

**Darebin Women's Sports Club
Incorporated**

Annual Report 2021



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Darebin Women's Sports Club

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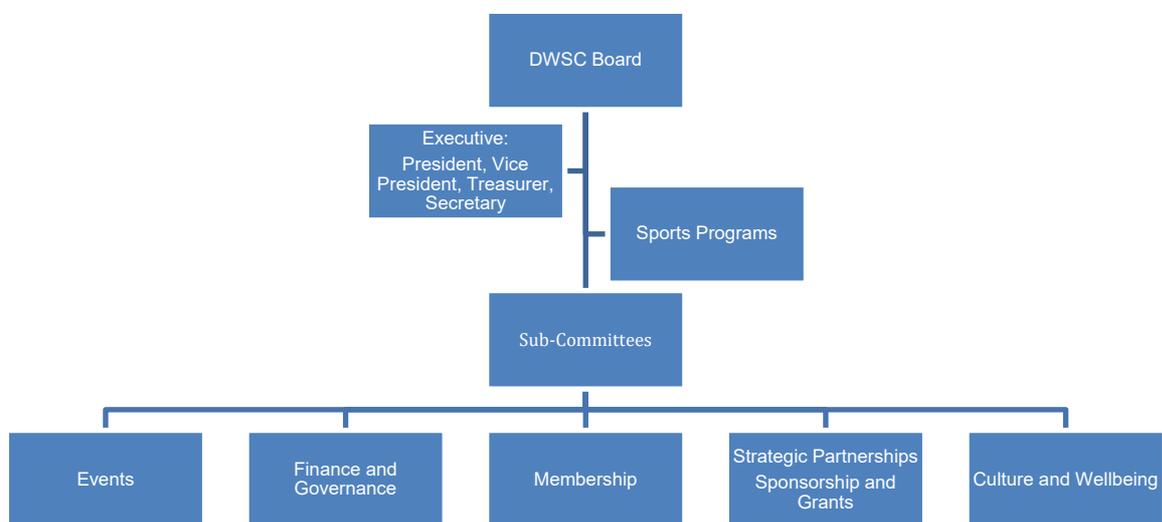
Darebin Falcons acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, the Wurrundjeri Woiwurrung people of the Kulin nation and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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Darebin Women's Sports Club 2021 Board

President	Jane Ryan
Vice President	Jasmine Hirst
Junior Soccer and Cricket Coordinator	
Treasurer	Danielle Jacobson
Secretary	Andrea Ludlow
Board Member	Julie Boffa
Senior Football Coordinator	
Board Member	Natalie Kitzelman
Junior AFL Coordinator	
Board Member	Mereki Nieman
Sponsorship and Merchandise Coordinator	
Board Member	Tash Simpson
Marketing and Communication	
Board Member	Emily Booth
Strategic Partnerships	
Board Member	Jackie Lynch
Membership	
Board Member	Leigh Mellish
Social Media	
Board Member	Steph Simpson
Senior Football	



President's Report

Well what a year for Victorians, and in particular us Melbournians!

With the Covid restrictions affecting much of the early and latter part of the 2020/21 season it has certainly been an interesting year to be reflecting on the amazing achievements of our community sports Club. Thanks to all those who have helped me in my first year as President to better understand the workings of the Club and thank you for your patience as I got up to scratch with just how much really does go on around AH Capp, WH Robinson Reserve, GH Mott and Bill Lawry Oval and surrounds!

What has been truly motivating in such times is the passion for and enjoyment of playing sport from all our players, as well as the commitment that our coaches, team managers and volunteers make in supporting them. This in turn brings joy and inspires the efforts our Board members and Board sub-committees in making this Club the place that we all love to belong.

This year has seen us field 26 junior soccer teams, a MiniRoos program, 2 senior soccer teams, 3 cricket teams, 5 junior Aussie rules teams, a Auskick program, an elite VFLW squad, 2 senior Aussie rules teams and a masters' Aussie rules team for over 35's. I can commend to you each of the following reports and the celebration of our Club's efforts and talents. Our Club offers opportunities for players at all stages, through many pathways. Being able to field teams from juniors through to seniors including elite levels is something that the Falcs are super proud to be able to do.



Highlights of the 2021 year can be found in every one of our reports to follow, and across the Club we have seen our Club achieve:

- A highly successful and oversubscribed miniRoos program for 4-9 year old soccer players
- New engagement and mutual support with the Fitzroy Stars Club as they field their first women's Aussie rules team and share our NAIDOC community event
- Inaugural AFLW Player in residence program seeing Falcs legend and GWS superstar Jess Dal Pos support teams' training and attend local Darebin primary schools to run footy clinics
- Initiation of the Emerging Referees program for junior soccer players to take on the role of referees for MiniRoos games
- Increased social sport programs for different age groups and markets such as Go Fives, Falcons Academy, Social Sixes Cricket, Soccer Mums and Footy Mums
- Re-introduction of club-wide newsletter for all members, featuring stories about the great things our Club is doing for girls and women to play more sport
- The numbers of junior soccer players growing each year in the teams we field and the involvement in tournaments and programs, growing to being one of the biggest in metropolitan Melbourne
- Our vibrant junior footy program continue to thrive and field teams at each age group possible



Our Board has focused on continuing our commitment to being a welcoming place for the diverse Darebin community. We took steps to develop our own Gender Diversity policy, involving Falcs players and Board members to run information sessions throughout the year. With some great initial input, we are hoping to release a draft policy for member comment in the new year.

I'd personally like to thank all of our hard-working Board members named on the first page of this report for their efforts this year in making a challenging year come together.

In particular, our Heads of Sports – Jasmine Hirst, Julie Boffa, Natalie Kitzelman who make it seem so easy by working so hard behind the scenes to keep those programs running so well. Thanks also to this year's Board members Mereki Nieman, Stephanie and Natasha Simpson, Emily Booth, Jack Lynch, Andrea Ludlow and Dan Jacobson for your many contributions over the year. You are the heart and soul of this Club and we appreciate the energy you provide to all our other volunteers to make stuff happen.

I want to acknowledge Jayne Crowley for attending all of this year's meetings as an observer, as well as Fiona Kelly and Kas Taleb for making the most of their time with us.

We have a couple of people stepping back this year after a couple of years on the Board - I want to thank Leigh Mellish for her contribution and congratulate her family on the birth of baby Ned. Also, big thanks for retiring Secretary Andrea Ludlow for her work for the Club over the last couple of years. With Nat, Steph and Jackie also stepping off the board, I'd like to thank you all for your amazing contributions and we're so grateful that you will still be around the Club in some capacity next year.

