

Darebin Women's Sports Club Incorporated Annual Report 2014

ABN: 28 780 574 660



Sports Fields

AH Capp Reserve & WH Robinson Reserve
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Darebin Women's Sports Club

2014 Committee

President:	Julia Chiera
Vice President:	Jasmine Hirst
Secretary & Public Officer	Dani Moore
Treasurer	Aasta O'Connor
Soccer Administrator – Senior	Staci Timms
Soccer Administrator – Junior	Jasmine Hirst
Football Administrator – Senior	Eliza Leverett
Football Administrator – Junior	Natalie Rieger
Cricket Administrator	Faele O'Connor
8 Ball Administrator	Sally Rees
Media & Communications	Kathleen Roe
Grants & Sponsorships	Harriet Radermacher
Social Coordinator	Daisy Pearce
General Member (V)	Kate Tyndall
General Member (V)	Niki Duckstein
General Member (V)	Shevaun Hogan
General Member	Aleisha Leonard
General Member	Brenda Lange
General Member	Carrie Brown
General Member	Sally Wallis
General Member	Rebecca Hickmott
General Member	Louise Potter
General Member	Julia Williams

Message from the President

Firstly, I would like to offer my congratulations to all involved in this great club! In 2014, the Falcons continued to build upon the club's many successes over our twenty-four year history. This report will detail how the club achieved this, but firstly I want to acknowledge the work behind the scenes that made it all happen.

I would like to thank Rebecca Hickmott and Louise Potter, who served as President and Vice President for the past 3 years, for the selfless contribution they made to the club and for their continued involvement with the Falcons. Many thanks must also be extended to the members of the committee for their creativity, optimism and sense of service, which keeps the club going and growing. This dedication is embodied by our two new Life Members, appointed in 2014: Harriet Radermacher and Niki Duckstein. To all other volunteers and to everyone who has helped out, thank you. You are indispensable!

In March the Falcons held an International Women's Day event at the club, promoting the topic of "Inspiring Change". Daisy Pearce and I spoke to a diverse group of women at the breakfast about how the club and its members can continue to inspire and promote change in our niche of women's sport, whilst inspiring women and girls in all areas to push themselves and push the boundaries. Whilst such events are important in terms of raising the community's consciousness of the issues faced by women in sport, we also put our money where our mouth is, in terms of providing girls and women opportunities to excel in sport.

Club members this year certainly took advantage of the opportunities offered to excel. The Falcons cricket team put on another competitive 2013/14 season, and were unluckily knocked out in the Semi-final. The season saw some awesome displays from our very talented cricketers and already in the first few games of 2014/2015, the team looks set to impress.

Our 8Ball team continued to dominate on the green felt, with players competing at state level.

The Junior Soccer program continued to strengthen, with over 150 girls involved in the program and a wide base of volunteers in coaching, fundraising and administrative roles supporting them off-field. Robinson Reserve on a Sunday morning is a sight to behold with so many happy faces in the red, white and blue enjoying their sport and developing their skills. Congratulations to Jasmine Hirst and her team for continuing to grow the program and provide such a supportive atmosphere. Special thanks must also be given to Maria Caruso. Maria was awarded the Sal Rees Club Person of the Year in recognition of her contribution, namely through running the canteen and other fundraising activities for the Junior soccer program.

The Senior Soccer program welcomed many new players to the club in 2014, and fielded two teams in Divisions 2 and 3. Although the teams had a mixed year on the field, the development of the squad and the recruitment of committed players will ensure continued growth in 2015. Many thanks to Soccer Administrator Staci Timms for her years of service to the program and committee.



The Senior football program continued to push ahead in terms of the training standard and professionalism both on and off-field. In November 2013 the committee confirmed the appointment of Tennille Hay as strength and conditioning coach for the senior teams. Tennille's evidence-based program lifted the team's fitness and agility to new heights. Tennille's ethos of developing women's athletic talents is a great fit for the club. Many thanks also to Aleisha Leonard, who volunteered many hours of her time to assist delivering the program as well as in her first year as head trainer for the senior footy teams. This training package delivered on the field as the Premier Division team claimed back-to-back premierships in an undefeated season. The Division 1 team missed out on finals narrowly, but welcomed many new players who we hope to see return in 2015 to continue developing their skills.

2014 saw the second AFL draft and Women's Exhibition Match take place. Two more Falcons, Darcy Vescio and Stephanie Simpson, were drafted, and joined nine other Falcons participating in the game. Falcons Daisy Pearce and Aasta O'Connor captained the Melbourne Demons and Western Bulldogs respectively, and represented their teams, Women's Football and the Falcons impressively.

