

**Darebin Women's Sports Club  
Incorporated**

# **Annual Report 2015**

**ABN: 28780574660**



**Sports Fields**

AH Capp Reserve & WH Robinson Reserve  
Halwyn Crescent West Preston Vic 3072  
Melways Ref 30 B2

**Mailing Address**

PO Box 6038  
Preston West 3072  
[www.falcons.org.au](http://www.falcons.org.au)

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# Darebin Women's Sports Club

## 2015 Committee

<b>President</b>	Julia Chiera
<b>Vice President</b>	Jasmine Hirst
<b>Secretary &amp; Public Officer</b>	Dani Moore
<b>Treasurer</b>	Aasta O'Connor
<b>AFL Administrator – Senior</b>	Eliza Leverett
<b>AFL Administrator – Junior</b>	Natalie Rieger
<b>Soccer Administrator - Senior</b>	Sara Wetherill
<b>Soccer Administrator – Junior</b>	Jasmine Hirst
<b>Cricket Administrator</b>	Faele O'Connor
<b>8 Ball Administrator</b>	Sal Rees
<b>Grants and Sponsorships</b>	Harriett Radermacher
<b>Media and Communications</b>	Kathleen Roe
<b>Social Coordinator</b>	Sarah Hammond
<b>General Member (V)</b>	Kate Tyndall
<b>General Member (V)</b>	Shevaun Hogan
<b>General Member (V)</b>	Racha Hachet
<b>General Member</b>	Niki Duckstein
<b>General Member</b>	Aleisha Leonard
<b>General Member</b>	Apryl Geale

\*V denotes voting member

# Message from the President

What a year the Falcons have enjoyed at our little patch along the Merri Creek!

In the club's Silver Jubilee year we have had the opportunity to look back and celebrate the rich history of the Darebin Women's Sports Club and its unique place amongst sporting clubs in our local and wider community.



In March we held a past players' game and it was fantastic to see so many former players take to the field and catch up with one another afterwards. We also had the opportunity to name the Falcons football team of the Quarter century and hear about the origins and development of our club playing football, soccer, cricket and 8ball, at our Gala night in July. Special thanks to the Silver Jubilee Committee for their enthusiasm and organisation in putting these events together.

On the field, the club got off to an incredible start in the summer with our Cricket team clean-sweeping the competition, winning both the 20/20 premiership and the one-day shield. We welcomed the very experienced and professional Andrew Depetro to our soccer program, coaching our Division 3 team, as well as Elise Casamento taking the step up to Youth Girls footy Head Coach from her Assistant role last year. The Division 1 football team saw a huge influx of new and enthusiastic players under the guidance of newly appointed coach, Grant Hammond, and Senior football had another outstanding year under coach Richard Dal Pos, who we farewelled this season's end from his role. And who could forget so many of our players flooding social media streams as they participated in the two women's exhibition games in either Melbourne Demons or Western Bulldogs colours. Junior Soccer broke every glass ceiling before it, with over 200 registered players and a huge team of volunteer parents behind them, led by the unstoppable Jas Hirst. This program is currently the biggest girls' soccer program outside of the eastern suburbs in Melbourne. Each code's triumphs and challenges are described in more detail in the following pages.

It speaks very highly of our talent pool and sports programs that our players were recognised in their own specific leagues; our cricketers were rewarded with the Best Bowling, Best Batting and Best Wicket Keeping results in the WCCC, awarded to Julia Boyle, Faele O'Connor and Carrie Brown respectively; Daisy Pearce took out the Helen Lambert medal (B&F) in the VWFL Premier Division awards; Mei Griffin was awarded Runner Up Best & Fairest in the NFL; and Bianca Lee was awarded Best and Fairest in the FFV State League Division 3 North. Congratulations to all those major award winners.

Off the field, we engaged in a campaign to fund an upgrade of the ground lighting and were successful in doing so – thank you to those who lobbied council, attended council meetings, posted on social media, and in any other way contributed to this successful outcome. The lights are scheduled to be operational by the next winter season. Special mention must go to the dozens of junior soccer players who came to the council meeting- even the Darebin councilors could not say no to a chamber full of under-12s in their footy boots, braiding each other's hair and passionately describing how much they loved playing soccer at the Falcons. This experience proved that not only has being a Falcons member provided them with the opportunity to play soccer but some valuable lessons in the democratic process and civic duties.

It takes a tremendous amount of work and planning to put on the programs we do each year for women and girls, especially at this point in time where women's sport is reaching the forefront of people's minds through the media and various sporting bodies. This poses many opportunities and many challenges for us as a club as we move forward and grow and I want to take this moment to thank the committee who are certainly taking on the brunt of this responsibility and thoughtfully planning how we navigate the future to remain the unique and strong club we are.

