

# **BELCONNEN CATS**

**JUNIOR AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL CLUB**



**2008 SEASON**

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

The 2008 season proved to be another successful year for the Club with high levels of participation, good on-field performances and a high level of enjoyment for the players.

A new committee was formed at the start of the season and learned a considerable amount about what it takes to ensure the Club operates successfully. In this regard the Club community needs to take the opportunity to thank our past President Phil Hargraves for the mountain of work undertaken previously in ensuring the Club is in the strong position it is today.

After a year of learning the ropes, the Committee has a strong desire to introduce a range of initiatives next season to build a stronger sense of community within the Club and to ensure every opportunity is provided to the players to further develop their skills and enjoy their football. All parents should take the opportunity to thank the committee members for the work undertaken in ensuring the Club operates as well as it does and that so many children gain so much from their involvement as a Belconnen Cat.

Although there was much to deal with at AFL Headquarters in terms of Double Age Progression and inequitable grading and draws, the year was still a success with major developments off the field this year including:

- The appointment of John Harper as the Coaching Co-ordinator for the Club. This appointment proved to be very successful as John made himself freely available to assist our Coaches with a range of resources and his time. We are very confident that the skills of both our players and coaches will materially increase over time with the assistance of John and we sincerely thank him for his efforts;
- The appointment of Mel Brothers as the Junior Football Operations Coordinator for the Club. Mel was a fantastic help to the Committee and we thank her for her efforts which we believe we will see the benefits from in the next 3 years as her schools programs lead to a new generation of players for the Club;
- The appointment of Mick Burgess as our Auskick Coordinator for the 2008 season. Mick is a fantastic stalwart of the Club and we thank him for his efforts and energy in introducing new families to the Club and ensuring they had such an enjoyable time;
- The re-engineering of the Club's website which is a wonderful source of information such as draws and upcoming events etc. We thank Ben Healy for all his efforts in taking the Club's communication forward in such a professional manner;
- An increase in the level of support from the Senior Football Club for which we thank Garry Davidson and his team; and
- The reintroduction of a Club Social Calendar highlighted by the successful fancy dress dinner organised by Kirsty Browne and Nicole Thorne and held at the

Belconnen Golf Club. The night was a great success despite vivid nightmares still being reported in relation to the lovely fishnet mesh outfit worn by Jamie Brown. We strongly encourage all parents to get involved in the social side of the Club next season as we look to build the community spirit within the Club. Our thanks to Kirsty and Nicole for their fantastic efforts.

The on-field performance of the Club was also successful during the 2008 season with highlights including:

- The formation of an alliance with the Magpies Junior Football Club within the Under 16 age group. This alliance proved to be a real success as 3 teams were fielded enabling all boys to be matched to an appropriate standard of competition. Many new friendships were formed and all involved are to be congratulated for their efforts in making the alliance a success;
- Grand Finals were played in by 2 of our 3 Under 16's sides and despite coming up short in both games, the boys were fantastic ambassadors for the Club both on the day and during the season;
- Both the Under 14 sides improved significantly during the season with the Division 1 side making the finals;
- A significant number of new players were introduced to the Under 12 side during the season and despite just missing the finals were highly competitive in all games;
- The junior sides within the Club continue to develop under the supervision of an excellent group of development coaches; and
- Our Auskick programme grew considerably to its largest number in several years with a mountain of fun being enjoyed by all participants.

We thank our sponsors for their support during the 2008 Season and particularly The Canberra Labor Club and The Belconnen Magpies Sports Club. The financial support proved by these community organisations has enabled our Club to fund its operations without the need to charge registration fees and we encourage all families to support these Clubs to ensure they understand we appreciate their assistance.

A final thank you to the Coaches and Managers that invest so much time and energy in getting the kids on the field and helping them to develop as players and people. We are blessed to have such a committed and caring group and it is the responsibility of all parents to ensure these volunteers are not taken for granted.

So all in all it was a successful year for the Club and the Committee is excited by the opportunity that now exists to take the Club to another level in providing an enjoyable environment for the kids to further develop in. Thanks for your support of the Club during 2008 and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2009.

Glenn O'Sullivan  
President

## Under 8s

Under 8s is where it all starts for the Belconnen Football Club and if this year's crop is anything to go by, premiership success awaits as these young players move through the ranks.

While serious training often gave way to games of 'octopus' during those dark cold Monday nights at Giralang, it wasn't long before the skills began to show on Saturdays.

Kicking, hand-passing, marking and team play improved dramatically throughout the season.

This was remarkable given that many of the players were at the younger end of the age bracket and were often up against older and more experienced oppositions.

Here's a run-down of the players as seen by the coach:

**Blond Thomas:** amazing ability to read the play and get the ball while running at high speed.

**Caitlin:** Always reliable and combined well with brother Rowan.

**Rowan:** Rock solid in defence, good marking ability and a good team player.

**Mackenzie:** Made great improvements during the season, playing really well in his last two games.

**Hunter:** Used his experience and height well to the team's advantage.

**Bradley:** Following in the footsteps of his Belconnen Magpies A-Grade father, definitely has the skills to go all the way.

**Felix:** A great boot that got the team out of trouble on many occasions. Combined well with Bradley.

**Ryan:** Mr enthusiasm with an uncanny ability to kick lots of goals.

Thomas Shelton: Another improver who was getting the hang of things by the end of the season.

**Jonathan:** Didn't mind doing a bit of weaving and dodging. Combined well with blond Thomas.

**McKinley:** A pint-sized player with a boot that packs a punch. Often showed his older and taller opponents how to play.

**Will:** The best hassler in the league. No opponent could get around Will. Look out when he is allowed to legally smother!

**Charlie:** Terrific running game. Also a potent goal kicker.

**Andrew:** Great ability and good to see him back for the last game of the season.

**Jack:** Came late in the season but a great talent with a big future.

A big thanks to all parents for braving the cold to help out at training and on Saturdays and for providing plenty of encouragement to the team.

Special thanks to Vicki for managing the team, Michael for umpiring, Paul for always being so helpful, Nicole for organising everything – especially ten-pin bowling on the last training night (a much warmer option), and Damien for coaching assistance, particularly during my many absences.

Given that many of the players will still be in Under 8s next year, 2009 is shaping up to be a big one for the Belconnen Cats.

Hope to see you all then.