Not to be outdone, the Under 18s team secured an astounding fifth consecutive premiership in the NFL under the guidance of coach Jessica Dal Pos. This team welcomed many new players, several of whom were new to the sport, and supported them to become part of a cohesive, competitive and supportive team. Those who were able to make it to Hurstbridge to watch the grand final were treated to one of the best community football games imaginable. The Falcons went into the last quarter 4 goals down, to crawl back to a tie at full time, and then scramble to golden point victory 10 minutes later. Jessica was well-assisted by Elise Casamento and Shannon Egan, and it is a testament to the character of the girls, as well as the Falcon's values of encouragement and support, that these 3 players, former youth girls themselves, took it upon themselves to step up into these coaching roles in order to continue to develop the team to which they used to belong. Jessica has also been more widely recognised for her efforts, winning the NFL's female coach of the year, and is a current nominee for the AFCA's female state coach of the year.

Next year is the 25th anniversary of the club and as we look forward to that landmark and what the club has achieved, let's celebrate the unique place of the Darebin Women's Sports Club, where women and girls are provided high-quality sporting opportunities that some of us would not have imagined possible a few decades ago.

Julia Chiera

President

Darebin Women's Sports Club

Treasurer's Report

2014 again saw the Falcons go from strength to strength financially.

At the start of the season the committee made particular strategic decisions that would help propel our fantastic club to the next level, decisions which all came with a real financial cost.

The decision to increase coach's payments across all sports, hire a professional strength and conditioning coach and grow our junior soccer programs meant we had to raise revenue via new means.

With continued support from the Olympic Hotel, Daisy's \$1000 Draw, Tee's Superfood Bars fundraiser and of course the clubs inaugural major raffle meant we could financially afford to take the next step as a club and further develop programs for women and girls in the Darebin area.

Collectively as a club we managed to fundraise over \$20,000.00. This is double the figure on the previous financial year! Well done Falcs!

As treasurer I would like to thank everyone who helped out during the year. Big thanks go to the following people, who made my job a lot easier.

Soccer- Jasmine Hirst, Ruth Barton and Staci Timms

Football- Eliza Leverett, Shevaun Hogan, Harriet Radermacher and Aleisha Leonard

Cricket- Dani Moore and Faele O'Connor

Pool- Helen Nugent and Sally Rees

Fundraising – Daisy Pearce, Sandra Dal Pos and Maria Caruso

Youth Girls – Natalie Rieger

We have set the bar high. The challenge for the new committee and for the future of the club is to continue to move forward both on and off the field, making sound decisions based around our clubs strategic plan that will ensure a finically stable club and an environment in which women and girls can follow their dreams.

Thanks to all, and here's to a great 2015! GO FALCONS!!

Aasta O'Connor
Treasurer

Treasurer's report cont:

2014 FINANCIAL REPORTING

Darebin Falcons bank reconciliation as at 31/10/14

Balance in bank account as at 31.10.14	\$ 32,012.09
Less invoices on hand to pay	\$-0.00
Total balance as at 31.10.2014	<u>\$32,012.09</u>

Expenditure	
Club Stock (bar and canteen)	\$ 12,461.38
Coaching and Trainer Courses	\$ 920.00
Cricket Registration and Equipment	\$ 395.50
Donations	\$ 1,000.00
Electricity	\$ 1,998.67
Coaching Fees (whole club)	\$ 6,500.00
Football Trainer Fees	\$ 1,500.00
Gas	\$ 277.11
Insurance	\$ 545.28
License Agreement	\$ 214.90
Merchandise (incl football uniforms)	\$ 8,902.50
Miscellaneous/Maintenance	\$ 3,098.70
Presentation Night	\$ 8,536.00
Rent	\$ 4,625.00
Soccer Equipment	\$ 2,236.24
Soccer Registration (incl junior and summer 7's)	\$ 20,499.90
Soccer Uniforms (incl junior U 16 & senior)	\$ 3,467.19
Football Equipment	\$ 1,447.82
Football Registration	\$ 11,420.00
Youth Girls Costs 12/13	\$ 3,300.15
Total	\$ 93,346.34

Treasurer's report cont:

Income	
Social Membership	\$1,465.00
Bar & Canteen	\$ 16,754.35
Football Fees	\$ 13,695.00
Soccer fees (incl junior)	\$ 34,176.00
Youth Girls fees	\$ 4,500.00
Cricket fees	\$ 480.00
Sponsorship/Grants	\$ 4,000.00
Pres Night	\$ 7,900.00
Merchandise	\$ 5,286.00
Club Fundraising	\$ 21,638.70
Total	\$ 109,895.05

01.11.13 - 31.10.14 Summary	
NAB opening @ 01.11.13	\$ 15,463.38
income 01.11.13 - 31.10.14	\$ 109,895.05
outgoings 01.11.13 - 31.10.14	-\$ 93,346.34
NAB closing @ 31.10.14	\$ 32,012.09

Australian Rules Football - Senior

The 2014 season started with a fresh pre-season program lead by newly appointed strength and conditioning coach Tennille Hay, assisted by Aleisha Leonard. Both teams started the year fit and excited to build on the efforts in 2013.

The seniors had an outstanding year, raising the bar again and finishing the season undefeated for the second season in a row. After a tough fought semi-final, they came out and showed their domination in the grand final, beating Diamond Creek 75-45. A great way to top off a fantastic season!

The reserves had an up and down season, struggling with numbers for many games. They narrowly missed out on making finals despite a large final round win. It was great however to have some new faces, as well as some returning faces.

Women's Game

On the 29th of June at Etihad Stadium, the Melbourne and Western Bulldogs women's teams fought it out for the second year. Two new Falcons were drafted to the Doggies, Darcy Vescio and Stephanie Simpson. The Demons came out on top, winning by a comfortable 46 points.

Melbourne Demons

Daisy Pearce

Melissa Hickey

Western Bulldogs

Aasta O'Connor

Karen Paxman

Lauren Arnell

Rebecca Privitelli

Elise O'Dea

Katie Brennan

Natalie Wood

Darcy Vescio

Stephanie Simpson



Assistant coach (Western Bulldogs): Jane Lange

The DWSC congratulates all players selected on a fantastic achievement.

Premier Division: Coach: Richard Dal Pos

Runner: Ochre Shaw **Team Manager:** Harriet Radermacher **Trainer:** Aleisha Leonard

Season Statistics: Wins: 12 Losses: 0 For: 1825 Against: 198

Percentage: 921.72

Premier Reserves: Coach: Matt Marsden

Runner: Aasta O'Connor and Ochre Shaw **Team Manager:** Julia Williams **Trainer:** Annie Dawson

Season Statistics: Wins: 7 Losses: 7 For: 609 Against: 378

Percentage: 161.11

Individual Achievements:

Premier Division League B & F: Daisy Pearce

Premier Division Club B & F: Aasta O'Connor **Runners Up:** Daisy Pearce and Katie Brennan

Premier Reserves Club B & F: Matilda van Riel **Runners Up:** Kate Tyndall and Norieul Kinross

Premier Division Club Leading Goal Kicker: Katie Brennan

Premier Reserves Club Leading Goal Kicker: Georgia Hammond

Premier Division Players Player: Julia Chiera

Premier Reserves Players Player: Matilda van Riel

Acknowledgments:

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make season 2014 a successful one. A special thanks to Kate Tyndall and Racha Hatahet (Frenchy) who made the AFL Admin job a lot easier this year. Thanks also to those who ran the canteen, marked lines, were syndicate leaders and of course the committee for all their hard work!

Looking ahead...

With pre-season about to start up again I have no doubt we can continue to be the benchmark for women's football both on and off the field.

Here's to a successful 2015!

Eliza Leverett
AFL Administrator

Australian Rules Football – Youth

The 2014 AFL junior football season started off with our largest turn out of youth girls attending pre-season training with the AFL senior players. This put them in good stead for the start of a very tough season. With a mix of seasoned teams and new teams coming into the 2014 season, the Darebin YG met some fierce contests and played some spectacular football, finishing third on the ladder at the end of the season.

This year we recruited our largest number of YG players with 11 girls joining the DWSC family. Fun, Friendship and Fitness was at the forefront of each of the training sessions, this seamlessly transferred to game day. Happy, smiling girls supporting each other on and off the ground was something that other teams commented on regularly when it came to game day. Our 11 new girls brought along with them some very passionate and involved parents who put their hands up for the myriad of volunteer roles required, especially on game day. What a relief for the Coach, Jess and her assistants, Elise and Shan, to concentrate on what they really wanted to do with girls, leading them into their 5th premiership win.

