

**Old Carey Grammarians FC
2017 AGM
7.00pm, Thursday 7th December 2017
The Harp Hotel, Kew**



Presidents Report

A lot has happened in season 2017. The Old Carey Grammarians Football Club was founded in 1954 and today is 63 years old yet in 2017 we find ourselves less than one year old. How can that be, simple: the introduction of an Old Carey Women's team, more on our mighty women and their historic 1st season shortly.

It was a season of many highs yet several underwhelming moments as well. Coming back down from Premier A grade we knew we had a lot of work to do in stabilising our playing list. I am enormously proud of our playing group, no one moved on, they shouldered the drop together pledging to make a go of 2017, regain some respect, show we have depth and are a club to be recognised. The coaches planned well, we recruited well, welcoming several prize recruits, including the return of Jordan Ceppi, Sam Crocker and Jason Ashby to the club. All Carey boys who have played at the higher level in recent years (AFL, VFL and EFL). We added the invaluable Marc Lock to our list as well as George Curnow. Jordon Easton returned keen to play with his brother Brodie. On paper, we had more depth and a better looking senior squad.

The 2nds also benefitted from the added depth. The appointment of Sam Hassett as coach supported by Rob Newton meant the 2nds would have a new and enthusiastic look about them. The Unders, coached again by Nick Andrewes would benefit from another good group of school leavers combining with the quality retention of the 2016 age eligible players. The 3rds would have depth and again be coached by the enthusiastic Dave Pocock. To top it off we made the brave decision to go with a women's team, much praise goes to the OCGA who really drove this early days, providing encouragement, financial support combined with the pledge to make available grounds at Bulleen for the ladies meant we could give it a red hot go!

- **Women's Football**

The AFLW phenomenon hit the VAFA late 2016 with overwhelming expression of interest from its clubs. The VAFA responded by declaring their intention to run a women's development competition on 2017 with an anticipated 18 teams playing. Fast track that to the start of the season, there would be 44 women's team, representing 35 VAFA clubs, providing 2000 women with the opportunity to experience competitive football for the first time.

We quickly swung into gear, pre-season started in November with a handful of girls attending. The numbers varied for several weeks until a core group committed. The club enlisted Greg Harding and Emily Avery to coach and with help from Kiara Perin we had the bones of a team. Somehow winning that 1st practice match set the tone. The girls played a 14-game season, after some early grading games they settle into Division 2, winning enough games to make the finals. What followed was breathtaking, wins over Old Ivanhoe then Collegians got them a spot in the Grand Final. Whilst Old Camberwell proved to be the better team on the day (winning the GF by 3 goals), making it all the way to the GF speaks volumes of our girl's spirit, determination and development. Massive praise must go to their coaches and support staff. We had in excess of 40 girls play football for OC. Whilst they are resting up now there is plenty of noise about a bigger and better 2018, and they can't wait for the next bunch of YR 12 graduates to join them, so stay tuned!

- Seniors

As reported we recruited well and retained the playing list, on paper we seemed to have improved. Coming down a grade would give us a chance at being competitive, regain confidence and taste winning again. We opened the season at home to Old Scotch, by the end of the day we lost by 45 points, a real disappointment as we felt timing was perfect, at home and against a familiar opposition to get an all-important Round 1 win. The season waxed and waned for several weeks, by mid-season we had a % close to 100 but had only won a few games, losing the majority by small margins, hence the reasonable %. Finally, we put some consistent form together and at one stage looked capable of making the top 4 and vying for finals. However, our form fell away and we finished mid table. Probably a true reflection on where we are as a team, in the correct grade by just a mid-table team for now. The season's high was the gutsy away win against St Bernard's at the notorious home ground, the snake pit. It was a terrible day with extreme wind, as expected blowing straight down the ground making scoring impossible into the wind. The boys played unrelenting football, placing immense pressure on the higher placed Bernies. The seniors showed what they were capable of and in doing so earned some respect. Sadly, it also demonstrated what an inconsistent team we were in 2017. Having said that the positives of that day will stay with the team and coaches and be a driving force to do better in 2018. As an aside Bernies went on the play in the prelim final missing out on promotion to A grade, losing to Scotch in extra time

