

# ST MARY'S GREENSBOROUGH JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB INC.

PO Box 400, Greensborough, VIC 3088

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## Secretary's Report 2014

Season 2014 has seen the St Mary's Greensborough Junior Football Club celebrate another successful chapter in its history. This year saw the club field three inaugural female teams; six teams make finals including three premierships. Most importantly we were able to support over 500 juniors play our great game each week enjoy the experience in developing their skills, self confidence and making new friends.

In my second year on the committee, I feel that I have been able to progress from "L Plates" to the "P Plates". It continues to be humbling to work with so many dedicated people with the shared vision to simply provide an environment for our children to participate, have fun and flourish personally. I would like to congratulate those leaving the committee this year – Andrew Sacco, Sam Gioffre and Debbie Costello. Your efforts and achievements have ensured that the club has maintained its reputation of being one of the largest and most successful clubs in the country.

Congratulations to Andrew "Sensai" Sacco for his fantastic tenure as President. Andrew is an outstanding leader, active listener, always the first at the club and the last to leave. He has overseen our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, secured a new scoreboard and supported the development of three female sides – what a legacy! What a champion bloke!

Andrew has been ably supported by his right hand man Dave Harris. I often refer to Dave as the "beacon of common sense" for his pragmatic approach to issues. The club has productive and respectful relationships with the Council, Senior Football Club, Riverside Cricket Club and the YJFL largely due to the efforts of Andrew and Dave.

The Football Department under the guidance of the Glenn "Football Whisperer" Costello continues to enhance its reputation as one of the best in the country. We don't measure our success on premierships however with only one team finishing on the bottom it highlights how competitive we are across the board. There is no one at the club who does more hours behind the scene than Glenn Costello and his team of Mark Taranto, 2013 Northern Region Coach of the Jack Batchelor and Ray Johnson. This effort is reflected by the quality of our coaches and the football program to have so many players invited to the YJFL Best and Fairest night.

Congratulations to Debbie Costello for being nominated for "Banyule Female Volunteer of the Year". We think Deb was robbed! However, it was due recognition for the countless hours given to always ensure our teams were fully equipped. I will surely miss Debbie's questions on which apparel to get – the teal, white and black or the black, white and teal!

Congratulations also to Bernie Girolami for being nominated for “Banyule Male Volunteer of the Year”. This man just keeps giving. We have three female sides simply because of the passion and commitment of Bernie. Bernie coached the Under 12 girl’s team this year to a premiership! The great aspect for us is that we now have the Girolami family at the club for a further five years.

It really speaks volume of the club culture when we attract people of the calibre of Karen King and Anne Marie Halewood to the committee. In their first year, Karen secured a new sponsor and increased sponsorship whilst Danni Gioffre and Anne Marie oversaw the implementation of a new on line registration process.

It is important to acknowledge that any revenue raised by the club is simply reinvested for the benefit of members. Our very own fiscal guru Evan Butterworth continues to oversee a strong governance of budgeting to ensure we always explore opportunities to enhance your value.

I would also like to acknowledge the tireless contribution of Sam and Danni Gioffre. The Gioffre family were well deserved inductees to the life membership family. The success of the Dinner Dance and Sportsman’s day will be remembered fondly by all as fun social events. Danni is also the architect of our fantastic new website and on line registration process. The feedback I have received from members is that information is far more easier to access.

We have over 240 volunteers each Sunday! The role of the Coach, Age Group Manager, Team Manager and all of the match day support staff is really appreciated. It takes significant personal sacrifice to perform these roles on a volunteer basis. I thank our wonderful coaches for their commitment to improving skills and teaching our children the values of our club. We are very fortunate to have coaches of such high character and football knowledge.

A special thanks for Livio Basile and to our fantastic Team Managers for their organisation and co-ordination. I also appreciate their efforts in helping me ensure all information each week is provided to the league in a timely manner.

I would also like to thank all of our club sponsors for their continued generous support of our club. Well done to Karen King for her relationship management of all stakeholders to ensure they received value for their contribution and her wonderful coordination of the “ladies night”. A special thank you to our major sponsors:

- Technika
- The Blinds Spot
- Stuart Broadley and Associates

Finally, I would like to thank all the parents and grand parents who support our fine young football champions – win, lose or draw and in rain, hail and shine. We pride ourselves in helping your children develop not only as footballers but as people and we strive to create an environment where they can create lifetime memories and friends.