I'd like to thank our major partners for the year including Darebin City Council and Sports and Recreation Victoria. A heartfelt thanks to Chris Scott and all our VFLW program and player financial supporters. Also, a massive shout out to Activa8me, our major sponsor, as well as all our amazing whole of Club sponsors and partners – please look at the back end of this report where we recognize these important organisations and I ask that you support the businesses that support our Falcs players on the park.

As we get ready for a fun packed and hopefully with growing vaccination rates, a Covid uninterrupted season, I want to thank everyone that did anything to help a player, team or the Club put their best foot forward and feel the confidence and connection that we all know sport gives us.

Look out for another big year and Go Falcs!

Jane Ryan
President
Darebin Women's Sports Club

Treasurer's Report

Danielle Jacobson
Treasurer

Much of the activity budgeted for in the 2020 – 2021 year was unable to proceed due to COVID restrictions. We worked with our leagues and suppliers to minimise costs while meeting our commitment to them.

Where we are able to recover costs from leagues we will pass on partial refunds to players (these will be processed in the 2022 financial year). A large number of our players and parents have committed to donate part or all of their refund back to the club, either directly or via the Australian Sports Foundation. These donations are greatly appreciated and will help to ensure that we can continue to empower women and girls on and off the field in 2022 and beyond.

We are appreciative of the continued financial support from the City of Darebin and Sports and Recreation Victoria, as well as our many sponsors, members and supporters.

Our partnership with Nagle Accounting has continued to support us to ensure the level of transparency and reporting required from a GST registered organisation.

We ended the financial year with a net profit of \$118,980.79 which puts us in a solid position to meet the costs of the coming year, and work towards financial sustainability.

Junior Footy Report 2021

Natalie Kitzelman – Junior Footy Coordinator

Once again, we started the footy year with our fantastic Community Come and Try Day. It was wonderful to see our VFLW players come along and help with the skills sessions.

Community sports clubs across Melbourne were quite challenged to lure players back to play after the lost 2020 season. Once again, we were able to field teams in all five age divisions, with strong numbers in our younger teams meaning a great future for junior Falcons. We thank the Northcote Football Club for encouraging their U16 and U18 players to join the Falcons after they were unable to form those teams.



In absolutely outstanding news, ALL of our junior teams finished in the top four of their divisions (our U10s have also had a fantastic season but this division does not run a ladder of results). Unfortunately Melbourne's lockdown #6 prevented the finals from going ahead, but we are pretty sure all of our teams would have gone all the way!

We also had a great group of next generation Falcons participate in our small and welcoming Auskick program. A

season highlight was once again, the annual run on the 'G as part of the half time Auskick grid-games, an experience many of the older Falcons would love to emulate! We sincerely thank Peppa Poultney for coaching our program in 2021, ably supported by her VFLW teammates.

Well done to all of our players and families for their fantastic efforts on and off the field; and their impeccable conduct and support for their fellow teammates - all while having loads of fun.

We thank the coaches and volunteers for staying enthusiastic, adapting with every change, and meeting all the Covid requirements. It is a team effort to run a community football program and all help is needed and appreciated.

Special thanks to

U18s - Coach Brad Hill, Assistant Coach Julia McArdle. Manager Vince Beatty. Trainer Freya Purdey.

U16s - Coach Nikki Clare, Assistant Coach Aife Larkin. Manager Kristan Baker.

U14s - Coach Liam Stephens, Assistant Coach Dom O'Loughlin. Manager Jacinta Love

U12s - Coach Mike Frencham. Manager Adam McKay.

U10s - Coach Patrick Healy. Manager Adrian Bielenberg

Auskick – Peppa Poultney assisted by VFLW players



Congratulations to these players who were recognised early in the year:

NAB League - Northern Knights
Tannah Hurst, Lulu Beatty, and
Christina Papadimitriou

NAB League - Calder Cannons
Peppa Poultney

NFNL Under 15 Girls
Representative Squad
Izzy Baker

And at the conclusion of the
season:

Under 14s Girls Green – equal
first Best and Fairest (NFNL)
Poppy O'Loughlin

Special mentions to Alexandra Ware (U14s) and Kayla Papadimitriou (U16s) for both finishing sixth.



We are so happy that we were able to (nearly) play an entire season, and see our players continue to develop their skills and confidence; form friendships and have fun.

We look forward to 2022 and hope to see everyone back at AH Capp soon.

Falcons Academy

We were fortunate to have squeezed in between lockdowns another series of Falcons Academy footy clinics in the July school holidays. 35 girls from 5 to 18 years attended either or both of this year's sessions.

Falcons Academy provides girls the opportunity to improve their skills and footy knowledge under the guidance of Falcons and AFLW stars Aasta O'Connor (Bulldogs/Geelong - retired) and Jess Dal Pos (GWS Giants/Carlton), and Falcons VFLW players Karly McNiece and Peppa Poultney. We thank players and coaches alike for their participation.

AFLW Player in Residence

This year we piloted a new initiative at the Darebin Falcons – the *AFLW Player in Residence* (read more [here](#)). We proudly welcomed to the inaugural role Falcons and AFLW super star, Jess Dal Pos. Jess has been a Falcon since 15 years of age when she first joined our Youth Girls team, playing with, and then coaching our Under 18s to 4 premierships, before going on to be a multiple premiership player with the Falcons senior women's team. Jess was drafted to the GWS Giants for the inaugural AFLW season, where she remained for five seasons, now joining Carlton for 2022 after playing in 2021 for Falcons own VFLW team.

In her role as AFLW Player in Residence, Jess shared her skills and passion for empowering players to be their best selves, through skills clinics as part of our Juniors' training sessions; coaching the Falcons Academy; supporting our senior NFNL teams as their Development Coach; as well as engaging in a number of community events or school clinics and [Insight Sessions](#) to promote footy and girls health and fitness in schools.



We look forward to extending this program in 2022.

Senior Footy Report

Julie Boffa – Senior Footy Coordinator

COVID frustrations aside, 2021 was a successful year for the Falcons Division 1 and Division 2 NFNL senior footy teams. Like Juniors, numbers were low pre-season as players slowly shook off the impacts of no play in 2020, but grew as the season progressed. As well as our long term faithful, a number of new players presented, especially to Div 2, and it was awesome to see them embrace and give their own stamp to the famous Falcons culture of being inclusive, a place for everyone to be themselves and have fun, as well as advance their footy skills.

An early season highlight was the preseason practice matches. Not only did we host the Fitzroy Stars inaugural women's football team at AH Capp, but, as we were still assembling a full playing squad, we fielded teams that, as a Club person commented, saw "every generation of Darebin players lining up on this special day". Under 18s, Div 1, Div 2, Masters and even a few VFLW players combined for the first post Covid hit out at the Nest.