Lyle  
Coach

## **Under 9 Cougars**

2008 season is over already. I stepped down this year to coach a younger group of boys. With a bit of reservation, I quickly learnt that I had another great bunch of boys. They were all eager to listen and learn. This made the season all worthwhile. I had a great time and I think they did too. I just wanted to say a quick thank you to all the parents that helped this season. Either by waving the flags, umpiring or being in the canteen. A special thank you to Robyn for her expert managing skills. I hope to see you all back next year.

**Riley Browne** - Riley is a courageous player who reached his 50<sup>th</sup> game this season. His speed and silky skills always made it difficult for the opposition.

**Shea Engelbrecht** - First year player, but you swear he had been playing for 5 years. Maybe it has something to do with this great grandfather... His ball skills and composure made him a great asset to the team.

**Jacob Hajduk** - Jacob is another new player to Aussie Rules. He put in 100% this year. I was great to have him on the team. He has a lot to offer in future years.

**Will McInnes** - Will joined the team mid-season. He towers over his team opponents, making his presence felt on the field. I hope to see him back next year.

**Joe Kenna** - With two big AFL brothers, Joe was always going to be a great player. It took us a bit to get him from soccer, but I think we have finally converted him. Very strong player. His marks are amazing. Destine to play in the AFL....

**Bailey Marshall** - Bailey has definitely showed that playing football at an early age has its benefits. Bailey is also a very strong player and is always willing to take the game on. Bailey's had a great season this year.

**Patrick Moran** - Patrick in his first season is showing a lot of promise. With more ball work and practice, he will be a great player in the future.

**Gerard Tuohy** - Gerard is a seasoned player. He takes great marks and is able to clear the ball with his big kicks. I think we have a future full forward in the making.

**Riley Wilson** - Another new player to Aussie. With his league background he made a really good defensive player. He used his height to take good marks and speed to clear the ball.

**Andrew Woods** - Another true league player, Drew took to the game of Aussie Rules well. He has a great ability to pick up and run the ball. This made it easy for him to kick goals. Well done Drew.

**Rhys Drummond** - Rhys has Aussie Rules in his blood. It took a while to keep him on his feet, once he mastered this he has become a player to look out for. He is quick to the ball and reads the play well.

**Tim McNamara** - Another Rugby League boy. Tim was the most eager player of the group. His willingness to listen and learn was above all others. Well done Tim.

Thanks Boys

Jamie Browne  
Coach

## Under 9s Panthers

With the season now over, it's time to reflect back on a successful year. As a first time coach of junior AFL, it was my privilege to coach talented young players who were willing to listen, learn and practice the basic skills of AFL football. I would like to thank all Panthers parents, for the support in making this a great season for the players. A special thanks also to our team manager Alexia Mudruk, Andrew Fogden for on field assistance. To Nicole Thorne, Stuart Miller, Jamie and Kirsty Browne, thank you for your general support throughout the season.

In no particular order, a review of all U9's Panthers players for 2008:

1. **Fraser Miller** - A seasoned player with a good understanding of the game. Fraser made himself a key player by being involved in the game in all positions. Fraser is a running player with a good sense of where the goals are. Fraser's strength is his running ability whilst controlling the ball at speed. I consider Fraser to be a player of the future.
2. **Jack Martin** - A player from the U8's, who stepped up to play with the big boys, showing a lot of eagerness and a thirst for the ball. I see Jack providing great assistance to the team next year in the midfield because of his running ability. Jack's strengths are in the areas of loose ball plays and passing.
3. **Jack Williams** - A player who finished the season on a high. Jack is a fearless player and plays well in a running role. Jack's strengths are in the areas of handballing and long kicks.
4. **Jayde James-Ward** - A first year player who shows great vision. A reliable player whom I could depend on in hard fought games, Jayde's all round game was a delight. I see Jayde playing in a running role because of his ball magnet ability. Jayde's strengths are in his short direct passing and general evasiveness from opposition players.
5. **Dominic Mudruk** - A first year player that had a mission to be first to the ball. Dominic finished off the season scoring a number of goals, well done in this department. I see Dom playing a more active role in the forward area, with his strength in the area of hand passing and creating play in open space.
6. **Harry Shelton** - A dynamic player with a good football mind. Harry's ability to read to play is second to none. Harry dominates the contested marks and I see him providing great benefits to the team in the backline. Harry's strengths are in the areas of running kicks and hand passing.
7. **Ricci James-Ward** - In his first season, Ricci has settled in as a player to be reckoned with. Ricci's ability to create havoc on loose ball has given the team many opportunities to win games. Ricci's strengths are his contested marks and long kicking.

8. **Sam Fogden** - A first year player that has shown great strength in contested marks. Sam brought size and strength to the team which was a welcome sight when playing in the forward zone. Sam's strengths are in his hand passing and chest marks.
9. **Michael Grimwood** - A player that gained respect from his opposition this year. Michael's height was a problem to most teams, along with his rucking ability. Michael's strengths are his marking and rucking.
10. **Ruby Fisher** - A first year player, Ruby was a player who grew into the game and saw opportunities to gather and kick to team mates. Ruby's strength was her determination and commitment to the hard ball.
11. **Gavin Hillier** - A player that grew in confidence as the season went on. Gavin put in 100% in training and it showed on the weekend. Gavin's strengths are getting the ball in tight situations and not being afraid of putting his body on the line.
12. **Alex Wanjura** - A player that listens and gained respect from his peers for his concentration and respect of the game. Alex always found a way to get a boot to the ball. His ability to grab and pass the ball was fantastic. Alex's strengths are in the areas of passing and clearing the ball from tight situations.

Thanks for a great 2008 and "Go the Panthers and Eagles for 2009"

Jeff Ward  
Coach

## **Under 10s**

The Under 10's have had a terrific year in 2008. A number of new players have joined the ranks and added great enthusiasm and talent to the group from last year. The skills and "football smarts" have developed really well and some of the football played in the later half of the season was exceptional.

I would like to thank Craig Henderson for his contribution as manager and fill in coach again this season and all the parents who have helped out at training and on game day with the jumpers and oranges.

All of the squad worked hard to improve their skills this season and played every game with great determination and true sportsmanship. Below are a few of the highlights from a talented group of players.

### **Connor Kane**

Connor has made great strides in his third year of football. His ability to get in and under and share the ball with intelligent handball is terrific.

