidency twelve months ago, the Club was in a strong position, both financially and in terms of membership, thanks to the tireless work put in by my predecessors. This season the Committee has built on these foundations so that we can take the Club even further. At the start of the year I stated that our goal was to create an environment for every player to play to the best of their ability by improving our facilities and raising the standards of our football department. These objectives have been at the forefront of every decision made by the Committee during the season.

Below is a snapshot of our progress during the year.

### Facilities & Equipment

As a Club, we are fortunate to enjoy an excellent playing oval and spectator stand at Koornang Park. As tenants of Glen Eira Council, we have limited ability to instigate facility upgrades, however, this season saw significant progress in facility improvements.

In the pre-season we made a substantial financial investment in upgrading the floodlights at Koornang Park. Players are now able to train under 60-70 lux lighting, well above the minimum requirement of 50 lux (prior to the upgrade, our lights were only at 30-40 lux). Our Coaches have all reported the improvement in visibility and how much of a difference it has made to our ability to train effectively and safely.

The Club purchased a new oven and fridge/freezer for our canteen and social nights and the Council paid for the installation of new carpets in the Club Rooms as well as a new hot water system.

Towards the end of the season, all three co-tenants (CBJFC, Caulfield Bears Football & Netball Club and Carnegie Cricket Club) met with representatives of the Council to discuss plans for the refurbishment and upgrade of the changing rooms and toilets. Architects have been engaged by the Council to draw up initial plans and establish a project timeline. Whilst this is not going to be completed in time for the start of season 2017, it will be a major project for the Committee over the next two seasons.

### Football Department

The newly created Football Department under the leadership of Michael Gurrie, gave focus on improving standards within the Club, in terms of player expectations and behaviours, both at training and on game day. This was the main directive given to the Coaches at the start of the season and a theme that will be developed upon into the future.

Supporting our Coaching Team remains a priority. All Assistant Coaches were given the opportunity to participate in the AFL Level One Coaching Course that is mandatory for our Senior Coaches.

Michael and Coaching Coordinator, Gary Birrell, held professional development evenings for our Coaches and next year we are going to extend this further by partnering with an external provider to roll out a comprehensive education program. This will ensure that all of our coaches and assistants are equipped with the skills and support they need to teach the children; this is a fantastic opportunity not only for the coaches who will have this ongoing professional support, but obviously for the players who will be on the receiving end of their skills.

### Registrations / Team Selections

The most challenging aspect of any football club is managing registrations and team selection and at the end of Season 2015 the Committee adopted a new team selection policy aimed at facilitating the process and giving clear directions on the criteria used for selecting teams in the lower age groups where numbers often necessitate multiple teams.

Whilst it is impossible to accommodate every request, the process was improved on prior years and the Committee continues to take on board feedback received and make improvements where possible.

During the season, we had 255 registrations and were able to field twelve teams as per season 2015.

The teams were across the following age groups:

- 2 x U9 (combining children in U8 and U9 age groups)
- 3 x U10
- 1 x U11
- 2 x U12

- 1 x U13 (combined with St Paul's McKinnon)
- 1 x U14
- 1 x U15
- 1 x U16

In our U13 age group we had insufficient numbers for a full team and formed a partnership with neighboring club, St Paul's McKinnon. The combined "McKinnon Caulfield Bears" team was a resounding success and has given us confidence that working with other Clubs can be to great mutual advantage, allowing our players in the older age groups to continue playing football with their friends, at the right level, without having to move Clubs.

### **Female Participation**

Probably the most disappointing aspect to the year was not being able to field a girl's only team. Despite our best endeavours, we withdrew this team before the start of the season due to lack of numbers.

Having said that, we did significantly increase our female membership on the prior year and girls participated in five out of eight eligible teams.

Although our Club has always had a proud tradition of inclusiveness towards girls, there were plenty of lessons learned during the season for the wider community on how best to integrate the girls and make them feel part of the Club with particular care on inclusive language.

With the commencement of a female AFL league in 2017, it is vital that our Club fully embraces girls playing junior football and the Committee will be working hard in the pre-season to capitalize on our current membership and build on this further.

### **Auskick**

Whilst the Auskick program is not formally part of the CBJFC, it stands alongside our Club and receives our full support in recognition of the importance of this program to the viability of junior football.

In the pre-season we supported AFL Victoria's "School Strategy Program", where they sent 'Game Development Officers' into local primary schools to conduct football clinics during PE classes. We funded clinics in five local primary schools.

Our Auskick Liaison, Silvana Kerin, dedicated enormous time and effort to organizing our Auskick program and some of the highlights for this year included a special events company providing a fun filled Mother's Day program and another specialist company providing a customized two-week skill session for our older Auskick group.

These initiatives will be expanded upon next season to provide our youngest footballers with an even better foundation before they join the junior teams.

### **Player Welfare**

Player welfare is a key focus at the Club. This season we were fortunate to secure the services of Paramedic Student, Jessica Yates, as our 'On Ground Trainer'. For the past few seasons our Club has chosen to provide an 'On Ground Trainer' as an extra qualified resource to assist not only our team trainers, but also any spectators or 'Away Teams' that may require first aid assistance.

All of our team trainers were given the opportunity to gain additional skills and become accredited in the AFL's newly created 'Emergency Response Coordinator' qualification.

This season we formed a partnership with *Physiosports Brighton*. We held an 'Injury Prevention and Management' information night for our oldest teams with a Senior Physiotherapist and Sports Podiatrist presenting to the Group. All players in these teams were given access to the services of a Physiotherapist during their weekly training session as well as priority access for any follow up physiotherapy services required.

