

**Old Carey Grammarians FC  
2015 AGM  
7.00pm, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
Geebung Hotel**

**Presidents Report**

Another season of football has rolled by culminating for now the consolidation of our place in Premier A grade. Having gained promotion 12 months earlier logic say we would be the 10<sup>th</sup> best team in the competition given we were runners up in Premier B in 2014. Many paid us little respect; the old cliché was being bandied about in the preseason: Carey's top 6 as good as any but beyond that no depth. Would this be true, had we improved, were we better placed for another crack in Premier A?

Well we survived, some might say we fell in, others may be more positive and say we even flourished. In short the seniors held down a top 4 spot for 14 of the 18 rounds. We played some scintillating football; beating Xavs twice and creating history along the way with a first ever win by a VAFA team in beating Xavs at their school on Roach Oval. We also had memorable victories over Collegians, Blacks, De La and Scotch. Our best was very competitive; we held 20 point plus leads at half time in both games over grand finalists Old Trinity. However we did ourselves no favours with two draws, Beaumaris in the 1<sup>st</sup> round then later in the season to De La at home, a one point loss to Blues hurt as well, especially as we lost Jarrod Reid that day too to an ACL. Had those games gone the other way we may have played finals, although given the mid table bottleneck at season's end we may have been in the drop zone had we lost. Regardless all credit to St Bernards and Old Trinity, the two stand out teams throughout the season, they played some amazing football with the GF being an epic encounter. Trinity brave by Bernies a bit too good.

Our depth was an issue again; sadly despite a lot of close misses the 2nds weren't able to register a win in 2015. Credit must go to Wags and Derm our twin 2nds coaches. They did a wonderful job in difficult circumstances keeping the boys up and reasonably prepared for each ensuing game. The 2nds went very close on several occasions, leading well only to be overrun late in the game. In the end a lack of training and fitness by many of the players was the difference. Premier A 2nds football is a very good standard, players need to fully commit to the season and training, the standard is such that you can't get by on football ability alone.

Praise is due again to Ocka and his 3rds; playing in the Premier B 3rds competition they had a great season. Ian was able to provide 70 plus boys a game of football. Impressive yes but an administrative nightmare at times, especially late Friday nights! Regardless they played some wonderful football, non-better that beating Fitzroy at home in Geoff Trumbull's 150<sup>th</sup> game and celebrating his well-deserved life membership. The boys got through to the finals and made history in hosting a VAFA final on Dunshea, sadly a much younger SKOB's were too good on the day.

Saving the best to last, history in the making, an U19 premiership! The Unders played brilliant football on GF day at VAFA HQ to take the game away from the highly fancied Old Geelong, creating history as we had not won an U19 premiership prior to now. Michael Tarrant and his support staff, Nick Andrews, Michael Mitchell and Gary Chapman are to be congratulated big time. It's no coincidence that this would be a successful season for the U19's given the enormous amount of work they have done together with Alan Fotheringham in developing the relations with the school's football program. We are very fortunate to have this crew at the club; Taz has done an amazing job with the playing group. He had access to a squad of 30 plus, with 25 regularly at training demonstrates what a healthy U19 program is currently at the club. Aptly named by Taz, that premiership for the 2015 U19's now means

F4L, "friends for life". We attended the schools OCGA YR12 breakfast in October and had a great response from the current YR12 leavers, it's a massive help as well having past player Jack Joslin as the school's Director of Football, Jack has a great vision for the School's program and has a terrific connection with the club. There are some encouraging signs coming from the school's football program and we hope to be there to continue our support and Taz's legacy.

Credit must go to our senior coach, Glenn Cox together with his support staff, Moose, Braddles and Dave Wright. They were great ambassadors for the club and conducted themselves with great professionalism throughout the season. Disappointingly Glenn announced shortly after the season's end that he would not be renewing his coaching commitment. By his own admission, a growing family, a growing business and football were really testing his capabilities. Glenn is as passionate about football as anyone I have met and he knew how consuming it is to be the senior coach, concerned by this Glenn felt he had to step aside as he knew he wouldn't be able to offer the depth of coaching required to be a Premier A grade coach. Both parties have parted on excellent terms and will always have great memories of the 2014-15 seasons and the combined achievements. We wish Glenn and Meg all the very best.