### **Matthew Hansen**

Matt's speed around the ground and great foot skills set up many team score this year. He has shown great determination and courage to get under the packs.

### **Liam Telford**

Liam's desire to share the ball and play on quickly is a great asset to the team. Liam also loves a goal and can be relied on to play tight in defence.

### **Callum McClusky**

Callum has fantastic speed and endurance and attacks the ball hard. He has shown great improvement with his skills and is able to bring team mates into the game with pin point passes.

### **Jamie Kirkpatrick**

Jamie has great height and is unbeatable in the ruck. He shows great hands above his head and throws himself into the packs with courage.

### **James Henderson**

James is a great mark and has terrific skills. He is great in defence and reads the play well. James always plays to his best ability and shows leadership qualities.

### **James Kelleher**

James is a quick and skillful on-baller who attacks the ball with great determination. He shows great speed and left many defenders in his wake this season.

### **Stuart Manton**

Stuart is one of our new players and showed great improvement as the season progressed. Some of his excellent play in the final game augurs well for next season.

**Noah Taylor**

Noah is a talented and hard working player. He battles well at ground level and has great hands overhead. Noah's attack on the ball is an example to his team mates.

**Oscar Senden**

Oscar is another of our first year players and has taken to the game with gusto. He has developed good skills and is reading the play well. I look forward to Oscar's second year.

**Jesse Daw**

Jesse is one of our most experienced players and shows great leadership on the field. He is a great mark and a reliable defender. Jesse also plays well up forward and loves to kick a goal or two.

**Sam Bowman**

Sam is another first year player. He is tall, a good mark and a booming kick. All qualities that will develop with greater experience of the game. His football future looks very bright.

**Ryan Sarre**

Ryan has finished his first year of football and shown some fantastic potential. He is courageous and shows a great desire to learn the game. Well done Ryan.

**Haydn Raftery**

Haydn is the teams 'goal-sneak' and kicked plenty this year. 7 goals in the final game was a highlight. Haydn has great skills and attacks the ball hard.

**James Tuck**

James is another of our new boys and with his size and skill he has a great future in the game. He showed excellent improvement as the year progressed and is set for a great 2009.

**Zach Jabour**

Zach has worked hard on his skills and has reaped the rewards this year. His 6 goals against Gunghalin was terrific. Zach is a great team player who is always looking to bring others into the game.

The team has had a very successful year and would like to thank all those in the club who have supported us this season.

Anthony Telford  
Coach

## **Under 11s**

It was my privilege to coach the mighty U11 Cats team in 2008. Looking back, all the boys developed their skills and formed a champion team that will be something they can be proud of as they continue into adolescence.

Season 2008 had many highlights – being awarded an AFL Junior team of the round for their sportsmanship and willingness to play willingly and fairly for other teams, showing respect to their opponents and umpires, many games in which their teamwork and footy skills were simply outstanding, and welcoming a number of first-year players to aussie rules.

**Tai Avery** – a great season in which he performed very well in key positions. Deceptively good and smooth skills. Can play anywhere on the field.

**Morgan Bell** was nominated to try out for the rep team and with good reason. Gave his best effort every week. A pleasure to coach and a great attitude. A big future.

**Nick Bennetts** – one of our first-year players. Takes a strong mark and kicks a classic drop-punt for goal. A smiling, gentle giant. Well done Nick.

**Jaxon Biden** – a great sense of humour and sharp as a tack. Enthusiastic player who never takes a backward step on the field. A pleasure to have in the team.

**Michael Bourke** – showed us all how to properly mark a player in defence. Listened to advice. Picked up many possessions in the midfield. Played up a year and made great progress.

**Jaiden Browne** – was electric in so many games with an amazing ability and desire to win the ball. Strong tackler. Another huge season and our congrats for your GF win in your League team. Nominated for AFL rep team try-outs.

**Paul Carton** – a great start to your footy, Paul. Another player with a strong mark and great kick. A natural instinct for the game.

**Jack Chandler** – first-year player from League who was quiet, tough, fast and learnt heaps. Tremendous improvement over the season. Well done.

**Jason Davey** – an unbelievably good first year in footy, Jason. It was exciting to watch you take several bounces and run through the opposition and then pass it on so well to your team-mates. The best winger in the competition this season.

**Liam Delhaize** – a season interrupted by a broken bone (in the school-yard) but a popular member of this team. It was great to welcome you back and then to see your improvement over the last part of the year.

**Darcy Evans** – a strong competitive spirit that will drive his development. There is no opposition player too big or too fast for Darcy. He wants the ball more than they do.

**Jakub Gancarz** – had his best year so far and in the difficult position of fullback. Fast runner and a huge kick. Your team-mates loved knowing you were back there. Well done.

**Austin Grace** – big on skills and a big heart. Fast acceleration and very hard for the opposition to tackle. Went looking for and frequently won the ball in the mid-field.

**Troy Graham** – could do anything when you were concentrating on your game. Played very well in the mid-field and on the half-back line. Great potential in the game.

**Benny Hannigan** – welcome to the sport Benny. You brought your basket-ball skills of speed, ball-handling and evasion to AFL and had a great year. A natural sportsman.

**Adam Lamb** – Wow! A brilliant season. Strong tackles and marks, fast and determined for the ball, the harder the game the better you went. Must of got your talent from your mum and was well ‘conditioned’ by older brother Mitchell. Nominated for rep team try-outs.

**Chris Lane** – huge improvement as the season progressed Chris. It was a pleasure to see your development in the mid-field. Always great shepherds and then plenty of touches.

**Alex Mangan** – a pleasure to coach. Loves this game. A live-wire in the forward line who kicked heaps of goals this year. Always passed the ball to a team-mate if they were in a better position. Has an in-built radar for the goals.

**Paul McNamara** – well done Paul on settling down through the season and focusing on your footy. Tremendous improvement over the last part of the season. Keep it up.

**Iain O’Connor** – my congrats to you Iain for having your best season. Great enthusiasm in games and training which led to your many effective disposals for the team.

**Rhys Pitman** – built on last season’s great start and had another top year. Very fast to the ball and tough in the contests.

**Andrew Wright** - an original player in the team and always plays determined footy. A super start to the season then warmly welcomed back by the team after a mid-season trip over-seas.

This team was again superbly managed by the extraordinary Kirsty Browne. Thank you for what you do for the boys, your support to me and the parents, and for the extra things you do for the club. There have been many players introduced to Aussie Rules footy in this Club because of your enthusiasm and efforts.

