



**PRESIDENTS REPORT  
2017 AGM  
25 October 2017**

Welcome everyone to the Willoughby Wildcats JAFc Annual General Meeting.

Following on from the previous three years of hard work of immediate past President Rob Rayner, this has been my first year in the official capacity as President of our great club. I have enjoyed the year and thank the rest of our club's Committee for their tireless work over the course of the season.

2017 was an extraordinary season for our club.

The highlights included :

- A record number of players and teams
- A record number of players being selected in rep teams and winning individual awards
- We fielded two or more teams in each age group
- We fielded two U11 Div 1 teams both reaching the Grand final
- We had a record number of teams qualify for the finals which resulted in a record numbers of 3 Wildcat and 4 JV team Premierships
- Our Auskick program continues to be the largest and recognised as the premium Auskick program on the North Shore
- We had a record number of volunteers that now exceed over 100 counting our many coaches / managers and tireless army of other volunteers and of course the committee that drive the day to day workings of the club
- We continue to have a strong and healthy relationship with our youth JV Club the Mosman Swans.
- We started our first standalone girls U12 team
- We generated our largest revenue from the canteen and the Social night

As was well noted by our past President, the key measure for our success as a club isn't by reference to how big we are, nor how many games of footy or premierships we win, rather, we look to other more intangible measures, such as:

- our players and parents respect and adherence to the AFL code of practice
- are our kids having fun, improving their footy skills and meeting new mates
- are we providing a positive environment for both our kids and their parents
- are we teaching our kids, parents and coaches to play sport in a sportsman like way, that treats opponents fairly and respects the decision of the umpires; and



**PRESIDENTS REPORT  
2017 AGM  
25 October 2017**

- are we promoting the game of AFL to be the best winter sporting code for boys and girls to play such that it can compete with other codes and continue to be one of the dominant winter sporting codes played on the Sydney North Shore?

As a club we continue to follow these principles which are the primary driver for our success as a club – both on and off the field.

Another strength of our club is the defined player pathway with:

- the best Auskick program in Sydney that is run by an outstanding group of volunteers;
- by far the greatest depth in terms of both player numbers, skill and depth for our junior teams (9's – 12's); and
- our youth footy pathway is the envy of all others through our successful JV model with the Mosman football club for the 13's and up.

Our relationship with the North Shore Bombers is strong and of course we have made giant steps forward this season with girls footy.

If I can now turn to some specifics.

**Player numbers**

As I mentioned earlier, we are one of the largest junior AFL clubs in NSW.

In 2010	We had 285 kids playing AFL
In 2017	we have 572 registered players

**Auskick program**

Under the guidance of Tony and David and his mighty crew of Auskick coaches that now number more than 25, and following on from the great work of Digby, we have continued to grow the quality and size of our Auskick program.

In 2010	112 Auskickers
In 2017	180+ Auskickers

We see the strength of our Auskick program as critical, as we see it as the “base of our pyramid”. The stronger and broader that we can build the base, the stronger and deeper our club becomes in future years.

Today's Auskickers are the junior footballers of tomorrow and of course our youth footballers thereafter.

Whilst our under 8's, 9's and under 10's don't play for wins or losses in a competition as such, I know from watching a number of these games and from speaking with coaches and manager in this age group, that our teams very balanced and competitive on the field as was shown the the end of season gala days.

This comes about from the quality of the Auskick program they have experienced in our club's football nursery and of course the quality and enthusiasm of our coaches / managers in our junior footy program. We should continue to follow the AFL Auskick and Junior players approved training drills and structures.

### **Junior pathway (8 – U12)**

This season we fielded a record 13 teams in the junior competition, with all teams being very competitive with the majority qualifying for the finals.

Fielding two u11 Div 1 teams shows the depth of our junior numbers and the quality of our training and players.

Two junior teams (U11 Div 1 Green & U12 Div 3 ) won premierships which is a fantastic achievement.

Our standalone U12 Girls team exceeded our expectations.

### **Youth pathway (u13 – U17 JV)**

The JV with Mosman (merger of teams for youth footy) commenced at the start of season 2011 and is now seven seasons strong. The JV provides a number of benefits to our kids, namely it provides an environment that provides the right level of competition for the varying levels of talent that become more apparent as our players become older. Specifically it:

- allows individual kids to get more kicks and be involved;
- keeps kids enjoying their footy and playing longer; and
- provides a solid pathway from junior footy and then into senior footy with the likes of the North Shore Bombers which fielded two U19 teams in 2017 with a number of Wildcats parents as volunteers

We are able to offer both Div 1 and Div 3 football experiences to each of the youth footy age groups – 13's through 18's, which I believe is a testament to the success of our JV with the Mosman footy club.

