



Northcote Junior Football Club

Annual Report 2024



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NJFC CLUB VISION AND STRATEGY

Club Vision

To create lasting friendships through football.

Club Mission

To be welcoming and supportive of all children, teenagers and players' families who want to learn and play football.

Club Values

At the Northcote Junior Football Club, we reflect our community's values of:

Respect: fairness, tolerance, discipline

Participation: individual, family, community

Team: co-operation, inclusion, enjoyment

Growth : opportunity, development, improvement

Our Strategy

We continue to build a community that values participation, friendships, understanding and open-mindedness, through:

- Encouraging children and teenagers from across our local community to play football together;
- Creating an environment where all are members are equal and are provided with the potential to achieve their potential;
- Providing encouragement to develop social skills that create and building lasting friendships;
- Valuing, supporting and developing all on and off-field volunteers, including coaches, team managers, committee members and others who contribute to the club's management and operation;
- Developing pathways to representative and senior football for players who hold those ambitions.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Hello Cougar Players, Families, Parents and Carers

Our 2024 season was one of which we can all be proud and sets a benchmark for improvement as a club overall and as players, for Season 2025.

Well done to all of our players for getting out on to the field, week in and week out, either for the first time or as a returning players.

We fielded 12 teams this year, which was one up from last year and we built out our girls' program very successfully to include the lucky 13th team that the club has been involved in - an Under 10s girls team (merge with / managed by North Brunswick). We were also very pleased to link up with North Brunswick Junior Football Club and Preston Bullants Junior Football Club to field a large Under 14s girls' teams this year. Both teams were known as 'Northside' in reference to the inner north playing groups.

We were thrilled to have 3 male NJFC players as YJFL Best and Fairest winners this year, together with 1 of the Northside girls, from Preston Bullants, who also won.

We were happy to celebrate a number of 50 game milestones with players over the year, and I believe we captured most, if not all of them in the club's weekly newsletters, which were new this year, and welcomed, by all accounts.

I was very honoured to be the recipient of the Essendon Football Club's Community Award this year, nominated by Coach Harley Augustine. I appreciate the recognition of the time and effort that I invest in the club and I thank the committee and club's members for supporting me and the club, while we re-grow it and strengthen its position both in the YJFL and our local community.

In more good news, we enjoyed meeting the Auskick families over their season, with Lachy and Louis running a good show on Saturday mornings between May and July. Our weekly barbecues were very well received by the families and we raised vital funds each week to put towards specialist coaching, equipment and the end of year parties that teams enjoyed.

Looking ahead, the Club is in a good position on and off the field, however, it's time for us to stimulate growth to build our teams and club to ensure that in the near future, we have boys and mixed teams represented across all age divisions and at least 3, or ideally 4, girls teams in the club mix.

At least 85% of players have 'opted-in' for Season 25, which includes 26 of the 27 registered players from our Under 14 girls' 'Northside' team and other teams' full complements. We are confident of fielding all this year's 12 teams again and it is a testament to the quality of the pre and in-season training, coaching and the commitments made by players and families.

We must continue to actively welcome new families across all age groups and putting in time and effort to build and support more girls teams to broaden the club's engagement and the diversity of the player and family group within the club.

Strategically, more players and teams give us extra advocacy leverage to engage with Darebin City Council, the YJFL, the AFL and funding bodies, especially when the club is advocating for ground improvements and applying for grants. More players will help to improve the club's finances too, and as we have more than a few gaps in the girls' program, working to recruit more girls into the club will help build out parity across age groups and expand player numbers overall.

Finally, growing the player base strengthens the financial base the club has, which in turn provides for greater investment back into players', coaches' and other volunteers' development.

On a lighter night, we were thrilled this year to roll out the new club logo and merchandise this year, including our fabulous T-shirts, that we can wear loud and proud throughout the year to really stamp out the reputation of NJFC's ground in the inner north. The weekly merchandise stalls (at Auskick and Sunday match days) gave families a convenient opportunity to buy up the new gear as well as uniform items and provided a nice welcome to visiting teams too.

You will know from Presentation Day that we have been able to work with First Nations artist Emma Bamblett, herself connected to our club through one of our players, to create a stunning First Nations playing jumper for Season 2025. In turn, we have obtained the necessary funding to be able to purchase enough of the new jumpers to kit out our club, thanks to a generous donation from Nelson Alexander, who is one of our major sponsors.