My sincere thanks also to Scott Bourke for so many things including umpiring, warm-ups and to come looking for jobs, to Jeremy Lane for being the unassuming strategist of this operation and the right words at the right time, to Jamie Browne for being a top runner, adding the passion and developing this team, to Pat Biden for enthusiastic support with a smile for parents and kids, to Vicky for first-aid, to all those who helped with game day tasks and to all the parents and grand-parents who got us to training and games and cheered us on.

Take your footy to another level again, next year, in the U12s!

Rob Lamb  
Coach

## **Under 12s**

What a season and what a wonderful group of children that made up the under 12 Cats team. The success of this team is due no small part to the support it receives from various individuals. Ben Healy who helped me every night at training and filled in when I was absent. Lawrence Trevanion who was terrific as team manager and my son Daniel for skills coaching on training nights. Also a big thank you to all the other parents who helped out with boundary and goal umpiring.

The season started with a win and finished with a win. Overall we won 8 out of the 14 games, finishing 5<sup>th</sup> on the ladder. It was with great pleasure that I watched two our players represent the ACT in the u12 schoolboys AFL carnival in Melbourne. Now for the 'run down' of our players:

**Todd Bailey** had a wonderful season and was one of our key 'on-ballers' who showed great commitment every game.

**Aussie Clarke** one of our hard men at the ball, showed great leadership and was rock solid in defence.

**Angus Collins** is a great bloke to coach, gives 100% commitment during the game and at training, is dominant in the air, tough but fair.

**Conor Crisp** missed a few games through the season due to other sporting commitments, but when he played was very dependable.

**Thomas Earle** has been a regular player for the last few years, so was missed when his parents took him overseas before the start of the season, however, fitted straight back in the team for last couple of games.

**Harry Elliott** switched football codes' this year, however you would not have known it by the way he played at full back.

**Paul Farrant** was dependable as ever, you can play him across the half forward or backline.

**Will Frawley** one of our smaller players, but played great football on the wing.

**Louis Hatton** was one of our great improvers for the year. Hope to see you again next year.

**Hamish Healy** is another great bloke to coach, was dependable in the backline and across the midfield.

**Adam Jansen** one of our taller players who has explosive speed and was another great improver for the year.

**Tom Jolly-Rogers** having come from Melbourne this year had a big reputation and he didn't disappoint us at all.

**Elliott Jordan** one of our best tacklers in team and was very dangerous all season in front of goals.

**Jackson Kier** another late starter for the year who played a key role on the ball, and caused many problems for the opposition teams.

**Liam Lagana** a new player this year who could not be missed with his orange boots. Improved as the season progressed and caused 'headaches' for his opponent.

**Arlen Luhrs** was a great pleasure to coach and the second half of the season he just came on in leaps and bounds.

**Liam Luhrs** the younger brother of Arlen who also developed his game as the season progressed, was always looking for the handball 'out the back'.

**Mathew Miles** developed into a nice Ruckman before he went overseas, I look forward to see you play next year.

**Sam O'Sullivan** has commitment with a Capital 'C', just never gives up and runs himself into the ground every game. Selection in the ACT u12 rep team was well deserved.

**Michael Rinaudo** while he always had something to say, caused many problems for the opposition both playing on the ball and in front of goals.

**Charlie Seymour-Grant** our smallest player whose last 4 games were just exceptional.

**James Trevanion** our tallest player was rock solid all over the ground and deserved his selection in the ACT rep team. I won't tell anyone how they stopped that blood nose playing against the NT in Melbourne.

**Eli Bell** coming over from Ainslie did not disappoint, was dependable on the wing and across the half forward line

**James Wanjura** has been with this team for a number of years. Showed great commitment all year and could be counted on to 'silence' his opponent.

**Rowan Winmill** is another player who has been with the team for a few years and showed great willingness to develop his skills at training.

**Jack 'Chewy' Wrigley** another character of team, showed great improvement on last year and was dangerous when he went forward, and dependable in the backline.

It has been a privilege to be involved with this team in 2008 and I hope I can continue and contribute again in some way throughout 2009. Thanks to everyone and a special thank you to the special friendships developed within the Cats U12 side of 2008.

Craig Jordan  
Coach

## **Under 14 Division 2**

As all coaches do, the end of the season made me look back, review what had happened, measure the success of the season, and start thinking of how to do things better the next time around.

The start was rocky but not entirely unsettled. Player numbers gave us hope that we could field three teams in U14's, but we fell just short and reluctantly fielded two. This turned out to be a wise decision because due to injuries, sickness and school detentions we were occasionally caught with the bare 18 or so. Isn't hindsight a wonderful thing?

We started the season in the bottom of two Divisions and I feel this wasn't a bad arrangement for us. We were capable of beating some sides, competitive with others, and somewhat challenged by the better of the sides.

The side comprised of mainly younger players and this provided some real challenges for the coaching team. Playing against bigger, faster opponents is a daunting task, but to the team's enduring credit they gradually adjusted and from the middle of the season onwards, they never took a backward step.

This took time to develop, and I thank all the parents and assistant coaches for the patience while we almost singly focused on getting our team up to speed on the physical side of the game. Thankfully, it bore fruit in time to justify the strategy.

After a while though, the league had second thoughts about the competition structure and we were placed in the middle of three Divisions. Some argue this was a cruel move for the team, but I think they performed admirably nonetheless. Yeah, wins were hard to come by (Queanbeyan turned out to be our only whipping boy) but we "stuck it to 'em" as Teddy Whitten would have said, even though we were behind on the scoreboard.

Pride in your players can come from unlikely sources. Some coaches focus on success as measured by wins, and possibly finals and those elusive premierships. But over the past couple of years I've learned to appreciate some of the finer things in footy and my players.

Courage – the constantly willingness to attack players who might be physically intimidating for some.

Spirit – the ability to always see the positives from any situation and fight on regardless of the score.

Respect for each other – the readiness to acknowledge the contribution of any player in the squad measured against that own player's ability.

Thirst for knowledge – having the ability to hear what is being said, practice it in training and then introduce it to game situations.

Love of the game – that enduring love of playing the game and learning new things about it.