### **Club Values**

The CBJFC prides itself on being a community minded club. In addition to giving children the opportunity to participate in sport we also want to teach them the benefits of being involved in a community and 'giving back'. Initiated by players, funds in excess of \$1,000 were raised for the Will Murray Foundation, Oxfam and Breast Cancer Network Australia.

Another way the Club instills its values is by older players mentoring the younger players and being seen as good role models. This was formally implemented during the year with the introduction of a "Club Captain" role that was awarded jointly in 2016 to the Co-Captains of our U16 Team, Spencer Martinez and Jake Thompson.

At a Club level, our teams support each other with a 'Club First' perspective, working together rather than in competition with each other. This is seen in the way teams 'lend' their players to each other when numbers are short and players are willing to make the effort to get to another ground and play a second match to help out.

The Committee works hard to ensure that our monthly Family Nights are welcoming and inclusive to all members. We hope that during the year parents and children got to know those in other teams and enjoyed the social atmosphere of our club. These nights are also a valuable fundraiser for our Club and the funds that were raised will be put back into the Club and invested for the future.

### **Football Achievements**

In our modified rules teams (U9-U10), there is no winning or losing. Achievements come from learning the fundamentals of football, developing a sense of sportsmanship and pride in their team and instilling values of fair play.

For our older teams, achievements come in many forms. For some it is reaching a 50 or 100 game milestone, being selected for an Inter-League Team or winning a 'Best & Fairest' award and for other players, it may be that they have kicked their first ever goal for the Club. Each achievement should be celebrated for its own merits.

For our older teams, the chance to hold aloft a Premiership trophy is the ultimate reward for the season and in 2016 our U14 team under the guidance of our "Senior Club Person of the Year", Coach Marc Bullard achieved that very feat. It was heartwarming to see the level of support for this team across the Club and we certainly had home crowd advantage with the number of supporters in attendance at their Grand Final. Seeing the Club members out in full to support

another team is testament to the culture of our Club and something to be celebrated as much as the win itself.

### **Club Support**

We continued to enjoy the support of our principal sponsors, Gary Peer and Damgar in 2016 and are so appreciative of their contributions. Another key sponsor, Bendigo Bank, has continued their relationship as have Barry Gardiner Meats, Thompson & Thompson Solicitors, Grill'd and Ormond Dental. We were very fortunate to acquire the generous support of a new sponsor, Colliers International in 2016 and I would like to thank our outgoing Sponsorship Coordinator, Janey Rainey for her assistance this year.

Our Club also enjoys the support of our local politicians. Federal Member for Higgins, Ms. Kelly O'Dwyer, visited our Club and announced that we had been successful in our application for a \$5,000 community grant that will be used to purchase new football equipment in 2017. Ms. O'Dwyer has also committed \$25,000 in funding to be used on solar panels that will help us reduce our utility costs in future seasons.

At a State level, the local member for Caulfield, Mr. David Southwick, again sponsored our "Junior Club Person of the Year" that was awarded to Andrew Callaghan (U12). Mr. Southwick has also lobbied on our behalf for land in the center of Caulfield Racecourse to be opened up for much needed sporting ground use.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our Club is run entirely by volunteers, all of whom have families and other work commitments to balance. Every time you are assigned a team duty, you are also volunteering and we thank you for this effort. Not everybody wants to spend their Sunday mornings standing in the cold scoring a game or bringing out the oranges, but they do it so their children can participate in junior sport and be part of a community club.

Managing a football club does involve a significant time commitment from those involved and I would like to personally thank the 2016 Committee for all they have contributed to the Club for the benefit of all members.

This year's committee has worked effectively and cohesively, supporting each other throughout the season. For most of us, this was the first year in our current role and a steep learning curve. Having a supportive team who have put so much effort and passion into the Club has enabled us to work through the day to day issues and now reflect on a successful year and look forward to the season ahead.

As with any committee, it is important to have ongoing renewal and with careful succession planning, long serving members are able to step down. At the end of this season, we see the following committee members standing aside: Penny Callaghan (Treasurer) and Clare Murphy (Communications & Marketing). Both these ladies have served on the committee for three years and leave their roles in an excellent condition for the next committee members to pick up.

October 2016

---

Finally, we want the CBJFC to be a club of choice for players. Not just because we have a friendly and inclusive environment, but because we offer innovative football development programs, have up to date equipment and provide Coaches who are skilled in educating players and developing them to their full potential.

Developing these really strong football programs and reinvesting all our funds into meaningful improvements is going to be our point of difference and why we hope you will all continue to be part of the Club into the future.

Thank you all for your support over the season.

*Louise Nelson*  
*President*

## Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Caulfield Bears Junior Football Club Results for the Financial Year ended 30 September 2016. The club realised a surplus for the year; an amazing result given the capital investment in the increased lighting of \$27,346.