2021 also welcomed

Jess Dal Pos, the Falcons inaugural *AFLW Player in Residence*, as the senior teams' Development Coach, supporting her fellow Falcons Youth Girls graduate, Elise Casamento, Div 1 Head Coach, and second year Div 2 Head Coach, Tom McGuigan, to lead the teams. Jess' strategic and practical input were greatly valued by the senior teams. We further wholeheartedly thank Elise for her contribution to the Club, having stepped down after 11 years at the Falcons, the last three seasons as Head Coach, Division 1.

We also thank past players Em Dal Pos, Alison Smirnoff and Linette Laverdure for their season long support to the coaches both at training and in match day roles, and Team Managers Alyce Tzotzis and Shannan McLellan for the smooth functioning of match days. We also warmly thank our trainers Steve Ferguson (Div 1) and Emma Thompson (Div 2) and are heartened that they have committed to go round again in 2022!

Special mention and thanks also goes to our NFNL Senior Teams Committee, chaired by Alison Smirnoff, and made up our head coaches, myself, plus Stephanie Simpson (VFLW Captain & DWSC Board member) and senior players Emily Baldwin, Mei Griffin, and Linette Laverdure.

A 2021 first was the weekly NFNL Senior Teams Newsletter- produced by Steph Simpson, supported by Em Baldwin and others, with hugely entertaining player profiles among other contributions from the very talented Falcon newbie of 2021 Tippi Coulter. Thank you all for the delight you brought us (including the weekly recipes!).



On field, both teams were well placed to make a strong assault on finals when the season was called off. Div 2 was sitting in 5th position, undefeated against two of the teams above them, and with two games to play had expected to make – and shake up – the finals! Div 1 had a very strong season, finishing 4th and also defeating teams above them. Having gone down in a thrilling 1 point loss to the undefeated and traditional rival Diamond Creek at the Nest (watch highlights [here](#)), Div 1 had Diamo in their sights for the finals, before the season came to a halt!

Darebin players were strongly represented in the NFNL Team of the Year with six players selected. We congratulate Emily Ivanka, Holly Allen and Jessica Marks from Division 2 and Tamara Olcorn, Julia Phung and Karly O'Malley from Division 1. We also acknowledge and congratulate the winners of our Club awards:

- Best & Fairest: Jessica Marks, Div 2; Julia Phung, Div 1
- Best & Fairest Runner-Up: Holy Allen, Div 2; Claire Hardi Div 1
- Coaches Awards: Molly Neylon, Div 2; Karly O'Malley, Div 1
- Most improved: Emily Ivanka, Div 2; Gabby Cleeman, Div 1
- Players Player: Vanessa Portaro, Div 2; Claire Hardi and Milly Phipps, Div 1

We proudly announce the appointment of Siobhan O'Dwyer as Division 1 Head Coach for 2022 and are thrilled to have Tom continue at the Div 2 helm, as well as players Maddie Webster and Sam Pritchard stepping up to the respective Assistant coaches roles. We look forward to welcome returning and new players to preseason training from 16 November and a full and robust 2022. Go Falcs!



Darebin Falcons Division 1



Darebin Falcons Division 2

Masters AFL Report 2021

Rebecca Hickmott – Masters AFL Coordinator

After season 2020 was decimated by Covid19 we had high hopes for season 2021.

The Masters side had a new look, with many of the inaugural “Masters” moving onto greener pastures. The great Kerryn Stephens and Kathy Zacharopoulos retiring from Footy and Roi Boutsikakis moving into a coaching role with the VFLW side.



2021 Masters

Round 1 was played on a cracker of a day with 7 new players to the Darebin Falcons lining up, unfortunately we didn't come away with a win, but the chance to play a game of footy in the Covid19 climate was life changing!

Round 2 ended up being a bye, as the team we were fixtured to play pulled out of the competition. The always present Falcons Family spirit, saw a handful of Masters players line up for the division 2 side, with 3 of those players continuing on with division 2 for the season.

Round 3 was played and we had our first win of the season!

Covid19 then reared its head and put us out of football for rounds 4 and 5 – so instead of football the quizmasters put us to the intellectual test!

Round 6 saw Jane Lange and Sarah Hammond play their first games for the season, albeit without spectators allowed to watch.

Round 7 resulted in a big win against Northside, welcoming superstar Falcon - Kate Tyndall for her first game of Masters football and Alana Wearne's first game for the 2021 season.

Round 8 was abandoned due to Covid19 and luckily Round 9 we were back in action with a great win against top of the table Melbourne Masters.

Round 10 and finals were unfortunately abandoned due to Covid19 and whilst it was devastating news at the time, we also realised we were lucky to play football at all during such a challenging time. We ended the season on top of the ladder on equal points with Mordialloc and Melbourne Masters and very proud to say with a far superior %!

Louise Potter was the leading goal kicker in the league with 18 goals – 4 clear of the next best.

The motto of the Masters team is to have FUN and to learn and try new things and we certainly achieved that in 2021.

We are very much looking forward to season 2022, hopefully with Covid19 in the rearview mirror!

Special thanks to

Coaching Panel – Julia Boyle, Taryn Escreet, Alice Minns and Louise Potter

Trainer – Emma Thompson

Couldn't do it without – Julie Boffa and Tash Groves – BBQ and Canteen extraordinaire

VFLW Report 2021

Larissa Payne – VFLW Operations Manager

2021 saw the VFLW season moved forward to a late February start to more strongly align with the AFLW through the summer months. While we were fortunate to get in most games across the season, COVID added layers of uncertainty, with the draw released only weekly through the early rounds, while the cricket season kept us away from our home ground at Bill Lawry Oval until the second half of the season. The last round, as well as VFLW finals were ultimately casualties of Melbourne's extended lockdowns.



Photo Credit – Rob Lawson Photography

Not to be deterred, we showed promising signs early in the season with a narrow 2 point loss to Williamstown in Round 1 at our temporary home ground at La Trobe University, building to our first and only win of the season against North Melbourne at Arden Street in Round 7.

After no play in 2020, we were fortunate to retain the majority of our coaching group, led by Head Coach Mitch Skelly. Julia Chiera was elevated to Senior Assistant Coach, with long term Falcon and Masters player Roi Boutsikakis picking up the backs. Having arrived at the Falcons in 2019 as a playing/Assistant Coach to our NFNL Division 1 squad, Susan Cadman became forwards coach, and Mat Poultney, Development Coach, after successfully coaching our U18s to the 2019 Premiership. We also welcomed back multiple premiership player, Kate Tyndall to drive the engine room (mid-field) after a coaching stint with St Kilda AFLW for their 2020 season.

