



Season 2014 Girls Annual Report

Girls football has taken off with an explosion this year, and the AFL encourage all clubs to form girl's teams for season 2014, so therefore the St. Marys JFC jumped on board and what a big jump it was.

In previous years Dave Harris (Vice President) tried to start up a girls' team for St. Marys JFC but unfortunately it was a very difficult task. A lot of time and energy is required to get something of this size off the ground. Therefore, I (Bernie Girolami Girls Coordinator) decided once I finished up on the committee in October 2013 I would concentrate on forming the first ever girls team for St. Marys Greensborough JFC with the support of the St. Marys Committee lead by President Andrew Sacco. The committee endorsed the new idea of possible girls' team representing St. Marys for season 2014.

So we with great excitement over the summer months the seeds were sowed and the question was asked to every potential young girl (footballer) if they would like play football for St. Marys JFC in our first ever inaugural girl's team. Word

spread very quickly and I was very encouraged, excited also confident that we could make it happen.

It was decided at Committee level that the girls would play in the same colours and style of jumper that the club use for the boys. However, the shape of the jumper had to be redesigned to fit our girls more appropriately. Debbie Costello did a lot of great work behind the scenes to ensure they were ready for first game on 6th April. Furthermore, it was decided by the St. Marys Committee to waive match fees and only charge our normal club registration fee of \$100, this being an extremely generous offer by the club.

The club's registration day was Sunday 23rd February; I was quite excited and also very nervous in anticipation of what lay ahead, if at all any interest from our prospective footballers.

By the end of the day we had, four new recruits for the Under 12's; Megan Girolami, Tomeeka Neil, Molly Ryan and Phoebe Taplin. The Under 15's look very promising as well with four new recruits; Anna Xanthos, Maggie Antypas, Madeleine Jesenek, Rachel Dooley with other girls showing plenty of interest.

But a bombshell went off when two girls by the name of Charley and Olivia McFawn wanted to play footy as well, but they were too old for Under 15's, therefore qualifying for the U/18's Competition. We didn't even plan for an Under 18 side! But within 48 hours Sally McFawn (mother of Charley and Olivia) and her daughters worked feverishly to get the required numbers. We had the interest of up to 16 girls and a potential Coach by the name of Stewart Lewis. We had to go back to the committee to ratify this Under 18 team. It was a simple decision but done with plenty of excitement. At the start of the committee meeting we had 16 girls, by the end of the meeting I received a

call from Sally telling me we had two more girls that now gave us a total 18 girls and a coach, an amazing effort.

Many thanks to Sally, Charley and Olivia, for making this team happen; it's a credit to you all.

The AFL was handing out incentives to all football clubs to start up girl's teams, girl's football being the fastest growing team sport in Melbourne and Victoria. These incentives were \$500 for each new girls team formed. We applied for two grants and with the proviso of forming two teams Under 12's and under 15's; we received a cheque for \$1000.00.

It was decided that we would trained on a Friday night at Greensborough Park from 5.00pm to 6.30pm. Our first official run was on 21st March, this allowed us with three full training sessions before the first official game on Sunday 6th April.

It was decided that the girl's team would all train together at the same time on the same ground. We would do our warm ups (run throughs) together. This allowed all the girls to get to know each other and more important train and feel part of a Club!

Before the first game we had appointed three coaches, one for each of the teams, these being:

- Under 12 Bernie Girolami.*
- Under 15's Gary Hennessey.*
- Under 18's Stewart Lewis.*

And three team managers:

- Under 12's Darren Neil.*
- Under 15's Rita Camilleri.*
- Under 18's Julie Lewis.*

Recruiting girls for the first game was still high priority from rego day right up to the first game. The St. Marys JFC put an

advertisement in the local (Leader Newspaper) paper, which featured three young girls from Under 12's; Megan Girolami, Tahlia Reid and Emmerson Williams, aimed to promote girls football at St. Marys for season 2014. This advertisement worked very well for the St. Marys JFC.

