



NORTHCOTE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB



2017 Annual Report to Members

Northcote Junior Football Club Annual Report 2017

McDonnell Park
Corner of Wilmoth St and Clifton St
Northcote VIC 3070

PO Box 513
Northcote 3070

ABN number 24992491146

Phone: 0408649105
Email: info@njfc.com.au
Website: www.njfc.com.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/northcotejfc

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President's report

2017 was a history making season with the introduction of AFLW, which inspired our NJFC community to field all-girls teams for the first time. We started the season with barely enough players for U14 and U12 girl's teams, but thanks to the efforts and dedication of the Coaches, Team Managers and the players themselves the number of girls involved continued to grow during the season, allowing us to add an U10 Girls team during the season. The greater number of girls involved leaves us in a strong position to field 4 Girls teams in 2018. The increase in female involvement did not stop on the playing field: we had four female Coaches or Assistant Coaches this year, and three female Committee Members. We also had a record four U9 teams this year. All this added up to a big boost in the number of teams and members this season, which would not have been possible without the assistance of many parents who stepped up as Coaches, Assistant Coaches Team Managers and Trainers. Thank you to all who have done their bit to get their child's team out there enjoying playing footy.

Another surprising thing this season was the significant growth of the Free Kick Program. This program benefits kids from disadvantaged backgrounds, giving them an opportunity to engage in community sport that they would not otherwise have. In 2016 we had 6 players in our first year of the program. This increased to over 30 in 2017, boosting player numbers in most teams. The program relies on the dedication of committed volunteers and the financial support of Andrew Chapman from the Merchant Group and grants and other fundraising activities, for which we are very grateful. The rapid expansion of the program was not without its challenges and a separate group has been formed to address various issues as we move into next season.

2017 also saw significant investment in the players and club this season. Bags were provided for all members and, with the support of our sponsors, we made training tops available for the first time. These were a big hit with the players and it was great to see plenty of Cougars out in the community proudly wearing their colours. The new range of hoodies were also very popular. We were meant to have our new scoreboard in action this season but, due to unforeseen delays in obtaining the correct permits, this will now be ready for the start of season 2018. I'd like to thank Colin Hamilton for his work in managing this project and his patience in negotiating with various Darebin Council departments. Other highlights for 2017 were five of eight eligible teams progressing far into the finals, strong club representation in both boys and girls NFL squads, and the introduction of the Child Safe Standards which will be fully implemented for the start of 2018.

Not everything went smoothly however, and some teams and players did not have the experience they were hoping for this year. While this may have been a source of frustration at times to the families involved it does give us a great opportunity to reflect on why things didn't work out so well sometimes, to review our practices, and importantly to put things in place for 2018 so that we can move forward. Key concerns identified were the need for implementing minimum/maximum numbers of players per team, the need for refining procedures for player placement in teams at the beginning of the season; and ensuring that each team is able to play in a division where they are competitive. Measures for addressing these issues will be rolled out over the next few months. We will have additional policies and procedures in place for the 2018 season, such as the new player placement and registration policies as well as an updated selection and rotation policy. Considering changing leagues has also been suggested by a number of members, for a variety of reasons. NJFC Committee representatives recently met with the NFL (now NFNL - Northern Football and Netball

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League) to outline some of our concerns. Matters discussed included increased travel distances with the expansion of the league northwards, unsuitable behaviour of opposition players/supporters/officials, inappropriate out of age exemptions, inadequate grading, inconsiderate fixturing and insufficient communication at times. We will be monitoring the league's responses to these issues during 2018 as we consider what best meets the needs of our club.

We are also targeting other areas for improvement around the club, particularly the muddy/dusty area on the south side of the clubrooms. We have had concept plans designed for various landscaping works around the facility, and addressing the drainage and resurfacing this area will be a priority in the implementation of the plan. Improving the lighting on the back oval is also urgently needed with the increased numbers of players we have training during the week. For 2018 we are investigating alternative options for canteen operations. We also have an out of season training program in the final stages of preparation; this will commence in November 2017.

Finally, a big thank you to the Committee and other key volunteers who have given generously of their time to support the club this season – in particular I would like to thank Kirsty Teague, Aaron Shackelford, Simon Negrelli and Chris “Geeks” McGeachan. The general membership does not see the level of planning and work that goes on behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly on the field.

Enjoy the Summer and see you again in 2018.

Ann-Maree Duncan

President

Football Operations Report 2017

2017 was a successful year for Northcote Junior Football Club with a record number of registrations and a record number of teams, 15. It also entered a new frontier with the inclusion of three all girls teams which were a raging success not only with numbers but the development of the girls on the field.

The club invested in coaches this year with 10 new coaches getting Level 1 Coaching accreditation through AFL Victoria. We also engaged the services of Brian Cartwright, a Level 3 Accredited AFL Coach, to assist with developing training programs, which was organised by Coaching Co-ordinator Simon Negrelli.

On the field, the development teams in Under 9's and 10's continued to improve with 4 teams and over 60 players in the Under 9's, the future looks healthy there. The two Under 10 teams enjoyed their year before moving on to Under 11's next season where they get to experience the ground without zones! Both Under 11 teams had superb years with both making the Preliminary Final in their first year. The Under 12's had an up and down season, with a swap of division after grading seeing the side in Red Division struggle and the Silver division team reach the Grand Final where they would be Runner's up - a good effort by both teams nonetheless. Our Under 13's had a difficult season on and off the field, , a credit to Matt, Mick E, Mick S, Lauren and Narelle for holding it together throughout the season and getting through to the end. The Under 14's after reaching a Grand Final last year in U13's made it through to a Preliminary Final this year, throughout the season they beat the eventually Premier in that division, a good year by Phil and his team. We are working hard to see this group carry on through until Under 17's something the club hasn't achieved in a very long time.

What a success the girls were this year! With strong numbers in the Under 10's by the end of the season we saw a fantastic development of the girls, so a super job done by Andrew, Nicole & Co who continually assisted the girls in their development - here is to a strong 2018. The Under 12 Girls battled throughout the year for numbers but the hard work by Chris, Nigel and Sharon who all made phone calls, sent emails and provided a taxi service so the girls could have a game every Sunday, well done guys. The hard work paid off in Round 13 when the girls had their first win at home and got to sing the Cougars song! The Under 14 Girls created a special bond throughout the year and made it to the Preliminary Final where they were beaten by the eventual Premiers Yarrambat. Well done to Steve along with his support team, in getting this group of girls in their first year of footy to be a great team but also a great group of girls, onwards and upwards from here.

This year we had 30 odd players reach the 50 games milestone for the Cougars and we hope they have many more in the Cougars colours in the years to come.