We further thank [Todd Kenny](#) for leading our Strength and Conditioning program; James McFarlane and [Evado Studios Thornbury](#) for physio and rehab, and our Sports Trainers, Brad Holt and Holly Chatham, for their tireless and committed care for our players and Club.

Special mention and thanks is also given for the weekly VFLW Newsletter to DWSC Board member, Mereki Nieman, with feature article contributions, including match reports, by Masters' player, Brigid Ryan, and again Mereki, with the support of fellow Board member and VFLW team Captain, Stephanie Simpson, for their back of house work on delivering the Player Sponsorship program. Match day timekeeping owes thanks to Falcons NFNL player, Tash Groves, with cameos from Brigid Ryan and others, while the players send special thanks to Natahsa Simpson for delivery of post-match snacks. No sporting club can survive without volunteers, and we are very grateful for the support and goodwill of our wider Darebin Women's Sports Club community to field our VFLW team.

We further acknowledge the leadership and input of the VFLW Operations Committee, led by previous DWSC President Sarah Brady, and including myself, Senior Football Coordinator, Julie Boffa, and our 2020 Senior Assistant Coach, Matt Skubis for guiding the program through the year.

We celebrated significant milestones through the season, with our annual Pride Round being extra special with four Darebin Falcons celebrating 150 senior games together. Captain Stephanie Simpson, Nicole Callinan, Jess Dal Pos and Samara David were cheered on by teammates, coaches, families and fans as they led the team out on this special occasion.

It was a further thrill for our promising, developing squad to play alongside and benefit from the on field leadership of experienced AFLW premiership player Nicole Callinan, GWS Giants Jess Dal Pos and Annalise Lister, and North Melbourne's Georgia Hammond who returned to the Nest in 2021.

While results didn't go our way finishing with the 1 win, 12 losses and 1 draw, the season provided valuable learning opportunities for our youngest and newest Falcons, laying strong foundations to build on in 2022. Team spirit remained strong throughout.

Thanks go to Rob Lawson for his brilliant photographs of our VFLW team throughout the season.



Photo Credit – Rob Lawson Photography

We proudly congratulate backline stalwart Victoria Blackwood, who was named in the VFLW Team of the Year after having an incredible season. We also acknowledge and congratulate the winners of our Club awards:

Best & Fairest: Nicole Callinan

Best & Fairest Runner-Up: Gena Lawson-Tavan

Coaches Awards: Sophia Padovano

Leading Goal Kicker: Stephanie Simpson

Rising Star Award: Alice Caddy

Players Player: Nicole Callinan

We offer huge thanks to our major sponsor, Activ8me; The Terminus Hotel for Club sponsorship and weekly VFLW Best on Ground awards; as well as Thornbury Horticulture & Design, Evado Studios, YMCA Northcote, and most importantly, our [individual player sponsors](#). We wouldn't be able to field a VFLW team without this generous financial contribution and support from our sidelines.

Finally, as we ramp up for the return to preseason training from early November, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Kate Tyndall as the VFLW Head Coach for the 2022 Season, and thank outgoing coach Mitch Skelly for his contribution to the Club.



2021 VFLW team – Pride Round

A Falcons farewell

Sadly, the VFLW team also farewells Development Coach, Mat Poultney and, on behalf of the whole Darebin Women's Sports Club, wish the Poultney/Kitzelman family - Natalie, DWSC Board member and Junior Football Coordinator; Peppa, under 18s premiership player, 2021 VFLW player, and much loved Auskick coach; as well as Goldie (junior footy) and Lulu (junior soccer) – all the best on their move north to sunny Queensland. You will all be greatly missed!

2021 Junior & Senior Soccer Report

Jasmine Hirst

Junior Soccer and Cricket Coordinator & Vice President

With the cancelled season of 2020 behind us, we embarked on the 2021 season with a focus of re-engagement and consolidation.

This began with a Go Fives event over 5 weeks from Nov 10 to Dec 11. Two hundred and ninety two players took part from all the Falcons teams as well as other local clubs. Everyone enjoyed the mid-week 5-a-side football and being back out on the pitch amongst the Falcons community. We also used this tournament to pilot our Emerging Referees program (more below) with 14 girls taking on the role of referees for the event.

Our Community Day was set to be held on Feb 14th however a 5-day snap lockdown (#3 for Victoria) caused a reschedule to March 13.

Despite concern that recruitment may be hampered by this, we were able to begin pre-season with 28 teams and 392 registered team players. We used A H Capp Reserve, G H Mott Reserve, Merri Park and Bell Primary School Oval for Pre-season training. Thanks to principal David Twite at Bell Primary for assisting with the usage of this facility.

This season we were able to use SRV funding to engage a Registrar for the first time with Jayne Crowley taking on the role. Jayne was invaluable in ensuring all our players were registered, expressions of interest were managed, and new uniforms were provided to all players who had ordered them and any number clashes across teams were resolved.

A strength and conditioning program was run from 12th February to 15th March for players Under 12 and above to attend.

Following the success of the Go Fives event, we were invited by FV to run the FV Girls Go Cup for Under 10 and 12 age groups on Saturday 28 February at Mott Reserve. There were 11 teams from 5 clubs taking part.

At Boys and Girls FC on March 27/28 we had 9 teams attend the event in Bendigo in all age groups from Under 11 to 17. Our Under 14 Purple team won the title after two nail biting penalty shoot outs and our Under 17 White team finished runners up.



Throughout pre-season we engaged the final coaches required for all teams from Under 8 up to Seniors. This included Maria Berry who came on board as the State League 4 coach, bringing a wealth of experience in women's and girls football with her.



The season

Teams Under 12 up to Seniors began their season on April 18. MiniRoos Under 8-Under 11 began a week later on April 25.

W. H. Robinsons Reserve and G H Mott Reserve were used for games, as well as Oulton Reserve and A H Capp Reserve for Training.

Teams included 1 xU8 Joeys, 3 x U9 Joeys, 3 x U10 Joeys, 4 x U11 (3 Joeys, 1 Kangaroos), 5 x U12 (3 x Joeys, 2 x Wallabies), 2 x U13 (1 x C Grade, 1 x D Grade), 3 x U14 (1 x A Grade, 1 x B Grade, 1 x C Grade), 3 x U15 (2 x C Grade, 1 x A Grade) , 2 x U17 (2 x C Grade) and 2 Senior Women's (1 x SL4 and 1 x SL 5).