### Results for the last 5 years.

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Receipts</b>					
Registrations	50,438	49,334	35,516	38,575	36,190
Merchandise	9,459	17,368	9,080	10,727	7,574
Food and Drink	40,106	42,366	31,962	34,949	26,713
Fundraising	18,578	12,098	17,767	23,731	24,276
Other	3,136	4,875	5,152	2,445	103
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>121,719</b>	<b>126,041</b>	<b>99,477</b>	<b>110,427</b>	<b>94,856</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Registrations	35,749	43,776	25,386	39,720	35,057
Merchandise	20,248	45,121	17,173	20,113	19,562
Food and Drink	23,451	24,326	24,274	20,464	19,694
Fundraising / Charity	1,084	1,218	-	803	8,454
Utilities	11,316	10,594	10,960	8,529	7,268
Other	27,804	5,243	6,648	3,964	2,113
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>119,652</b>	<b>130,278</b>	<b>84,441</b>	<b>93,595</b>	<b>92,149</b>
<b>Net cash increase (decrease)</b>	<b>2,066</b>	<b>(4,237)</b>	<b>15,036</b>	<b>16,832</b>	<b>2,707</b>

#### 1. Registrations

- The number of teams (12) remained steady from 2015 with a small increase in fees.
- Auskick numbers were much decreased (34%) with no U8 training as part of Auskick and overall reduced interest in the program. This also led to a \$1700 saving in Auskick reimbursements.
- Efficiencies from a 2015 spend in assets were realised this year with an \$8K saving across the football administration and admin departments (2015 included a \$4K investment in the website).
- CBJFC invested in an "Auskick in schools" program run by the AFL at a cost of \$2,243.

#### 2. Merchandise

Merchandise costs decreased substantially from last year as expected and the club received \$1,800 from the sale of the old jumpers.

#### 3. Food and Drink

- Canteen revenue was slightly down, with a corresponding decrease in expenses.
- Bar takings again increased in 2016, however food revenue from family nights was slightly down.

4. **Donations:** Two donations were made during the year to causes supported by 2 of our players Finn Harvey and Claudia Wotherspoon. The funds were raised through family night raffles.

5. **Fundraising/Sponsorship:** Fundraising and sponsorship increased by \$6,000 due to grants received for equipment.

6. **Capital Investment:** As mentioned above, a huge capital investment was made to increase the level of lighting at Koornang Park at a cost of over \$27K. This year the club reaped the benefits of investments made over the last few years, predominantly 2015, in equipment, merchandise and the website. Thanks to all who assisted me during my time as Treasurer. I would particularly like to thank Louise Nelson for her tireless work in her first year as President, and Luke Meyer for stepping into the Vice Presidents role when his son is not playing anymore! I have certainly valued my time on the committee and would urge all members to enrich both their children's and their time at our wonderful club by volunteering wherever they can.

*Penny Callaghan*  
Treasurer

# 2016 Financials

**Profit and Loss**  
**Caulfield Bears Junior Football Club**  
**Report Period: 01/10/2015 to 30/09/2016**

<b>Income</b>	
Auskick Fundraising	650.00
Bar	10,202.85
Canteen	20,065.46
Finals Hosting income	2,682.60
Fundraising and Raffles	2,700.12
Grants	6,000.00
Interest Received	1,326.88
Kitchen	7,154.95
Merchandise.	9,184.00
Photos.	275.00
Registrations - Auskick	872.11
Registrations - Juniors	49,566.66
Sale of Footy Jumpers	1,810.00
Sponsorship	9,228.59
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>121,719.22</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Auskick	910.09
Auskick Equipment	311.64
Auskick Reimbursements	180.00
Bank Charges	120.24
Bar Purchases	780.00
Bar Supplies	3,657.79
Bar Wages	350.00
Canteen - Game Day	5,449.14
Canteen - Kitchen (family nights)	1,500.00
Canteen Expenses	1,702.10
Canteen Manager	2,652.99
Canteen Supplies	2,670.42
Canteen Vouchers	1,482.00
Charity	1,084.09
Cleaner (weekly)	1,920.00
Family Night Expenses	2,563.13
Finals Hosting	680.00
First Aid - Accreditations	295.00
First Aid - Sports Trainer	2,403.80
First Aid - Supplies	793.77
First Aid Supplies	338.84
Football Operations - Admin (postal Web etc)	4,762.83
Football Operations - Footballs and Equip	6,254.49
Glen Eira Council	6,242.26
Insurance	3,153.92
Lightning Premiership	1,170.00
Merchandise	15,385.14
Misc	27,684.00
SMJFL - Affiliation Fees	11,527.07
SMJFL - Umpires	5,319.18
Team Social Nights	1,445.94
Trophies	4,862.72
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>119,652.59</b>
<b>Net Profit(Loss)</b>	<b>2,066.63</b>

## U9 Grizzlies Team Report

The U9 Grizzlies had a fantastic season with many great highlights. Most of the U8s returned from 2015 and joined together with the U8s for 2015 to form a combined team. The addition of 8 new players gave the team a new look.

During the preseason, the focus was as follows:

- Getting our hands on the ball once again
- Getting to know lots of new players
- Developing teamwork by using voice
- Listening and following team rules
- Encouraging some leadership

The coaching team and team manager came together once again from 2015, forming a very cohesive and well organised structure behind the scenes.

The season came around quickly and we got off to a great start. We were graded correctly and once grading season was complete the competition in U9 Orange balanced out well and we played competitively.

The team developed well all season, and the new players added some depth once they got in the flow of the game. Our courageous little U8s impressed with their determination and endeavours and contributed well to the team. Our U9s also improved further, and a number of players took some very big steps in both confidence and skill. It's a very talented group! Considering the playing group in U9, there is the making of a very strong team in future, providing they stay together.

There are many people who have come together this year to make it such a great season.

First, on behalf of the playing group I'd like to thank Louise Nelson and the Junior Club Committee for their hard work behind the scenes on the big picture stuff. I know there is a genuine desire to see the club thriving and that's a great aspiration.

Once again I would acknowledge and thank assistant coach/runner, Alistair 'Al' Rowlands and Shane 'Woosha' Walsh, for their fantastic work this season. As the head coach I've enjoyed working with the coaching team and greatly appreciated the way they both have supported and encouraged our players during training and on game day.