Thank you to every volunteer who contributed this year, in getting our teams on the field and in all our off-field commitments as well. Without you we would simply not be the club we are today.

Thank you to our Sponsors, especially to Meridian Communications, who this year signed on as our major sponsor for a three year period. This generous sponsorship has provided us with the ability to give each football player a free or heavily subsidised jumper, ensuring our programs remain as accessible as possible. Thank you also to our new pub sponsor the Stolberg, who have welcomed us with open arms this year.

Finally I would like thank the Darebin Falcons' community for the opportunity to serve as President for the last two years. It has been an honour and a privilege and I cannot wait to see what the future holds in store for this great club.

Go Falcons!

**Julia Chiera**

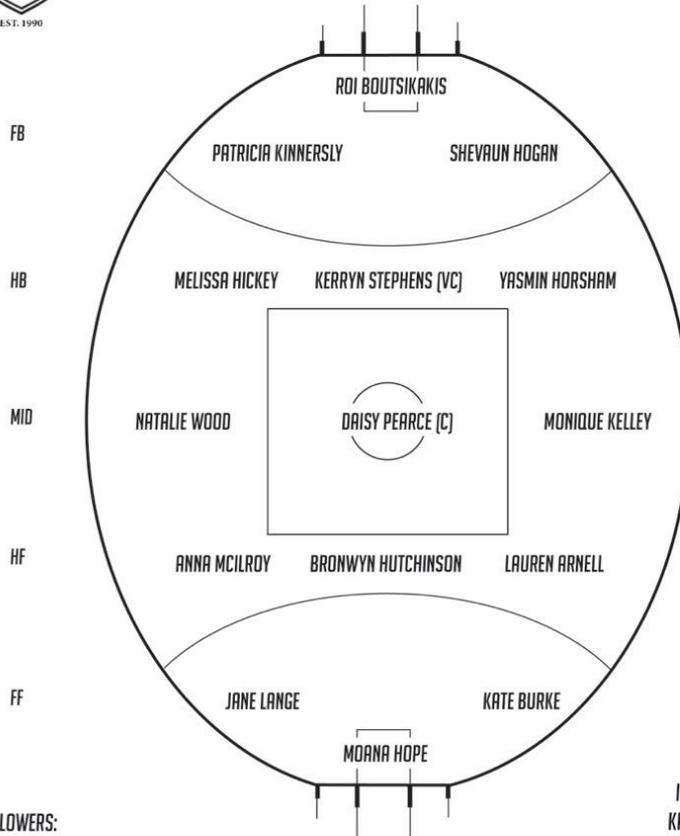
**President**

**Darebin Women's Sports Club**





DAREBIN WOMEN'S SPORTS CLUB  
**SILVER JUBILEE FOOTBALL TEAM**  
 1990 - 2015



**FOLLOWERS:**  
 RUCK - AASTA O'CONNOR  
 RUCK ROVER - SARAH HAMMOND  
 ROVER - KATHY ZACHAROPOULOS

**COACH:** PETA SEARLE

**INTERCHANGE:**  
 KRIS GARDINER  
 ANNA SCHWAGER  
 GEORGINA THOMPSON  
 ANNA BROWN



# Treasurer's Report

Was 2015 the year of the Falcon? From a financial stand point the answer is a resounding yes.

At the end of 2014 the club found itself in a strong financial position and through sound leadership and continual hard work, the club has successfully sustained this year on year.

Club president Julia Chiera and Vice President Jasmine Hirst were determined to secure the lighting grant from the local council. Finically this would be the largest one-off investment the club has made to date. \$10,000.00 was our required contribution. Insert the one and only Sandra Dal Pos and her very successful major club raffle and these funds were raised without a fuss. A big thanks to Sandra and all club members who contributed to the raffle.

With new major sponsor for AFL, Meridian Communications on board for the next three years and new relationships with local establishments such as The Stolberg, we can financially afford to take the next step as a club and further develop programs for women and girls in the Darebin area.

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

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

Cricket- Dani Moore and Faele O'Connor

Pool- Helen Nugent and Sal Rees

Fundraising – Richard & Sandra Dal Pos, Grant Hammond and Maria Caruso

Youth Girls – Natalie Reiger

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, here's to a great 2016! GO FALCONS!!