...And what a Grand Final! 26 points down going into the last quarter, to draw at the final siren. The girls went on to win by a golden point 12 minutes into extra time.

Coach:	Jessica Dal Pos
Asst Coach:	Elise Casamento
Asst Coach/Runner:	Shan Egan
Trainer:	Bill Wray
Team Manager:	Geraldine Wood

The season's awards were:

Best on ground:	Gena Lawson-Tavan
Best and Fairest:	Rechelle McSwain
Runner Up B&F:	Mei Griffin
Players player:	Lauren Datson
Most goals:	Rechelle McSwain
Most improved:	Gena Lawson-Tavan & Vanessa Portaro
Coaches Award:	Grace Duffy

Nat Rieger
Junior AFL Administrator



Fiona Richardson

LABOR MEMBER FOR NORTHCOTE

16 October 2014

Ms Julia Chiera
President
Darebin Falcons Women's Sports Club
AH Capp Reserve
WEST PRESTON VIC 3072

Via email president@falcons.org.au

Dear Julia,

I'm writing to officially congratulate the Darebin Falcons on their win in the Northern Football League's under-18 girls grand final.

From all reports it was an amazing game, which sounded like it had it all!

Please pass on my best wishes to all the players, support and coaching group that contributed to such an incredible win.

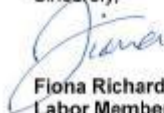
I must make special mention of Coach Jessica Dal Pos, who I understand has been involved in some capacity in each of last five successful grand finals – this is an outstanding achievement and something that she must be rightfully proud of.

All too often women's sport is sidelined and not given the recognition, funding or support that it deserves. In spite of this, your Club's achievements and strength across so many sports, is an inspiration to women and girls in our community.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can assist in any way in the future.

Congratulations again.

Sincerely,



Fiona Richardson MP
Labor Member for Northcote



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Soccer – Senior

Senior Soccer Report

More than half of the players in the Senior Soccer squad in 2014 were new to the club, which made it a very exciting year, and a year of development, as we began by learning names and eventually moved on to learning to play together. The influx of new players was largely due to the recruiting efforts of Staci Timms, who stepped down from many years on committee and as soccer administrator this year, and we thank her for all the work she has done over these years. The squad was big enough to again enter two teams, one in State League 3 North and the other in State League 2 North-West.



Division Two

The Division Two side started the season with only four members who had played in this side in 2013. While the team didn't win many games, when we did, we certainly loved it! The side was competitive, however, and the final goal difference revealed great defensive strength, as we conceded fewer goals than the four teams who finished immediately above us on the ladder. The defenders were recognised in the season's awards, with goalkeeper Caroline Radowski picking up the award for Best First Year Player, centre-back Casey Northam winning the Player's Player award, and right-back Kate Dullard taking out the award for Most Improved. Our tireless central midfielders were well-deserving of the referee's votes; Erica Evans was awarded Runner-Up and Jane Sullivan

won Best and Fairest. The depth of talent in the team was also evident in the League Best and Fairest, with nine players polling votes and Jane Sullivan finishing sixth in the League.



Divison Three

The Division Three side also started the season with only 4 members remaining from the 2013 team and many of the new players were also new to soccer, so it was great to see the club being recognised as a welcoming environment for women who want to try their hand (or feet) at a new sport. With so many new players learning the ropes, it was always going to be difficult to get wins on the board in such a competitive league, but the Division Three side played with incredible heart and showed great persistence, regardless of the scoreline.

The Division Three Best and Fairest award was shared by one of our stalwarts and one of our newest members; Ruth Barton and Andrea Jeldres were worthy winners, as we watched them take on players in Ruth's case, half their age, and in Andrea's case, twice their size, every week. It was exciting to see the remaining awards taken out by new Falcons; Becky Woodyatt was awarded Best First Year Player, Lou Vassiliades won Most Improved, and Geri Fitzgerald was voted Player's Player.

We were assisted this year by Jacqui Mitchell, who cooked our BBQ for home games, and by Dave Bennett, who was always helpful on game day with anything that needed to be done. We also thank Sara Weatherill, who stepped up to take over the administration in the latter part of the season. Sheila Carter, whose season as player-coach was cut short due to a knee injury, continued as coach for the season and we thank her for her commitment as she barely missed a session, despite spending much of the year on crutches. The task of managing and coaching two teams is a

mammoth one, and Sheila finished the year with great enthusiasm for the 2015 season. Former Falcon Eva Kotsiras was welcomed back to the flock and she was a great asset to have on the sidelines and at training as assistant coach.