Our team manager, Katherine Roberts, did a fantastic job this year. Her dedicated effort both during the week and on game day have been really appreciated. Katherine does everything with a smile and always remains positive no matter what challenges we get thrown on game day.

Our club umpires Andrew and Simon have both done a huge job this year. Both set a high standard of umpiring, always remaining fair for all.

Our trainer Louise has been kept busy this year. She has been great at keeping our young charges in one piece during game day and it was good having her on the sidelines with the coaching team.

Lots of parents have helped out and supported the team so thanks again to all those parents who contributed to each week. There is a great group of parents behind this playing group.

I'd like to say how much I've enjoyed the role as coach, and how proud I am to look back on the season and see how our players have developed. It's a privilege to be the coach of such a terrific group of kids who love their footy and playing together with their friends. The U9 Grizzlies contested fiercely, tackled well, kicked the ball long and most importantly played like a team. All the best teams work together and they have shown that they have learnt a lot about teamwork. The Under 9 Grizzlies are a great team in a great club, we had an awesome season and there's lots to look forward to with this playing group in future.

*Michael Cormick*  
*U9 Coach*

## U9 Kodiaks Team Report

### Management Team:

- Coach: Dale McCabe
- Assistant Coach: Dameon Williamson
- Team Manager: Glenda Beecher
- Tackling Coach: Jamie Fardell
- Normal Training Day/Time: Friday 4.00pm to 5.00pm

I hadn't previously coached any team and wasn't properly prepared in regards to running training sessions or match day. However, I am happy to say this was sorted out over the first few weeks together with some valuable tips picked up at the AFL coaching course.

Glenda Beecher was excellent as a Team Manager and Dameon Williamson was of great assistance throughout the season. Jamie Fardell was brilliant at providing tackling coaching for me. Lachlan Rayner (Ethan Rayners older brother) assisted me with the extra training sessions towards the end of the season. The parent group was great, parents were always at training and helped out.

At the beginning of the season there were perhaps six players that stood out, due to size or skill. As a team we relied upon these players in key center positions early on. By the end of the season all twenty-four player's confidence and skills had developed significantly and the group was playing well together.

### Training:

I tried to have training setup before everyone arrived. We would start with a warm up, generally a lap around the oval. Then drills would follow and I would try to complete training with something that was perceived as somewhat fun. Generally, the focus was not on basic skills such as handball, kicking or marking. Instead, key areas I focused on were;

- Being able to pick up the ball consistently.
- Rolling the ball out
- Getting players to bend their knees, get down, have their bodies behind the balls and use two hands.
- Being spatially aware. Have the players on four points, handballing diagonally across each other whilst trying not to run into each other and getting their handballs to their destination cleanly.
- Movement and Team work. Working in pairs or threes, leading, marking, handballing off and kicking to a lead or space.
- Confidence. Getting the players used to contact, Jamie Fardell was instrumental in providing this training regularly.

The players enjoyed this and I believe the increase in confidence was the biggest contributor to their development and improvement over the season. It was remarkable to see the difference in some of the kids.

I implemented break out training for the on-ball and mid fielders. Each game I would play two sets of on-ball/mid field, one set played the first half and the second set the second half. At training I would have these two groups contest each other, with instruction not only on ruck but roving and clearing the ball from the centre bounce.

Another concept I tried to introduce with some success at training was 3v1 variations to have the players considering how to create space and move to a position where the ball can be safely hand balled to them.

Towards the end of the season the external dynamic coaching organised by the club had a massive impact on players. I would definitely encourage a similar series of sessions earlier in the season.

I began additional (optional) training sessions for all players on Monday night. Over half of the team attended. The team improved considerably over the last three games and Lightening carnival. Next season I would plan for extra basic skills and fitness sessions early on. Depending on performance and need, I would again introduce additional training sessions, definitely leading into the Lightening carnival.

I rotated the players positions each week, when playing with a full team (24), all players would sit one quarter out. I tried to ensure that each player was noted for their efforts at least once a game. A great season!

*Dale McCabe*  
*Under 9 Coach*

## U10 Kodiaks Team Report

It was a terrific result for the club getting together enough players to field three under 10 teams. Much work goes on in the early stages of the year to work with parents, kids coaches and the league to determine the final makeup of teams. Louise and the committee should be congratulated for their enormous efforts in this respect and all the support they provided throughout the season.

Our start was rather rocky, playing in a high division during the grading games, but we were eventually placed in an appropriate division and the children thrived.

The Kodiaks style of footy was very simple and the players took to it with great enthusiasm:

- We tackle ferociously and make our opponents spill the ball
- We use two hands to grab hold of the football tightly and look up for our teammates
- We kick the ball wide into space for our teammates to run onto the ball
- We call for the ball and make space for our teammates

We had terrific results each week and the kids took great strides in their development. Fun, listening, teamwork and enthusiasm were key areas we worked on during each training session. It's imperative the children leave each of the younger levels as more coachable young players and we can definitely see that element in this group.

A huge thanks to the parents that helped immensely throughout the season; a real feature of Caulfield Bears culture. Too many people to mention individually is a wonderful thing.

Special mentions to the coaching team with John Margerison, Joel Saunders and Mick Pedler stepping up at all times to give the kids the best instruction possible. Thanks boys!

A very special thanks to fabulous duo of Erin McMahon and Andrew Johnson who kept us all pointed in the right direction as team managers. Well done!