Aasta O'Connor

# 2015 Financial Reporting

## Bank Reconciliation as at 31/10/2015

Balance as at 31/10/2015	\$36,047.67
Less invoices on hand to pay	\$0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>\$36,047.67</u></b>

## 1 November 2014 – 31 October 2015 Summary

NAB Opening Balance @ 1.11.14	\$32,012.09
Income 1.11.14 – 31.10.15	\$135,997.80
Expenditure 1.11.14 – 31.10.15	\$131,962.22
NAB Closing balance @ 31.10.15	\$36,047.67

## 1 November 2014 – 31 October 2015 Detailed Income

Bar & Canteen	\$ 19,077.35
Football Fees	\$ 20,120.00
Soccer fees (incl junior)	\$ 41,950.00
Youth Girls fees	\$ 2,571.00
Cricket fees	\$ 700.00
Sponsorship/Grants	\$ 16,430.00
Functions	\$ 8,295.00
Merchandise	\$ 7,088.90
Club Fundraising	\$ 19,765.55

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 135,997.80</b>
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### **1 November 2014 – 31 October 2015 Detailed Expenditure**

Club Stock (bar and canteen)	\$ 15,546.77
Coaching and Trainer Courses	\$ 450.00
Cricket Registration and Equipment	\$ 170.50
Donations	\$ 500.00
Electricity & Gas (Incl Robinson Reserve)	\$ 4,261.27
Coaching Fees	\$ 7,500.00
Football Trainer Fees	\$ 1,885.00
Lighting Grant	\$ 10,000.00
Insurance	\$ 545.28
License Agreement	\$ 210.52
Merchandise and Uniforms	\$ 13,941.64
General Club Equipment/Maintenance	\$ 9,081.28
Raffle Costs	\$ 783.00
Post Box Fee	\$ 145.00
Club Events	\$ 11,420.52
Rent	\$ 5,227.04
Sport Equipment	\$ 6,291.50
Soccer Registration (incl junior and summer 7's)	\$ 24,000.00
Tape/Ice	\$ 1,572.45
Umpires fees	\$ 1,440.00
VWFL registration	\$ 13,115.30
Website Registration and Maintenance	\$ 50.00
Youth Girls Costs 12/13	\$ 3,825.15
Fee Refunds	\$ 805.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 131,962.22</b>

# Australian Rules Football – Senior

In 2015 we welcomed new reserves coach Grant Hammond, who joined current coaches Richard Dal Pos and Tennille Hay. The season started with one of the biggest influxes of new players ever, 25 new Falcons took to the field in 2015. Both teams started the year fit and ready to tackle a longer fixture in 2015.

Once again the seniors were the benchmark of the competition, losing only 1 game, to Melbourne University early in the year. Despite struggling with injuries throughout the year and requiring the promotion of many reserves players over the season, the seniors finished minor premiers, 20 points ahead of Diamond Creek. They played Diamond Creek in both finals and came out victorious for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in a row and the 8<sup>th</sup> time in 10 years.

The reserves didn't have a great year on the score board, however all new players made incredible improvements throughout the year. Despite the losses, the team fought every game out until the end and had great fun learning to play as a new team. Many times the reserves were pushed with only 17 or 18 players available on the day.

## Grand Final: Sunday September 13, Coburg City Oval

Darebin Falcons	11.15 (81)
Diamond Creek	2.6 (18)

Goal Kickers: K. Brennan 3, D. Vescio 2, J. Lange 2, S. Hammond, G. Hammond, E. O'Dea, L. Arnell  
Best Players: D. Vescio, R. Privitelli, S. Egan, L. Arnell, E. O'Dea, J. Dal Pos

## Women's Game

2015 was host to two women's games for the first time since the spectacle began in 2013. Prior to the draft, each team was able to retain six players with five Falcons making up the 12. Elise O'Dea (Melbourne) and Lauren Arnell (Bulldogs) were taken in the first draft, with Jessica DalPos picked up in the mid-season mini draft.

### Match 1: Sunday May 24, MCG

Melbourne	4.13 (37)
Bulldogs	4.5 (29)

*Highlights: Darcy kicked 2 goals for the Dogs and was named in the best, while Daisy and Katie also featured in the best for the day*

### Match 2: Sunday August 16, Etihad Stadium

Melbourne	6.4 (40)
Bulldogs	5.6 (36)

*Highlights: Daisy picked up BOG with a match high 30 touches while Katie starred with 4 goals, also making into the best for the day.*

**Melbourne Demons:** Daisy Pearce, Melissa Hickey, Elise O'Dea, Jessica Dal Pos

**Western Bulldogs:** Aasta O'Connor, Katie Brennan, Darcy Vescio, Lauren Arnell  
**Assistant coach (Western Bulldogs):** Jane Lange