Glenn's decision to resign really gave us the opportunity to think about how we wanted to approach 2016 and the senior coaching. The news that Cam Howat was leaving the club really forced us to focus on our playing list and in particular the younger Panther generation. We realised we needed to enlist a coach(s) who would engage with the entire list and be approachable in particular the younger players. James Wagner was very keen to appoint Taz to the job given his relationship with the Under 19's since 2013. These boys are the future of the club and the next ones to lead us. We approached Taz who whilst flattered wanted us to advertise and explore alternatives. It was great advice as we landed Paul O'Connell and at the same time convinced Taz to join Paul in a joint senior coaching role. Paul brings to the club past AFL experience (Collingwood, Hawthorn and St Kilda) combined with time in the VAFA (Old Brighton in 2015) whilst Taz will be working with the list and ensuring all players are valued and challenged. Accompanying Paul are two new assistants, Grant Chisnall and Mark Rice; we are thrilled that Braddles and Moose will stay on. Dave Wright will fill the much needed football operations role. Our mantra for the club in 2016 will be *GENERATION NEXT*, Paul's idea based on a new era and the next young crop of Panthers. The 2nds will be coached by Jarrod Reid given his 2015 season ending knee injury. Combining with Wags as assistant, this will be a great opportunity for Jarrod to develop his off field football skills/coaching. Nick Andrews supported by Michael Mitchell will coach the Unders with the 3rds still to be finalised.

Old Carey was again very well represented in the VAFA's rep games; in particular at the U23 national carnival in Tasmania, Morgan Evans and Andrew Sloan were selected and played solid games for the VAFA.

The off field challenges continue, as noted in the Ben's report it is a very costly exercise running a driven football program and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running we failed to produce a surplus. It remains a big challenge funding the program and we become very reliant on the generous support from our key sponsors and wonderful parent group. There is a real concern how we can continue to "trade" this way. We will need to examine every material cost to the club in 2016 and trim where we can, I have already had preliminary discussions with Peak Physio and how we can reduce costs there. It may be that we forgo a duty physio and rely on a needs basis, which may remove approx. \$11,000 in costs. Cookie was again active and delivered 10 outstanding home lunches. He has an amazing network and was able to pull some big draw card guest speakers to our home lunches, all no charge. These included: Steve Quartermain, Peter Murnane, Mike Sheahan, Mick Gayfer, Megg Lanning, Lindsay Gaze, Cam Matthews and Michael Roach, with Ian Cohen popping in to do several of the interviews. The lunches are a vital part of our success as they provide our supporters and the opposition time to enjoy the some company ahead of the home games. There are not many clubs these

days that are committed to putting on weekly home game lunches. Cookie has done a magnificent job and is already planning the 2016 menu!

Sponsorship is a vital component of our cash flow and we are again indebted to the sponsors that joined forces with Old Carey in 2015, we hope we were able to give you some exposure and value add.

- John Hands business, Hotel Restaurant Supplies, major sponsor for a 3 year term
- The Geebung
- Lion Nathan
- Bank of Bendigo
- Jeffrey Thomas and Partners
- Patterson Cheney
- As well as the regular Panther Club members

I know I speak on behalf of the players, coaching staff and committee in stating how appreciative we are of the generous support from everyone, in particular John Hands.

