



Welcome to 2018

Time to come out of hibernation!

With only two months to go until Round 1, the Bears are coming out of their summer hibernation!

My name is Louise Nelson and I am the President of Caulfield Bears Junior Football Club. To all of our returning players and families, it is great to have you back on board for another year and to our newly registered players, on behalf of our Committee, I would like to warmly welcome you and your family to our Club.

SEASON LAUNCH

We officially start the season on Saturday 24th February, with our 'Season Launch' event at Koornang Park. Running from 11am-2pm, the registration desk and merchandise stand will be open, alongside our BBQ and food trucks.

There will be activities for all ages, show bags, VIP appearances and the footballs will be out with the coaches running activities. Club favourite, 'Specky Events' are returning with their giant football inflatables.

We have also organized for one of our sponsors, Carnegie Dental, to be in attendance to assist you with mouth guard fittings in preparation for the upcoming season. They will be taking impressions for the mouth guards and these will then be available to collect one week later. The cost is \$100, which can be claimed on most private health insurance policies.

This event is a great opportunity to catch up with all your friends, meet the Coach's and Committee and to start preparing for the season ahead. Feel free to bring along friends and family. We would love for every Bear to at least pop in for a moment.

We are very grateful to our friends at the Carnegie Cricket Club who are still playing and have kindly offered to share the space to the side of the oval for our event.

GIRLS FOOTY

Our Club proudly supports and encourages female participation in all aspects of football, from the management of operations, through to coaching, umpiring and fielding players. We have a dedicated committee role with a sole focus on promoting and supporting girl's football.

In 2017 we had several girls participate in representative level football. Our program continues to grow and this year we will be fielding girl's only teams in the Under 12 and Under 14 age groups as well as offering mixed teams from Under 8 through to Under 14.

Caulfield Bears is an ideal home for girls to begin or continue their football journey. We are proud of our reputation as an inclusive, family friendly, community based club and we are creating an excellent environment for girls to achieve their personal best, regardless of whether they have experience playing football.

If you know any girls interested in trying out footy, whether for Auskick, U12 or U14 Girls, or for any of our mixed teams, please contact **Gilbert** on **0419 239 070**.

REGISTRATIONS

Our early bird registration was a fabulous success, resulting in record January registrations. It is important for our club that if you have not yet registered that you do so, as this enables us to allocate the right level of resources to our teams.

TEAM ALLOCATIONS & TRAINING

In the age groups where there are multiple teams, allocations will be made by the 'Team Selection Sub Committee' in March. Year groups train altogether in the preseason.

Team training nights for the season will be finalized once we have received our grounds allocation from Glen Eira Council and when team selections are finalized.

RECRUITMENT

Our membership and marketing volunteers are doing some terrific work with flyers, billboards and targeted recruitment at local schools. However our best recruitment is always through word of mouth of friends and families. I urge all Bears families and players to actively be out looking for potential new recruits from Auskick through to U17s. If you would like some flyers or other material to hand out or send, please contact **Eleni Karamihos** at marketing@caulfieldbears.com.au

INTERLEAGUE

The Bears are delighted that a number of our players across various age groups have been invited to attend pre-season interleague training. This is a great opportunity for these players and a positive sign for our club's football development.

I look forward to seeing you at launch day and later in the year as the season progresses. We are looking forward to a very positive year for our club.

Louise Nelson

President