**Premier Division:** **Coach:** Richard Dal Pos **Assistant Coaches:** Emma Kerry, Carly McCorkell

**Runner:** Kathleen Roe **Trainer:** Maddie Lawson

**Season Statistics:** Wins: 14 Losses: 1 For: 1345 Against: 454

**Percentage:** 296.26

**Premier Reserves:** **Coach:** Grant Hammond

**Runner:** Ben Griffiths **Trainer:** Steph Pavlidis

**Season Statistics:** Wins: 2 Losses: 16 For: 266 Against: 1363

**Percentage:** 19.52

### **Individual Achievements:**

**Premier Division League B & F:** Daisy Pearce

**Premier Division Club B & F:** Daisy Pearce **Runners Up:** Katie Brennan

**Premier Reserves Club B & F:** Norieul Kinross **Runners Up:** Sandra Silfvast

**Premier Division Club Leading Goal Kicker:** Katie Brennan

**Premier Reserves Club Leading Goal Kicker:** Georgia Hammond

**Premier Division Players Player:** Shevaun Hogan

**Premier Reserves Players Player:** Norieul Kinross

**Melbourne Best Female Player:** Daisy Pearce

**Bulldogs Best Female Player:** Katie Brennan

### **Acknowledgments:**

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make season 2015 a successful one. Especially Shivs for looking after uniform, the fill in team managers (Dani, Maxi, V, Harriet, Frenchy, Nellie), canteen helpers, Dash our amazing line marker, injured players who stepped in and helped out, syndicate leaders and all who I have forgotten.

### **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 2016!

**Eliza Leverett**  
**AFL Administrator**



# Australian Rules Football – Junior

## FUN, FITNESS & FRIENDSHIP

**COACH:** Elise Casamento

**ASSISTANT COACH:** Shannon Egan

**TRAINER:** William Wray

**TEAM MANAGER:** Geraldine Wood / Christine McNiece

**AFL YOUTH GIRLS ADMINISTRATOR:** Natalie Rieger

2015 ticked many boxes to make it a successful year of Falcon footy. There was fun to be had by all, fitness was a sure thing (as we played the season without a bench) and new friendships formed whilst existing bonds grew stronger amongst the group.

We had eighteen players sign up at the beginning of the 2015 season. Unfortunately with injuries, family holidays and other commitments, we averaged fourteen youth girls on the ground for a greater portion of the season. The hard work and tenacity of our youth girls saw them secure a sixth Grand Final attempt. I have nothing but admiration for the 2015 NFL Youth Girls runners up who fought hard against all odds that day against Montmorency. It took thirty Youth Girls from Montmorency to defeat the reigning Falcon's five in a row premiership title. It was not given up easily as the sixteen Falcon Youth Girls ran the ground like seasoned athletes, only letting the margin escape them by 37 points on the final siren.

We celebrated having two of our Youth Girls making it into the top ten NFL Best and Fairest, Mei Griffin, Runner up and Karmen Wong seventh. Our own presentation night shone a bright light on our Youth Girls, recognising the talent and sportsmanship of our Youthisies.

**Darebin Falcon Youth Girls Best & Fairest:** Karly McNiece

**Darebin Falcon Youth Girls Best & Fairest Runner Up:** Mei Griffin

**Players Player:** Mei Griffin

**Most Improved:** Xena Campbell

**Coaches Award:** Mercedes Kane



# Soccer - Senior

This year saw both teams being relegated. One to State League 3 North, the other to State League 4 North. With less than 15 players returning from last year the summer of 2014/2015 was spent on a recruitment drive.

With new Head Coach Andrew Depetro on board the Pre Season Programme started earlier than usual on the 6<sup>th</sup> January. Numbers started to rise as the weeks went by and by the time the season started mid-April we had 30 registered players.

## **Division 3**

On paper the team were going to be unstoppable. It took a few weeks for the girls to get used to playing together and also grasping the concept of how Andrew wanted the formation to be. The mid field and defence were strong, but, as with past years they struggled to score goals earlier on in the season. For most part of the season they sat midway on the ladder but with quite a few injuries (broken fingers, dodgy calves and quads) they finished out the year 8<sup>th</sup> on the ladder.

After the season had ended the FFV released their League Best and Fairest and Golden Boot Awards. Great news for the team with Bianca Lee taking out the top spot overall by a clear 6 points and Sina finishing equal 9<sup>th</sup> for Best and Fairest. Bianca also finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in a close Golden Boot with a tally of 6 goals.

Awards given this year saw two girls in particular come home with the silverware. Bianca Lee was awarded Best and Fairest and Players Player. Kate Palmer took home Runners Up Best and Fairest and Best New Player. Sina Pankoke was well deserved with her award for Most Improved Player. We also had Ange Mackie being presented with her 10 Year player award.



## **Division 4**

With only 5 girls returning from last year's team it was going to be another year of re-building. The girls were excited about being put into Division 4 and were looking forward to being competitive instead of being beaten by 10-15 goals each week like they were last year. Training with Andrew and the Division 3 girls paid off. With Sheila coaching the girls, they had a great year. There were a couple of draws, a win and quite a few unlucky close losses. The girls finished the year second last on the ladder but were extremely proud of how their season went.

Awards for the year saw Sara Wetherill take out Best and Fairest, Rima Mazloum with both Runner Up Best and Fairest and Players Player, Best New Player Nicola Charwat and Missy Henderson being awarded Most Improved after a fantastic year in the back line.