We went into the first game on Sunday 6th April with very low numbers in the Under 12's, in fact the bare minimum of eleven girls to get the games started (girls team were made up of 15 on field with 6 on the bench). The Under 15's had 16 girls for their first game and the Under 18's had 18 girls for their first game. For the next 8 weeks the under 12's picked up a girl each week which gave them a total of 19 players to tackle the rest of the season.

The Under 15's and the Under 18's finished with 22 players. This gave a total of 63 registered players in our first every season of football. From zero to 63 players an incredible effort! Well done every body Darren Neil, Sally McFawn, Trish Antypas and Gabby Collis, your recruiting skills are exceptional.

Rebecca Privitelli became our first St. Mary's female footballer to be drafted in the Women's AFL at pick No. 13. I thought it was only appropriate that we got Rebecca involved in our Girls Program for Season 2014. Rebecca became the girls mentor for the season 2014 and beyond. Rebecca kindly accepted an invitation to present all our girls their first ever St. Marys football jumper the Friday night before the first fixture game.

With Rebecca becoming our mentor, we thought it was only just reward that we honour Rebecca just like we have done with all the past players who have played for St. Marys and have made the Grade into the AFL. By doing so we organised one Sunday (Supporters) night presented Rebecca with two framed jumpers, one was a St. Mary Guernsey to honour her for

representing St. Marys with great distinction throughout her junior career, as well as a framed Bulldogs Guernsey which was placed up on the walls of our Club rooms to honour her for being our first female player to make the Women's AFL.

Rebecca in association with her premier league Club Darebin FC, coached by Richard Dalpos and No.1 draft pick Daisy Pearce kindly offered to come down to take training and teach our girls the finer points of the game it was a fun night!

We are looking to develop a closer relationship with the Darebin FC, because we see it as a pathway for our girls after their junior football to go and play senior football and possibly be drafted in the Women's AFL.

The girls embraced all the football traditions, loved playing in the mud, love training in the rain, loved getting dirty, love the whole football atmosphere, music before the games singing the club songs walking off the ground singing the club song arm in arms standing in the middle of the club once again locked arms and the captain of the day get drench by water! We also had a pie night which was very well received.

We were fortunate to have three girls try out for combine representative games Maggie Antypas tried out for the under 15's Development Squad and was successful in playing a couple of games. Charley and Olivia Mc Fawn tried out for under 18's representative team which went all the way to beat the Western (Footscray) Districts in the Grand Final well done girls "St. Marys we stand proud"!

We had three girls invited to the YJFL competition best n fairest night at the Ivanhoe town hall. Trinity Voisey came second with 21 votes in the Under 12 division and Charley Mc Fawn came

fourth with 18 votes and Olivia Mc Fawn fifth with 17 votes, a great effort by our girls!

The Under 12's notch up their first victory for the season in Round One beating Kew Comets by forfeit (Kew Comets didn't have enough players to field a team). However, in Round two we "Tasted the Honey!" proper by beating Banyule Blues by a whopping 9 goals, coached by our assistant coach and team manager Mr. Darren Neil. Incidentally, the Under 12 team were to make history by being the first team ever to win a game for our great club in its female division.

It took the under 15's a little longer to "Taste the Honey", they had to wait until Round 7 where they beat Ivanhoe by 16 points.

The Under 18's "Tasted the Honey" much quicker and by round three they had defeated Kew Rovers by 22 points.

As it stood at season end, the Under 12's in their first season finished on top of the ladder with 13 wins and 1 loss. Under 15's finished the season with 3 wins and 11 loses in 8th place and the Under 18's finished the season with 7 wins and 8 loses in 7th place, a fantastic effort for our first season.