For a small club at the southern end of the Northern Football League, our on field success was highlighted with Jack Harper U14 Boys and Chloe Williams U14 Girls winning their divisions Best & Fairest, Ellouise Bishop finishing R/Up Under 14 Girls, and placements for Oliver Manterfield (4th U14 Boys), Iggy Sim and Jai Hedger (4th and 6th U13 Boys) - well done guys the club is extremely proud of those achievements. Congratulations to Chloe Williams, Jack Harper and Oliver Manterfield who represented the league at this year's metropolitan

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under 15 Girls and under 14 boys Championships and all performed extremely well. The club wishes the next batch players who have been invited to try out for the next season's championships all the best and give it your best shot!

Our relationship with Northcote Park continues to grow with our Under 13 & 14 teams having practice matches there against Preston Bullants, the Under 9's playing before Round 1 under lights at Bill Lawry Oval and our Auskick group having a half time game there mid-season. Along with the current committee, Steve Harford and the Northcote Park committee we can continue to develop this relationship and have a solid pathway for senior football in years to come.

The Auskick group had record number of enrolments with over 250 registrations which is incredible; this is on the back of record numbers from last year! The work Lachy Spencer and Tim Thomas do to create a great environment for the boys & girls to be involved in football creating a pathway for entry into the Cougars family is fantastic and thanks very much for the effort.

Our coaching group, team managers, first-aiders, water carriers, goal/boundary umpires, umpire escorts and all the people who volunteer time on training nights and weekends to ensure your son/daughter can be involved/playing the great game Aussie Rules we know, I on behalf of the committee thank you for your tireless work throughout the season and look forward to seeing you all back in 2018.

As we close out one season, we start preparing for the next and with good planning and structure and the lessons we learnt from 2017 we hope we can make season 2018 a much more enjoyable, successful and fun season where we continue to grow as a club and maintain and develop the older age group teams. We have a solid platform to build upon.

GO COUGARS!!

Aaron Shackleford

Football Operations



Financial Report

For the Financial year ending September 2017, the Club made an accounting loss of \$8,038 compared to a profit of \$14,490 in the prior year and Cash at Bank balance decreased by \$28,747 to \$26,373.

The accounting loss and negative cashflow was preliminary due to a number of major investment the Club has successfully made into the both football operations and infrastructure. The major investments were:-

- Upgrade of main scoreboard in 2017. NJFC investment \$23k
- NJFC branded carry bags for all registered players in 2017 c.\$6k
- Player training tops \$13k
- New merchandise including hoodies \$14k
- Expansion and continue support of NKFC free kick program c\$4k

The financial result was driven by a large increase in Club revenues (+\$26k yoy) due to a large increase in player registrations driving additional registration fees, merchandise sales and increases in grants/ sponsorships.

Expenses were higher by \$48.9k year on year driven by the increased membership driving high NFL fees, umpiring fees and general club running expenses, ie training equipment and training. The other large increase in expenses was attributable to significant increase in merchandise investment in training tops, hoodies, and player carrying bags.

Overall, given the strong cash balance, stability in Club Membership, and investments for the future, the Financial position of NJFC is healthy.

Maurice Petrilli

Treasurer



NJFC Financial Performance 2017

Income Statement			
	Season 2017	Season 2016	Var
Income			
Membership	54,703	40,005	14,698
NFL Reg Fees		0	0
Course Fees		0	0
Canteen	3,990	5,064	-1,074
Donations		0	0
Interest	267	319	-52
Merchandise Sales	10,855	4,772	6,083
Raffle		0	0
SEDA		0	0
Sponsorship	17,043	15,800	1,243
Social Fund Raising Events	1,219	0	1,219
Grants	7,825	3,500	4,325
Miscellaneous		0	0
	95,902	69,460	26,442
Expenses			
Canteen	210	770	-560
Advertising		0	0
Amortisation		0	0
Depreciation	2,601	4,817	-2,216
Audit		0	0
Merchandise Expense	9,709	2,530	7,179
Auskick		0	0
Coaches Training	5,637	2,114	3,523
Players Training		0	0
Bank Charges	711	750	-38
Merchant Fees		0	0
Bank POS		0	0
Bar Expenses		0	0
Gifts & Donations		250	-250
Corporate Affairs		0	0
Club Bond		0	0
Cleaning Materials	638	423	215
Cleaning Wages	1,350	1,950	-600
Stationery	0	0	0
Ground Improvements	4,006	1,623	2,383
Ground usage	0	0	0
Line Marking	0	0	0
Family Day	0	0	0
Professional Fees	0	120	-120
Trophies	0	3,301	-3,301

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Umpires	9,543	6,645	2,898
GF DVDs	0	0	0
Insurance	2,385	2,280	105
Medical Supplies	0	0	0
Membership Refunds	732	0	732
NFL Fees	4,257	3,102	1,155
NFL Pres Night	0	0	0
Gas	0	0	0
Electricity	0	0	0
Postage	0	297	-297
Social Events	2,735	2,221	514
Utilities	760	5,631	-4,871
Training Courses	360	228	132
Team Running Expenses	58,305	12,732	45,573
Team Functions	0	0	0
Other Expenses	0	3,185	-3,185
	103,940	54,969	48,971
<u>Accounting Profit / (loss)</u>	<u>-8,038</u>	<u>14,490</u>	<u>-22,529</u>

NJFC Financial Performance 2017

Balance Sheet	Season 2017	Season 2016
Current Assets		
Cheque Account	14,772	43,555
PW Account	1,033	1,032
Investment Account	10,568	10,532
Cash at Bank	26,373	55,119
Debtors	0	0
Ground Bond	400	400
Club Merchandise	24,481	24,481
	51,254	80,000
Fixed Assets		
Club Room Improvements	12,675	15,276
Plant & Equipment	23,310	0
	35,985	15,276
Current Liabilities		
Creditors		0
	0	0
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>87,239</u>	<u>95,276</u>



NJFC Financial Performance 2017

CashFlow Statement

	Season 2017
Accounting Loss	-8,038
depreciation	2,601
Operations cashflow	-5,437
Scoreboard investment	-23,310
Net cashflow	-28,747
Opening cash bal	55,119
Net cashflow	-28,747
Closing bal	26,373