We must also acknowledge the generous financial support from the Clifroy Community Bank (Bendigo Bank) and of the Lions Club, with both organisations providing funding for various projects and in the case of Clifroy Bank, facilitating the employment of our newest specialist Coach, Liza Matheson. Liza worked closely with the Under 10s this year in her specialist sessions on Wednesday nights, and that team brought home the YJFL Lighting Premiership. A photo of the team and their flag takes top billing on the title page of this report – we are all so proud!

Turning to our parent and carer group, we acknowledge that the club is made up of many hard-working people, not least the committee along with coaches, team managers and other supporting volunteers, all of whom did an amazing job again across the 2024 season to deliver footy to our kids. A successful season is defined by the commitment and efforts by all of our volunteers and by that measure, our season was a stellar one.

On the committee front, thank you once again to Pete Simm (Vice President) Matt Chandler (Club Secretary), Travis McGann (Football Operations Manager), Sam Pietsch (Coaching Coordinator), Josh Whiting (Sponsorships Manager), Tim Wright (Child Safety Officer), Hamish Clyde (Treasurer) along with Regina Cowie, Mark Cooper, Tessa Gangell and Jackie Lewis as committee members.

We say farewell to Matt Chandler and to Hamish Clyde this year. We have been able to 'unpack' the various roles that Matt fulfilled as Club Secretary and we believe that any of our club members are capable of jumping in and now taking on a role, to help direct the club as we head into Season 25 and early registrations, which open on the 1st of November.

Having more representation from across the club's teams within the committee ensures that each team has a voice in committee meetings, whether it be in relation to strategic business planning or specific team issues that need resolving during the season. To this end we will continue to ask (require) that a parent or 2 from each team is actively involved in the Committee and any sub-committees that are formed to address particular aspects of the club's operations.

Key areas where sharing the load will mean things get done include: coaching, registrations, sponsorship, uniforms, merchandise promotion and sales, website management, communications management, football equipment / inventory management, Auskick co-ordination and more.

With respect to community engagement, the club worked to expand its 'community footprint' from December 2023 onwards as follows:

- December: we worked with Darebin Council to provide our families with the opportunity to contribute to the Families, Youth and Children Strategy
- December: release of NJFC new logo merchandise to spread the NJFC love
- February: attendance at the Northcote Rise festival with a handball and merchandise stall
- February: Welcome to Season day, attended by players, families, Bendigo Bank representative, Nelson Alexander representative and Darebin Council mayor
- February: handball stall at NARC open day
- March: club working bee
- March: free footy and Easter egg giveaway stall at NARC (pre / post swimming lessons)
- March: Girls' 'Come and Try' events in conjunction with AFL Victoria
- May – July: Auskick season weekly barbecues
- June: Under 8 / Under 16s training night at Bill Lawry Oval
- June: Visit by Carlton Football AFL players
- June: Club Trivia Night (sell out)
- July: Club derby Under 8s Retro Round
- August: Club First Nations Yarning session with artist Emma Bamblett
- August – September: NJFC teams playing in finals matches
- August – September: YJFL Finals hosted at McDonell Park
- September: Presentation Day, hosted at Bill Lawry Oval with involvement from Northcote Park Football Netball Club
- October: Park rewilding project at McDonell Park with 5th Northcote Cubs and Scouts

Our engagement with Darebin City Council over the year remained steady. We are patiently waiting for the park upgrade project to be delivered, subject to confirmation of project scope and budget. We also maintain a good relationship with Dennis Cricket Club as the park's summer tenant.

So, in conclusion, I'd like to thank all our players and their families for making Season 2024 such a great one.

We can't rest on our laurels though, and I encourage everyone to think about getting involved in the club and especially, joining our excellent coaching group, team manager group or committee. It's so rewarding and you really can make a difference to your children's enjoyment of football and to our wonderful community.

Kellie Burns
President, Northcote Junior Football Club

NJFC FOOTBALL OPERATIONS REPORT – 2024

Northcote Junior Football Club Auskick program

Auskick numbers for 2024 were great, with an increase from 134 to 181 participants overall. This is still lower than the 192 participants registered in 2021, however, after a very solid season, we believe that we will meet or exceed that number next year.

Girls' participation remained steady at 21, with the program's growth in boys' membership up from around 113 to 160. Most kids came from Kinder, Grades 1, 2 and 3 age groups.

It's really important to the future success of NJFC that the club supports and nurtures all Auskickers and encourages participation in club / junior football. It is a very large potential feeder for our club.

High levels of involvement in the training the children by parents and junior coaches helps to build confidence in the club as one that is successful and committed to the future development of all players.