Most of all thanks to the amazing group of players that are the Under 10 Kodiaks; all players have the following attributes:

- Enthusiasm
- Determination
- Engagement
- Challenging opponents and themselves
- Talent

It's been an absolutely pleasure coaching this team.

They have all been amazing and it has been a great season.  
Go Bears!

*Chris Mathieson*  
*Under 10 Coach*

## U10 Polars Team Report

The formation of the Polars team in 2016 saw a group of players come together that had varying degrees of skills and playing experience. Additionally, up to half of the team were playing with each other for the first time. Having been an assistant coach to many of the kids in 2015, I saw the need for more disciplined behaviour and intensity at training to drive a more competitive performance on match day. As a result, there were some key focus areas in an effort to get the team performing over the season:

- Improve Skills - Be Competitive
- Improve Discipline - Educate
- Have Fun

In order to keep this top of mind, we run with the HELP theme which stood for the following: -

- Have Fun
- Effort
- Listen & Learn
- Play (you) How You Practice

We started off with 17 players on the list. We also had many absences over the season and hence in the early part of the season we relied on other U/10 and U/9 players to top of the team each week. With some additions throughout the season, the final list came to 20 players, with 4 of these being first year players (20% of the team). We also had 3 girls in the team and this was a great step forward for all people associated with the club, not to mention learnings on how we integrate girls into the club. All in all, we played 38 players over the season.

Our performance over the first 4 weeks was competitive and showed improvement with the exception of one game. The re-grading to a lower division was appropriate. Subsequent performances saw us be more than competitive when we performed and behind the 8 ball when we did not. This led the team to feel like they could have success if they performed and realised that they would struggle if they did not.

So the challenge was being able to consistently perform. The behaviour at training over the year was very good and exceptions were not tolerated and asked, at times, to sit on the sidelines or run a lap – this had a positive impact on behaviour. The extra focus on skills development drills also paid dividends with all kids being able to kick a good drop punt, fire a rocket handball or take a mark when required and they wanted to. This skills focus was, at times, challenging for the more quality players to maintain interest so at times we tried to split the players up in drills based on ability.

Training nights most often had a competitive element whereby the ball user would be under pressure to try and stimulate competitiveness and match day scenarios, ideally driving the desire of the players to want to get the ball during the game. I believe this paid dividends as well.

Overall, I was happy with the development progress of the players and the team. Extra skills sessions were something that I started this year and would encourage coaches to do going forward. The parents also have a role to play outside of training and game day.

I can also say that we had a great parent group that not only supported on game day but shared multiple social occasions together at, and outside, the club which I feel is important to developing a club culture that encourages loyalty.

## U10 Grizzlies Team Report

Another year has come and gone – where did it go? The second year for the Grizzlies has been very exciting, not only for our ever improving young players, but also for our ageing coaches and parents.

Every Thursday we gathered at VAFA headquarters to practice our skills no matter what the conditions. On Sundays we took to the field with fierce determination and even though no scores were recorded, I am sure we were victorious on many occasions!!!

It can't happen on the field unless it first happens off the field and I am completely indebted to all of the parents for making this season a very rich and rewarding journey. THANK YOU.... I really appreciated it as I'm sure your boys did. There is nothing better than as a child to have their parents involved.

I also extend my sincere "Thanks" (as I'm sure all of the parents do as well) to Ms. Sam Jackson, our legendary Team Manager. She kept us all on track and turning up to the right oval at the right time and never left us in need of anything; not forgetting her most important role – keeping the coach in line on match day!).

A big thanks to Matt Joyce for his assistance on game day but also to Ken and Simon for their invaluable assistance at each and every training session.

We had many outstanding performances throughout the year, so I will not go into individual recognition.

I can see the improvement in all the players with the simple message:

- Winning your own ball
- Tackling fiercely
- Kicking long
- Running hard
- Working on kicking
- Working on handballing

These skills were all really starting to show.

It was an entertaining and fun year and I hope that all the players enjoyed themselves. I am also really looking forward to the next stage of the player's development as we move to newer football rules.

Well done and I look forward to seeing everyone back at the club next year.

*Michael Gurrie*  
*Under 10 Coach*

## U11 Team Report

A late start to pre season proved an interesting beginning for the team. However, we applied the following:

- A lot of hard work
- Playing as a team
- Using skills, they already had

The team were rewarded with a hard fought victory in round 5.

Having a number of players missing for long periods throughout the season made things somewhat difficult and whilst the results on the scoreboard don't appear great, they do not reflect all the hard work and effort put in by the boys.

The improvement from all players was evident particularly towards season's end and the highlights were:

- Skills
- Mateship
- Willingness to listen
- Work hard together

The way the boys conducted themselves on game day and displaying sportsmanship regardless of the scoreboard, is a credit to them and something I'm very proud of.

A big thank you to my assistant coach John Cauchi, Heals X 2, Mike Gerrand and Paul Coan (team manager), who without their hard work would have made for a very long year .

To the parent group, thanks for your support and I have no doubt with further improvement and hard work, next season should be great.

*Gary Birrell*  
*Under 11 Coach*

## U12 Grizzlies Team Report

Only days before the start of the season in April, we quickly formed this team of Under 11 and Under 12s to play at U12 level for the Bears.

We had a bye in Round 1, but we were quickly thrown together for our first game having never trained together as a full team, and with one player (Ben E. King) flying in from the U.S.A. straight to Beaumaris. And what a bang the season started with! At first glance, the Beaumaris team looked like giants to our mini Bears, but as soon as we started to play, we knew we were going to give it our all. Even Jonny from Israel who was new to Aussie Rules joined in with the team song on that winning sunny Sunday by the bay! New Bears Oscar Phyland and James Arthur quickly became valued team members.