On the social scene we held several functions aimed at getting the boys out and away from football, the highlight being getting everyone to the Geebung mid-year to say our farewells to club champion Lachie McQueen Miscamble, Lach headed off overseas in June to the USA to continue his veterinary studies. The night allowed us to acknowledge Lach's 150<sup>th</sup> game and life membership at Old Carey; we missed him badly in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season. Praise to Taz again for organizing another U19 function, this time at a community hall in Balwyn, another great night and fund raiser. The season ended fittingly with our B&F celebration back at Fenix with 190 attending including many of the Unders still celebrating their premiership. Special mention must go to Lucy Arthur for arranging the home game arvo teas, now very popular the arvo teas are a great chance for the parents and supporters to enjoy a cuppa and some time together at half time, the cold winter made these very popular. I must also acknowledge the very generous support offer by Terri and Beck Cremean, owners of BosCastle, they kindly donated to our canteen: pies, pasties an sausage rolls, we were very fortunate to have this generous offering each home game, great product and a big thanks to the Cremeans.

The B&F gave is the chance to present a final B&F to our captain Cam Howat before he leaves the club. It's a sad occasion as he will be greatly missed; Cam has been an amazing leader of our club and a marquee player in the competition. We wish him well for 2016 and beyond, naturally keen to see him back if that day can arise. Congratulations to all of the award winners at the B&F, the awards recognise their hard work and commitment to the club throughout the season. We were also able to induct 4 new life members at the B&F: Geoff Trumbull, Sam Hassett, Lach McQueen Miscamble and surprisingly myself. This is a great honour and I know I speak on behalf of the others in saying how thrilled we are to be offered life membership.

Recruiting wise we did ok, despite losing Tom Roach to the EFL we welcomed home Luke Crozier, Jules Rowe and Sam Cust. With an influx of players across all teams we had appeared to have greater depth than 2014, however as reported above we still had our issues, the list is a work in progress matter. I must say recruiting is increasingly difficult given the amount of cash being offered around now in the EFL.

The two senior teams were again well organised by our mighty Team Managers, Michael Sloan Cordner and Alan Fotheringham, these two did magnificent jobs. Michael Mitchell did likewise with the U19's, whilst Ocka was ably supported by Sam Hassett and Paul Gleddon with Darren Elsner his assistant. The club continued its commitment to provide the playing group with all of its needs (despite the increasing cost of running a driven program). We retained the services of Peak Physio in the form of a dedicated physio to be at training one night a week and attend all senior games on the weekend. Furthermore, we again enlisted

the services of new trainers thereby allowing head trainer Bron le Broy to focus on managing her team to ensure we would have sufficient coverage at all times. This team did another wonderful job and go about their business with little fuss, the same can be said of John Pompei, our physio.

Special mention must go to our team captains and their leadership groups, Cam Howat was again Club Captain and lead the playing group with great pride and enthusiasm. The club is indebted to the tireless work undertaken by the entire committee, in particular Ben Smithwick the new Treasurer and the ever reliable support provided by Sam Hassett as Secretary. The same can be said about, Rob Smithwick and Rowan Reid when available for their behind the bar support on Thursday nights and home games. Thanks to Alan Fotheringham for his excellent work overseeing the U19 program and school relations as well as Ben Dunshea with sponsorship.

Carey Grammar School in conjunction with the OCGA has again been great supporters of the club, both in providing facilities as well as administrative support and understanding. Jim and Erin at Bulleen are always obliging and have made our job all the easier at times, so too Kate with OCGA matters.

So in closing I would like to thank you all for the support you have given me. Looking to 2016, there is no off season. With new coaches at the club and a focus on GENERATION NEXT we have a plan for our younger players step up and become the new leaders at the club. Training started this week. 2016 is not that far off, it will be a big challenge, I have no doubt Xavs and De La are looking for a much improved effort, SKOB's loom as a big threat, OM's no will improve, so too the others, not to mention Bernies and OT as well. For now we need to get started, embrace our new coaches and their program and work hard across all facets of the club. The committee has a big year ahead as well so please commit now and work as a unit to do our bit to support the players and coaches. Hard work generates rewards!

**GENERATION NEXT**, go Panthers!



*Paul Newton*  
*President, OCGFC*