While it hasn't been the most successful season in terms of wins, we sure have enjoyed ourselves! It has been a great year in terms of the development of the squad and our enthusiasm for the sport, evident in us registering 40 players for FFV's Summer Sevens competition following the main season. We look forward to building on the success of this season in 2015.



Kate Dullard, on behalf of senior soccer.

Soccer – Junior

In 2014 we had another very successful year in the junior soccer program. We finished the season with 161 registered players, up from 127 in 2013. Around 50 of these participated in the Miniroos Sunday clinic and the remainder were spread across our seven competitive teams: Two Under 9s, two Under 10s, and Under 11s, Under 12s and Under 14s.



We conducted 12 Girls Come and Try Days on December 15th and February 17th. As part of the International Women's Day event on March 17th we also held a junior soccer Come and Try Day component and we were lucky enough to have two Melbourne Victory W League players in attendance and their attendance was sponsored by the Football Federation Victoria. Come and Try Days continue to be a very successful recruitment strategy for us. These are promoted through schools in their newsletters the Dec 15th and Feb 17th events attracted over 40 girls each with a mixture of returning players new players.

Pre-season Tournament – Girls FC

We entered 3 teams in the inaugural FFV 'Girls FC' tournament which was held at Darebin International Sports Centre on March 22th-23rd one Under 10, one Under 12 and an Under 14. All teams performed very well in their respective age groups and the Darebin Falcons Under 12s were a dominant force, winning the tournament in emphatic fashion and bringing home the first junior soccer program trophy in Falcons history!

Competition Teams

Training began for the Under 9s, 10s, 11s, 12s and 14s in late February with competition starting on April 27th to September 14th. All teams competed at the 'Joeys' or 'C' Grade level with the exception of the Under 12s who began at that level and then regraded after 3 weeks to the Kangaroos level, the highest for their age group. They did very well, improving with every game and finished 7th (after a handicap of no points for the first 3 rounds).

2014 was a year where all teams saw some on field success with many games being won and goals being scored. In the other age groups where ladders are kept, the Under 14s team finished 6th.

Coaches and Team Managers

Team coaches and team managers were as follows:

Under 9s Blue

Coaches - Sam Ferraro, David Curwood

Team Manager - Michael Pummell

Under 9s Red

Coaches - John Ormandy, Kevin O'Callaghan

Team Manager - Clare Reddrop

Under 10s Blue

Coaches - Maurizio Tagliano, Jennifer Clark

Team Manager - Siobhan Newman

Under 10s Red

Coaches - Mark Scillio, Sean Byrne

Team Manager - Becca Smith

Under 11s

Coaches - Sid Mereos, Lenard Ciantar

Team Manager - Sue Gigliotti

Under 12s

Coaches - Dave Nolan, Conor Flanagan

Team Manager - Barbara Moje

Under 14s

Coach - Anthony Noal

Team Manager Adam Tiller

Other very significant volunteers - Terry Robson, Lydia Blanco, Kevin Kennedy

Sunday Clinic Coaches

Davide Codini

Anthony Sibillin

Martin Pradel

Nik Filips

Heidi Treloar

Jasmine Hirst

We had 9 new coaches complete the FFV Coaching Courses – Davide Codini, Anthony Sibillin, Kevin O'Callaghan, Sam Ferraro, David Park, Jenny Clarke, Mark Scillio and David Curwood all completed the Skills Training Certificate and Martin Pradel undertook the Grassroots Training Certificate.

Referees

The Small Sided Football Games require the home club to supply a referee and throughout there were a number of volunteers, particular thanks to Rupert Walsh, Tom Parry, Eamon Gallagher, Matt McCormack, Hector Karakitsos, Manual Natalizio and many others who took on this job regularly.

Canteen and Fundraising

Again in was a huge year for fundraising at junior soccer with \$9600 raised directly though the canteen and other specific fundraising activities.

The success is all down to our fundraising coordinator Maria Caruso who so ably marshalled all our volunteer parents to run a BBQ every week as well as the following specific events:

2 cakes stalls

Mother's Day breakfast and raffle

Fathers Day breakfast and raffle

World Cup breakfast

Maria was named as Club Person of the Year for 2014, an award that was very much deserved.

Sunday Clinics

The Clinics for U5's, U7's and U9's began on April 27th, the first weekend of school term 2. The clinics consist of a one hour session each Sunday during school terms.