NJFC Financial Performance 2017

Asset Reconciliation		
Equipment		
Line Marker	Cost	1,795
	2017 WDV	0
	2017 Depreciation @ 20%	0
	Net WDV	0
Shelving	Cost	706
	2017 WDV	0
	2017 Depreciation @ 20%	0
	Net WDV	0
Kitchen Equip	Cost	3,225
	2017 WDV	0
	2017 Depreciation @ 20%	0
	Net WDV	0
Electronic Scoreboard	Cost	23,310
	2017 WDV	23,310
	2017 Depreciation @ 20%	0
	Net WDV	23,310
Total Plant & Equipment		23,310
Building Improvements		
Storage	2015 WDV	2,236
	2016 Amortisation @ 10%	291
	Net WDV	1,945
Kitchen 2010	2015 WDV	1,600
	2016 Amortisation @ 10%	203
	Net WDV	1,397
Kitchen 2011	2015 WDV	2,992
	2016 Amortisation @ 10%	428
	Net WDV	2,564
Kitchen 2012	2015 WDV	8,447
	2016 Amortisation @ 10%	1,679
	Net WDV	6,768
Total Club Room Improvements		12,675
Total Fixed Assets		35,985
Total Depreciation / Amort		2,600

Child Safety Subcommittee

Commencing in 2017, the Victorian Government requires all sporting clubs begin to implement the Child Safe Standards developed to keep children safe from harm. NJFC delegated authority to a Child Safe Subcommittee to review our policies and procedures for conformity. Following is a summary of actions that have been taken to ensure our compliance by the start of the 2018 season:

- A Commitment to Child Safety was made prior to 2017 season. A Child Safe Policy has been drafted and circulated; additional supporting documents (recruiting staff procedures, checklist, reporting procedures, referee checks) are required before finalisation.
- A document outlining a simple reporting procedure for children and parents with concerns about child abuse was circulated to members at the start of 2017 season and has been prominently displayed at the club. We are looking into other means of promotion for 2018. A clear procedure for all levels of incidents, from critical to minor, is being developed for club officials to use in the event that a report is made.
- A Child Safe Code of Conduct has been drafted and the Committee Code of Conduct reviewed in line with Child Safe Standards; recommended changes will be put to Committee late in 2017. Changes include Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers and Trainers will be required to complete 'Play by the Rules' online training.
- Child safe procedures have been incorporated into role descriptions of all volunteers. Induction procedures for all volunteers will be amended for start of 2018 season to re-iterate the Code of Conduct with players and parents and to familiarise players and parents with the policy and who they can approach if they suspect child abuse.
- Various options for player input have been considered, such as safety maps, mind maps, worry matrices, focus groups. These will be trialled with small groups during the 2018 pre-season.
- We aim to identify appropriate families from Indigenous and CALD backgrounds and families of children with a disability to review documents for cultural appropriateness. Children from diverse backgrounds are to be included in focus groups.
- Risks regarding all aspects of the Club have been explored and several identified. A risk matrix will be used to prioritise risk mitigation and develop safety protocols.

During 2018 we will further consider how we act on bullying within player groups, and review other club policies for compliance with Child Safe Standards.

Free-Kick Program

Last year saw the foundation of the NJFC Free-Kick program encouraging kids/ families experiencing disadvantage to engage with community sport. Six children joined us in 2016 under that banner. 2017, saw a massive expansion to 30 children! Exceptional commitment of time, energy and patience was given by a small few. Many thanks to Simon Negrelli, Chris McGeachan, Steve Harford, Andrew Wallace, coaches and team managers who facilitated the inclusion of these kids in training and games. A mini-bus, a designated driver and game-day breakfasts were helpful initiatives to the success of the program this year. Much potential and refinement can be had in this area of the club, with a lot learnt over the 2017 season. What is certain is the impact the program has had on some of the children supported this year, in raising their skills, fitness, positive community involvement and confidence. Furthermore, we have seen other team members develop skills and understanding in standing up for their mates in difficult circumstances. Therefore, a sub-committee has been established to continue this program in a sustainable way that best advantages the children involved and the wider club membership. Many thanks to Violeta Chick and volunteers who raised over a \$1000 in a bake sale and to Chris McGeachan for forwarding the program for a Local Leaders Grant, won this last week, providing another \$1000 of funds for costs involved in the program.

U9 Red

Coach: Aaron Shackelford | Assistant Coach: Douglas Park | Team Manager: Ida Bakos

Northcote Cougars under 9 Red would see six second year players and nine first year players team up for season 2017. This included 4 sets of siblings! We were in a relatively strong division with most opposition teams having majority of all second year players excluded a few teams which were always even contest when we played them.

The development of each player throughout the season was fantastic with a focus on team work and FUN! All players played a minimum of three zones per game and most weeks experiencing an additional zone based on our numbers. The zones enabled the players to develop the skills required for each area on the ground, not just forward trying to kick goals! However, each player was able to kick one goal throughout the season with some players kicking more than one and some kicking multiple goals in games! Some players through fair play and team work were awarded a medal from opposition teams which always received with a warm smile and great satisfaction. At the end of each game the Cougars song was sung with great gusto and enthusiasm. Hopefully the players learnt some new skills and developed new friendships which will last a long time.

It was an enjoyable year coaching this team, a great bunch of kids, a great family group but more importantly the great support of Doug Park (Assistant Coach), Ida Bakos (Team Manager), Effie & Chris Geles (First Aid) and all the parents who filled the other match day roles which make a coach's job easy, thanks very much.

Good luck to players who will be moving on to Under 10's next season, I wish you the best of luck in your football journey and to the players who are returning to Under 9's I hope you continue to build on the season you had and keep on having fun. I will keep an eye on how you all progress over your football careers.

Thanks and good luck.

GO Cougars!!!

Aaron Shackelford (Shacks) – Under 9 Red Coach 2017

Under 9 Green

Coach: Damien Home | Assistant Coach: Gus Sofo | Team Manager: Cameron Froomes

The Cougars U9 Green team had a good mix of first and second year players in our squad of 18 players during season 2017.

We had strong numbers on game day and at training throughout the season, with a couple of mid-season recruits off-setting the loss of a couple of players towards the end of the season.

All of the players turned up with big smiles and enthusiasm each week even when it was cold, wet and early, and the club song was sung with great enthusiasm after every game.

We were placed in Green Division and we were competitive all year, with several close games. Most notable was the last game of the season against Thomastown who were very tough and physical. The Cougars showed great spirit and discipline to match them in a very even game.

Throughout the season we had a simple game-day strategy – 1. Switching on, 2. Game sense – knowing when to attack the footy vs leading into space vs dropping back and defending, and most importantly, 3. Having fun. The players set themselves team and individual targets each game, and it was great to see the players stretch themselves, and to see them improving each week.

Our tackling, teamwork and defensive discipline in the backline was a feature of our game, as was our crumbing and goal kicking, with most players kicking at least 1 goal during the season.

A few of the players had the opportunity to play up a level in the U10's at times through the year as well which was good for their development and helped boost the U10 squad numbers.

Team manager Cameron Froomes was a great support to the coaches and team, and Assistant Gus stepped up to be lead Coach with support from parent Cameron Watts for the last five games of the season. Our parents were very supportive of their kids and the coaches, and a great help in match-day roles.