The weekly barbecues run by the club definitely helped families to connect beyond the footy field and we enjoyed meeting the children and their parents and carers.

A special thanks to Lachy and Louis Spencer who run the centre again this season, with the help of many volunteers across at the skill / age levels.

We look forward to a bigger and better year in 2025, with increased involvement from the club's volunteer base and junior coaches, as well as AFL Victoria, the program is set to grow.

NJFC Teams

The Northcote Junior Football Club registered 12 teams to play in the Yarra Junior Football League in 2023, with a total of 254 players (up from 236 last year) who played at least 1 game for the club during the season. However, our players played in 13 teams, which was an increase in 1 team from the previous season.

On field, 2024 was successful for the Cougars:

- The Under 10 Lightning Premiership won by Coach Mark Eaton's U'10 mixed team
- The Under 11 Yellow mixed team made it to the Elimination Final and were defeated by Banyule
- The Under 13 Yellow mixed team made it to the Grand Final and were defeated by Balwyn
- The Under 14 Girls 'Northside' team made it to the Elimination Final and were defeated by Hawthorn Citizens

In terms of building out club numbers, growing girls football remains the biggest challenge for the club heading into 2025, and we need every family to be vocal club ambassadors to all friends, family and school and sporting groups, to encourage more girls to the club.

So you understand the disparity / opportunity, we had 216 boys registered with the club this year and 38 girls – 5 times as many boys as girls. If NJFC was able to attract even half as many as girls as boys to the club (108), it would add 3 – 4 teams to the club which is an equivalency of between \$40,000 - \$50,000 per year in memberships. A stronger financial base supports all players within the club.

This year, our teams comprised:

- Under 8 mixed Blue and Yellow
- Under 9 mixed
- Under 10 mixed
- Under 11 mixed
- Under 12 mixed
- Under 13 mixed Blue and Yellow
- Under 14 girls (registered and managed by NJFC, merge team with NBJFC and PBJFC)
- Under 14 mixed
- Under 15 – no team
- Under 16 boys (trained at Bill Lawry with and mentored by Northcote Park players)
- Under 17s – no team

Additionally, we had girls who played in a merge team with North Brunswick JFC, which was registered and managed by NBJFC.

We missed not having a Colts team this year but have been thrilled to watch the football career of former Cougar Will Green who was AFL draft pick 16 this year, and drafted to the Sydney Swans.

There is still plenty of room for growth, and it's critical we build out the younger teams to at least 2 teams per year level, to ensure that there are critical numbers of players to form teams in older age groups.

Awards

This year, 3 players placed in the YJFL Best and Fairest awards, as follows:

Jude Paulson	1 st Place, Under 13m
Sam Moston	3 rd Place, Under 13m
Stan Moore	Equal 3 rd Place, Under 14m

Player engagement

To support players leading into the 2024 season, pre-season training was run at McDonell Park over December 2023 and Jan- Feb 2024 for players 10-14 years of age. The Under 16s joined up with Northcote Park players at Bill Lawry Oval for their pre-season training.

All participating players gained strength, agility and fitness from the programs.

During the season, to support players' skill development, weekly skills development training sessions were offered. They were run by Alex Federico of AFL Victoria and Liza Matheson and proved invaluable to those players who committed to the sessions.

YJFL engagement

The club's engagement this season with the YJFL was positive and it continues to support the clubs to provide safe and competitive playing environments for players, including implementing concussion protocols in line with the AFL's recommendations. All clubs are now required to use YJFL Match Day balls, which must be purchased and which have increased our out-going costs.

The club volunteered to host finals games and were lucky enough to host three grand finals, all being girls' games and in support of neighbouring clubs Parkside and Brunswick. It was a great day, enjoyed by all, and the feedback from the clubs that played were that the ground was in good condition, the NJFC volunteers were friendly and helpful and our sausage sizzle raised over \$1000. We received similar feedback from the League too and officials were grateful to have had the ground available.

Hopefully in Season 25 we are lucky enough to host home ground grand finals for our own teams!

While there were no player reports this season, the club was involved in 1 Tribunal case involving an opposition club; brought 1 vilification complaint against an opposing club and suffered the loss of a volunteer due to an on-field incident (related to the 1 Tribunal case).

We will continue to use the club newsletters as ways to share information from the League and would urge all parents to be across the Match Day guidelines which will be issued early next season.

We are well-placed to continue building a strong relationship with the CEO and league officials in 2025.