- 2nds

Season 2017 was an amazing journey for Sam's team. Having not won a game for almost 4 years and not scoring on 3 occasions in 2016, there was a lot of uncertainty about how the 2nds would go in Prem B in 2017. The recruiting of several new senior players would benefit the 2nds as it meant some very handy senior players would find themselves in the 2nds. The team played some amazing football but like the seniors also struggled at times, especially mid-season as players took holidays. Fast forward the R18, at home in a must win game v Monash Blues, the winner plays finals. The boys played an amazing last quarter to hold off Blues and get the chance to play finals. An incredible effort. The reward, a game v St Bernards at Box Hill. It was another tense game, we led early only for Bernies to draw level on the siren, the game went into extra time. Our boys responded and played all over Bernies to go on and win in fine fashion. Into a prelim final, v Old Brighton one of the form teams. We lost that day but what a season they had, amazing what Sam has done with his squad, no longer a cobbled team of individuals, rather a well drilled unit playing with plenty of self-belief. Can't wait to see how they fair in 2018.

- 3rds

It was another tough season for our 3rds and in particular coach, Dave Pocock and TM Ian England. By season's end Dave had provided in excess of 100 boys with a game of football. This is an amazing achievement and praise goes to Dave for his unrelenting endeavour to keep the 3rds afloat. Sadly, with that many players it was near impossible to get any consistency. We need to reassess our strategy with the 3rds, unfortunately they are a cost to the club as we get little subs revenue beyond the paid up 2nds and Unders that occasionally play 3rds. Time to levy a weekly charge to play and see if we can have them dropped down a grade to Prem C to be more competitive.

- Under 19's

It was an amazing season for our Unders. They made all the way to the GF, in the end gallant but going down to Collegians by 3 goals. The season however was a roller-coaster ride. The boys at their best were brilliant, equally at some stages they played substandard. It's a tough gig coaching the Unders as boys combine football with travel, and that was the case in 2017. Just when things looked grim the school boys stepped up and filled the gaps. Carrey's 1st 18 had an amazing season, winning 9 games and missing out on the premiership to Haileybury by 3 points. The quality of the school boys was exceptional with up to 10 playing for the Unders during the term break and in the finals. Despite the GF loss we

witnessed 1st hand the next generation of footballers about to come through. The relationship with the school is excellent and a clear pathway is now in place to come to OC upon graduation. The onness is now on us to maintain a contemporary football program emulating the schools lead. I'm sure that if we build on our 2017 outcomes the players and results will follow.

- Sponsorship
 - Retention of our major sponsor YAMZAR as well as commitments into 2018, massive praise again goes to John Hands
 - Retention of major sponsors The Harp of Erin and Kay & Burton.
 - Retention of corporate sponsors, BosCastle, Bank of Bendigo, Patterson Cheney, The Butchers Club, Colombo's and the OCGA.
 - New major sponsor: Shaw and Partners, care of Mal Cameron. Shaw and Partners offer investment and wealth management solutions and strategies.
 - New major sponsor: Project Clothing, care of Graeme Clarke. PC provide an extensive range of technically advance sporting apparel.
 - I know I speak on behalf of players, coaching staff and committee in stating how appreciative we are of our sponsors generous support.
- Cash flow
 - Pleased to report the club returned an operating minor surplus in 2017. Praise to all involved, no easy feat. Sadly though, the operating surplus did not result in a positive cash flow, whilst we have approx. \$1500 in bank funds we remain in debt to the VAFA approx. \$6000. The repayment of this is a priority. Costs continue to grow in support of our football program, we must remain vigilant in controlling them and at the same time maximizing sponsorship opportunities, providing improved value add.
- Life Membership
 - The club inducted 4 new life members in 2017: Ben Smithwick, Steve Freemantle, Jarrod Reid and Simon Lenders. All 150 game players and outstanding clubman. Special mention to Steve Freemantle, Steve didn't go to Carey Grammar but has embraced the club and driven our culture from the day he arrived. We are thrilled to add this group to our honour board, all wonderful role models to their team mates and great ambassadors of our club.
- Best & Fairest
 - John Hands Award: I am delighted to report that the committee declared the senior B&F trophy to be renamed the John Hands Senior B&F Award, aka "The Handsy". We met and discussed the renaming of this award, believing it was time to name the award in honour of a great servant of the club. Whilst we all agreed there were several very worthy nominations, the committee unanimously put forward John Hands as the most deserved. John has been an outstanding servant of the club across 4 decades: playing, committee, presidency and sponsorship. Loved universally we now recognise John's unrelenting service by awarding the annual Senior B&F winner the John Hands Award.
 - 255 people packed into the Richmond FC social rooms on the Thursday before the AFL GF to celebrate the end of our 2017 and acknowledge the worthy recipients, a massive thanks to Carolyn Cameron and Kathy Hill for their tireless work in arranging the evening and the fund raising:

SENIORS	The John Hands Senior Best and Fairest 2017	Marc Lock
	Runner Up Best and Fairest 2017	Andrew Sloan
	Coaches Award 2017	Cameron Wallace
RESERVES	Best and Fairest 2017	Tim Newton

	Runner Up Best and Fairest 2017	Will Mitchell
	Coaches Award 2017	Harry Truelove
WOMEN'S	Best and Fairest 2017	Maddie Webster
	Runner Up Best and Fairest 2017	Matilda Hubbard
	Coaches Award 2017	Nicole Deev
	Player of the Finals 2017	Clare Hollebhone
3RDS	Best and Fairest 2017	Tom Maccready Bryan
	Runner Up Best and Fairest 2017	Mitch Hexter
	Coaches Award 2017	Sam Fennessy
U19'S	Best and Fairest 2017	Henry Chapman
	Runner Up Best and Fairest 2017	Wade Brusnahan
	Coaches Award 2017	Matt Knox
	Player of the Finals 2017	Jack Alexander
CLUB	Nick Everett Award - Best Senior First Year Player	Danyon Reinbold
	Kelvin Shrives Award - Most Determined Player	Athol Candlish
	Lew Mackrall Memorial Award - For Outstanding Service	Kirra Tevelein and Emily Avery
	Ian 'Ocka' England - Best Clubperson Award	Alan Fotheringham

I know I have already acknowledged our fantastic sponsors but I must again single out the very generous support offered by Terri and Beck Cremean, owners of BosCastle, they kindly donated to our canteen: pies, pasties and sausage rolls, we were very fortunate to have this generous offering each home game, excellent product and a big thanks to the Cremean family.

The teams were again well organised by our Team Managers: Angus Archibald, Michael Sloan, Kiara Sloan, Alan Fotheringham, Ian England and Gary Chapman. 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 are indebted again for the services of club physio Richard Taylor. Richard with support from Sarah did a great job given the recurring injury toll. Praise to our trainers, under the excellent guidance of head trainer Lize Cremean the trainers had a busy season.

Special mention must go to our team captains and the leadership groups, Cam Jones and Kirra Tevelein were inspirational captains, leading their respective playing groups with immense pride and commitment. The club is indebted to the tireless work undertaken by the entire committee, in particular our passionate club secretary Alan Fotheringham. The same can be said about Loch Hall, Kathy Hill,Carolynn Cameron, Rob Smithwick, Angus Archibald, Gary Chapman, Kiara Perin, Paul Gaff and Jeremy Dickson.

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 Fil at Bulleen are always obliging and have made our job all the easier at times, so too the OCGA.

So, in closing I would like to thank you all for the support you have given me. Looking to 2018, there is no off season. With the retention of our coaches and the continued focus on improvement in both the men's and women's squads we eagerly await to see how far the younger players have come and how well they can combine with our recruits. 2018 will be another watershed year for the club.

With pre-season training already underway 2018 is not that far off. The doubters will continue to question us, saying again and again we have little depth. All the same we have good reason to enter the 2018 full of confidence and eyeing opportunity. It's time to capitalise on the 2017 finals achievements of our 2nds and Unders as well as drawing on the experience gained by our women and their grand final appearance.

So please join me and the committee for the big year ahead. I hope the extended OC community hears this call and gets involved. We need more people to join us, I'm sure we will surprise so don't miss the opportunity, it will be the hard work now that will generate the rewards!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P. Newton'.

Paul Newton
President, OCGFC