This team had that stuff in spades. No, they weren't always the easiest group to coach. Like a mob of young brumbies, they were sometimes very, very restless on some training nights. Perhaps it was the wind? A full moon? Perhaps the absence of rough physical contact? Regardless, they should all hold their heads high for the way they carried themselves throughout the season because no-one could doubt their courage, spirit, respect for each other, their ability to learn or their love of the game.

Some of the squad spent some time playing up in Div 1. This was a great arrangement in my view as it gave those players on the fringe of Div 1 a taste of what it's like to play up. Once they experienced the faster game which emphasised the need for clean skills under pressure, I think that helped the way they played once they returned to our squad. For the players who rotated out of Div 1 for a few weeks, it gave them a chance to regain confidence, get their hands on the footy more often, and return to Div 1 with the confidence recharged. Thanks to Peter Bradley who also gave good support to this model. I think both sides benefitted and I'd suggest adopting the same strategy again if the occasion arose.

Before finishing, the players themselves deserve special recognition.

- I was immensely proud of the way Callum, Chris, Connor and Matt J improved so much through the year. Each started at a different level of ability but they all made huge steps forward and played some great footy in the second half of the year.
- The spirit and application shown by Bushy, Dobsy, Sean and AJ proved to be a wonderful example to their team-mates.
- The skills of Paddy, Nick W, Danny, Heather Anderson and Woody were a sight to behold.
- The toughness of Brodie, Jack, Rob and Alex was an inspiration.
- The ability of L Lewis, Brodie, to play at either end of the field was a blessing for the coaches.
- The bravery of Cam and little Luke Charlton was breathtaking at times.
- The run and guile of Sam, Brendan, Jesse and Toby C shone through brightly.
- And the first year performance by Toby D was very impressive.
- The rotten luck which cursed Tom, Luke G and Ernie ended up getting in the way of what was shaping as a great season.

All that is left is to give my sincere thanks to all the parents who selflessly gave their support throughout the year. Kerri was leader of this pack, but almost every parent was asked to help out in some way. No-one ever shirked their responsibility to help out and this has got me thinking that this is where the players have got their sense of value from. Very team oriented – thank you very, very much.

Colin Mues  
Coach

## **Under 14 Division 1**

Just before the start of the season we appeared to have a plethora of players and at one point we even dared to consider fielding three teams in the Under 14 age group. As it turned out we ended up with the two teams who played in the Div 1 and Div 2 competitions.

The under 14s Div 1 team were blessed with a mixture of talented 12, 13 and 14 year old boys (and girl) with over 30 players having a crack throughout the season. As a team we started off the year with some strong wins. However, we realised we had a challenge ahead of us when we came up against Eastlake and Marist in the first round as these teams were bigger, stronger and a little classier at this stage of the year.

As was typical of this group they took to the challenge of needing to improve their game with gusto. This never let up with everyone's efforts on the training track being first rate which resulted in improvement on game day. As a result we finished the home and away season as clearly the third best team in the comp.

As we all know (just ask the Geelong footy club) football games do not always go according to the script. We came up against Queanbeyan in the elimination final, a team that were yet to beat us. Queanbeyan played an inspired game and end up winning the game narrowly. I was very proud that the boys eventually showed their true character and fought back from more than seven goals down to being a real chance with a few minutes to go.

Boys - that is football - but I hope you all remember that previous form counts for nothing when it comes to finals footy.

The team's improvement throughout the year was exemplified through the efforts of the unsung "under 14s" with Matt Kenna (most improved) and Josh Sciacca (coaches award) who's individual improvement resulted in them both performing as the team's premier players in the middle to later stages of the year. Andrew Yazidjoglou (Yazza), Hayden Fritzlaff, Brad Fleming and Lachie O'Sullivan also took on different roles throughout the year and all stood up when the team needed them to. Their efforts complemented the team's engine room of Dion Sergi, Sam Ryan-Baker, Mitchell Lamb, Lachie Spencer, Chris Lagana and Ryan Bradley (runner up B&F). These blokes were a model of consistency always giving one hundred percent not just every game but also to every contest

This leads me to the prolific and dynamic Aidan Pini (B&F, fourth in the comp B&F and under 14s Cats rep). This guy was often the catalyst for many of our attacks and was equally effective in defence.

Other highlights for the year included the arrival of James Small late in the season. James showed enough ability in the handful of games he played to convince every one of his talent and that with more football under his belt he will be an elite performer.

Perhaps the biggest highlight was the efforts of our "under 13" players who made up nearly half the team this year. Charles Miller, Rhys Healy, CJ (most consistent) and Logan Austin held down key positions all year and Stegs and the Kelly boys created

plenty of run. Blake Tomkins, Jesse Wilesmith and Jack Steele proved to be fine acquisitions to the club as players and blokes. Blake being the team's consistent goal sneak, Jesse jaggging seven goals in a game and Jack showing touches of class all year and winning the best in the finals award when thrown into the Centre.

Look out next year as the Cats will be a force to be reckoned with in the under 14s Div 1 comp!

I would like to thank Paula Jansen for managing the team with aplomb (thanks Vicki Pini for also doing the manager's role when required), Michael Sergi for his assistance at training and as team runner, Rob Kelly for assisting me on game day with the on field tactics, Stuart Steele for his time keeping, Ron Jansen for goal umpiring and Tim Pini for his boundary umpiring.

Pete Bradley  
Coach

## **Under 16 - Division 2 Magpies**

After much discussion it was decided that the Magpies and Cats junior clubs would combine teams for the U16 age group. The thought was that with the introduction of double-age progression, this would best allow players from both clubs the opportunity to get a full game of footy each weekend as well as ensuring that players would be able to compete against opposition teams of equal skills, size and age. So in February approximately 60 players began training together at two venues, Aranda and Kippax ovals. The result of all this was the formation of a Belconnen Magpies team in Division 1 and a Magpies and Cats team in Division 2.

After 7 long months of training, organising teams late on Friday nights and early Saturday mornings, and playing good, team orientated footy I can safely say that the season was a roaring success.

From a results perspective, to have a Magpies side finish second at the end of the home and away season, to play in three finals games and to play in a grand final is a significant achievement for a side made up of boys aged from 14 to 16. While a premiership did not eventuate every player who put on a Magpies jumper (and there were 41 boys who did this season) did themselves and the club proud.