Due to our fantastic junior program the two senior teams only had 4 joint home games throughout the season. Without the help of friends/family and partners, game day would have been much harder. A big thanks to those who helped throughout the season at both home and away matches.

As the year draws to an end we have just started our next instalment of Summer 7's, this year we have three teams with quite a few new faces once again.

Onwards and Upwards for the Soccer Falcs.



# Soccer - Junior

In 2015 we had another very successful year in the junior soccer program. We finished the season with 224 registered players, up from 161 in 2014. There were 70 participants in the Miniroos Sunday clinic and the remainder were spread across eleven competitive teams: Four Under 9s, two Under 10s, two Under 11s, one Under 12s and two Under 14s.



We conducted 2 Girls Come and Try Days on December 7<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup>. There were over 60 participants both current and new players at each of these events which were promoted through schools in their newsletters.

## **Pre-season Tournament – Girls FC**

We entered 4 teams in the FFV 'Girls FC' tournament which was held at Darebin International Sports Centre on March 14 and 15 - one Under 10, one Under 11 and two Under 14. All teams performed very well and one of the Darebin Falcons Under 14s teams won their age group. Girls FC is a great warm up tournament and a good way to get new players involved prior to the beginning of the main season.

## **FFV Competition Teams**

Training began for the Under 9s, 10s, 11s, 12s and 14s in late February with competition starting on April 12<sup>th</sup> and finishing August 31<sup>st</sup>. All teams competed at the 'Joeys' or 'C' Grade level with the exception of the two Under 11s which competed in the North-West Kangaroos league and one Under 14s which competed in the North-West B Grade League.

2015 was a year where nearly all teams saw some on field success with many games being won and goals being scored. The Under 14 B Grade team finished runner-up in the North-West B Grade League, a great achievement, winning the junior soccer club's first FFV pennant!



## **Post Season Heritage Youth Cup**

Two teams competed in the month-long, post-season Heritage Youth Cup, hosted by Moreland Zebras. The combined Darebin Falcons Under 10s team won their age group after a thrilling grand final win over the undefeated Spring Hills.

The Under 14s team also fared very well and narrowly lost their semi-final.

## **Coaches and Team Managers**

### **Under 9 Blue**

Coach – Brendan Moss  
Team Manager – Sandra Pedro

### **Under 9 Red**

Coaches – Garry Smith, Troy Thompson  
Team Manager – Courtney Johnson

### **Under 9 White**

Coach – Mereki Nieman  
  
Team Manager – Leanne Lowry

### **Under 9 Purple**

Coach – Davide Codini  
Team Manager – Anthony Sibillin

### **Under 10s Blue**

Coaches - Sam Ferraro, David Curwood, David Park

Team Manager – Eveline Gebhardt

### **Under 10s Red**

Coaches - John Ormandy, Kevin O'Callaghan

Team Manager - Clare Reddrop

### **Under 11s Blue**

Coaches - Maurizio Tagliano,  
Team Manager – Ali McDonald, Natalie Jamison

### **Under 11s Red**

Coaches - Mark Scillio, Michael Vampatella  
Team Manager – Sue Curwood

### **Under 12s**

Coaches - Sid Mereos, Emmanuel Natalizio  
Team Manager - Lenard Ciantar

### **Under 14 Cs**

Coaches - Dave Nolan, Conor Flanagan  
Team Manager - Barbara Moje

### **Under 14 Bs**

Coach - Anthony Noal, Gary Upton  
Team Manager – Terry Robeson

### **Sunday Clinic Coaches**

Martin Pradel  
Nik Filips  
Simon Allen  
Jason King

### **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 Anthony Sibillin, Eamon Gallagher, Rupert Walsh, Martin Boyle, Matt McCormack, Troy Thompson and many others who took on this job regularly.

### **Canteen and Fundraising**

Again it was a huge year for fundraising at junior soccer with over \$10,000 raised directly through 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 a cake stall and Women's World Cup breakfasts.

### **Sunday Clinics**

The Clinics for U5's, U7's and U9's began on April 12<sup>th</sup>, the first weekend of school term 2. The clinics consist of a one hour session each Sunday during school terms.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 and Collingwood City.

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

- A Gala Day at Boroondara Eagles on August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Acting as mascots for the Melbourne City A-league team on March 14<sup>th</sup>
- Acting as mascots for the Melbourne Victory W-league team and playing at half time at the W-League 2015/16 Opening round on October 18<sup>th</sup>
- Mother's Day included mothers, grandmothers, aunts and carers in the activities of the junior soccer clinic. There was no Father's Day Clinic this year as the season finished up before Father's Day.
- Presentation Day on September 13<sup>th</sup> 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 & Impact Printing and we thank them both very much for their donations.