The initiative of the club to provide more framework and guidance to the coaches, and the support of Simon Negrelli (Coaching Coordinator) and Aaron Shackelford (U9 Coordinator) were much appreciated.

Overall the season was a great fun and the players should all be proud of their efforts.

A great launching pad for the players' future playing career with the Cougars and beyond!

Damien Home & Gus Sofo, NJFC U9 Green Coaches 2017

Under 9 Gold

Coach: Mark Stanyon & Matt Dummett | Assistant Coach: Paul Daffey | Team Manager: Cameron McDonald

Under 9 Blue

Coach: Ben Hartman | Assistant Coach: Melanie Ryan | Team Manager: Sheri Burmeister

Under 9 Blue started with a big mix of skill level, with some returning and some new players. The boys worked hard at training and game day and we saw dramatic improvements in many players. In particular, the boys showed a lot of courage going for the ball with some solid tackling. With increasing ball handling skills each week and a bit of team work every player managed to get a goal before the end of the season.

I wish the boys moving up to under 10s next year all the best and encourage the under 9s to show leadership and support to the younger ones joining you next year. Many thanks to all the parents who helped out with roles on game day. Massive thanks to Melanie Ryan and Sheri Burmeister for your invaluable help throughout the season.

Ben Hartman,

Coach U9 Blue.

Under 10 Blue

Coach: Jeanette Fyffe | Assistant Coach: Cameron Cook | Team Manager: Claire McCormack & Louise Appleyard

What a privilege it was to coach the Northcote Cougars Under 10 Blue team in 2017. We had a fantastic group of boys, some playing football for the very first time and others seasoned players on their third year at the Cougars. All the boys wore the club uniform proudly and sang the team song at the end of the match with feeling.

As a team we had a fantastic year of footy fun and lots of chances to develop as a squad. Training on Wednesdays at MacDonnell Oval started during the warm Autumn evenings and continued as the days grew darker, colder and wetter as the season matured through winter. The Blue and Gold Under 10 teams trained together and benefitted from challenging themselves and trying the new things that the coaches threw at them. The camaraderie that developed among the Under 10 Squad was called into action on many a Sunday morning as Gold Players filled in for Blue and Blue players filled in for Gold when required. A big thanks to all the boys who did double duty and this includes several Under 9 Cougars who relished the chance to “play-up” when the opportunity arose.

Every player in Under 10 Blue developed and improved as a footballer across the course of the 14 rounds. All season the boys demonstrated a willingness to get the ball with some pretty amazing tackling happening week to week. Ball handling skills (especially kicking), game sense and reading the ball, using the space on the oval, general fitness and most of all communication and team work went from strength to strength. I was particularly pleased in round 11 when the coach of Eltham Black congratulated us at the end of the match. We had last played his team in round 4 and he said that he noticed a terrific amount of improvement from the Cougar Blue boys with some great passages of play, consistent manning up and great communication and shepherding. All the boys played in every zone each week allowing a well-rounded sense of the game and what is required as a defender versus when in the forward-line. It was good to see some of the boys even change their mind about their favourite position across the season as they developed insight and understanding of the different approaches required.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made it possible for us to play week after week. Especially Assistant Coach Cameron Cook and Greg Vaughan who stepped back into coaching when Cameron was away. We also started the season with Claire McCormack as an amazing Team Manager – who provided the boys with clean and trimmed wristbands every week and we finished strongly with Louise Appleyard who made sure every boy took to the field with regulation socks, helmets fastened, mouthguards in, and bootlaces tied! All the other parents in the team pitched in with scoring, first-aid, oranges, umpire escorting, goal umpiring and keeping the boys warm and focused at some of our very chilly half time breaks.

Thanks for a great season Under 10 Blue and all the best for your future football journey

Jeanette Fyffe

Under 10 Gold

Coach: Vince Lodato | Assistant Coach: Matthew Timothee & Patrick Johnson | Team Manager: Kate Coghlan

What a season, what a team and what an amazing group of young boys!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank this extraordinary team of young boys. The one thing that I liked about this team, is the hard work they have put in at training, the dedication and some awesome decision making on game day, and as a coach I am very proud of their hard work, their positive and healthy minds that in future will enable these boys to grow in confidence, be resilient, make long life friends but more importantly build their love of AFL football. It is such a privilege to be part of a great club and a great community, but what makes it a great club are the positive people around us, but more importantly for me, it's the relationship and friendship of the u10's gold parents and coaches (Matt and Patrick) who have supported me. Both (Matt and Patrick- assistant coaches) have not just supported me, they too send some strong messages to each and every player during training and game day, giving them all the confidence and simply telling each player to just enjoy the game.

The March pre-season training started with trying to get the boys fit for the season, although the Round 1- season opener caught up with us quickly, it didn't take long for the boys to get right into the season, with such determination, skills, teamwork, strong tackling, awesome carry and run, long kicking, marking, calling for leads and most importantly, seeing the boys smile and having fun. There was a strong message of support from our leading players to our first time season players, who just made these players feel the confidence as the season progressed. There was opportunity for some players to play up a grade and finals, but there was also opportunity for players to improve in the game, their zones but more importantly every player was given the opportunity, and gave it their all. The other and most important messages to the boys, was to 'stand tall at all times and not to be intimidated from the opposition player', and 'winning or losing, it's not that important'.

We focused on the season, but we also spoke about some changes, transition and what it all means to play in u11's. The boys know that training won't be easy in 2018, we will have our challenges, the boys will need to be prepared mentally and physically, it means hard work, become more resilient, but our vision is to create these young boys, to fine young men. Although the season has ended, the discussions and support with Matt and Patrick continues in preparation for the 2018 season. We have been talking about training, fitness, how much running is involved, the structured training and the support of all parents and volunteers. Speaking of other parents, a big thankyou to all of you who have supported our boys and I know the boys and parents are looking forward to season- 2018, where there will be official scores, a ladder and a flag! Well done boys, you are all amazing and thank you everyone for an exciting, successful and memorable season captured by our own video artists.

Go Cougars!!!

Vince Lodato, U10's- gold (Coach)

Under 10 Girls

Coach: Nicole Carwyn | Assistant Coach: Andrew Wallace | Team Manager: Tom Willcox

2017 saw the formation of the inaugural Northcote girls under 10s team. Initially we were a relatively small group however as the season progressed and word spread our ranks swelled to a very impressive squad of 20.

The girls had a great season with noticeable improvements each game. It was pleasing to see so many girls with a real interest in developing their footy and enjoying being on the field each Sunday – even against some of our tougher opponents. Training was regularly a source of laughter with bubbiness and cartwheels liberally interspersed between handball and kicking drills. A special highlight was Jess Dal Pos' (AFLW) visit to training. We will miss Frankie, Ashley, Lucia, Abby, Sophie M, Alicia E, Mariana, Tia, Myeesha and Sunny who will be moving on to under 12s, and wish them all the best.