An 11 win, three loss record was more than was expected at the start of the season. The objective of the team was to ensure all players got a game of footy, as well as providing a pathway to the Division 1 side for those who wished to test themselves against quality opposition. At no time did any player refuse to assist an opposition team if they were short (this happened a couple of times) or refuse to assist any of the other two U16 teams when they were short. This was another indication that the right decision was made and it is hoped that those boys moving on to the senior footy club will be better prepared for the transition. There were also times during the season when we were stretched for numbers and the support of both the Cats and Magpies U14 teams was much appreciated.

The strong home and away season was built on the solid performances of our core players including: Riley, Adam, Vineel, Pete, Jake, Lloyd, Lachie, Ben, Brad, Scott, Chris, Michael, Jezza, Ethan, Anthony, Justin, Alex, Josh, JC, Jacob and Isaac. Once the finals arrived we had the tough job of taking on the strong Eastlake side (who were undefeated after being demoted from Division 1 after only 4 games). To the above players we were able to add Sam, Aidan and Ryan.

A 6 goal loss to Eastlake in the first semi-final meant a preliminary final against Marist. After a slow start we eventually got on top to win by 20 points and earn our place in the grand final - a fantastic achievement! The grand final re-match at Manuka Oval was a hard fought contest, but eventually the bigger bodies of our Eastlake opponents took their toll and Eastlake won by 6 goals. For those who were there (and there were many vocal Magpies supporters – thank you!) it was obvious that the boys were up against it but they never gave an inch and played the game with great spirit and determination. While every player contributed during our finals campaign particular mention must go to Brad, Chris, Vineel, Lloyd, Scott, Ben, Riley, Adam and Lachie for their efforts across the three games.

Thank you to Ross and Kelts for assisting the coach during the year, Prog for managing, Henry for game-day assistance and Kim, Hoops, Phil and Michael for other game-day tasks. To all parents and supporters, your support of the boys during the year was much appreciated by the players and the coach.

To those boys finishing their junior footy this year I look forward to watching you run around for one of the Belconnen senior sides in the future. To those boys continuing with the junior clubs all the best and here's hoping you can go one better next year.

Sean Michelle  
Coach

## **Under 16s – Division 2 Cats**

The Cats Division 2 team was one of the three teams born of a merger between the Cats and Magpies U16s boys. The Cats Div 2 consisted predominately of the younger boys (15 year olds) and had three first-year players join the team. The first half of the year was our best competitive-wise and we managed to either beat or come close to beating the top teams. The Cats looked like making the top four until Eastlake joined the Div2 comp midway through the season. This created a few problems and pressures on player numbers saw three of our boys become permanent members of the Div 1 team. We also suffered the loss of Declan Welsh through a serious injury mid-season that saw him unable to play for the rest of the year. Although short on numbers the boys continued to work hard on the field and bravely battled top teams such as Eastlake. The loss of several players gave others the opportunity to take key positions and it was really great to see some of the boys take on leadership roles. After looking like they could book a 4<sup>th</sup> spot earlier in the season the Cats slipped in the later part of the season to finish 6<sup>th</sup> and were unfortunate to miss out on the finals as a team. However, in the end five of the boys who started with the Cats were on hand to assist the Div 1 team in their finals campaign.

Thanks go to the various people who contributed to the team at training and on game day. These include Fiona Blackshaw as our tireless Manager who dealt with all the paper work and mastered FootyWeb, Tony Ryan as co-coach, Neil Sugget as runner, Warren Blackshaw as boundary umpire and others who pitched in as goal umpires, first-aiders and time-keepers as needed.

### **Player snapshots**

**Daniel Avila:** Played in several positions but found his niche in the backline as one of the Halfback Heroes. Dan could be relied upon to continuously frustrate the opposition attacks.

**Josh Bartels:** Continuously improved as the season progressed and in the end was consistently getting possessions with his attack on the ball.

**Jake Blackshaw:** Developed his rucking abilities as the year progressed and was one of the most improved players.

**Chris Button:** Had an outstanding year as number one ruckman. Chris used his height and strength to good advantage and consistently won the ruck duels against all opponents.

**Charles Butt:** A first-year player who joined us midyear, Charles put in a great effort at training and really enjoyed the support of his team mates with his first possessions in Aussie Rules.

**Stefan Delhaize:** Played his best games at full-back and pumped many a long and accurate ball when kicking out of goal.

**Dominic Duncan:** A real leader, team player and on numerous occasions turned a game at  $\frac{3}{4}$  time with his inspirational play.

**Elliot Duncan:** was one of the Halfback Heroes and started many of our attacks from defence. Elliot and brother were sorely missed later in the season with their move to Div1.

**Zach Emery-Smith:** Started the season with little confidence but quickly turned this around to become one of our most ferocious attackers of the ball. Zach was

one of the boys who in the end stepped up to take a key position with the loss of players late in the season.

**Josh Fordyce:** Another of our consistent performers. Josh was a key player who could play any position on the field and never stopped running.

**Dylan Graham:** One of our few “talls” Dylan was not only an effective contributor to the rucking team but also showed an uncanny ability to snap a goal from a difficult angle.

**Connor McMaster:** A first year player who showed real potential. Kicked a goal in his first game and had a remarkable run of kicking a goal in each of subsequent games. Along with a few others was called upon to step up to a key position later in the season.

**Michael McNamara:** Unfortunately suffered a broken hand and had a 6 week break. Micky Mac always gave it his best and had a memorable last game in kicking our only goal for the day.

**Andrew McQuiggin:** Fantastic midfielder and kicked a heap of goals this season. He developed his defensive abilities later in the season to become a really well-rounded player.

**Jack Monaghan:** Jack had a great year and was regularly involved in the play. His outstanding mark when wedged between two Magpies players and subsequent shot on goal are ones to file away in the memory bank.

**Josh Page:** Played a number of positions early in the season and found his niche in the backline. Josh was a reliable back pocket player who stepped up to the half back flank later in the season.

**Jordan Reist:** One of the first year players and showed an ability to take a spectacular mark. Filled the important CHF and FF positions to give our forward line added “bite”.

**Jordan Reynolds:** A quite achiever who never stopped running. Jordan could be relied upon to give his best every week.

**Thomas Stokes:** Had an unscheduled 4 game “rest” mid-season but came back to be a valuable contributor late in the season. Thomas’s ability to kick a goal on the run was great to see.

**Ben Sugget:** Had his name engraved on the CHB position and with a reliable and strong pair of hands was another of the Halfback Heroes.