### **Women's World Cup**

With the Women's World Cup being staged in Canada in 2015, we conducted a number of different events to encourage players to watch this event and see female players, referees and coaches in action. These included showing games on the projector and screen in the clubrooms each Sunday, either live or recorded and conducting a World Cup style tournament at the Sunday Clinic as well as at many training sessions.



### **Fit Football Pilot**

The club was invited to take part in the FFV Fit Football Pilot which consisted of FFV staff running a fitness session with a football focus for interested parents. The pilot was very successful, all participants enjoyed it and the FFV are rolling the program out for late 2015 and 2016. We will look at whether this is something we can offer in 2016.

### **Coach Coordinator Pilot**

Once again we were invited to take part in a pilot program with the FFV where we appointed a Club Coaching Coordinator. This person was Davide Condini and his role was to assist in developing new coaches in line with the National Curriculum. All parents were surveyed at the end of the program and the results will be analysed to see where improvements may be made.

We hope to continue with the role of Club Coaching Coordinator next year as it was perceived to be of great benefit to our coaches.

### **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:

<b>Fundraising</b>	Maria Caruso
<b>Media and Promotion</b>	Rebecca Interdonato
<b>Secretary</b>	Marina Colbasso
<b>Policy and Risk Management</b>	Mathew Hercus
<b>General Rep</b>	Tim Goodman
<b>General Rep</b>	Kirsty Althorp
<b>General Rep</b>	Ang Hoban
<b>General Rep</b>	Rosanne Luna
<b>Junior Soccer Administrator</b>	Jasmine Hirst.

We also formed a Junior Coaching Sub Committee towards the end of 2015 which will carry on into 2016 and oversee coaching appointments, team allocations and the development of coaches in conjunction with the Club Coaching Coordinator.

Coaching Committee Members include:

David Codini (Club Coaching Coordinator)

David Nolan

Michael Vampatella

Jasmine Hirst

### **Robinsons Reserve Pavillion Redevelopment & Sports Ground Lighting**

In 2015 Junior Soccer was a large part of the campaign to ensure Darebin Council included the sports ground lighting for Capp and Robinsons Reserve. Many parents wrote emails to the Councillors, attended and asked questions at council meetings, rang radio stations, spoke to local media and signed the petition. Thanks to all the people who became involved in the campaign, it was a huge success due to the support of everyone involved. We look forward to the lights being installed and training under them!

The Darebin Council has submitted a grant application to the State Government for funding of female friendly facilities on behalf of the Falcons and the Druids for the Robinsons Reserve Pavillion to be upgraded. Other than this, despite drawing up plans to upgrade the pavillion in 2014, no funds have been put aside by the Council for the development to take place and unfortunately it looks like this will not happen until 2017/18 unless we receive State government assistance. So there may be yet another campaign to take place in the coming year.

2015 has been another great year 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 have helped out, 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.

# Cricket – 2014/2015 Season

The Falcons cricketers wrapped up their 2014/15 season with an impressive collection of flags and silverware.

The Falcons maintained strong positions all season in both the One Day and T20 competitions, eventually beating arch enemy Gisborne in each respective final campaign to take home the cups. Not surprisingly, given such a strong season by the team, individual accolades followed.

Falcons import Faele O'Connor was rewarded for her stellar season with the bat, taking home the award for best batting average. Captain Julia Boyle spun her way into history with the best bowling average and wicket keeper Carrie Brown bested all other glovemen across the competition to take home the wicket keeper award for most amount of dismissals – being 18.

Not satisfied with her two premierships and bowling award, Julia Boyle topped off her impressive season with a fitting selection into the VCCC team of the season. Selected at No. 10, Julia was recognised for both her batting and bowling contributions but most rewarding was her recognition as Captain of the team. Kiwi Faele O'Connor and club champion Rebecca Hickmott were unlucky exclusions from selections at the awards night. Below are the results for from the two Grand Finals.

<b>T20 Winners</b>	<b>One Day Winners</b>	<b>Best Batting Average</b>	<b>Best Bowling Average</b>	<b>Wicket Keeping Award</b>
R Hickmott	R Hickmott	Faele O'Connor	Julia Boyle	Carrie Brown
M Phillips	F O'Connor	7 Innings	61.1 overs	14 catches
F O'Connor	M Phillips	286 runs	26 wickets	4 stumpings
L Potter	J Boyle	Highest Score 130	Best 7/38	
J Boyle	L Potter	Average 95.33	Average 8.92	
D Moore	S Logan			
S Logan	D Moore			
C Brown	C Brown			
D Smith	K Hendy			
L McClelland	B Lang			
E Boshoff	D Smith			
K Hendy	A Reivers			

Gisborne 4/86 off 20 overs    Darebin 5/203 off 38 overs  
Darebin 4/87 off 18.1 overs    Gisborne 8/174 off 38 overs

The club was lucky enough this season to receive a Community Facilities grant from Cricket Victoria and Cricket Australia, in the amount of \$3060.00. It was used to upgrade the pitch on AH Capp reserve.