In the grading rounds, we were then hit with teams that ultimately made the finals or were re-graded into higher divisions. We continued to add new players to our list, including our “front rower” Jonah, who showed that you can play footy like you play rugby. His strength around the contest gave confidence to those around him.

The team started to take shape, with our backline in particular forming into a team within a team. Our six key defenders (Aiden, Clem, Tex, Harry, Coops and Oscar) didn't miss a game and were a key part of our improvement during the season.

There were many memorable moments – when Miro moved into the ruck against St Peters, Teddy at the bottom of packs and covered in mud, the one time our coach actually could tell the difference between Jack & Ben King, JJ's hard tackling and Jesse Rawack's goal square marks against East Malvern. Ryan Farrar had a great season, leading our goal kicking with 20 goals and Evan Margaritis ran hard along the wing, keeping fit training with the U12 Polars as he always had Greek School on Fridays. It was great having Max & Tess whenever they were available, and we loved it when Wizza returned from France to play the last few games of the year.

The Grizzlies formed a leadership group – James Cooper, Ryan Farrar, Jesse Rawack and Harry Nelson - to give an opportunity to those players to develop these skills. In the last training session of the year, they took over training, showing how far they had come. Along the way, other players had their own opportunities to lead.

Milestones were an important part of our team. Starting off with Harry's 50th in Round 5, we then celebrated Griff, Evan and Clem in consecutive weeks. Teddy's milestone was our memorable “Play Like Ted” match against Beaumaris Sharks. Later in the season, we lifted for Miro and Rhino's special games. The milestone matches were great, not just for game day, but for the banner making, pizzas and camaraderie on the Friday nights proceeding each match. They were great opportunities for players, parents and siblings to relax and enjoy the club and teammates.

Along the way, just as some of our players helped out other Caulfield Bears teams at their time of need, we had a number play from our Under 11s team, and a few from our U12s. Whenever they kicked a goal or laid a great tackle, they were very much part of our U12 Grizzlies. A special mention to two U10 aged players - Quinn “Mini” Cooper and Lucas Bremer - who leapt up two age groups and even managed to kick goals when they played.

Two games stood out for me: the arm-wrestle win against higher ranked Highett-Cheltenham on a blustery day in Highett. That day proved we could take on anyone. When Harry hand passed to Miro in the final quarter for a match-winning goal, our Bears crowd erupted.

The Bears crowd came to life for our other standout performance, our loss against 2nd placed East Malvern. Facing another 10 goal loss like in Round 5, our final quarter in Round 14 at Stanley Grose Reserve was the most perfect football we played all year, almost producing the impossible win.

It was a special year, with great friendships built within the team. Of course we would like to have won more games along the way, but were buoyed by our improvement as the season wore on. In particular, I'd like to thank my Assistant Coach Andrew King and runner Simon Farrar who gave positive encouragement to all players. Megan Rapp had the biggest task of all as Team Manager keeping us all in line. You have done a fantastic job! To our new Bears and our old ones, we dearly hope to see you back at the Bear Cave next year.

Stay fit, stay positive and well done! GO BEARS!!

*Adrian Nelson*  
*Under 12 Coach*

## U13 Team Report

We started pre-season with half a dozen players who were very keen to play footy for the Bears again this year. Unfortunately, we lost a large number of players during the off-season for one reason or another. As the beginning of the season drew closer it became clear that in order to play footy in 2016 we would need to merge with another local team. St Paul's McKinnon had 1½ teams in our age group – St Paul's fielded a Div 1 side, and our players merged with the remaining St Paul's players to form the McKinnon Caulfield Bears Under 13 Div 4 team.

As we have not had the experience of being part of two clubs before, the season was very much a learning experience for everyone. Assuming we go with the same model next season we will benefit from the experiences of 2016 to ensure 2017 is successful in all areas; organization, equally shared home games and full training and match day kits. We would love to encourage this side to continue playing in its current format by designing a jumper/shorts unique to the merged team.

We trained at Koornang Park on Tuesday nights, with those who wanted an extra session training Friday nights at McKinnon Reserve with the Div 1 team. We decided to share home ground fixturing and jumpers. I co-coached the team with St Paul's Jason Edge. Tim Nichols continued to act as my assistant coach, and Harriet Shelton shared the team manager role with Louise Hughes from St Paul's.

Our season began well with the boys and parents from both clubs quickly forming good relationships, everyone happy to be actually able to play football in 2016. We were competitive in most games played some really good football at times, and continued to learn more about playing football and working as part of a team. At times during the season we struggled for numbers due to school commitments, family travels, injuries and sickness to players.

Our season highlights were first career goals to Andy Kim (kicking 3 in a match to break his duck) and Jared Strom after 50 goalless games - also a come from behind win over ladder leaders East Brighton in round 13 when we were down by 2 goals with only minutes to play. This was testament to the player's resilience and determination. Ultimately we finished 5th missing finals only by percentage, but we can take confidence into next season knowing we beat 3 of the eventual top four teams in our division.

Another season highlight was Nicholas Karamihos whose consistently high level of hard work, skill and team play earned him not only the team's Best and Fairest award, but also the SMJFL's Under 13 D4 Best and Fairest, as well as selection in the Under 13 Interleague team which won the shield for the SMJFL.