On June 1st we held a Gala Day where we invited clubs from the surrounding areas to come along for some games. We had attendees from Boroondara Eagles, Collingwood City and South Melbourne and although it poured with rain, all the girls had a really enjoyable time.

Additional activities that junior soccer players had the opportunity to take part in included:

- Acting as mascots for the Melbourne Victory W-league team on 11th November.
- Acting as mascots for the Melbourne Victory W-league team and playing at half time at the W-League Grand Final on February 23rd.
- Hosting a "Girls with Heart Clinic" in conjunction with Melbourne Heart (now Melbourne City) on July 9th in the school holidays.
- 4 players were invited by the FFV to be part of the "Faces of MiniRoos" photo shoot with Steph Catley. Their images then appeared on the Miniroos website and in other advertising material.
- Mother's Day included mothers, grandmothers, aunties and carers in the activities of the junior soccer clinic.
- Father's Day included fathers, grandfathers, uncles and carers in the activities of the junior soccer clinic.
- Presentation Day on September 21st where all the juniors were presented with a medal and certificate or a team photo poster. The photos were taken by Eamon Gallagher and posters

designed and printed free of charge to the club by Sense Advertising and we thank them both very much for their donations.

- Post-season we entered Under 11, Under 12 and Under 14 teams in the Moreland FC Heritage Youth Cup for the second year. All teams acquitted themselves well

Junior Sub Committee

The Junior sub-committee worked hard all year to make sure that all the events and the program ran so successfully. A big thank you goes to all the following people for their hard work and help throughout the year:

Fundraising – Maria Caruso

Media and Promotion – Rebecca Interdonato

Secretary – Christina Byrne

Policy and Risk Management – Mathew Hercus

General Rep – Rosanne Luna

Junior Soccer Administrator, Jasmine Hirst.

Robinsons Reserve Pavillion Redevelopment

During the course of 2014 we were consulted by Darebin Council on plans for the upgrade of the current pavilion at Robinsons Reserve which is badly in need of some attention.

The initial plans, which will go to Council at the beginning of 2105 include inside toilets, two change rooms, medical room, referees room and a kitchen with a servery to the outside. They look fantastic and we hope that the Council will allocated funds for the capital expenditure in 2015/2016.

In addition we also have a grant application before State Government for the provision of additional sports lighting on Robinsons Reserve and Capp Reserve and we are very hopeful that this will be passed so that the lighting can be upgraded and we will be able to fit more players and teams onto the ground for training.

2014 has been a very satisfying year as we started to see some real development in the players and teams with some excellent on field performances as well as the growth in numbers. None of this would be possible without the support of all the volunteers. A big thank you to all the volunteer coaches who create such a fun atmosphere for the girls to play soccer, to the senior soccer players who came down to help out with the clinic regularly, to the junior subcommittee and especially Maria for all the work she has done organising the canteen. We have a wonderful community of players and parents involved in the club who are all willing to lend a hand when required It's that kind of teamwork, both on and off the field is what makes the junior soccer program such a pleasure to be part of.

Jasmine Hirst

Junior Soccer Administrator

Cricket - 2012/13 Season

Cricket – 2013/14 Season

The 2013/14 season got off to a strong start for the Falcons Cricket Team with a victory in the first round against favourite rivals Riverside. The Falcons continued with this winning form right up until Round 5 when they came up against Frankston, the team the Falcons had beaten to qualify for the grand final the previous season. The following week saw the Falcons suffer another loss, this time to Gisborne. Round 7 was the Falcons opportunity to get some pay back against Frankston, but after travelling all the way to Seaford the game had to be abandoned due to the pitch being under a layer of water. The Falcons got back to some winning form in the next round, but in the last game before the Christmas break they suffered another loss in a low scoring encounter with Gisborne. The second part of the season started with three victories in a row, which was then followed by another loss to Frankston and a loss to Riverside. Despite these losses, when it came to the final round the Falcons were comfortably in 4th place and, regardless of the outcome of their last game against Gisborne, were going to make it to the semi-final. The game was a higher-scoring affair than the last encounter with Gisborne. Even without their opener (and top-scorer for the season) Rebecca Hickmott, the Falcons were able to post a score of 133, thanks in large part to a big hitting innings of 88 not out from Olivia Wright.

The semi-final (a repeat of the previous week's game) saw opener Rebecca return to the team and score an unbeaten 80 runs to help the Falcons to a score of 132. Unfortunately this score wasn't enough, and even a three-wicket haul from Lauren Arnell couldn't prevent Gisborne from reaching the total. For the first time in three seasons the Falcons were unable to make the One Day Shield grand final and while this was a disappointing end to the season it left the team determined to do better next season!