Amongst the team celebrations for the year, 2014/15 also saw individual accolades for service. Julia Boyle, Faele O'Connor, Rebecca Hickmott and Carrie Brown all notched up their 100 games during the season, most of which were celebrated on the actual 100<sup>th</sup> game! Congratulations to these stalwarts of the Falcons Club.

And finally, this season saw the retirement of Falcon's legend Di Smith. Deciding to end her cricket career on a high, Di hung up her cricket boots with an impressive array of statistics, which are as follows:

- Career Matches:** 76
- Runs:** 66
- Batting average:** 5.08
- High score:** 12
- Wickets:** 84
- Bowling Average:** 16.65
- Best Bowling:** 5/18

The DWSC Cricket team thanks Di Smith for her contribution to cricket and wishes her all the very best in her future endeavours.

**Faele O'Connor**  
**Cricket Administrator**



**VCCC One Day Winners**



**Retiring Club Legend Di Smith**

# Grants and Sponsorship

Check out the list (at the end of this report) of all our sponsors, partners and supporters who have assisted us so generously in 2015 – and please support them in return.

This was a historic year for the falcons. Having secured our first Gold AFL Sponsor, it meant that all the footy girls were able to run out in new jumpers with a big, fat logo printed on the front and back. Thanks again to Meridian Communications, who will continue to support the club until 2017.

With the continuing rise of the junior girls' soccer program, and the growing media attention on women's AFL, our potential audience is growing and we have a lot more to work with to attract future sponsors.

Because Sandra Dal Pos did such a fabulous job with our inaugural raffle last year, she can only blame herself for being asked to do it all again ☺ And do it again she did, raking in about \$10,000 for much needed funds to support the installation of new lights on our ground. Thanks to everyone who helped to sell tickets to make this such a success.

In grants news, we received \$2,000 from Darebin City Council to buy essential equipment and provided opportunities for people to attend training courses – supporting our mission to get more girls and women out there playing sport.

Plans for next year include capitalising on the vast experience, talent and networks across our club, and implement a new way of thinking about sponsorship. Please come and ask me about how you can be involved. We're no longer going to accept that a female club is an obstacle to gaining sponsorship.

So watch this space in 2016.

**Harriet Radermacher**  
**Grants and Sponsorship Coordinator**

# Media and Communications

Where to begin? What a year!

The club exploded on social media this year, the expansion of the AFL and our clubs heavy representation in those events saw a lot of media attention focused Darebin's way. Several high profiled personalities and media outlets were regular contributors on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, sharing their support and coverage of our club. Soccer also received a significant boost throughout social media in 2015, thanks to the work of Kate Dullard and Jasmine Hirst. It has been fantastic to see all the match day photos and action shots from our junior and senior teams this year.

With last year being a testing one for the club technology wise, I am pleased to report that we sustained fewer interruptions to our [falcons.org.au](http://falcons.org.au) website in 2015. Not without a few minor hiccups, the new look website saw less disruptions in comparison to the numerous hacking incidents in the previous year. Technically speaking the only real hurdle that confronted us was the involuntary shutdown of our original Facebook account. The club no longer has a 'personal account' but rather a Facebook 'page' that people can like and follow without the need to seek 'friend' approval. Although initially rather inconvenient, moving from an individual account to a page was of benefit to the club, as we are now open to the viewing and following of a much broader community.

With the support of our president and members from various codes, the website is slowly making progress regarding functionality and relevance. Further improvements will be looked at for 2016, however for the most part the site and our social media remains visually appealing and a good representation and source of information. Special thanks to Faele O'Connor who provided invaluable assistance in maintaining the website and troubleshooting various technical problems throughout the year.

Thanks to all Falcon members, friends and family for their physical and virtual support in 2015. Special thanks to Shevaun Hogan for her help producing slideshows for various events this year. So too Darcy Vescio for her wonderful work regarding the Silver Jubilee event and also her continual ongoing help producing an array of visual content, brochures, banners and presentation material for the club year round.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank Alison Smirnoff from Change Her Game, for her amazing contribution through the year. Leading up to and throughout the AFL finals series, Alison was able to provide a level of media coverage never before witnessed by the club. From player interviews to promotional packages and game day updates, the material produced was a fantastic vehicle for promoting our club to the broader community and something Darebin would not have been able to produce without her. Alison's contribution, however, extended beyond that of just AFL game day. Her services covered not only our historic Silver Jubilee event but also the clubs annual presentation night and various other events throughout the 2015 season. To Alison, from myself, the club and everyone that was able to benefit from the work you did this year, we sincerely thank you.