Huge thanks to Tim and Harriet for their continued work throughout the season. The St Paul's coaching staff were very easy to work with, sharing a similar philosophy to junior football as our teams do. We are very much looking forward to season 2017

*Andrew Beet*  
*Under 13 Coach*

## U14 Team Report

What a sensation season for the Under 14's, pre season started early February with a challenge laid out to be work towards being the best we can and to enjoy our footy together as a team of mates. With a full list of twenty-four we began, most of the group had been together since Auskick and although we had been very close to finals our group had never made the finals so that was our goal.

Our season started with five losses, mainly due to lack of fitness & a few injuries, then half way through our sixth game against a very strong Beaumaris, something clicked & we began to play hard running pressure footy. The result was eight wins in a row to secure second spot on the ladder.

Finally, we had a fully fit eager squad, our training form was sparkling when we met top team East Malvern whom had gone through undefeated & beaten us twice. The semi final saw us play at our best, winning against East Malvern by nine goals & going straight to the Grand Final.

The boys now had self belief & confidence, in two weeks we would finally reach our goal, a chance for a group of mates to fulfil their dreams together.

The week before the Grand Final, things were very dramatic:

- Two boys went down with bad colds & tonsillitis
- Our co-captain had gastro which nearly landed him in hospital
- A clash of heads on our final training

The big dance against East Malvern; we again threw out the challenge, after a shaky four goals down start, we kept on hunting and we kept on doing the things we knew we had to do such as:

- Pressure
- Working together
- Believing in ourselves
- Never giving up

We were fourteen points down at three quarter time but we managed four goals to one in the last quarter and ended up winning the grand final by four points! Thrilling football and a well deserved win. It was a day to remember for all.

A big thank you to all the parent helpers and in particular:

- Julian King
- Team Manger: Jason Woods
- Runner: Seb
- Medic: Sam
- The Mazzeo family
- George & Mauro
- Boundary umpire: Rod
- Match reporter: Tim Bailey
- My family & the Bear supporters
- The twenty-four lads that achieved what we all dream about

I am so proud and humbled to be part of it.

Congratulations to Fraser Sharman-Smith whom won the League B&F and Harrison Ritchie who came third.

- Best and Fairest 1<sup>st</sup>: Fraser Sharman –Smith
- Best and Fairest 2<sup>nd</sup>: Harrison Ritchie
- Best and Fairest 3<sup>rd</sup>: Dylan Rawack
- Rising Bear: Ethan Manakis
- Coaches Award: Billy Duncan
- Most Improved: Liam Woods
- Leading Goal Kicker: Luke Mazzeo

*Marc Bullard*  
*Under 14 Coach*

## U15 Team Report

2016 was both a challenging and successful year for the U15's. With new coaches and team management, some returning players and some established players moving on, the year presented with significant unknowns. This was the first year that the team voted for their own captain, and we introduced 3 team values (Compete, Respect & Team) and a leadership team. Our major internal obstacles included getting 18 players on the park each week (predominantly due to a combination of lengthy school excursions, and injury through growing issues and greater on-field collisions) and fielding depth across the field consistently. Externally, inconsistencies still present to each Division through grading outcomes.

However, through the season we realised how tough the boys were in the face of adversity, and we all saw how deep they can dig when all of them apply 100% effort for 4 quarters. We agreed early in the season that success for our team would look like being able to play 4 quarters at 100% effort, and the performances of our last 4-5 games were a genuine success by this measure. The boys also learned a lot about personal management as they become accountable for the majority of their post-game recovery and the important of actively addressing injuries and niggles.

This group of players is a delight to coach, and it has been a privilege to help them enjoy their football; some of this team now having played together for 10 years. We have a significant number of 50 gamers on board, as well as three 100 game players in our mix. Our intent next year is to build on our platform of "effort" and translate this into finals in 2017, and a major driver for this success will include a dedicated recruitment drive starting this year. A list of 24-26 sees us in a strong position to manage injury, travel and in-game rotations.

Significant thanks goes to the entire parent volunteer brigade, including Sam Kirkham, Belinda Macleod-Smith (and Mark), Paul McDonough, Campbell McCulloch, and everyone else who helps us with game day responsibilities and social events.

I specifically would like to thank Louise Nelson for rapidly taking up our call-to-arms for medical support, and through the provision of a training-evening physiotherapist and arrangement with Brighton Physiosports, we were able to support the boys as best we could through their injury woes.

Likewise, both Michael Gurrie and Gary Birrell provided me personally with significant support with drills and advice before and through the season and gave me plenty of confidence to take on the coaching challenge.

### **Our 2016 Awards:**

- Best and Fairest: Emin Ladevic
- Runner up B&F: Zac Stayner
- 2nd Runner up B&F: Jack Kirkham
- Clubman Award: James French
- Competitor Award: Tom Robinson
- Coaches' Award: Harry Shulman

### **Management Team:**

- Coach: Rob Beveridge
- Assistant Coach: Sam Kirkham
- Team Manager: Belinda Macleod-Smith

*Rob Beveridge*  
*Under 15 Coach*

## U16 Team Report

2016 was a challenging and rewarding year for the group.

While the team missed out on playing finals for the first time in several years, there were some very significant positives for the guys to build on.

While we often struggled for numbers, the fitness and resilience of our players (led superbly by our co-captains Jake Thompson and Spencer Martinez) meant the boys were able to 'punch above their weight' and push other teams all the way to the bell. Of note, we drew with (and earned the respect of) eventual premiers Beaumaris, who otherwise went through the season undefeated.

Footy is one of those great sports that equips young men and women with the skills and toughness to cope with adversity. All of the individuals in this team took positive steps in this journey and we look forward to seeing them back with the Bears for U17.