Thanks to Remi and Richard for all your help at training, and to Andrew for coaching, assistant coaching, and all your invaluable support during the season. A huge thanks to our team manager Tom for keeping everyone aware of where we needed to be and when and sorting out all the jumpers, helmets, spare mouthguards, and anything else anyone could think of! And finally, a big thanks to all the parents there to assist each week with first aid, timekeeping, umpire escorting, goal umpiring, dispensation of hugs when needed and lots and lots of cheering!

Next year we will have the girls vs parents game so keep training girls.....and parents!

Nicole Carwyn, Coach U10 girls

Under 11 Gold

Coach: Nick Dance | Assistant Coach: Chris Geles & Chris McGeachan | Team Manager: Matthew Manterfield

Round 1	Mernda	18	def by	Northcote Gold	22
Round 2	Northcote Gold	33	def	Laurimar	28
Round 3	Northcote Gold	57	def	Kilmore White	16
Round 4	South Morang	8	def by	Northcote Gold	61
Round 5	Research	11	def by	Northcote Gold	36
Round 6	Northcote Gold	28	def by	Mill Park	92
Round 7	Kilmore Blue	22	def by	Northcote Gold	35
Round 8	Northcote Gold	34	def by	Mernda	40
Round 9	Northcote Gold	46	def by	Laurimar	67
Round 10	Northcote Gold	87	def	South Morang	14
Round 11	Northcote Gold		vs	BYE	
Round 12	Research	23	def by	Northcote Gold	39
Round 13	Mill Park	47	def	Northcote Gold	24
Round 14	Kilmore Blue	14	def by	Northcote Gold	45
Semi Final	Mill Park	36	def	Northcote Gold	31
Prelim Final	Northcote Gold	39	def by	Laurimar	59

We the coaching group and parents are very proud of the boys effort throughout the season, including the finals.

Every player played with great spirit and effort and every player has improved from last season and more importantly the boys improved as a team. This can be put down to the consistent turn out at both the Tuesday and Thursday trainings throughout the season, assisting their skill and fitness development.

We were rewarded by finishing 2nd on the ladder at the end of the home and away season - a fantastic result. In particular, we won a lot of the closer games, where our spirit and effort got us home.

We were unlucky not to win the first final, just losing to Mill Park by less than a goal, which would have qualified us for the grand final, had we won.

In the second final, against probably the strongest team in the competition - Laurimar, we pushed them very hard, being up by 2 points at three quarter time, however Laurimar, aided by a very strong wind came over the top of us in the last quarter.

The effort every one displayed was fantastic and there is no shame in losing to a very good team, when you give that 100% effort and team work - you can all hold your heads high.

We hope to see you all in 2018!

I would like to thank the assistant coaches Geeks and Chris for all your help on match day and at trainings, along with team managers Matt and Chrissy. Matt and his eldest son Olly also assisted occasionally at trainings - much appreciated! Also a big thank you to the parents

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for all your help on match day for chipping in and assisting with the variety of roles that are needed each game.

To the 50 game milestone players - Lachie, Rory, Marcus, Hayden and Lewie - well done in achieving 50 games and I believe there will be more 50 game milestones to come in 2018!

All the best, and go Cougars for 2018!

Nick Dance

U11 Boys Gold Coach

Under 11 Blue

Coach: Ben Smith | Assistant Coach: Melinda Story & Chris Mews | Team Manager: Sam Sabatino

Round 1	Mill Park	29	def by	Northcote Blue	49
Round 2	Northcote Blue	104	def	Mernda	22
Round 3	Laurimar	3	def by	Northcote Blue	80
Round 4	Northcote Blue		vs	BYE	
Round 5	Yarrambat	45	def	Northcote Blue	25
Round 6	Hurstbridge	44	def	Northcote Blue	17
Round 7	Northcote Blue	39	def	West Preston- Lakeside	21
Round 8	Northcote Blue	21	def by	Epping	28
Round 9	Whittlesea	15	def by	Northcote Blue	71
Round 10	Yarrambat	40	def	Northcote Blue	21
Round 11	Northcote Blue	42	def	Hurstbridge	15
Round 12	West Preston- Lakeside	23	def by	Northcote Blue	37
Round 13	Epping	32	def	Northcote Blue	27
Round 14	Northcote Blue	86	def	Whittlesea	1
Semi Final	Northcote Blue	29	def	Hurstbridge	21
Prelim Final	Yarrambat	35	def	Northcote Blue	20

After some excellent early wins during grading games the U11 Blue team were elevated to the U11 Red League (Second highest NFL League). This was a fantastic challenge for the team, who established themselves early as a “mid-table team”, and then improved across the season to finish third.

The finals saw the team play Hurstbridge in a heart-stopping elimination final. In the last quarter the ball was trapped in the Cougar forward line and scores were level. Somehow the boys could not get the elusive point and at full time it was a draw. A polished, high-pressure performance in extra time saw the boys outscore Hurstbridge 1.2 to 0.0

In their prelim final the U11 Blues came up against the top of the table team, Yarrambat. It was a great performance by the Blue team, unfortunately going down by a couple of goals to the eventual premiers. The team certainly walked away with their heads held high.

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The team:

Achol Achol - A new recruit whose enthusiasm was contagious. Great overhead marking and handballing off.

Anthony Bishop - A pressure machine who's tackling continued to be a highlight

Liam Callaghan - Played with both hardness and finesse throughout the year. A contested marking machine in the finals.

Macsen Connelly – As finals approached he “raised the bar” from a training perspective to set an improved team standard

Billy Green - Showed amazing improvement across the season. Developed a more fearless attack at both ground level and when floating for marks.

Connor Hastings – Classy ball user who's ability to read the play from behind the ball was huge in the winning final against Hurstbridge.

Liam Leonard – Some inspirational forward pressure were a highlight of his season in 2017.

James Magiatzi – First and second efforts saw him awarded a Most Determined player award against Epping.

Lewis McBride - Fast and silky, but also showed the attack on the ball that won him a most determined player award against Epping

Sam Mews – Changed from an “outside player” to a player who lead the team at the coalface, particularly with tackle pressure.

Jack Moston – Powerful overhead marking helped complement some great ball use. Some big grabs in finals.

Robbie Nave - Loves a mark and loves a goal even more. Celebrates like no other!

Luca Norquay-Whitford - Laid a bone-jarring tackle in extra-time of the finals that left the whole Hurstbridge team waving the white flag.

Dean Perawiti - Outside class and silky ball use. Kicked goals on both feet.

Link Richardson-Stubbs - Elevated his game to a new level in the back half of the year. Fearless determination.