There were many other notable performances throughout the 2013/14 season. These included;

an innings of 78 from Rebecca Hickmott in round 1; three-wicket haul's in round 2 from both Di Smith (3/18) and Julia Chiera (3/7); in Round 3 a three-wicket haul from Lauren Arnell (3/28), along with an unbeaten 100 run partnership between Rebecca Hickmott and Ash Damiano; captain Julia Boyle took three wickets for 13 runs in round 8; in round 11 Rebecca scored 60 runs not-out; Louise Potter scored a unbeaten 50 in round 12; Rebecca was in the runs again with 52 not-out in round 14 and in the same round Ash Damiano took 3 wickets for 11 runs.



This season the Falcons decided to hold a Best and Fairest competition, with the umpire and the opposition captain providing '3, 2, 1 Votes' for each game. The inaugural winner of the Falcons Cricket Best and Fairest Award was Rebecca Hickmott. This award was presented at the DWSC Presentation Night in October along with awards for the best batting average (Rebecca Hickmott) and the best bowling average (Faele O'Connor).

A special mention also goes out to the Falcons wicketkeeper, Carrie, who received the VWCA Wicket Keeping Award for the most dismissals in the One Day Shield Grade with 13 dismissals (10 catches and 3 stumpings).

Thanks to efforts of the previous Cricket Administrator, Dani Moore, the Falcons had a solid base of players this season. When extra players were needed there was almost always someone from the club willing to step up and help us out (even if that meant travelling all the way to Mornington!). Thank you to all the 'fill-ins' who helped us out, and especially to Julia Chiera, Alicia Reivers and Lauren Arnell, who went above and beyond the call-of-duty with each of them playing three games in the regular season. Lauren's bowling efforts during these games even earned her selection in the semi-final team! Thank you also to Dani for continuing on with most of the Cricket Administrator duties even after taking on the role of Club Secretary. And last but not least, thank you to the team! Your commitment, skill and good humour make every game enjoyable; no matter the weather; no matter the opposition; and no matter the outcome.

Faele O'Connor
Cricket Administrator

Grants & Sponsorships Report

This year, we smashed previous years.

First of all, we set up a sponsorship and grants sub-committee. Thanks to the stalwarts, Sandra Dal Pos, Julia Williams, and Aleisha Leonard – and also to Nicola Charwat who came on board to replace Staci Timms to give soccer a voice.

Our aim was to get things operating a bit more smoothly and to set up some structures so that we stop doing things in such an ad hoc and reactive way. This included developing a sponsorship package to circulate to interested businesses, and officially acknowledging all our sponsors and community partners, and companies who have donated gifts. (Thanks to Darcy for designing a fabulous certificate!)

Special mention has to go to Sandra who has sourced an incredible amount of gifts and donations from a wide range of businesses to support our International Women's Day Breakfast, \$1000 draw as well as the inaugural major raffle. We've never seen a raffle like it at the falcons, which generated over \$9000. Sandra not only came up with the idea, but coordinated the tickets, and collected the money etc. A huge effort!

The other enormous achievement was securing the falcon's first ever jumper sponsorship deal. It's our pleasure to welcome on board Meridian Communications who will be the Gold AFL Sponsor of the two senior teams and the U18s, for three years starting in 2015. This is also in large part thanks to Sandra, and Richo (who must talk about the falcon's every day at work).

In relation to grants, we've been busy keeping them ticking over too. We were awarded \$2700 from VicHealth to buy some junior soccer equipment. We also got a Victorian Government grant for \$1000 to buy some junior soccer uniforms.

I also want to acknowledge others who have been busy submitting additional grants – Jas and Julia who have been continuing to advocate for the upgrade of Robinson's Reserve and getting some floodlights, and to Dani and Faele for their work with cricket applications.

As I always say we just get better and better, and it's true. But there's always more to do. Bring on 2015!

Harriet Radermacher
Grants and Sponsorships

Media & Communications Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- Development of our very own smartphone app.
- Creation of the DWSC Instagram account - which gave falcons and their supporters an 'access all areas' behind the scenes insight into our sports club.
- Social media mentions, re-tweets, posts by high profiled figures (Luke Ball, MFC, WBFC, Melbourne Victory). Not only providing positive feedback regarding the clubs 'reach' but also broadening our channels of exposure on the back of the recognition/support given to the club by these 'profiles'.
- Increased match coverage for our senior AFL side, courtesy of VWFL radio.