There was a great deal of enthusiasm from all players, coaches and volunteers who were eager to get back on the pitch after a year off. Some wonderful football was played in the initial weeks of the season until the first season lockdown (#4 for Victoria) on 28 May to 10 June. We resurrected the program quickly after that and were able to play games over the next 4 weeks. Unfortunately, another lockdown (#5 for Victoria) was imposed from 16 July to 27 July. Games recommenced on Sunday 1 August. Sadly this was the last week that football was played in Victoria with the rest of the season being cancelled due to government restrictions (lockdown #6) to manage covid outbreaks.

In the July School Holidays we held a clinic with Elite Female Football which included goal keeper specific training.

Junior to Senior transition

With several members of the State League 4 team from the previous season moving on, we embarked on a strategy of coordination with coaches from the Under 17 teams. Looking to create a strong pathway from Under 17s to seniors and ensuring that Under 17 players were available to fill in for the senior State League 4 team. This was something that happened several times throughout the season thanks to the hard work of Maria Berry, Under 17 coaches Ivo and Joe and the players themselves. This cooperation and building of a pathway is something we will be looking to build on in years to come to ensure the transition from top age junior level into senior football is as smooth and unintimidating as possible.

MiniRoos Kick Off Program

The MiniRoos Kick Off Program began on 2 May with 82 players aged 4-9 registered. As well as a number of parent coaches we had 13 junior players assist with the coaching of the MiniRoos program. They provided some excellent coaching and were great role models for our youngest players. Training for the coaches was provided with a MiniRoos Certificate Course on April 25 organised through Football Victoria.

A highlight of the MiniRoos Kick Off Program always includes Mother's Day where mums and special people joined in with the session.

After requests from parents for some extra sessions, we added a "MiniRoos Kick Off Extra" program - one hour on a week night that the MiniRoos Players could also attend. This was taken by one of our young coaches Emily who has an excellent coaching future ahead of her. 9 MiniRoos Players registered for this program.

Unfortunately the lockdowns meant we were only able to get in half the MiniRoos Kick Off season and one MiniRoos Kick Off Extra session.



Soccer Mums

With Merissa Van Setten who set up our Soccer Mums program initially, on maternity leave and moving interstate, Jill Murphy took on the management of the program with Miki Kobayshi (State League 5 player, 1st program) and Svenja Zahn (State League 4 player, 2nd program) assisting her. The first program ran for 6 weeks from 6 May to 10 June with 21 participants. The second program began on 29 July but was cut short by the lockdown #6. Soccer Mums has now become a well loved part of the program at the Falcons and provides an

opportunity for mums to learn about the game, engage in some fun social exercise and also become more engaged with their kids' sport.

Emerging Referees

The Darebin Falcons emerging referees program was a long time in planning but finally got off the ground in 2021, thanks to fee donations from families in the 2020 season, Nest Legal Sponsorship and grants from Bendigo Bank Preston Community and Sport and Recreation Victoria.

There were 11 Junior Players aged 13 and up who signed up to become club referees. The Go Fives event acted as a pilot for the program. A training session was provided with FV referee, Staci Timms. During the season The Emerging Referees were engaged to referee home games for the MiniRoos teams U8-U11 which has the benefits of providing these girls with other opportunities in the sport, providing them with some payment for their involvement and relieving team managers and parents of the task of finding a referee for each home game. The program was largely very successful throughout the season. Staci Timms was on hand many Sundays to provide hands-on mentoring to the referees.

There was a distinct lack of FV referees provided for junior home games at A H Capp Reserve this year. Many of those were Under 12 and 13 games so we were fortunate to have our Emerging Referees and several put their hands up to take on the officiating of these games as well.



List of coaches & Team Managers

Coaches FirstName	Surname	Team
Sumaya	Atwa	MiniRoos Kick Off
Tahlia	Blamey	MiniRoos Kick Off
Emily	Boyle	MiniRoos Kick Off
Ada	Breach	MiniRoos Kick Off
Amelie	Brown	MiniRoos Kick Off
Giulia	Codini	MiniRoos Kick Off
Sam	Gauntlett	MiniRoos Kick Off
Camille	Goodman	MiniRoos Kick Off
Zoe	Hayman	MiniRoos Kick Off
Eilan	Healy	MiniRoos Kick Off
Simon	Hede	MiniRoos Kick Off
Dong	Jin	MiniRoos Kick Off
Rohan	Lock	MiniRoos Kick Off
Kathy	Marshall	MiniRoos Kick Off
Ashok	Matthew	MiniRoos Kick Off
Adam	Mills	MiniRoos Kick Off
Stephanie	Niall	MiniRoos Kick Off
Milly	Ormandy	MiniRoos Kick Off
Silvia	Sanchez	MiniRoos Kick Off
Lily	Sibillin	MiniRoos Kick Off
Alexandra	Skaltis	MiniRoos Kick Off
Jeremy	Taylor	MiniRoos Kick Off
Fiona	Maguire	MiniRoos Kick Off
Ruby	Stothers	MiniRoos Kick Off
Zahra	Atwa	MiniRoos Kick Off
Mereki	Nieman	SAP Coordinator U14 Purple
Maria	Berry	Seniors State League 4
Duncan	Cole	Seniors State League 5
Miki	Kobayashi	Soccer Mums
Jill	Murphy	Soccer Mums
Svenja	Zahn	Soccer Mums
Jemma	Billing	Under 8
May	Campion	Under 8
Anna	Kelly	Under 9 Blue
Chris	Hotham	Under 9 Blue

Gareth	Elvidge	Under 9 Purple
Chris	Drummond	Under 9 Red
Tak	Troung	Under 10 Blue
Cameron	Schmelitschek	Under 10 Red
Paul	Pagliario	Under 10 White
Nicholas	Aberle	Under 11 Blue
Vince	Fruci	Under 11 Purple
Thomas	Howie	Under 11 Red
John	DiNatale	Under 11 White
Mark	Dessi	Under 12 Blue
Will	Lay	Under 12 Blue
Mark	Sinton	Under 12 Green
Ray	Marsh	Under 12 Purple
John	Stensholt	Under 12 Red
Shoni	Maguire	Under 12 Red
Jarod	Lyon	Under 12 White
Trent	MacCarthy	Under 12 White
Emma	Sampson	Under 12 White
Nik	Filips	Under 13 Blue
Martin	Hughes	Under 13 Blue
Scott	Baker	Under 13 Purple
Jane	Holroyd	Under 13 Red
Graham	Watson	Under 13 Red
Julian	Delahunt	Under 13 White
Simon	Perotta	Under 13 White
Davide	Codini	Under 14 Purple
Martin	Pradel	Under 14 Red
Joel	Ritchie	Under 14 Red
Rebecca	Duffy	Under 15 Purple
Tracy	Masur	Under 15 Purple
Anthony	Noal	Under 15 Red
Dave	Curwood	Under 15A Red
Ivo	Pes	Under 17 Blue
Joe	Baruzzo	Under 17 White
Matt	Kehle	Under 17 White