NJFC FINANCE REPORT - 2024

For the year ended 31 August 2024, the club returned a Gross Profit of \$70,395 (\$43,888 for 2023) and Net Loss of \$8,614 (Net Loss \$9,649 in 2023).

The total income for 2024 was \$102,944. The main sources of revenue for the club in 2024 were memberships \$36,333, merchandise sales \$21,297 and Grants \$12,691.

Income was up on 2023 due to improved sponsorship revenue and fund raising functions.

Major expenses included merchandise costs (\$28,247), team running expenses (\$14,876) and marketing costs (\$10,767).

There were also costs incurred for the club's rebranding and drive to improve volunteer numbers.

The financial position continues to be solid with the cash balance fluctuations that occur with a cyclical membership-based association.

In addition to driving Auskick members to join NJFC, building up our girls' membership is critically important, where an income stream of between \$40,000 - \$50,000 per year could be added if we can increase girls' numbers to 50% of current boy player numbers.

Overall, as with prior years, the committee was as financially conservative as possible. There was an emphasis on ensuring that we received all grants available. We will continue to look at future sponsorship options. We continue to be impacted by the cost-of-living increases that everyone has suffered, which has resulted in increases in costs.

Fees for Season 2025

In light of the on-going pressures on the club to maintain a strong financial position, the committee has resolved to raise fees for Season 2025. Additionally, the YJFL is putting up its fees for juniors to \$158 and maintaining the fee of \$188 for U11s up.

With increasing costs requiring management by the Club, NJFC will be increasing fees from:

- \$325 to \$370 for U8-u10 (club t-shirts for Early Bird registrations 01 November - 23 Feb)
- NJFC from \$350 to \$395 for U11 – U17 (club t-shirts for Early Bird registrations 01 Nov- 23 Feb)

Sponsorship

Thanks to Josh Whiting for making a significant contribution to the club's sponsorship program.

The club enjoyed strong support from sponsors in FY24 including 9 new sponsors. Nelson Alexander's referral program provides for donations to be made to the club in relation to rental property management and property sales which is a great way to help the club without lifting a finger.

As well as cash sponsorship, there was plenty of in-kind support which was a great way of supporting the club – hundreds of dollars worth of donuts from Phil's Bakehouse, Trivia Night prizes donated and a few sponsored team events at What the Putt.

We are seeking more sponsors next year and will increase engagement through posters at the club, socials and banners. Members should support sponsor where they can. Please be in touch if you'd like to sponsor the club in Season 2025 and please share connections to businesses so that we can grow our sponsor base.

Get your pizza from Fairfield Pizza; get your Korean fried chicken from Buza Fairfield, get your pies and sweets from Phil's Bakehouse!! Then get fit at Fitstop Northcote

Opportunities for improvement – every team must generously contribute the human power to run the sausage sizzles – Bunnings, Auskick, Finals and the club's other fund-raising events. Every team costs the club money and it's incumbent on all teams to provide volunteers to help raise funds in support of their team and the club generally.

Northcote Junior Football Club
Profit and Loss

September 2023 - August 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Grants	12,691	9,880
Donation	2,051	-
Memberships	36,333	30,030
Auskick Registration Fees	2,233	2,827
Membership refunds	(23)	(1,167)
Total Memberships	38,543	31,689
Merchandise Sales	21,297	11,056
Sales of Product Income		
Photography Commission	509	565
Total Sales of Product Income	509	565
Social Fund Raising Events	12,075	1,645
Sponsorship	15,731	6,235
Other Income	48	-
Total Income	102,944	61,071
Cost of Sales		
Cost of Merchandise	28,247	15,891
Social Fund Raising Events COS	4,302	1,291
Total Cost of Sales	32,549	17,183
Gross Profit	70,395	43,888
Other Income		
Interest income	155	560
Total Other Income	155	560
Expenses		
Accounting and bookkeeping	425	215
Administration & Internet	2,592	786
Advertising and marketing	10,767	2,297
Auskick	189	1,322
Bank charges	1	6
Cleaning		
Cleaning Contractor	8,985	6,630
Cleaning Products	331	137
Total Cleaning	9,316	6,767
Equipment	5,179	-
Fines	-	250
First Aid Training & equipment	2,878	1,680
Gas and electricity	2,038	3,493
Ground Improvements	1,760	-
Ground Usage	2,015	1,650
Insurance	2,715	2,342
Matchday Costs	6,597	5,224
Merchant Fees	1,088	461
Postage & shipping	416	365
Open Day Expenses	700	641
Social Events Teams	3,524	3,657
Sundry	-	64
Team Running Expenses	1,889	-
Admin	104	105
Coaches Training	7,730	2,192
Other	1,423	3,473
Players Training	90	938
Players Training Tops	3,641	3,273
Pre-season Training	-	770
Uniforms	-	335
Total Team Running Expenses	14,876	11,084
Trophies and Accolades	4,841	5,775
Umpires	1,558	1,444
YJFL Fees	1,099	-
Total Expenses	74,575	49,521
Other Expenses		
Gifts/Member Welfare	-	-
Depreciation - Equipment	3,602	3,479
Depreciation - Improvements	988	1,098
Total Other Expenses	4,590	4,577
Net Earnings	\$ (8,614)	\$ (9,649)