### Management Team:

- Martin Baudinette (Assistant Coach)
- Daryl Martinez (Team Manager),
- Mel Lundgren (Lead trainer)
- Chris McNamara (Runner)
- Shaun Peel for always being available to run the boundary if required.

### Our 2016 Awards:

- Best & Fairest: Jacob Thompson & Spencer Martinez
- Most Determined: Adrian Mazzeo
- 2nd Best & Fairest: Jesse Georgiades
- Best Clubman: Mitchell Baudinette
- Most Courageous: Damian Walsh

*Rod Grace*  
*Under 16 Coach*

## 2016 Individual Player Awards

### Milestone Awards

#### 50 Games Played with the CBJFC:

Team	Name
Under 11	Charlie Besnard
	Hugo Birell
	Jackson Cauchi
	William Freeman
	Patrick Gerrand
	Jackson Healey
	Nicholas Mavropoulos
Under 12 Polar	Charlie Clancy
	Luca Trumble
	Thomas Williamson
Under 12 Grizzly	Clement Beazley
	Griffin Beveridge
	Ryan Farrar
	Teddy Friend
	Miro Foldvari
	Harry Nelson
Under 14	Kai Baker-Hill
	Charlie Loetsch
Under 15	James French
	John Theofanopoulos
Under 16	Luka Kiernan
	Michael Williams Strong

#### 100 Games Played with the CBJFC:

Team	Name
Under 12 Polar	Byron Clarke
Under 15	Oscar Fraser
Under 16	Michael Grace
	William Kilmartin
	Adrian Mazzeo
	Matt Peel

#### Club Best & Fairest

Team	Award	Player
Under 11	1 <sup>st</sup> B&F	Jackson Cauchi
	2 <sup>nd</sup> B&F	Hugo Vandame
	3 <sup>rd</sup> B&F	Luc Georges
	Coach's Award	Gabriel Gauci
	Coach's Award	Charlie Besnard
	Coach's Award	Lucas Bremner
Under 12 Polar	1 <sup>st</sup> B&F	Luca Trumble
	2 <sup>nd</sup> B&F	Angus Nicolay
	3 <sup>rd</sup> B&F	Andrew Callaghan
	Coach's Award	Tom Magart
	Coach's Award	Jenna Casamento
	Coach's Award	Sahil Kumar
Under 12 Grizzly	1 <sup>st</sup> B&F	Ryan Farrar
	2 <sup>nd</sup> B&F (tie)	James Cooper
	2 <sup>nd</sup> B&F (tie)	Teddy Friend

	Most Determined	Ben E King
	Most Improved	Oscar Phyland
	Best Clubman	Harry Nelson
Under 13 Combined Team	1 <sup>st</sup> B&F	Nick Karamihos (CBJFC)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> B&F	Jonathan Palios (SPM)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> B&F	Ben Mursalo (SPM)
Under 14	1 <sup>st</sup> B&F	Fraser Sharman-Smith
	2 <sup>nd</sup> B&F	Harrison Ritchie
	3 <sup>rd</sup> B&F	Dylan Rawack
	Coach's Award	Liam Woods
	Coach's Award	Ethan Manakis
	Coach's Award	Billy Duncan
Under 15	1 <sup>st</sup> B&F	Emin Ladevic
	2 <sup>nd</sup> B&F	Zack Stayner
	3 <sup>rd</sup> B&F	Jack Kirkham
	Coach's Award	Tom Robinson
	Coach's Award	James French
	Coach's Award	Harry Shulman
Under 16	1 <sup>st</sup> B&F (tie)	Spencer Martinez
	1 <sup>st</sup> B&F (tie)	Jacob Thompson
	3 <sup>rd</sup> B&F	Jesse Georgiades
	Most Determined	Adrian Mazzeo
	Most Courageous	Damian Walsh
	Best Clubman	Mitchell Baudinette

### SMJFL Best & Fairest

- U13 Division Four – 1<sup>st</sup> B&F, Nick Karamihos – U13 McKinnon Caulfield Bears
- U14 Division Four – 1<sup>st</sup> B&F, Fraser Sharman-Smith – U14; 3<sup>rd</sup> B&F, Harrison Ritchie – U14
- U16 Division Four – 3<sup>rd</sup> B&F Jacob Thompson

### Inter-League Selection

Nick Karamihos – U13 McKinnon Caulfield Bears

### Junior Club Person of the Year

Andrew Callaghan (U12 Polar)

### Senior Club Person of the Year

*Marc Bullard – U14 Coach*

## 2016 Committee

### Executive

- **President** Louise Nelson
- **Vice President** Luke Meyer
- **Secretary** Rebecca Kovac
- **Treasurer** Penny Callaghan
- **Football Operations** Michael Gurrie

### General Committee

- **Communications** Clare Murphy
- **Registrations** Andrew Baldwin
- **Auskick Liaison** Silvana Kerrin
- **General** John Margerison

### Other Roles

- **Coaching Coordinator** Gary Birrell
- **TM Coordinator** Katherine Roberts
- **Auskick** Jamie Fardell
- **Umpire Coordinator** Simon Farrar
- **On Ground Trainer** Jessica Yates
- **Sponsorship Coordinator** Janey Rainey
- **Merchandise Coordinator** Sam Healey
- **Website Administrator** Karen Farrar
- **Newsletter Editor** Adrian Nelson
- **Bar Manager** Greg Saunders
- **Line Markings** Paul McDonough
- **Social Coordinators** Fiona Godfrey, Rosetta Scicluna and Helen Gearon