



Waverley Park Hawks Junior Football Club Annual General Meeting - President's Report - 2023

I am thrilled to share my President's report in my first year as the club's first ever female President at the helm. It has been an incredible year, and I want to express my gratitude to all who have supported the club and contributed to our success.

First and foremost, I would like to thank our sponsors for their unwavering support in 2023. Your generosity has been instrumental in helping us achieve our goals and continue to grow as a club. We hope to see you all back in 2024.

To the parents of our young athletes, thank you for entrusting us with your children's development. Your support, both on and off the field, has been invaluable in creating a positive and nurturing environment for our players.

I'm delighted to report that our club continues to remain strong both on and off the field, and we've had an outstanding season filled with memorable events and achievements. Fielding 15 teams in 2023 including three girls' teams in the U12, 14 and 16 age groups, a strong U8s team and two teams in both the U13 and U17.5 age groups. With around 350 players we're in a great position to continue to grow that number year on year.

Proudly our best season yet for results with nine teams making finals out of a possible 12 that qualified, and five making it through their first week of finals. Three teams made grand finals U12 girls, U13 boys and U14 boys which was fitting given all three also won the minor premierships in their division, finishing on top of the ladder. Unfortunately, the U13 boys narrowly missed a premiership by one kick in the end. A huge congratulations to our Premiers our U12 girls who had a very convincing win and our U14 boys who rounded out the final's series with a win and back-to-back Premierships. I couldn't be prouder of the dedication and passion our players have shown on the field. Our achievements this year, are a testament to their hard work and commitment.

Our club has been fortunate to have some incredibly talented girls and boys who have represented us at various levels, including interleague competitions, next generation academies and Victorian All Nations and State School Championships. Their dedication and skill have shone brightly, bringing pride to our club, themselves and their families and we're positive there's more success to come.

Throughout the season, we've organised and enjoyed some successful events, beginning with our registration day, season launch & jumper presentation night, our major fundraiser, our cocktail party, where we raised \$15,000 and presented some outstanding recipients with our Club Awards, our PINK round raising around \$9,000 for BCNA, our B&F "Brownlow" presentation night for our U17.5 boys and our season finale, our presentation day. These events not only strengthen our sense of community but also provide our players an avenue to showcase their talents and connect with one another on and off the field by providing them with the best facilities and opportunities.

A special congratulations goes out to our oldest boys who are now graduating from our junior football program. Special thanks to Matt Foale and the team of players and parent group, despite not advancing to the second round of finals this year, have completed their football journey admirably and have been true champions of this Club. We wish them success as they move onto new opportunities and anticipate their participation in the U19s next year to continue their passion for football. Remember you will always have a home here at the Waverley Park Hawks, as a past player, an aspiring Coach or Club President, I wish you well in your life's journey both on and off the field. Big thanks to Coach Matt Foale and Chris Warr his TM for their commitment, devotion, and loyalty for 10 plus years.

Lastly, a big shoutout to all our committee members, to our Auskick Co-Ordinator Aaron, our Child Safety Officer Renae, our Footy Ops team, Brendan, and Shane who have put in countless hours behind the scenes to ensure the smooth operation of the club. To our Committee, Sub-Committees and Committee Liaison Members (CLMs), your dedication and leadership, your tireless hard work and dedication to help run this club in your "spare" time all year round is simply phenomenal. I couldn't have done it without you and appreciate everything you do.

As we reflect on these achievements over the 2023 season, it's clear that our club is more than just a sports organisation; it's a community that fosters talent, friendships, and lifelong memories.

My gratitude to each and every one of you who has contributed to our club's success, from players, coaches, team managers, team officials, to parents and volunteers. Your dedication is the cornerstone of our achievements, and I am excited about the bright future that lies ahead for our club.

As we look forward to the future, I am confident that our club is in excellent shape, and I am excited about the prospects ahead. With your continued support, I have no doubt that we will achieve even greater heights in the years to come.

Michelle McCluskey, Club President