**Sam Ryan:** Had a quite start to the season with recurring injuries but then really turned in outstanding games later in the season. Did a great job when called upon to contribute as a midfielder.

**Declan Welsh:** Sorely missed when dealt a season-ending injury. Declan was another midfielder who could run all day and showed us all that he’ll be a valued member of the team next year.

**David Wright:** This boy has an unstoppable engine and never stopped running. Quick and agile, Dave was one of our best and made the representative ACT/South Coast team.

Manny Delhaize  
Coach

## **Under 16s - Division 1**

Firstly let me thank everyone involved in the co-ordination of the teams especially Steve Young who, not only took on the Role of 16 div1 Manager, but also as the key role as communications for the three teams. Also thanks to both the U16 Div 2 coaches, Sean Michelle and many Delhaize for your outstanding support throughout the year, particularly with the player promotion from both Div 2 sides. A special mention goes to the following people, for without their continued support, the Div 1 side would have struggled.

- Firstly, to Peter Bradley and the U14 Cats for promoting a number of players throughout the season, especially when representative duties and promotion of U16's to the U18's left us a few bodies short.
- To John Harper for his efforts in taking training every Thursday night, which raised the bar on the track. John is the best track coach I have been involved with in football.
- Thanks to those who assisted me throughout the season, particularly Barry Collins, Craig Jordan, Richard Courir and Dennis Whitford.
- Janine 'the siren' Collins (timekeeper and backup for Steve), Richard 'Semaphore' Allen (goal umpire), Phil 'the whistleblower' Hargraves (boundary umpire) and Gavin McKinnon (trainer & 1<sup>st</sup> aider)
- To all the parents that supported during the year and helped in one way or another.

The management group of the Cats and Magpies, comprising of the committees and coaches, had a difficult task in assessing the number of U16 teams to play in the upcoming 2008 season. The task was made more difficult given only 60 boys had registered when the meeting took place. A decision was made to play three teams as this would give the boys more game time each and every week - even at the risk of weakening the playing strengths of all three sides. It also presented a challenge to the management group to continue to recruit as the season progressed. This was somewhat successful with the final list comprising of 70+ boys.

The decision to merge the Magpies and Cats at U/16s level was a huge change in direction for both Clubs. Having been heavily involved with changes to the senior club during the mid 90's, I am aware not everyone agrees, or was happy with, the decision to merge. However, having been involved in football as both a junior and senior player and administrator, it is important we look at the overall benefit to the Club as a whole and not one of a personal preference. If we fail to meet these challenges, we risk going from being a model club in Canberra and NSW, to becoming a 'middle of the road' club. One has only to look at the Eastlake plan of 2001 where the Eastlake / Marist junior setup has become the benchmark of the competition in Canberra – something we should aspire to over the coming years. One only has to look at the 2008 junior results with Marist taking out the U/18's, U16's Div1 flags and Eastlake U16's Div2 and U/14 Div1 likewise. Their player numbers

are outstanding and a great result given the predefined plan for juniors some years earlier.

To the players, thanks for your commitment all year, everyone involved at a close level has been impressed with your efforts and skill level. I hope you have made new friends along the way.

For those moving on next year, I hope the skills and lessons learnt over 2008 makes your progression to U18's much easier - you have got to know Harps very well and the level of training and competition that is expected. We have endeavoured to remove the barriers for your transition to the 18s - I hope that sees you on the track with Harps in 2009. To those of you remaining with the U16's next year, let us hope we can take it one step further in 2009.

Award winners.

**Best and Fairest** - Nick Collins at only 15 Nick is going to go a long way his attitude is terrific towards training and learning he is definitely one to watch in the future.

**Runner up Best and Fairest** - Jordan Harper. Another U15 player, Jordie is one of the most underestimated players of his age group. He doesn't say much but his actions speak louder than words.

**Most consistent** – Matt Hunter - Throughout the season Matt played to a level any coach would be pleased with. His attitude toward the game and his endeavour to win the football were a tribute to his performance both on and off the field. Matt provided enormous drive through the mid field and, when required, off the half back line. Matt's endeavour never waivered.

**Most improved** - Jack Trevaskis, a first year player. Jack's transition to AFL was made even more difficult as he was not able to play Div 2 due to his work commitments. However, the coaches decided it would be better to have kids playing than not, so it was decided to put place in Div 1 while he learned the trade. His improvement was terrific and a testament to Jack's determination and skill base.

**Coach's award** - Jarrod McKinnon. Jarrod has been a great player all his junior career and continued with an outstanding year. He plays taller than his height suggests and always prepared to put his head over the ball

**Best player in the finals** - Andrew Courier. Andrew had two outstanding games during the finals series – you can always rely on Couz.

*Note: All of these players are eligible to play 16s next season*

Peter Taylor  
Coach

## Player milestones

### Under 8

#### *First season players*

Cooper Browne	William Cattle	Felix Dougherty	Mackenzie Dunn	Chrisopher Foley	Rowan McQueen
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Caitlin McQueen	Charlie Martin	Jack Martin	Felix Senden	Jonathon Shelton	Thomas Shelton
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*25 games*

Mackinley Miller	Bradley Tuck
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### Under 9

#### *First season players*

Rhys Drummond	Shea Engelbrecht	Ruby Fisher	Sam Fogden	Michael Grimwood	Jacob Hajduk
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Jayde James- Ward	Ricci James- Ward	Joe Kenna	Will McInnes	Tim McNamara	Jack Martin
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Dominick Moran	Patrick Moran	Ethan O'Byrne	Harry Shelton	Riley Wilson	Andrew Woods
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*25 games*

Bailey Marshall	Gerard Tuohy
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*50 games*

Riley Browne	Fraser Miller
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### Under 10

#### *First season players*

Sam Bowman	Stuart Manton	Ryan Sarre	Oscar Senden
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*25 games*

Connor Kane	James Tuck
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*50 games*

James Henderson	Zachary Jabbour	Jamie Kirkpatrick	Callum McClusky
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### Under 11

#### *First season players*

Nicholas Bennetts	Michael Bourke	Paul Carton	Jack Chandler	Benjamin Hannigan
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*25 games*

Morgan Bell	Jaxon Biden	Austin Grace	Chris Lane
-------------	-------------	--------------	------------

*50 games*

Alex Mangan	Paul McNamara	Andrew Wright
-------------	------------------	------------------