LOWLIGHTS

- Website was unfortunately hacked into on several occasions, resulting in falcons.org.au being down and unable to operate for portions of the year. These hacks included an array of spam emails being distributed throughout the DWSC email network. The site has since been refurbished and access requirements have been strengthened, to hopefully prevent any future tampering.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Goal for 2015 is to continue to develop our website so that it is relevant and current. A particular focus will be placed on developing an in depth historical section and creating an up to date photo gallery for visitors of the site to enjoy!
- Focus to be placed on better utilizing the DWSC newsletter and smartphone App for correspondence, particularly for the benefit of our supporters and social members.
- Continue to develop media representatives for each sport, allowing greater, more accurate and timely coverage.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Faele O'Connor for her contribution in re-establishing the falcon email network and webpage after the various hacking incidents.
- Thank you to all Falcons, friends and family for their physical and virtual support in 2014. The weekly re-tweets, hashtags, facebook posts and various other media activity, are not only a great show of support, but a fantastic vehicle for promoting our club to the broader community.

#keepupthegoodwork

Let us hope for more of the same in 2015. Go Falcons!

Kathleen Roe
Media and Communications

Social Coordinator Report

The benefits of the social aspect of team sports are well established and so the social calendar is a vital part of the Darebin Women's Sports Club's vision and also important to the club's financial sustainability.

This year's social events included the AFL Season Launch held at the club rooms in April. This is an important event where we get ready for the upcoming season by welcoming new players and getting to know each other on a more personal level to enable us to work well as a team as the season plays out. This year we were lucky enough to hear from ex-player and current assistant coach Emma Kerry about the benefits of her time spent at the club providing an insight in to the club's values. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Emma for her time. A massive thank you also to Aasta for her assistance in organising the catering for the day, generously provided by Three Bags Full café in Abbotsford.

Our major club fundraiser the \$1000 Draw and Games night was again a huge success raising close to \$6000. It was a fun night attended by a great cross section of the club and many family and friends which is what these events are all about. There were many winners on the night, with Michelle Gadd (former footballer and cricketer) taking home the major prize.

Thanks to all members for putting in the effort to sell your tickets. Special thanks to everyone who donated their time to help out with sourcing prizes, cleaning and decorating the club room, serving food and cleaning up the day after the event. Many hands definitely made it easier to run than last year. Notable mention to Julia Chiera, Shevaun Hogan and Niki Duckstein who put in a huge amount of time helping me to get everything stocked and organised, Darcy Vescio for her creative contributions to the games/draw, Aasta O'Connor for organising catering and Karen Paxman for organising the tickets. Last but not least thanks to Elise O'Dea for another long night behind the DJ decks. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the following businesses for their donation of prizes/services:

Autoline Mechanic

Back in Motion Brunswick

Katie Brennan Fitness

Nicole Callinan Remedial Massage

Melt Candles

Three Bags Full Café, Abbotsford

Chumanchu, Preston

Café Ivanhoe, Ivanhoe

Sandra Dal Pos/Pauline Egan (sourcing of various prizes)

Darcy Vescio Custom Made Brooches

Our final event of the year to date was the Club Presentation Night at the Olympic Hotel on October 24th. This is a special event where we come together as a club and celebrate the achievements of our teams/teammates from all codes and reflect on the season passed. Congratulations to all award winners. Thank you to Sarah Hammond for organising the trophies/awards, Aasta O'Connor for her correspondence with the Olympic Hotel and Darcy Vescio for assisting again with prettying up the invites. A huge thank you also to Julia Chiera and Louise Potter for their time on the night as MC.

Finally I'd like to thank all members who made the effort to attend Friday night dinners and get down to the Olympic after games to ensure we were giving back to our major sponsor the Olympic Hotel.

Try to stay in touch over summer via the Darebin Falcons Facebook page or website and if possible get down to support our Cricket team.

Stay tuned for a preseason social event where we look to integrate our junior and senior teams as a way of bringing the club together and assisting the girls making the transition from junior football/soccer to make a comfortable transition.

I look forward to another enjoyable season in 2015!

Daisy Pearce
Social Coordinator

Darebin Women's Sports Club's Sponsors

The Olympic Hotel
31 Albert Street
Preston

www.theolympichotel.com

OLYMPIC HOTEL



Jetts Northcote

434 High St Northcote

www.jetts.com.au/clubs/northcote