Anthony Sabatino - Continues to lead the “inside types” by putting his head over the ball and feeding it out to those running past.

Xavier Smith - A left-footed natural goal-sneak who kicked goals in both finals.

Paddy Sullivan - Brought “pressure acts” into his game to complement his great ball use. Finals smothers!

Tom Sweetman – Has been compared to Plugger Lockett with his ability to attack the ball and then turn on a dime and kick a goal.

George Teague – Fearless attack on the ball. Kicked an amazing set-shot goal in Finals Extra-Time to get the Cougars over Hurstbridge.

Jackson Tier – A mix of attack on the ball and classy ball use. Kicked as many goals on the left foot as the right, including in finals.

Thanks to our fantastic Assistant Coaches - Mel Story who provided great motivation to the players, and Chris Mews who worked the magnets like no other. Miles Callaghan did a great job as runner, as did all our other regular parent helpers.

Sam Sabatino, Team Manager, ensured a seamless game day experience. From weather reports, to google map references. Wow!

Congratulations U11 Blue on a wonderful season both on and off the field.

Ben Smith, Coach

Under 12 Girls

Coach: Chris Niall | Assistant Coach: Nigel Kodogoda | Team Manager: Sharyn Petrevski

Round 1	Northcote	0	def by	Research	64
Round 2	Northcote	0	def by	Laurimar	96
Round 3	Northcote	14	def by	Eltham	29
Round 4	Northcote	0	def by	Diamond Creek Womens	117
Round 5	Whittlesea	83	def	Northcote	6
Round 6	Northcote	15	def by	Yarrambat	56
Round 7	Montmorency	95	def	Northcote	6
Round 8	Research	39	def	Northcote	2
Round 9	Montmorency	49	def	Northcote	0
Round 10	Eltham	57	def	Northcote	0
Round 11	Diamond Creek Womens	64	def	Northcote	0
Round 12	Northcote	20	def by	Whittlesea	94
Round 13	Northcote	14	def	Yarrambat	11
Round 14	Northcote	0	def by	Montmorency	54

What a year it was, a great learning experience for all of us involved. It was a real pleasure for Nigel & I to take on the roles of coaching the U12 girls in 2017. To now look back and think of how far each and every girl has developed since the start of the season is all the reward we need. The girls came with a range of skill levels from girls who had never played in an Aussie rules team to other girls who have played over the last couple of years in mixed teams.

With this came different skill levels, and one of the challenges was how to cater to all the girls to keep it fun, but challenging at the same time. Well, the fact that no local girls dropped out during the season, and that we actually picked up a few extra players along the way was a positive sign.

We had some good turnouts at training, which understandably was difficult for some to attend, and this was the key to cementing a bond between the girls. The majority of these training sessions were spent on practising the basics such as kicking, hand balling and tackling.

For the girls continuing to play again next year we hope this will serve as a solid foundation to build on these skills. For those girls moving to the next age group, good luck and make sure you continue to enjoy your footy. Whatever each girl decides to do, I hope in some shape or form the physical activity and skills they have practiced and improved on will assist them in their next sporting endeavours.

As a foundation year, 2017 wasn't without its challenges as we struggled with low player numbers for most of the season. It will be easier in 2018. The continued support by the club and the families of the players made it easier week to week and our win in round 13 was

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without doubt a highlight! We would also like to thank the players & coordinators involved in the "Free Kick" program, our team would not have been a team without those players.

Finally, a special mention to all the U10 girls who played with us in 2017, it was great that you continued to help us out during the season and even better that you were able to field a full U10 side, winning games regularly in the second half of 2017.

Thanks for the end of season gifts too and a special thank you to team manager Sharyn, who did so much work on match days and even more behind the scenes.

Chris Niall - U12G Coach / Nigel Kodagoda U12G Assistant Coach

Under 12 Blue

Coach: Vic Chiappini | Assistant Coach: Domenic Napoleone | Team Manager: Leanne Lacko and Violeta Traicevski

Round 1	Montmorency	36	def by	Northcote Blue	78
Round 2	Northcote Blue	131	def	Lalor	15
Round 3	Panton Hill	0	def by	Northcote Blue	121
Round 4	Northcote Blue	48	def by	Epping	29
Round 5	Northcote Blue	22	def by	South Morang	45
Round 6	Kilmore	69	def	Northcote Blue	7
Round 7	Northcote Blue	25	def by	Bundoora Park	48
Round 8	Research	36	def by	Northcote Blue	43
Round 9	Mill Park	50	def	Northcote Blue	9
Round 10	South Morang	96	def	Northcote Blue	1
Round 11	Northcote Blue	30	def by	Kilmore	45
Round 12	Bundoora Park	34	def	Northcote Blue	28
Round 13	Northcote Blue	8	def by	Research	71
Round 14	Mill Park	46	def	Northcote Blue	18

Under 12 Gold

Coach: Andrew Green | Team Manager: Kath Liddell

Round 1	Northcote Gold	21	def by	Research	41
Round 2	Northcote Gold	17	def by	Diamond Creek	79
Round 3	South Morang	133	def	Northcote Gold	1
Round 4	Keon Park	70	def	Northcote Gold	26
Round 5	Northcote Gold	133	def	Kinglake	13
Round 6	Northcote Gold	36	def	Montmorency	32
Round 7	Northcote Gold	55	def	Lalor	26
Round 8	Panton Hill	17	def by	Northcote Gold	33
Round 9	Northcote Gold	33	def by	Keon Park	79
Round 10	Northcote Gold	107	def	Kinglake	19
Round 11	Northcote Gold	7	def by	Montmorency	48
Round 12	Lalor	36	def by	Northcote Gold	53
Round 13	Panton Hill	0	def by	Northcote Gold	105
Round 14	Keon Park	67	def	Northcote Gold	6
Semi Final	Northcote Gold	42	def	Lalor	32
Prelim Final	Montmorency	15	def by	Northcote Gold	29
Grand Final	Keon Park	67	def	Northcote Gold	21

The Under 12's silver division had a ripper season this year, playing some terrific matches, working hard, learning and improving together as a group and had a very enjoyable season. I liked the way that no matter what the score line was in each match they always gave it their best effort, highlighted by a brilliant finals campaign making it to the big dance, Grand Final day and playing a good game against a strong opposition.

We trained together with Vic's U12 team and the boys and girls continued to work on their core skills, kicking, team running and linking play and most importantly their tackling improved throughout the season. A big thankyou to Vic and Simon for helping train our kids throughout the year.

During the season I prepared a match report each week that was sent around to the team by our super team manager Kath Liddell. It's been fun to read back on some of our matches through the year. There are so many highlights I couldn't do them justice in this short end of season wrap but here's a couple of my personal highlights:

- A) A big improvement across the season in our team tackling, kicking, run and carry, which is so important to develop in preparation for future years and finals football.
- B) Super boot Calvin's massive long bomb kick, reminiscent of Malcolm Blight, in our Round 13 match against Panton Hill and the great reaction from the Cougars bench and supporters.