*75 games*

Jaiden Browne
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**Under 12***First season players*

Elijah Bell	Harrison Elliot	Louis Hatton	Tom Jolley-Rogers	Jackson Keir	Liam Lagana
David Lanspeary	Arlen Luhrs	Liam Luhrs	Matthew Miles	Charlie Seymour-Grant	

*25 games*

Michael Rinaudo	Rowan Winmill
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*50 games*

Todd Bailey	Elliott Jordan	James Wanjura
-------------	----------------	---------------

*75 games*

Hamish Healy

*100 games*

James Trevanion

**Under 14 Division 2***First season players*

Brodie Cook	Toby Dowse
-------------	------------

*25 games*

Sam Frawley	Rob Jamieson
-------------	--------------

*50 games*

Luke Charlton	Lewis Herbert	Connor Hicks
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*75 Games*

Sean Bourke	Brandan Bush	Toby Chugg	Danny Mues	Jakob Woodham
-------------	--------------	------------	------------	---------------

*100 Games*

Cameron Hargraves	Nicholas Wanjura
-------------------	------------------

*125 games*

Paddy Horan

**Under 14 Division 1***First season players*

James Small	Jack Steele	Blake Tomkins	Jesse Wilesmith
-------------	-------------	---------------	-----------------

*25 games*

Daniel Duranti	Blake Tomkins
----------------	---------------

*50 games*

Lachlan Spencer

*75 games*

Hayden Chris Lagana  
Fritzlaff

*100 games*

Rhys Healy Matt Kelly Nick Kelly Lachlan Sam Ryan- Josh Scaccia  
O'Sullivan Baker

Andrew  
Yazidjoglou

*125 games*

Ryan Bradley Charles Miller Aidan Pini

**Under 16 Division 2 - Cats**

*First season players*

Daniel Avila Charles Butt Jordan Reist

*50 games*

Jake  
Blackshaw

*75 games*

Chris Button Stefan David Wright  
Delhaize

*100 games*

Andrew Ben Sugget  
McQuiggan

**Under 16 Division 2 - Magpies**

*First season players*

Bradley  
Posch

*50 games*

Adam Davis

*75 Games*

Riley Bell

*100 games*

Peter  
Gatenby

*125 games*

Jacob Taylor

**Under 16 Division 1**

*25 games*

Henry  
Williams

*50 games*

Andrew  
Courir  
*75 games*

Dominic Elliott  
Duncan Duncan

*150 games*

Simon Jarrod  
Hargraves McKinnon

## **Awards**

### **Under 12s**

Best and fairest – Sam O’Sullivan  
Runner up best and fairest – James Trevanion  
Most consistent – Hamish Healy  
Most improved – Adam Jansen  
Coach’s award – Angus Collins

### **Under 14s Division 2**

Best and fairest – Luke Charlton  
Runner up best and fairest – Aaron ‘AJ’ Wilson  
Most consistent – Nick Wanjura  
Most improved – Paddy Horan  
Coach’s award – Matt Jachno

### **Under 14s Division 1**

Best and fairest – Aidan Pini  
Runner up best and fairest – Ryan Bradley  
Most consistent – Chris Jansen  
Most improved – Matt Kenna  
Coach’s award – Josh Sciacca  
Best in finals – Jack Steele

### **Under 16s Division 2 Magpies**

Best and fairest – Lachy Harper  
Runner up best and fairest – Andrew Lloyd  
Most consistent – Brad Posch  
Most improved – Ben McCabe  
Coach’s award – Riley Bell  
Best in finals – Chris Wodzinski

### **Under 16s Division 2 Cats**

Best and fairest – Andrew McQuiggin  
Runner up best and fairest – Ben Sugget  
Most consistent – Daniel Avila  
Most improved – Chris Button  
Coach’s award – Jordan Reynolds

### **Under 16s Division 1**

Best and fairest – Nick Collins  
Runner up best and fairest – Jordan Harper  
Most consistent – Matt Hunter  
Most improved – Jack Trevaskis  
Coach’s award – Jarrod McKinnon  
Best in finals – Andrew Courier

**Jarred Griffiths Memorial Award** – Andrew Yazidjoglou  
**Wayne Davill Merit Award** – Peter Jonas  
**John Williams Memorial Presidents Award** – Rob Lamb  
**Matthew Reynolds Memorial Award** – Jamie Browne

## Representative Players

Logan Austin, Daniel Duranti, Rhys Healy, Paddy Horan, Chris Jansen, Thomas Jurkiewicz, Matt Kelly, Nick Kelly, Jackson Maloney, Aidin Pini, Jack Steele, James Trevanion, Isaac Taylor, David Wright.

## 2008 OFFICE BEARERS

President:	Glenn O'Sullivan
Treasurer:	Rob Lamb
Registrar:	Rob Kelly
Property Officer:	Mick Kenna
Canteen Manager:	Trevor Fritzlaff
Web-site & IT:	Ben Healy
Committee:	Stu Miller
Committee:	Manny Delhaize
Committee:	Vicki Pini
Committee:	Fiona Blackshaw
Committee:	Tom Monaghan

## Coaches and Managers

	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Manager</u>
Under 8	Lyle Shelton	Vicki Favelle
Under 9 Panthers	Jeff James-Ward	Robyn Marshall
Under 9 Cougars	Jamie Browne	Alexia Mudruk
Under 10	Anthony Telford	Craig Henderson
Under 11	Rob Lamb	Kirsty Browne
Under 12	Craig Jordan	Lawrence Trevanion
Under 14 (2)	Colin Mues	Kerri Constable
Under 14 (1)	Peter Bradley	Paula Jansen
Under 16 (2) Cats	Manny Delhaize	Lorna Monaghan/Fiona Blackshaw
Under 16 (2) Magpies	Sean Michelle	Peter Jonas
Under 16 (1)	Peter Taylor	Steve Young

## Life Members

1987	John Williams (dec)
1989	Mike Watson
1990	Henry Henderson
1991	Shirley Levier
1992	Oswald Teron, Neil Baker
1993	Dennis Axelby, Jeff Nixon
1995	Mick Danaher
1996	Jim Calvert
1997	Lyal Camp, David Gallagher, Leroy Stewart
2001	Margaret Broughton
2002	Jenny Stakelum
2003	David Bennett
2004	Paul Egan, Reg Rathman
2007	Phil Hargraves