Team Manager FirstName	Surname	Team
Dani	Pes	U8
Rachel	Tonge	U9 Blue
Joe	Dodd	U9 Purple
Meaghan	Block	U9 Red
Tina	Dawson	U10 Blue
Fiona	Todd	U10 Red
Carmel	Gagnino	U10 White
Janine	Hall	U11 Blue
Kim	Schell	U11 Purple
Chris	Fulton	U11 Red
Rachael	Bohan	U11 White
Vanessa	Parbhoo	U12 Blue
JoannaC	Bradley	U12 Green
Jo	Bradley	U12 Green
Sonya	Schurmann	U12 Purple
Irene	Brown	U12 Red
Shanuagh	Lyon	U12 White
Martin	Hughes	U13 Blue
Meagan	Block	U13 Purple
Simon	Perrotta	U14 White
Jack	Coleman	U14A Purple
Brigid	Mahar	U14 Red
Fyda	Khalil	U15 C Red
Geri	Malvaso	U15 Purple
Andrew	Brown	U15A Red
Tim	Pyers	U17 Blue
Eveline	Gebhardt	U17 White
Michael	Pummell	U17 White
Jayne	Crowley	State League 4
Natalie	Hannon	State League 5

Team Manager FirstName	Surname	Team
Dani	Pes	U8
Rachel	Tonge	U9 Blue
Joe	Dodd	U9 Purple
Meaghan	Block	U9 Red
Tina	Dawson	U10 Blue
Fiona	Todd	U10 Red
Carmel	Gagnino	U10 White
Janine	Hall	U11 Blue
Kim	Schell	U11 Purple
Chris	Fulton	U11 Red
Rachael	Bohan	U11 White
Vanessa	Parbhoo	U12 Blue
JoannaC	Bradley	U12 Green
Jo	Bradley	U12 Green
Sonya	Schurmann	U12 Purple
Irene	Brown	U12 Red
Shanuagh	Lyon	U12 White
Martin	Hughes	U13 Blue
Meagan	Block	U13 Purple
Simon	Perrotta	U14 White
Jack	Coleman	U14A Purple
Brigid	Mahar	U14Red
Fyda	Khalil	U15 C Red
Geri	Malvaso	U15 Purple
Andrew	Brown	U15A Red Dave
Tim	Pyers	U17 Blue
Eveline	Gebhardt	U17 White
Michael	Pummell	U17 White
Jayne	Crowley	State League 4
Natalie	Hannon	State League 5

List of award winners

Team Name	Award Name	Recipient
U12 Blue	Best & Fairest	Ruby Kaye
U12 Blue	Coach's Award	Maia Kelly
U12 Blue	Most Improved	Lucia Brouwer
U12 Blue	Most Improved	Kayla Caraballo
U12 Green	Best & Fairest	Clio Fayers
U12 Green	Coach's Award	Rosie Pilven
U12 Green	Most Improved	Eliza McGinlay
U12 Green	Players' Player	Rosie Bradley
U12 Purple	Best & Fairest	Winnie North
U12 Purple	Coach's Award	Mila Rantall-Kilzi
U12 Purple	Golden Boot	Lily Schurmann
U12 Purple	Most Improved	Sharmila Cavina
U12 Red	Best and Fairest	Alice Johnson-Lee
U12 Red	Coach's Award	Ophelia Tan
U12 Red	Most Goals	Talia Brown
U12 Red	Most Improved	Tess Fredrickson
U12 White	Coach's Award	Maia Gilbert
U12 White	Keeping it Positive Award	Tilly Godfrey
U12 White	Most Improved	Lily Goddard
U12 White	Players' Player	Juliette Wilson
U13 Purple	Best & Fairest	Sylvie Hoye
U13 Purple	Coach's Award	Akira Krasevac
U13 Purple	Most Improved	Maggie Reidy
U13 Purple	Players' Player	Amelia George
U14 Purple	Best & Fairest	Lily Sibilin
U14 Purple	Coach's Award	Audrey Boyle
U14 Purple	Most Improved	Pepper Coleman
U14 Purple	Players' Player	Indigo Rodger
U14 Red	Best & Fairest	Layla Ritchie
U14 Red	Best Team Player	Ada Breach
U14 Red	Most Improved	Ella Whitehead
U14 Red	Players' Player	Elena Barboussas
U14 White	Best & Fairest	Siena Dowsing
U14 White	Coach's Award	Romany Faulknor
U14 White	Most Improved	Angelina Osavkovska
U14 White	Players' Player	Claire Pace
U15 Purple	Best & Fairest	Sally Scruby
U15 Purple	Coach's Award	Holly Chamberlain
U15 Purple	Most Improved	Asha Cooper
U15 Purple	Players' Player	Jasmine Donaldson
U15C Red	Best & Fairest	Tahlia Blamey
U15C Red	Coach's Award	Minnie Ieraci
U15C Red	Most Improved	Stella Farmer
U15C Red	Players' Player	Lara Khalil
U17 Blue	Coach's Award	Abbey Bowland
U17 Blue	Golden Boot	Natalie Humphreys Grey
U17 Blue	Players' Player	Isabelle Bolt Gardner
U17 White	Best & Fairest	Olivia Baruzzo

U17 White	Coach's Award	Sophie Kehle
U17 White	Most Improved	Amelie Park
U17 White	Players' Player	Eleanor Sutherland
State League 4	Best Player	Taryn Dorrough
State League 4	Best Player Runner Up	Imogen Vampatella
State League 4	Coach's Award	Maya Hennessy
State League 4	Highest Goal Scorer	Maryam Sahi
State League 4	Players' Player	Anna Coffey
State League 5	Best & Fairest	Kim Cook
State League 5	Best & Fairest Runner Up	Miki Kobayashi
State League 5	Coach's Award	Venicia Godbee
State League 5	Most Improved	Dora Strong
State League 5	Players' Player	Lauren Bannister

SAP

Under the guidance of Head Coach Mereki – our Skill Acquisition Program began on Friday nights in May. Players in the U10 and U11 age groups joined an extra session to hone and extend their skills. Mereki recruited a group of half a dozen junior players to assist with the coaching on these nights, providing them with some leadership experience as well as providing role models for the SAP players to look up to. The SAP training was provided at no cost to the players.