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- C) Jack's outrageous kick of the ball backwards over his head to score a goal which still makes me laugh just thinking about it.
- D) All the players who received their 50 game plaque and burst through the Cougars banner during the season (we had plenty of them) in particular seeing the big smile and excitement of playing a milestone game.
- E) The support of our U12 girls Chloe, Lily and Natasha who helped us through the season when we were low on numbers and played well for us during the finals, thanks girls !!!
- F) Watching our kids run around kicking the footy and enjoying themselves with their mates.
- G) Our free kick kids enjoying the football and improving with each game.
- H) The teams gradual improvement across the season culminating in a brilliant finals series where our kids ran hard, attacked the footy, tackled the lights out and kicked truly when it counted. We had a hard fought win in the Semi Final vs Lalor where the U12's got the chocolates in a nail biting finish. I think our Preliminary Final win against Montmorency was probably the best game of the season as all of the kids contributed to a great team win. I was particularly proud of our kids for earning the right to compete in the Grand Final day, coming up against a stronger team on the day but trying hard.....great effort kids!
- I) The kids vs parents football match at home after the Grand Final - plenty of goals to Kathy, dodgy hamstrings in a few old blokes and a good time had by all.

Thanks once more to all the parents who helped us throughout the season, we can't do it without you. In particular, thank you to Kath Liddell our super team manager who sorted out everything, Simon (bus driver, runner and midfield coach) and Vic who helped train the kids all winter long in the rain and sunshine and was a great support for me during the season and the finals.

A last quote for the season - *'Rome wasn't built in a day'*. A reminder there is no substitute for training and hard work to achieve what you want in life, these things take time and continuous development. Have a great summer Cougars and we'll see you in the new year.

GO COUGARS !!!!!!!!!

Andrew Green

Coach U12 Silver Division

Under 13 Gold & Under 13 Blue

Coach Gold: Matt Buckley | Team Manager: Lauren Andrew and Narelle Frazer

Coach Blue: Mick Everett | Assistant Coach: Damien Rider | Team Manager: Mick Sullivan

Round 1	Northcote Gold	48	def	South Morang	36
Round 1	Northcote Blue	42	def	Reservoir	24
Round 2	Northcote Gold		vs	BYE	
Round 2	Northcote Blue	101	def	South Morang	26
Round 3	Northcote Blue	108	def	Northcote Gold	32
Round 4	Mernda	97	def	Northcote Blue	18
Round 4	Northcote Gold	39	def	West Preston-	106
			by	Lakeside	
Round 5	Wallan	52	def	Northcote Blue	29
Round 5	Northcote Gold	34	def	West Ivanhoe	63
			by		
Round 6	Reservoir	96	def	Northcote Gold	32
Round 6	Northcote Blue	37	def	Research	68
			by		
Round 7	Kilmore	16	def	Northcote Blue	23
			by		
Round 7	Northcote Gold	9	def	Mill Park	90
			by		
Round 8	Greensborough	59	def	Northcote Blue	54
Round 8	Northcote Gold	47	def	Hurstbridge	59
			by		
Round 9	Northcote Gold		def		
			by		
Round 9	Northcote Blue	34	def	Yarrambat	60
			by		
Round 10	Northcote Blue		vs	BYE	
Round 10	South Morang	52	def	Northcote Gold	28
Round 11	Northcote Blue	7	def	Mernda	86
			by		
Round 12	Northcote Blue	22	def	Wallan	69
			by		
Round 13	Research	91	def	Northcote Blue	22
Round 14	Northcote Blue	55	def	Kilmore	89
			by		

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A tough season all up for U13s Blue.

We ended up fourth (three wins in the bottom division and one in the red), but 4 wins outside of the top four. So fair to say we were a tad out of our depth, but that said I think the boys did their best and put together a number of really competitive quarters and halves, but unfortunately no complete games.

The win against Kilmore was the best of the year while the narrow loss to Greensborough the toughest loss.....and the trip to Mernda a hard reality test!

At times the team was able to put together some really good passages of play and while the team was strengthened in some respects by the merging of the two teams late in the season, it also resulted in a slight dilution of talent along with the commitment to assisting the under 14s which is positive from the club's perspective and a positive for the boys involved both for experience and for those who represented us in the under 14s finals.

We saw improvement in a range of players over the season with players from the original blue squad including Ben (congratulations on making the NFL squad), Tom, until he was injured and particularly Reuben, Spencer and PJ. We keep getting really consistent performances from Archie (great to see him back this season), Sully and Fintan. It continues to amaze me the courage and tacking of a few of our smaller guys, particularly Niko and Ramziz and it was good to see some new faces like Cooper and Jesse, I hope they enjoyed their first season with us and will be back again next season. We also get consistent performances from players like Harvey, Ethan, Ryan, Zack and Sam. It was good to see a number of these players rack up their 50th game this season. I hope they continue with us and get to their 100th with the Cougars.

The season also requires a range of notes of thanks. Firstly to the coaches 'assistants'. I stepped in this season (for what is certainly the last time....yeah, yeah I said this last season, but no I mean it!), but could not have without the contribution of Matt taking the Tuesday sessions and coaching the Gold team. Also for each of the training sessions I had help from Damo (great assistant coach too, I think he had a lot of fun this season.....especially showing his immaculate skills on Thursday scratch matches) and Vince and Mel and always having Jim down there to help if necessary. And just having Steve and Simon around made it all so much easier, so thanks to all of you. Then there is Mick Sullivan. I have been blessed over the past 5 years coaching to have such dedicated Team Managers, Mick you are a star! Also to all of the match day volunteers, it helps having all of these people so willing every week.

Finally, to the parents.....what a ripping bunch of kids you guys have. I have been dealing with some of these kids (including Auskick) since they were in prep.....that's nine years of footy. Thank you for trusting me with your kids, never interfering, always helping....and even letting me yell at them..... I love every single one of them and hope that I have made a positive contribution to them as kids, footballers and young men.

Let's do it all again next year.....with more wins.....and someone else coaching!!!

