



ST MARY'S

GREENSBOROUGH JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB INC.

PO Box 400, Greensborough, Vic 3088

ABN 99 338 455 774

Presidents Report 2015

In my first year as President, the main thing I learnt was how many fantastic & dedicated people it takes to run a football club of our size. Across all age groups, and in all roles there are a vast number of people who consistently provide much more than the minimum required, with little or no personal reward, all for the betterment of our club and our kids. It is impossible to acknowledge everyone personally in this report so on behalf of the club I would like to thank all of you for your efforts, no matter how small you think they may have been.

I would like to acknowledge the achievements of our hard working 2015 committee. At St Mary's each committee member has a designated role, though everyone is always on hand to assist each other in any way they can, as well act as barpersons, cleaners, cooks, raffle sellers etc. Being on committee at St Mary's is hard work, there are no passengers and we all get a bit of a jaded look about us come late July, but the rewards of seeing happy kids and the friendships formed & the fun had does make it worth it. On behalf of the club I would like to give a huge thank you to Dave, Michael, Glenn, Aleks, Mark, Jack, Karen, Ray, Anna, Laureen & Anne-Marie for their contribution. It is true that the season would not have happened, let alone been such a success without your efforts.

Special mention needs to be made of our retiring committee members:

Dave Harris was duly appointed a life member this year for his 6 years of service on committee. A true jack of all trades, Dave has over the years been responsible for clubroom maintenance, managing the bar, league & council liason, emails, Facebook and our website, photo day as well as a regular face working behind the bar, both at our Sunday nights & social events as well as private functions. We enter life AD (after Dave) with trepidation as I feel only by him not being there will we truly appreciate everything he did. Thanks heaps Dave.

Karen King took on the role of sponsorship director 2 years ago and was able to lift it from a very high base to greater heights. Asking people for money is never an easy gig, but the ease & efficiency with which Karen went about this task was a true indication of her vast talents. Not one to just take the money and run, Karen was always most concerned with making sure our sponsors were looked after and acknowledged and got some 'bang for their buck'. This approach has meant that not only were her 2 years incredibly successful we are also in a great position for future seasons. Of course Karen's achievements went beyond sponsorship, our highly successful Ladies night, Sponsors & Volunteers nights and major raffles were testament to her efforts & ability.

Jack Batchelor was an integral part of a highly innovative and organised football department. In addition to coaching his own side, he had the role of supporting all of our coaches across all age groups. He is a highly respected figure within our football community and like everyone his efforts went beyond his designated role, always happy to help out in the bar or the kitchen or with whatever job needed doing. Jack has chosen to devote more of his time and effort into his own coaching and we wish him all the best.

A lot has been said and written this year about the contribution made by Anne-Marie Halewood to our club, and I won't go over too much of that ground here. Suffice to say, her organisation and ability as our registrar meant that nobody had to worry about what she was doing, it was just taken as given that everything would run smoothly, and it did. On a personal level, every President, especially a new one, needs a friend and confidante to give advice and feedback and not be afraid to let you know when you might be on the wrong track. Anne Marie was this person for me and in the all the ways I miss her, the loss of her counsel was felt more than most in the second half of the season.

Also from a personal level I would like to especially thank Michael Mefflin & Glenn Costello for their support this season. Michael is an incredibly capable Secretary who gives up an enormous amount of time to ensure that all of our compliance issues are covered off. He is the true voice of wisdom & reason at our club, and his ability and calmness in any sort of dispute resolution means that issues are not only dealt with fairly and with due process, but that the best outcome is always achieved for St Marys Greensborough Junior Football Club as a whole. More than that, he is a true friend and our almost twice weekly phone calls have been great personal support to myself.

Glenn, with the able assistance of Mark & Jack, has set a new standard for football operations at our club. From being at every preseason training and fully across all teams and age groups, as well as liaising with the league to ensure the best outcomes for our club, they have provided our coaches and managers have all the support they need and ensured that as President I didn't need concern myself too much with football matters – probably just the way they like it !

I would also like to acknowledge all of our 24 coaches for season 2015. Our core business is football and our coaches are on the front line week in, week out. They are the main point of contact for our players, parents & opposition and I am so appreciative of not only the time and effort they put in, but the manner in which they represent our club. Winning games of football is only a small part, and I believe a relatively unimportant part of what our coaches do. The ability to inspire, encourage and develop our boys & girls as well as act role models and mentors is what sets great coaches apart and I firmly believe at St Marys we have more great coaches than most clubs. This year the YJFL undertook some extensive research into player retention, particularly in the U13 – U15 age groups. The key to their findings is that the number one factor in player retention is coaching. Kids are much more likely to come back the following year when they have had a good coaching experience the year before, conversely a bad coach means that players are much more likely to leave the sport, often never to return. With that in mind, whilst we have such a fantastic group of coaches as we had in 2015, St Marys will continue to be strong in the future.

Our team and age group managers are also second to none. Often undervalued & underappreciated, there are not too many tougher jobs than being a team or age group manager and I would like to thank all of our 24 team managers & 9 age group managers for all of their efforts and achievements.

When my family first joined St Marys, our slogan was the Biggest & the Best. We were justifiably proud of being the biggest, but due to changing demographics and increased competition from our neighbouring clubs these days have probably passed us by. However, this does not mean we stop striving to be the best, to have the best coaches, the best committee, the best managers, the best merchandise & equipment, the best football development & social development programs, the best social functions and the best facilities. Our challenge moving forward is making sure we are the best in all of these areas so we continue to encourage families to bypass their most local club, and make St Marys a destination.

Of all the achievements by committee this year, I have been most proud of our ability to look beyond the day to day, and towards the future. We close the 2015 season with many building blocks and works in progress in place including our VIDA football & coaching development program, our SALT social development program, the ongoing redevelopment of Greensborough Park, the revamping of our Sunday nights and social events and the arrival of an electronic scoreboard looms closer than ever. If I am lucky enough to be reappointed in 2016 I look forward with excitement to working with the new committee to make all of these works in progress a reality.

Yours Faithfully,

Evan Butterworth
President