The Under 12's are the first girl's team to ever to represent St. Marys in finals football. The Under 12's made the Grand Final; Kew Comets V St. Marys at Citizen Park 10.15am on a warm winter's morning. A fiercely fought battle saw St. Marys won by one point, the score line reading; St. Marys 0.2.2 def. Kew Comets 0.1.1. St Marys we stand proud! #premiers14

This is how the Under 12's girls Coach summed up the game:

"What a fantastic experience! I can't believe what the girls have achieved in their short football careers, it's truly amazing!

As I write this email I have the luxury of the premiership flag over my shoulders keeping me warm on this chilly night.

I am very honored to have coached this amazing group of young girls for season 2014.

The enthusiasm in which the girls display over the season was incredible.

Our three greatest assets that were developed throughout year were;

- our competitive spirit, competitive(princesses) beast*
- Listen to instructions and carrying them out*
- and a never say die attitude*

Throughout yesterday game these were our strengths and we played to them, this allowed us to taste the ultimate Success!

It was a game of inches and locked down (Ross Lyon Fremantle) that stifled the oppositions run on game, it worked magnificently.

Girls this has put you in the History Books, by following these instructions, you out played and out smarted the opposition.

I am very proud of your efforts and the feeling that we all experience after that final siren was unbelievable, in my entire football career that was the best feeling I ever experience, wouldn't it be magic if we could bottle this up.

Girls you have created history! First ever girls team to play a

game of football for St. Mary's, the first team ever to win a game of football and the first ever Girls premiers for St. Mary's JFC, all in one year.

May you treasure this moment forever."

I would like to say a few thank you's;

The world greatest team Manager Darren Neil, what you brought to the table was fantastic. Not only a team manager was also running around on game day organizing a smooth game of football but also an assistant coach, helping out on game day as well as every training session.

Darren actually coached the girls to their first official victory! Your attention to detail, positive attitude, and enthusiasm was tremendous, thank you for being a supportive and loyal man to the cause.

To my runner Jimmy, thank you for coming on board this season your astute knowledge of the game was very well received as well as your analytical ability/game smarts was evident on game day and of great benefit to me and to the girls out on the field. Offering a different view was very beneficial, and contributed to the overall success of the team. And I know your little sister loved having you involved just like I did.

These two men play a very important role in "Tasting the Honey" I will always be grateful of your contributions this season.

Also a big thank you to Steve Taplin, for being our trainer all season, a job well done and I know you loved being a part of it

all.

To all parents' thanks for your ongoing support, it was very much appreciated; you must feel very proud of your girls and what they have achieved.

To our sensational and beautiful girls you were magnificent all year 15 wins and two loses and most importantly a Premiership flag, who would of thought that this was possible at the start of the year?

It's a dream come true! Well done! Go the mighty Burra! "Taste the Honey"

Congratulations

Bernie Girolami Under 12 Girls Coach.

We held our first ever girls presentation night on 17th September, at the St. Marys Club Rooms all trophies' were presented by Rebecca Privitelli the girls (Mentor and Buddy).

The Inaugural winners of the Best and Fairest and Coach's Award are;

Under 12's:

- First: Ally Waldron*
 - Second: Trinity Voisey*
 - Third: Meg Girolami*
- Coach's award: Tahlia Reid*

Under 15's:

- First: Bridget McEntee*
- Second: Charlotte Mikic*

*- Third: Maggie Antypas
Coach's award: Frances Collis*

Under 18's

*- First: Charley Mc Fawn
- Second: Olivia Mc Fawn
- Third: Sophia Ikosidekas & Jess Hardy
Coach's award: Emily Temple*

Congratulations to all of the girls on your terrific seasons and thank you for making history and being the first ever girls to represent the great St. Marys Greensborough JFC.

I would like to also thank the St. Marys Football Club Committee for their wonderful support and encouragement in particular the President Andrew Sacco, Football Director Glenn Costello and the Property Steward Debbie Costello, none of this could have been achieved without you all.

Yours Sincerely,

Bernie Girolami, Girls Coordinator.

"St. Marys we stand Proud!"