Looking forward to season 2016

**#gofalcons**

**Kathleen Roe**

**Media and Communications**

# Social Coordinator

This year was a very special year for the Darebin Falcons as we celebrated our 25 Year Silver Jubilee. Several events were held throughout the year that brought new and old players together to celebrate 25 years of this fantastic and unique club.

The year kicked off with the 25 year jubilee past player's game. This saw many great legends of the club pull their boots on again to fight it out. It was a great game to watch, with many players clearly still in good form and fiercely competitive. Darcy's on field commentary was a highlight, as was the competitiveness of some players. Many of the players stayed to have a beer, we heard some great stories from some of the 'oldies' and a great day was had by all.

This year's social events included the AFL jumper presentation held at the club rooms in April. This is an important event where we get ready for the upcoming season by welcoming new players to the club.

A major fundraiser evening was too hard to schedule this year. Our year was jammed packed with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations and two Bulldogs v Melbourne games.

In July we had our major event for the year, the 25 year silver jubilee function. This was held in the function room at The Stolberg. It was a fantastic night, where past and present players came together to reminisce, and chat about all things 'Falcons'. We honoured many past and current players and acknowledged those who have volunteered their time over the years. The Darebin Falcon's 'Team of the Quarter Century' was also announced. There were some very familiar names in the line-up and I'm sure it would be a very formidable team if it was ever recreated. Thanks to those on the selection committee who had the difficult task of selecting the team out of 100s of players over the years.

Our final event of the year to date was the Club Presentation Night at the Normanby on October 23rd. 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 Aleisha Leonard and Harriett Rademacher for organising all the table decorations. And a huge thank you to Kate Dullard for stepping up and being the MC for the evening.

Finally I'd like to thank all members who made the effort to attend footy Friday night dinners and get down to the Stolberg after games to ensure we were giving back to our sponsor, The Stolberg 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 new players into the 'flock'.

I look forward to another enjoyable season in 2016!



*The Past Players Game — Red vs Blue Team!*

# Award Winners

## DWSC CLUB AWARDS

Sal Rees Club Person	Shevaun Hogan
Life Member	Daisy Pearce

## CRICKET AWARDS

Best Bowling Average	Julia Boyle
Best Batting Average	Faele O'Connor

## 8 BALL AWARDS

8 Ball Doubles	Karen Winter & Cathy Pizzey
8 Ball Singles	Helen Nugent & Karen Winter (tie)

## SOCCER DIVISION 3 AWARDS

BEST AND FAIREST	Bianca Lee
BEST AND FAIREST R/U	Kate Palmer
PLAYERS PLAYER	Bianca Lee
BEST FIRST YEAR PLAYER	Kate Palmer
MOST IMPROVED	Sina Pankoke
MILESTONE 10 YEAR PLAYER	Ange Mackie

## SOCCER DIVISION 4 AWARDS

BEST AND FAIREST	Sara Wetherill
BEST AND FAIREST R/U	Rima Mazloum
MOST IMPROVED	Missy Henderson
BEST FIRST YEAR PLAYER	Nicola Charwat

## AFL YOUTH GIRLS U/18's

BEST AND FAIREST	Karly McNiece
BEST AND FAIREST R/U	Mei Griffin
COACHES AWARD	Xena Campbell
MOST IMPROVED	Mercedes Kane
PLAYERS PLAYER	Mei Griffin

**AFL DIVISION 1**

**BEST AND FAIREST**  
**BEST AND FAIREST R/U**  
**MOST IMPROVED**  
**COACHES AWARD**  
**GOAL KICKER**  
**PLAYERS PLAYER**

Norieul Kinross  
Sandra Silfvast  
Sam Siam  
Emily Campbell  
Georgia Hammond  
Norieul Kinross

**AFL PREMIER DIVISION**

**BEST AND FAIREST**  
**BEST AND FAIREST R/U**  
**COACHES AWARD**  
**COACHES AWARD**  
**GOAL KICKER**  
**PLAYERS PLAYER**

Daisy Pearce  
Katie Brennan  
Shevaun Hogan  
Lauren Datson  
Katie Brennan  
Shevaun Hogan



Premier AFL Winners



Division 1 AFL Winners



Youth AFL Winners



Cricket Winners



Division 4 Soccer Winners



Division 3 Soccer Winners



Club Person and Life Member

# Sponsors and Partners Acknowledgement

*Proud supporters of the Darebin Women's Sports Club*

## AFL GOLD SPONSOR

**MERIDIAN COMMUNICATIONS**



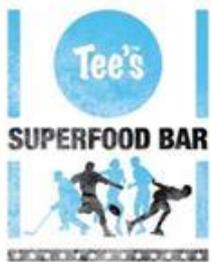
## CLUB WIDE SPONSOR



## Community Partners



## Supporters



Dr. Robert Privitelli Denture Clinic

## Allies



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- Shevaun Hogan