Mick

Under 14 Girls

Coach: Steve Harford | Assistant Coach: Sarah Adamson | Team Manager: Sarah Adamson & Vince Beatty

Round 1	Northcote	52	def by	Diamond Creek Womens	4
Round 2	Northcote	87	def by	Panton Hill	14
Round 3	Kilmore	41	def by	Northcote	46
Round 4	Research	21	def by	Northcote	29
Round 5	Northcote	26	def by	Montmorency	38
Round 6	Diamond Creek Womens	20	def by	Northcote	34
Round 7	Northcote	47	def	Wallan	15
Round 8	Yarrambat	41	def by	Northcote	63
Round 9	Northcote	36	def	Research	32
Round 10	Northcote	29	def by	Eltham	33
Round 11	Wallan	21	def by	Northcote	26
Round 12	Montmorency	34	drew with	Northcote	34
Round 13	Northcote		vs	BYE	
Round 14	Northcote	57	def	Diamond Creek Womens	9
Semi Final	Montmorency	18	def	Northcote	15
Prelim Final	Northcote	14	def by	Yarrambat	36

2017 saw the formation of standalone girls teams for the first time at NJFC, including the under 14 girls. The formation of the team was built around 9 girls who had previous experience playing in mixed teams and a further 9 who started playing for the first time. We began the season in the red division and after a great start asked to go up to the top blue division, which was clearly where we belonged, as our results showed. As a group, I was extremely happy with the girls attendance at training and attitude on match day. They worked hard and had a team-first mentality. The team had a great mix of very talented girls and if several decide to continue to work hard and commit to improving I would say that there are at least a few capable of playing in the AFLW league in the future.

Of the new girls to the game Norma Bamblett, Christina, Christina Papadimitriou, Tameeka Braybon and Antonia Zafiriou all showed immense abilities in their very first year of football and their input was what helped us finish second on the ladder. Unfortunately, we had a poor finals series, but as a group we learnt so much in our first finals campaign. Probably the highlight of the year came on the NFL best and fairest night where our two co captains Chloe Williams and Ellouise Bishop came first and second in the league best and fairest. These two girls showed great leadership during the year and it was awesome for them to receive the rewards for all their work.

Thanks to all my volunteers for their help during the year especially Sarah, my team manager, who I often called on to help me be a better coach of the girls. I learnt a lot from this year and hope that as a club we can build on this group to create both an under 16 and under 14 girls team next year. I can't wait till 2019 when this group joins back up, they will be hungry for success and driven to go that little bit further come finals time.

Go Cougars
Steve Harford

Under 14 Boys

Coach: Phil Bedggood | Assistant Coach: Darryl Billing | Team Manager: Christine Panopoulos

Round 1	Mill Park	10	def by	Northcote	54
Round 2	Kinglake	3	def by	Northcote	127
Round 3	Keon Park	6	def by	Northcote	197
Round 4	Northcote	63	def	Mernda	61
Round 5	West Preston- Lakeside	35	def by	Northcote	45
Round 6	Northcote	83	def	Diamond Creek	8
Round 7	Northcote		vs	BYE	
Round 8	Northcote	68	def	Eltham	33
Round 9	Research	63	def	Northcote	46
Round 10	Northcote	17	def by	Wallan	57
Round 11	Mernda	44	def	Northcote	33
Round 12	Northcote	23	def by	West Preston- Lakeside	50
Round 13	Diamond Creek	27	def by	Northcote	46
Round 14	Northcote		vs	BYE	
Semi Final	Northcote	65	def	Wallan	21
Prelim Final	Mernda	61	def	Northcote	32

1st of all many thanks to ALL Parents who assisted in getting the boy's on the field this year game day jobs car pooling to grounds and the like, from a Coaches point of view it is very much appreciated – Thank You.

This season was going to be an interesting one on the back of 2016 with 26 players. This year we lost 14 players (6 Girls – to the U14Girls team, 8 boy's with a number moving out of the area and a couple giving up football altogether to take on other sporting activities)

So off a base of 12 players we ended up starting the Season with Team Numbers at 20, 8 new players including a few that returned back to the club.

All New players were welcomed and accepted into the team getting along with each other in a great team environment.

With numbers low and potential injuries throughout the season we planned to utilise any available U13 to get enough qualified for finals.

Throughout the year we played 11 - U13 Players and qualified 8 for the finals.

Many Thanks to the players and parents of these boy's for stepping in to assist the U14 to field a side and in most cases played 2 games for the day – great effort – Thanks again.

INTERCHANGE BENCH - ROTATION SYSTEM

We again adopted the rotation system put in place last year where all players are active rather than sitting on the bench for a qtr. It worked allowing all players the opportunity to

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play in all positions on the ground each game, and in most cases only had 2 players per game on the bench.

This rotation system was nothing new to the 2016 players and the New players quickly adapted to this. It allowed their further development and skills in all positions throughout the year.

TEAM MANAGER - Christie Panopoulos, hangs up the Team Managers role this year and we would like to thank her for a fantastic job she has done over a number of years. Once again and thanks to all parents that helped her and make the job easier / stress free, coupled with some great times along the way. Thanks Christie

ASST COACH / RUNNER - Darryl Billing – Fantastic to him onboard again this year and could not have done without his services on game day and at training (assisted also by Cameron Harper) always looking to encourage the kids to do well in a fun environment – Thanks Darryl/Cam.

MEDICAL STAFF - Chris Scott / Ann-Maree Duncan / Mick Sim & Sharon Reid - Thanks

BOUNDARY UMPIRES - Still Our Laconic Mark Armstrong / John Curry these guys have been involved for a number of years and it has once again been great to have them both on board this year to run the boundary. - Thanks

INJURIES - A couple of injuries / sickness to key players saw the team challenged mid/late year and this is where we had a few losses.

VOLUNTEERS - **Time Keepers / Umpire Escort / Goal Umpires etc** - Great to see every parent stepping up again this year to assist. Special mention to the Goumas Family doing Oranges all year – great work - thanks

To the many mums/dads/grandparents/aunties/ uncles /friends /teammates and any that I've missed thanks for coming to support and encourage the kids.

The Season - Started of well in U14 - Div 3 with the team winning the 1st 3 rounds and then being promoted to U14 – Div 2 (prior to the finish of the grading games in Round 4) where we were able to account for ourselves early in the season. We were able to get everyone up for the 2016 Grand Final Reply against West Preston Lakeside where every player on the day contributed to a great win and their only loss for the season. Equally we beat Mernda also and these 2 teams eventually played off in the 2017 Grand Final.

With injuries and sickness late in the season it had an impact on our final finishing position in the regular season Winning 8 with 4 Losses and Finished in 3rd on the Ladder.

The Semi Final we were able to account for Wallan with a great win and then came up against a strong Mernda in the Prelim Final and on the day the boys were not able to get the job done.

A great year by all players who have further improved and developed their football skills and we look forward to them all returning next year to lead the Junior Football Club in the U15.

Highlights - Jack Harper winning Comp B&F with Oliver Manterfield coming 4th

Rep Sides: - Jack Harper / Oliver Manterfield playing in the NFL U14 Rep Games

Rep Sides: - Jack Harper / Luke Green being selected to join the Northern Knights U15 Squad in 2018

Phil Bedggood U14 Coach