



# Hornsby Heights Football Club

*"Home of Football Development"*

## Chairmans Report – 2014

2014 was the beginning of a new era for the Hornsby Heights Football Club. A new executive committee were elected at the AGM in December 2013 and the work of administering and developing a football club began almost immediately. It was a great honour for both Campbell Watt and I to be elected as Co-Chairmen for season 2014 and we would like to express our thanks and gratitude to Mike & Bernice Cusack for steering our club in a positive direction for so many years. They have laid an incredible foundation upon which we hope to build a bright future for our club.

In 2014 Hornsby Heights Football fielded a total of 37 teams with 501 registered players. Our teams ranged from the Under 6's right up to our inaugural Over 45's team.

In addition we launched our Friday Night Football Development Academy in 2014. Across four terms we had 360 players registered. The Term 1 Pre-season program at Montview Oval attracted over 160 children. Our academy program included a pre-schooler session which was oversubscribed for all four terms. The future of football in our local community looks very bright and many of these pre-school children will "graduate" to an Under 6 team in 2015 with a great sense of confidence and enthusiasm for the game.

Friday Nights also saw the trial of a girl's only football development program. This also proved to be a great success with 40 girls registered for the Term 1 program many of whom then played for the club for the very first time in 2014. We will continue to try and boost girl's football participation and development in 2015 and beyond with a particular focus on creating girls teams to play in the Sunday competition from the Under 8's and onwards. We want to become the home of Girls Football on the Upper North Shore.

2014 saw the launch of the Diamond League competition for G11 girls. We enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to be an inaugural participant and it is safe to say that the girls exceeded all of our expectations with their aggressive, fast passing style of football. The individual skill acquisition program used for Diamond League was such a success that we will be shortly announcing plans to roll this out to a much wider playing group from Under 6 to Under 11. In 2015 we will continue our association with Diamond League and have recently concluded trials for the G11 and G12 age groups.

In 2014 we also implemented our first strip change in many years. This is actually quite a complex project and I would like to personally thank our Equipment Officer, Craig Becchio for his tireless work in ensuring that this transition went as smoothly as possible. The design process was complicated with many different opinions but hopefully we have achieved a fresh and contemporary look for our football club.

Arguably the biggest achievement for season 2014 was my Co-Chairman's relentless pursuit of our local State Member (Matt Kean) and Hornsby Council to secure the funding and commitment required to upgrade the ground surface at Montview Oval. The "Montview Bounce" has cursed many a player over the past few years and is the direct result of drainage and irrigation systems that ceased to work many years ago. A special thanks to Matt Kean who enthusiastically championed our cause and also became our Club patron during 2014.

Thanks must go to Campbell Watt for the hours spent in grant preparation, meetings and planning required to produce such a successful outcome for the club. As many of you will have noticed work has already commenced. New and larger water tanks are being installed on the Eastern Side to ensure that the new irrigation system is a sustainable one. The drainage and surface levelling work should mean that we are no longer forced into closing Montview at the slightest hint of rain. Most importantly the standard of our game play and training should improve. Well at least our excuses will become less!

On the field we also enjoyed some success in 2014. Our Under 15B team won their division losing only two games all year and amassing a +35 Goal Difference along the way. After a fourteen year drought our Over 35's First and Reserve Grade teams won the Division 3 Competitions. There were a handful of players in this team who had played in the last premierships winning team in the Year 2000. Thanks must go to Ray Gillings for his stewardship of our ageing generation. And finally late in the year after many



# Hornsby Heights Football Club

*"Home of Football Development"*

delays caused by rain, our G11 Diamond League Team won their Gala Day against some very formidable opposition.

Our focus for 2015 will be on implementing improved coaching and football development opportunities for all junior (U6 to U18) players within the club. Information will be made available to all parents before the season commences. We also have a longer term goal and commitment to ensure that HHFC regains its place in the Men's All Age Premier League competition. We want to ensure that our young players can aspire to playing in the highest level of competition in our association without having to leave the club.

Finally I would like to thank all the hard working members of our committee and other volunteers who took on some pretty big projects in 2014. We didn't get everything right in 2014 and there are many things we can still improve. However without volunteers our club simply ceases to exist. Please consider making a contribution to our local community by attending this year's Football AGM and joining our General Committee. There are many exciting years ahead as we seek to provide both social and competitive / development opportunities for footballers in the Hornsby Heights area.

Malcolm Waldock