Northcote Junior Football Club

Balance Sheet

As at 31 August 2024

	2024	2023
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	21,044	28,619
Cash Float	375	375
Grounds Bond	400	400
Merchandise Inventory	26,995	26,626
Sundry Debtors	565	592
Total Current Assets	49,380	56,612
Long-term assets		
Club Room Improvements	16,172	16,172
Accumulated Depreciation	(7,277)	(6,289)
Total Club Room Improvements	8,895	9,883
Plant and Equipment	35,197	31,100
Accumulated Depreciation	(20,788)	(17,186)
Total Plant and Equipment	14,409	13,914
Total long-term assets	23,305	23,798
Total Assets	\$ 72,684	\$ 80,409
Liabilities and shareholder's equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accrued liabilities	1,253	-
Total current liabilities	1,253	-
Shareholders' equity:		
Net Income	(8,614)	(9,649)
Opening balance equity	62,791	62,791
Retained Earnings	17,255	27,267
Total shareholders' equity	\$ 71,432	\$ 80,409
Total liabilities and equity	\$ 72,684	\$ 80,409

Asset Depreciation Schedule

31 August 2024

EQUIPMENT		2024	2023
Line Marker	Cost	1,795	1,795
	Net WDV	-	-
Shelving	Cost	706	706
	Net WDV	-	-
Kitchen Equipment	Cost	3,225	3,225
	Net WDV	-	-
Coffee Grinder	Cost	1,045	1,045
	Accum Depn @ 20%	771	703
	2024 Depn	55	68
	Net WDV	219	274
Electronic Scoreboard	Cost	23,310	23,310
	Accum Depn	18,711	17,562
	Accum Depn @ 20%	920	1,150
	Net WDV	3,679	4,599
Other	Cost	11,569	682
	Accum Depn @ 20%	2,528	267
	Additions	4,097	10,887
	2024 Depn	2,628	2,260
	Net WDV	10,511	9,041
TOTAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT		\$14,409	\$ 13,914
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS			
Storage	2023 WDV	1,034	1,149
	2024 Depn @ 10%	103	115
		931	1,034
Kitchen 2010	2023 WDV	743	825
	2024 Depn @ 10%	74	83
		668	743
Kitchen 2011	2023 WDV	1,363	1,514
	2024 Depn @ 10%	136	151
		1,226	1,363
Kitchen 2012	2023 WDV	3,597	3,996
	2024 Depn @ 10%	360	400
		3,237	3,597
Kitchen	2023 WDV	3,147	-
	Additions	-	3,497
	2024 Depn @ 10%	315	350
		2,833	3,147
TOTAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS		\$ 8,895	\$ 9,883

Notes to the financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period ended 31 August 2024

1. Statement of significant accounting policies

a) Statement of compliance

The committee has determined that the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 9 Financial Instruments (eg cash received);

AASB 16 Leases;

AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment

AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

AASB 138 Intangible Assets

AASB 1031 Materiality AASB 1048 Interpretation of Standards

AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures; and

AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

b) Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis and are based on historical cost and do not take into account changing money values except where specifically stated.

2. Statement of significant accounting policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

a) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Property Freehold land and buildings are shown at their fair value, being the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction. Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

b) Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairments losses. The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the committee members to ensure

that it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

c) Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, excluding freehold land is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready to use. The depreciation rates used for Plant and equipment depreciable asset is 20%. The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount. Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are recognised immediately in profit and loss. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

d) Income tax

The association is a not-for-profit organisation and is exempt from income tax under section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, current accounts and any long term deposits.

f) Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

g) Inventory

Inventory held for sale are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

h) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. All other borrowing costs are recognised in income in the period in which they are incurred.

i) Trade creditors and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days on

recognition of the liability.

j) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in active market and are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.