C&C Program & Coaching Committee

The Falcons coaching committee expanded in 2021 to include representatives from different age groups who were each assigned an area to look after. Members included:

- Ray March (U8-U11)
- Simon Perrotta(U12-U14)
- Rebecca Duffy (U15-U17)
- Maria Berry (Seniors)
- Jasmine Hirst (MiniRoos Kick Off and Soccer Coordinator)
- Mereki Nieman(SAP Coordinator)
- Davide Codini(Former CCC)

The club nominated to be part of the Football Victoria Club Coach Coordinator Program. We nominated Ray Marsh, Simon Perotta, Mereki Nieman and Rebecca Duffy as our CCCs. Julie Ryan was allocated to our club as our Mentor to assist our own CCCs to help our new coaches and MiniRoos coaches. We were unable to do any hands on work on the program prior to the lockdown but we look forward to working with Julie in the new year.

Thanks to the coaching committee for their work in ensuring everything ran smoothly this year and we look forward to building on the structures put in place next year.

Waiting List

We have ended the season with 47 enquiries on our waiting list which have steadily come to the club during the season. These enquiries will be included in our communication about the Community Day in 2022, inviting them to come down to the club and join a session of soccer. It is hoped we will be able to offer places to those who attend the Community Day.

Facilities - Still Our Biggest Issue

Facilities is still the biggest issue for the Falcons soccer program. We are at capacity each weeknight at our training venues and at both Robinson Reserve and G H Mott on game days.

The state of the pitch at Robinson Reserve is such that some weekends this is unplayable after heavy rain due to poor drainage. We will be working with the Druids in the coming seasons to encourage the Council to make some improvements on it.

We are really looking forward to being able to use G H Mott for training in the 2022 season, following the installation of sports ground lighting which we expect to happen in March 2022.

Thanks

I would like to extend a huge thanks to all our coaches, team managers, the soccer committee, our fantastic committed volunteers – in particular Maria Caruso, Jayne Crowley, Mereki Nieman, Zoe Ellis, Simon Perotta, and Kirsty Althorp – for being there literally and figuratively throughout the whole season. Davide Codini provides a wealth of information and inspiration every year with his insights on coaching and how to provide the best opportunities for the players to maximise enjoyment and development and I would like to thank him too. Finally all our players have once again shown resilience and enthusiasm. You really are what makes this club so special.

Jasmine Hirst**Head of Soccer and Vice President**

Senior Cricket 2021

Rebecca Hickmott – Cricket Coordinator

After several seasons of not fielding a senior cricket side, Darebin Falcons entered a side in the NWMCA Social T20 competition.

We wanted to enter a side in a T20 competition and had reached out to Cricket Victoria to see if they were offering T20 competitions only, unfortunately they were not, so we ventured to new grounds and joined the NWMCA

The differences between the NWMCA and Cricket Victoria competitions were:

- T20 games only
- 8 per side
- Everyone bowls and everyone bats
- Batters retire after facing 5 overs OR making 30 runs
- Once the batting side has finished, retired batters come back in and continue their innings

Covid19 caused the season to commence much later than normal, with round 1 being held on 29th November 2020.



We played a total of 7 home and away games, winning them all.

Our regular players were, Faele OConnor, Julia Boyle, Brenda Lang, Libby Strong, Sarah Logan, Louise Potter, Maxi Phillips, Carrie Brown, Jen McKenzie, Rebecca Hickmott.

We ended up winning the flag on a lovely day at AH CAPP, we batted first and made 156, top scorer Sarah

Logan with 56 runs, which consisted of 5 sixers and 4 boundaries and then bowled out Aberfeldie for 87 in the 20th over. The star performer with the ball was none other than Sarah Logan with 3 for 18 from 4 overs and Maxi Phillips also snared 3 for 10 off 3 overs.

Sarah Logan deservedly won player of the match.

We thoroughly enjoyed the season, the social aspect of the cricket was great, the competition very friendly and well administered and we had the opportunity of some junior Falcons playing in the senior side for a couple of games and they loved the experience.

It was a privilege to play cricket in the middle of the covid19 pandemic and that privilege was not lost on us!

Junior Cricket Report 2021

Jasmine Hirst

Junior Soccer and Cricket Coordinator & Vice President

This year the Falcons cricket program had a breakout season, increasing from 2 teams the previous year to 5 teams in the NWMCA competition with a total of 47 Players registered.

These included 1 Under 10s, 2 Under 12s, 1 Under 14s and 1 Senior Women's team.

It was great to see the senior women's team back at the Falcons with several players from the successful women's team that disbanded in 2016, returning for a season in the NWMCA Division 1 league. They showed they had not lost any form, finishing the season as the winners of the Grand Final.

The Under 14s team coached by Anthony Sibillin also made the Grand Final, finishing the season as runners up against Haig Fawkner/West Coburg.

The 2 Under 12 teams also had a great season on the pitch coached by Emma Sampson, Chris Hotham, Ray Marsh and Dan Miles with one of the teams making the Grand Final, also finishing runners up.

Our inaugural Under 10s team was coached by Amelie Sibillin and Chris Wright and played all season with enthusiasm, developing their skills so much over the season in all areas of the game.

Three players from the Falcons, Dot, Ava and Adelaide were selected to represent NWMCA at the VMCU Rep Carnival in the Under 12 Rookies Team in January 2021. They had a fantastic experience and learned so much.







2021 Eight Ball

Sally Rees

Head of Eight-ball

Eight-ball was a total Covid casualty in 2021!

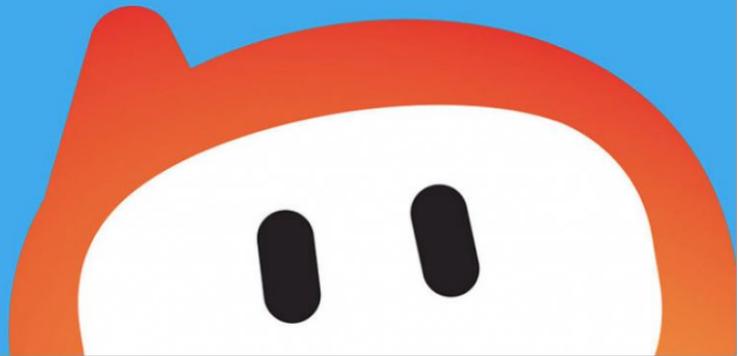
No formal competition play was possible due to Covid restrictions and density limits prohibiting access to many venues.