Whilst our JV with the Mosman footy club isn't necessarily for ever, nor is it perfect, it is something that we should all embrace and build to become an even stronger model as we move forward.



**PRESIDENTS REPORT  
2017 AGM  
25 October 2017**

It was wonderful to see the U15 and U18 Youth Girls JV team coming together and having a most successful season.

The majority of youth teams qualified for finals with four teams winning the grandfinal:

U13:1, U13:3, U15:1 and U18 Youth Girls

Congratulations to our players who qualified for rep teams and our individual youth competition award winners.

<b>Award</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Under 17's Division 1 Best and Fairest (KJ Medal)</b>	1s Josh Rayner
<b>Under 13's Division 1, Best and Fairest</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> – Remi Cunningham
<b>Under 14's Divisions 3, Best and Fairest</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> – Max Russell
<b>Under 14's Divisions 1, Best and Fairest</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> – Felix Rogers

**Volunteers**

Increasing engagement in our club was a key focus area for us in the 2010 strategic review. We gave ourselves a the key measure of success:

1. Number of volunteers

In 2010	We had 50 club roles – including a committee and operations team of around 10 – filled by around 40 key people.
As we move on from Season 2017	We have over 130 footy roles and Wildcat committee and operations roles that are filled by more than 100 different people.

We will continue to break up roles into manageable commitments, and engage families to be involved with the development of their kids. Special thanks to Steve Netting for his drive and energy and outstanding success in this area.

**Financial position**

As you will see in the Treasurer report , from the increase in player numbers, continued sponsorship with Oak, Mirvac and Dixon Advisory and the success of our canteen our revenue is strong. Thanks again to our valued sponsors.

Our Treasurer Marcus Elssum is second to none.

**Other notable mentions for season 2017:**

- Chris Barnum being awarded the Willoughby Wildcats Clubperson of the Year
- Rob and Viv Rayner being awarded the joint Willoughby Wildcats Volunteers of the Year Award
- The coach of the year U15 Div 1 coach Travis Miller
- The U11 age group doing another fantastic job – with both a profitable and enjoyable social night – raising a net \$20,000.
- Our ten teams making it to the grand final and the 6 teams that won grand finals
- Mike and Janet Broughton on another successful year managing Gore Hill and the canteen and Luke Rayner running a smooth operation at Blackman Park.
- A number of our teams (including our girls) featuring in half – time games at both the SCG and Spotless Stadium this year.
- Our strong relationship with the Lane Cove Cats and Ryde Dockers which allowed us to play many games at their home grounds. We appreciate these clubs accommodating the Wildcats.
- The rebuild of the Wildcats Website thanks to Kerry Richards and Viv Rayner

#### **Looking ahead / challenges / Improvements**

1. As the club continues to grow our number one challenge is maintaining our core values and the quality of the Wildcats experience. We must continue to evolve to maintain the Wildcats standard and quality.
2. The development of Gore Hill Oval is an exciting project and will deliver the Wildcats will the most advanced synthetic surface for AFL in Australia. Unfortunately the development will bring disruption to our club and we expect to be away from Gore Hill for the entire 2018 season.
3. Alternative training venues have not been secured (apart from our existing U9 / ninety minute booking at Thompson Oval) and the Committee will continue to work with the AFL and many Councils to try and identify alternative training locations. On a positive note we appear to have secured either Willoughby Park or ELS Hall as our Auskick location in 2018.
4. Co-ordinating the Wildcats “Club” football offering with that of the private school Saturday AFL competition.
5. Continue to improve and strengthen the effectiveness and ongoing operation of the team JV with Mosman for our youth players.

6. Consider the implications of the AFL's decision to move to a maximum of 16 on the field for all teams in 2018 and the apparent move by the AFL to centralise the decision making structure for the competition.
7. Continuing to work closely with the Lane Cove Cats and their inter-action with our own Willoughby junior teams from U12's up.
8. We propose to update the club's Constitution at this AGM. This update will bring the Constitution in line with that required by the New South Wales Department of Fair Trading and also suggestions from the AFL. The new constitution largely reflects the way the club is currently run and is not expected to have any major changes in its day-to-day operations.

### **In Conclusion....**

Thank you for the support of the numerous coaches, managers, volunteers and committee members that we have. Without this support and energy, our club quite simply wouldn't be what it is today.

A special thanks to our Executive Committee, Cath Harris, Marcus Elsum, Viv Micheletti and Steve Netting and our Age Group Co-ordinators.

The club is in great shape – both on and off the field and we are in a strong position to tackle the challenges that will arise in 2018 and beyond.

We look forward to continued success next season with growth in our player numbers and hopefully seeing some new faces to fill volunteer roles that will further drive the success of our great club.

Go the Wildcats!

**JUSTIN HARTY  
PRESIDENT**