Players stayed in touch, however, through social games and look forward to a better 2022

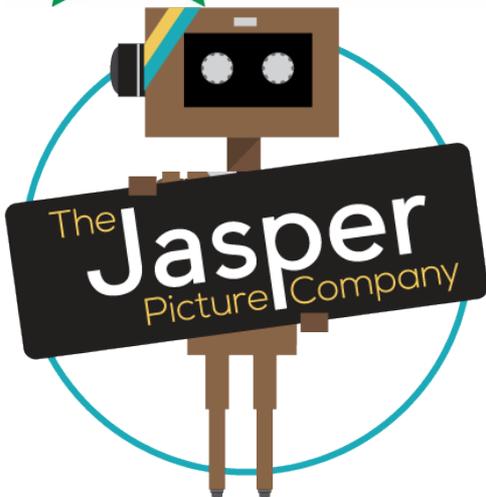
2021 Sponsors

Thank you once again to our amazing sponsors – our achievements would not be possible without you

A special thank you to our dedicated sponsors at Activ8me

The logo for Activ8me, featuring the word "activ8me" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The "8" is white, and the "me" is orange.

And to our other whole of Club Sponsors



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And to our Partners





And to our Hospitality Partners



Audited Accounts

Balance Sheet

Darebin Womens Sports Club

As at 31 October 2021

Cash Basis

	31 OCT 2021	31 OCT 2020	31 OCT 2019
Assets			
Bank			
Darebin Womens	51,980.57	149,820.72	2,112.16
Savings Account	214,423.97	-	-
Statement Account	2,213.55	-	-
Total Bank	268,618.09	149,820.72	2,112.16
Total Assets	268,618.09	149,820.72	2,112.16
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
GST	(2,501.54)	(2,318.08)	(3,044.46)
Historical Adjustment	(2,028.01)	(2,028.01)	(2,028.01)
Rounding	(0.15)	(0.19)	(0.10)
Total Current Liabilities	(4,529.70)	(4,346.28)	(5,072.57)
Total Liabilities	(4,529.70)	(4,346.28)	(5,072.57)
Net Assets	273,147.79	154,167.00	7,184.73
Equity			
Current Year Earnings	118,980.79	146,982.27	(17,150.65)
Retained Earnings	154,167.00	7,184.73	24,335.38
Total Equity	273,147.79	154,167.00	7,184.73

Profit and Loss

Darebin Womens Sports Club For the year ended 31 October 2021 Cash Basis

2021

Trading Income

Fees & Uniform Soccer

Fees - Soccer	83,210.43
Revenue - Soccer Uniforms	2,700.53
Total Fees & Uniform Soccer	85,910.96

Fees & Uniform - Community Football

Fees - AFL Masters	4,211.24
Fees - Junior AFL	12,346.26
Fees - Senior AFL	13,349.78
Revenue - AFL Uniforms	7,034.73
Total Fees & Uniform - Community Football	36,942.01

Fees - Cricket	5,178.84
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Partnerships, Grants & Fundraising

Fundraising & Donations	21,560.35
Grants & Partnerships	136,068.18
Sponsorship	17,537.06
Total Partnerships, Grants & Fundraising	175,165.59

Other Revenue

Other Revenue	348.28
Other Revenue - Academy	4,210.83
Other Revenue - Canteen	24,028.88
Other Revenue - Club Events	7,076.06
Other Revenue - Membership	2,972.89
Other Revenue - Merchandise	19,370.53
VFLW - SRV Income	2,400.00
Total Other Revenue	60,407.47

Interest Income	37.67
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Total Trading Income	363,642.54
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Gross Profit	363,642.54
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Operating Expenses

Soccer Costs

Soccer - Equipment	5,211.32
Soccer - Honorariums	3,636.36
Soccer - Junior Referees Program	504.55
Soccer - Referees	5,131.82
Soccer - Sundries	961.53
Soccer - Uniforms	12,850.91

Soccer - Fee Refund	4,628.54
Total Soccer Costs	32,925.03
Community Football Costs	
Community AFL - Coaches Courses	645.00
Community AFL - Equipment	2,141.31
Community AFL - Honorarium	4,596.36
Community AFL - Masters Costs	3,090.00
Community AFL - NFNL Costs - Other	338.73
Community AFL - NFNL Fees - Senior	5,644.82
Community AFL - NFNL Fees - Junior	3,611.64
Community AFL - NFNL Rep Players	180.00
Community AFL - Other	330.00
Community AFL - Trainers & Physio	1,200.00
Community AFL - Trophies & Gifts	922.26
Community AFL - Uniforms	6,547.43
Community AFL - Fee Refund	853.64
Total Community Football Costs	30,101.19
Cricket Costs	
Cricket - Junior - Equipment	3,557.20
Cricket - Registration Fees	363.64
Cricket - Senior	849.10
Cricket - Uniforms	726.00
Total Cricket Costs	5,495.94
VFLW Costs	
VFLW Program - Equipment	6,912.96
VFLW Program - Honorarium	39,100.00
VFLW Program - Medical	2,474.87
VFLW Program - Nutrition	702.29
VFLW Program - Other	13,511.75
VFLW Program - Player Merchandise	7,008.53
VFLW Program - Player Payments	11,880.00
VFLW Program - Player Uniforms	2,345.86
VFLW Program - Strength Conditioning	16,447.22
VFLW Program - Technology	5,149.92
Total VFLW Costs	105,533.40
Facility Management	
Facility Management	6,075.48
Facility Management - Electricity and Gas	4,655.40
Facility Management - Rent	3,531.94
Total Facility Management	14,262.82
Other Expenses	
General Expense - Merchandise	15,877.37
General Expenses - Academy	2,645.45

	2021
General Expenses - Canteen Stock	8,876.51
General Expenses - Event Costs	12,520.77
General Expenses - Other	6,501.89
Marketing & Promotion	384.98
Strength & Conditioning (SRV)	9,445.00
Total Other Expenses	56,251.97
Bank Fees	91.40
Total Operating Expenses	244,661.75
Net Profit	118,980.79

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW
DAREBIN WOMENS SPORTS CLUB
ABN 28 780 574 660**

Regulation 15, Form 1

*Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012
Sections 94 (2)(b), 97 (2)(b) and 100 (2)(b)*

Annual statements give a true and fair view of financial performance and position of incorporated association.

We, Nagle Accounting Pty Ltd, act as independent financial statement reviewer and certify that:

"The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of Darebin Womens Sports Club during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending 31 October 2021."

Yours sincerely,

NAGLE ACCOUNTING PTY LTD



ELISE O'DEA
Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand
(CA,533816)

Dated 3 November 2021

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

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